



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes  
MS Teams Virtual Meeting  
February 23, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Carla Magisano, Trustee; Cindy Homer, Robert Moore School Council Representative; Ross Donaldson, Crossroads School Council Representative; Chantal Seguin, Sturgeon Creek School Council Representative; Sharla MacKinnon, Principal Representative; Kari-Lynn Beckett, Elementary Teacher Representative; LaDawn Schmidt, J.W. Walker School Council Representative; Reta Dykstra, Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program School Council Representative; Elaine Fischer, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit; Maria Fuhrer, Donald Young School Council Representative; Nadine Gerula, Rainy River K-12 Council Representative

**REGRETS:** Nancy Pitura, Atikokan K-12 Council Representative; Lonna Oster, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; Angela Siemens, Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Nancy Taggart, Recording Secretary; RobRoy Donaldson, Experiential Learning/OYAP Coordinator

**ABSENT:** Alexa Wideman, Mine Centre School Council Representative

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**1. Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting was called to order by Cindy Homer, Co-Chair, at 6:30 p.m. and introductions were done.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as amended to move 6a) to occur before Unfinished Business.

**3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of February 1, 2021 were approved by consensus.

**5. Unfinished Business**

a) School Council Handbook Final

The Director of Education, Heather Campbell, let the Committee know that feedback from principals was implemented in the Handbook. Positive feedback on the appearance and content were provided by the members, with the following suggestion being made:

- Add that Parent Involvement Committee representatives are appointed for a two-year



term.

The Committee will receive the Handbook once again to review with feedback to be submitted by Monday, March 1, 2021.

b) PRO Grant and Thought Exchange

Director of Education, Heather Campbell, reviewed the PRO Grant criteria and the results of the Thought Exchange survey to determine what topics parents felt would help them to support their child's learning and well-being. A total of 287 participants provided 198 thoughts and 5,535 ratings. Using this feedback, the Parent Involvement Committee generated the following possible projects ideas:

- Pathway planning presentations for parents/guardians
- Mental Health supports offered both within the Board and within communities, and how parents/guardians can seek this support, when to seek help, etc.
- Online safety training for parents/guardians as well as some basic navigation and supports for parents/guardians on Google Classroom
- A cooking at home kit for families, with all ingredients provided with instructions, so that families could make a soup for dinner. Links to the recently updated Ontario Math Curriculum would be provided and a possible video outlining the steps and curriculum connections could be created.

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, will provide this information in a memo to the PIC Co-Chairs, which could then be shared to School Councils, to narrow the focus or focuses for the Committee.

6. **New Business**

a) Presentation: Pathways – RobRoy Donaldson

This item was presented prior to Unfinished Business.

RobRoy Donaldson, Experiential Learning/OYAP Coordinator, provided a presentation on the Xello and Pathways Planning. Xello is an engaging and interactive career readiness software program that assists students in their journey of self-discovery in planning their future goals. Students from Grades 7 to 12 complete self-assessments to help them better understand their interests and relevant career options. The Grade 10 Careers Studies course has been redesigned to align to the tasks and activities within Xello. Updates to Xello are done often, with the updates being concentrated in the summer months.



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Committee members were asked to provide feedback on how the Board could raise awareness of Xello and pathways planning with parents/guardians. Committee members suggested using social media, as well as presentations to school councils and parents.

#### b) School Council/Organization Updates

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

- Nadine Gerula reported that there has been one meeting to date for the Rainy River Schools.
- Chantal Seguin reported that one fundraiser took place prior to COVID restrictions and students are enjoying the Ask an Elder/Knowledge Keeper sessions.
- Reta Dykstra reported that their council has had three meetings and they have reviewed the school's Code of Conduct and the Bullying Prevention/Intervention Plan.
- Maria Fuhrer reported that the Donald Young School Council has held three meetings but have not been able to fundraise. Funds that were left from last year were donated towards playground equipment.
- Ross Donaldson shared that the Crossroads School Council has had two meetings and at one meeting, they joined with Mine Centre School Council to virtually watch a bullying presentation.
- LaDawn Schmidt reported the J.W. Walker School Council has had one meeting. Two fundraisers took place with funds being used to purchase sleds, hats, and mitts.
- Cindy Homer reported that the Robert Moore School Council has held two meetings and elections for council positions took place, as well, the special event tracking form was completed.
- Elaine Fischer shared the following for the Northwestern Health Unit:
  - The Northern Fruits and Vegetable Program has resumed.
  - Schools have received order forms for Sweets from the Earth grain products, which is due by February 26.
  - The Health Unit is planning for mass immunization clinics.

#### 7. Director's Update

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reported as follows:

- As of September 2021, Academic and Applied Mathematics courses will no longer be offered, as Grade 9 Math will be de-streamed. The Ministry of Education has said they will be looking at de-streaming more courses in the future.
- The Rainy River District School Board has partnered with Western University to provide a coding professional development session for teaching staff in light of the updated elementary math curriculum.
- Increased measures to support student and staff health and safety have been implemented, including new masking mandates in gymnasiums and weight rooms, as well as revisions to the daily screening for staff and students.

**Heather Campbell**  
Director of Education



**Raymond Roy**  
Chair

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- The Rainy River District School Board has been designated to have one site for asymptomatic COVID testing. More information is expected this week.
- More information from the Ministry of Education on the graduation requirements in regard to eLearning courses will be released soon.
- Course selections for Grades 8 to 12 are ongoing.
- It is likely that cohorting will be required for all schools again this coming fall. While education staff will be vaccinated, students will not have been vaccinated yet.

**8. Next Meeting**

An email will be sent out with possible dates for the next meeting to be held in mid to late March.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.