



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes  
Education Centre  
January 31, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ralph Hill, Trustee; Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Angela Mainville, Community Representative, Seven Generations Education Institute; Kari-Lynn Beckett, Elementary Teacher Representative; Angela Siemens, Community Representative, Zaagi-idiwin Aboriginal Headstart Program; Leslie Danielson, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; John Fuhrer, Donald Young School Council Representative; Elaine Fischer, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit; Gary Edwards, Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program School Council Representative; Debbie Spence, Rainy River School Council Representative (Skype)

**REGRETS:** Kirsty Sinclair, School Council Representative, Fort Frances High School; Kendall Olsen, Principal Representative; Kari Larson, Riverview School Council Representative; Mellisa Gallagher, North Star Community School Council Representative; Representative; Alicia Gattoni, Crossroads School Council Representative; Jana Riches, Robert Moore School Council Representative

**ABSENT:** Shauna Leigh Carlson, Robert Moore School Council Representative; Lonna Oster, J.W. Walker School Council

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

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1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Angela Siemens at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as circulated.

3. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.

4. **Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the November 29, 2017 meeting were amended to reflect the correct school year calendar survey closing date of December 1, 2017. The minutes were approved as amended.

5. **New Business**

a) **Presentation: IT Updates on Communications to Parents**

Cindy Homer, IT Network Specialist and Heather Latter, Community Outreach Officer, demonstrated the new School Messenger system that the Board is now using to update school and Board websites and will be used to contact parents in the future. Heather Latter provided



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an overview of the following features:

- Parental/guardian contact can be done by schools based on manually created lists.
- There is no duplication of calls to one household with multiple students.
- Split families will both get calls.
- It is available in multiple languages.
- Single point publishing and social media is available.

Cindy Homer demonstrated features of the updated school websites such as:

- There are drop down menus on tabs.
- Board items can be posted to school websites with one click which updates all school websites at once,
- Parents can subscribe to documents and get alerts when events or items are updated.
- Parents can also opt out of School Messenger calls/texts/alerts.

b) Spring 2018 Draft Newsletter

The Committee reviewed the draft Spring 2018 newsletter and gave positive feedback. A few suggestions were made for revisions. The spring newsletter will go out mid-February.

c) PRO Grant Updates

- School Council Family Nights

The PRO Grant funds have been distributed to the schools. A few schools have met to start planning Family Math/Arts Nights.

- Northwestern Health Unit Project

Elaine Fischer explained that the Northwestern Health Unit, along with four regional school boards, partnered to secure a grant to determine barriers and motivators for parents to get involved in their child's school community. Three main areas of focus to obtain this information from parents will be a survey, panel discussion and focus groups. Elaine shared the potential survey questions and the Committee gave feedback.

## 6. School Council/Organization Updates

Committee members were asked to provide updates from their School Councils or organizations.

- John Fuhrer spoke about the interest of fundraising at Donald Young School.
- Elaine Fischer told the Committee of two upcoming initiatives through the Northwestern Health Unit:
  - Healthy Kids Community Challenge – Power Down and Play is a grant of up to \$3,000. The application due in February.



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- Turn Off Screens Week (May) – The Health Unit will send out promotional information on this to regional schools.

## 7. **Director's Update**

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reported as follows:

- Capital funding of \$23 million has been received from the Ontario government to build a new consolidated K-12 school in Atikokan that will provide a modern learning environment for students. This project will include three new child care rooms with 49 licensed child care spaces and a new child and family room.
- The next phase of renovation for Donald Young School is slated to start in June.
- Capital funding for child care and family programs was received to build additions onto Robert Moore School and Donald Young School and Rainy River High School. This is a partnership with the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board.
- A new transition document for Grade 7 to 12 students is being created.
- The Rainy River District School Board has been appointed as a pilot Board, in partnership with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, to improve school-based supports for students with developmental disabilities.
- The Ministry of Education has a new policy regarding supporting children and students with prevalent medical conditions (anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, and/or epilepsy) in schools. Implementation is planned for September 2018. Training will be provided to staff.
- A volunteer page and supporting resources are being developed for the Board website.

## 8. **Next Meeting**

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

## 9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.