



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes  
Education Centre  
September 26, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kirsty Sinclair, Co-Chair, Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program Council; Ralph Hill, Trustee; Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Kendall Olsen, Principal Representative; Leslie Danielson, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; Wendy Kabel, Community Representative, Zaagi-idiwin Aboriginal Headstart Program; Angela Mainville, Community Representative, Seven Generations Education Institute; John Fuhrer, Donald Young School, Parent Representative; Alicia Gattoni, Co-Chair, Crossroads School Council Representative; Elaine Fischer, Robert Moore School Council Representative; Lonna Oster, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit, North Words; Mellisa Gallagher, North Star Community School Council Representative (videoconference)

**REGRETS:** Kelly McFayden, J.W. Walker School, Parent Representative; Darryl Gannon, Atikokan High School Council; Kari-Lynn Beckett, Elementary Teacher Representative

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Nancy Taggart, Recording Secretary

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Kirsty Sinclair at 6:30 p.m. Committee members introduced themselves and indicated what school or organization they represented.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to amend the agenda to include item 6c) Grants Offered by the Northwestern Health Unit by Leslie Danielson and seconded by Wendy Kabel.  
All were in favour.

**3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the April 28, 2016 meeting were reviewed and no changes were noted. All were in favour to approve the minutes as distributed.

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

a) 2015-2016 Draft Annual Report

The draft Annual Report was included in the package and reviewed by the Committee



members. It was noted that an item should be added under Professional Development regarding parents who attended the Regional PIC Symposium. There was consensus by the Committee to approve the report.

Wendy Kabel moved to amend the agenda to discuss the continuation of membership. Wendy Kabel stepped down from the Committee as the UNFC/Zaagi-idiwin Aboriginal Headstart representative, but indicated there is an interested replacement from that organization. The Committee discussed the need for more interest in the Committee, especially in the west end of the District. A suggestion was made for current members to reach out to school council members from other schools to promote PIC. Current members will be sent letters to confirm their membership; as well, letters will be sent to community partners to confirm their representatives on the Committee. Letters will be sent to those schools that do not have representation on PIC.

b) PRO Grant 2016-2017 Announcement

The Director of Education announced that the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant has been awarded in the amount of \$15,000 to support the *Family (Math/Mental Health) Nights* project. The Director of Education will provide options for the disbursement of funds at the next meeting.

6. **New Business**

a) 2016-2017 PIC Budget

The budget for this year is \$6,500. In the past this funding assisted in covering metrage, travel, babysitting services, school council chairs' sessions and the printing of newsletters and school council handbooks. The Committee was asked to provide suggestions for the use of the funds prior to the inaugural meeting.

b) Draft Fall PIC Newsletter Suggestions

The Committee reviewed the draft newsletter and gave positive feedback. Additions to the newsletter include the PRO Grant confirmation, NWHU grants and the correction to the math minutes under the Renewed Math Strategy section, as well as playground pictures. It was also agreed that more information can be included to make this a longer newsletter.

c) Grants Offered by the Northwestern Health Unit

Lonna Oster provided a handout and overview of the current grants being offered through the Northwestern Health Unit. The local Health Unit will support certification and running a program for the OPHEA Healthy Schools Certification grant. Elaine Fischer thanked the Rainy River District School Board for the work done to complete the playground revitalization.



Lonna Oster also mentioned that the 'Coming Together for Kids Coalition' could be contacted by schools if there was interest in having a representative from the Coalition speak at any school events.

## 7. Director's Update

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reported as follows:

- The Rainy River District School Board purchased Edusight, which is a digital gradebook and portfolio tool that lets teachers capture student learning using text, photos, audio and video. It is used for student assessments and aligns with curriculum expectations.
- \$8.9 million has been received for school renewal and facilities' repairs.
- Native Language is being expanded at Rainy River High and McCrosson-Tovell.
- Residential schools' curriculum is being worked on and will be rolled out to Grades 8 and 10 throughout the year.
- The Rainy River District School Board has a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Northwestern Health Unit.

## 8. Correspondence

### a) Welcome Letter to PIC from Ministry of Education

The Committee received a letter from Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, welcoming them to the 2016-17 school year and thanking PIC for supporting student achievement and well-being.

### b) Stakeholder Input for Protocol

The Committee received a memo from Casey Slack regarding stakeholders' input on the Police and School Board Emergency Response Protocol. The Committee was asked to forward any comments in writing to Sandra Ward, Executive Assistant to the Director, by Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

### c) Annual School Council Reports for 2015-2016

Annual Reports from all the School Councils were included in the package for Committee members to review.

## 9. Next Meeting

A Doodle Poll will be sent out with possible dates for the next meeting to be held in mid to late October. Once it is determined which date will provide quorum, a confirmation email will be sent for the date.

**Heather Campbell**  
Director of Education



**Dianne McCormack**  
Chair

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## 10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.