



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes
Education Centre
March 1, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ralph Hill, Trustee; Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Kendall Olsen, Principal Representative; Kari-Lynn Beckett, Elementary Teacher Representative; Angela Siemens, Co-Chair, Community Representative, Zaagi-idiwin Aboriginal Headstart Program; John Fuhrer, Donald Young School Council Representative; Leslie Danielson, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; Mellisa Gallagher, North Star Community School Council Representative (videoconference); Lonna Oster, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit, North Words and J.W. Walker School Council Representative; Debbie Spence, Riverview School Council Representative

REGRETS: Alicia Gattoni, Co-Chair, Crossroads School Council Representative; Elaine Fischer, Robert Moore School Council Representative; Angela Mainville, Community Representative, Seven Generations Education Institute; Kasey Beaushene, Nestor Falls School Council Representative; Kirsty Sinclair, School Council Representative, Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program Council

STAFF: Nancy Taggart, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda with the addition of 5a) Budget Update. 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 November 22, 2016 meeting were reviewed, and no changes were noted. A motion was made by Deb Spence and seconded by Leslie Danielson to approve the minutes as distributed.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Budget Update

The Director of Education provided the Committee with an update of the 2016-17 PIC budget. After a short discussion a motion was made by Deb Spence and seconded by Lonna Oster to



purchase tote bags for school councils to use at the Family Math/Mental Well-Being Nights.

6. New Business

a) Memo – PRO Grant 2017-18 Program

The Director of Education gave a brief overview of the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant program as applications for the 2017-18 PRO Grant program are now being accepted. The Committee agreed to apply for the grant again this year.

A sub-committee of Mellisa Gallagher, Leslie Danielson, Lonna Oster and Kendall Olsen was formed to provide input and review the application with the Director of Education after the March Break. The application for the funding will be completed and submitted to the Ministry by the May 25, 2017, deadline.

Members shared positive feedback on past Family Math and STEAM Nights. A suggestion was made to ask students and parents for feedback on what type of engagement they would like.

b) Review draft Spring and Fall PIC Newsletters

The Committee reviewed the draft spring and fall newsletters and gave positive feedback. A few suggestions were made for revisions. The spring newsletter will go out after the March Break.

c) By-Law Review

The Director gave an overview of the Report to Recommend PIC Bylaw Review and explained the options outlined in the report. The Committee agreed to form a sub-committee to review the bylaws. This sub-committee will consist of Mellisa Gallagher, Leslie Danielson, Kari-Lynn Beckett, Angela Siemens, Deb Spence and John Fuhrer.

7. Director's Update

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, presented a short power point on the following:

- The Rainy River District School Board held a Strategic Planning Student Voice session on February 14, involving trustees, senior administrators and 40 students, with 10 out of 13 schools being represented.
- A significant item that came from the students was that they want their parents to be involved in their learning.
- One of the priorities that was identified through this session was Culture of Caring which encompasses student and staff well-being.
- The Committee was asked for their thoughts on the proposed changes to the plan.



8. Correspondence

a) Invitation to School Council Event in Toronto, April 22, 2017

An invitation was received for the Dream Big School Council Event hosted by Parents Engaged in Education. The PIC decided to not send members to this event.

b) Regional PIC Symposium

An invitation was sent to the PIC Co-Chairs for PIC members to attend the Thunder Bay Regional PIC Symposium being held Saturday, April 29, 2017. Two (2) parent members of the PIC are invited, as well as five (5) parent members from school councils. Angela Siemens expressed interest in attending. Interested PIC members will be asked to submit their names in the case that one or both Co-Chairs cannot attend. Heather Campbell will contact the Ministry of Education to see if additional representatives can attend. The deadline for registering is April 21, 2017.

9. Next Meeting

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

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.