



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes
MS Teams Virtual Meeting
February 1, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Carla Magisano, Trustee; Lonna Oster, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; Cindy Homer, Robert Moore School Council Representative; Kari-Lynn Beckett, Elementary Teacher Representative; LaDawn Schmidt, J.W. Walker School Council Representative; Nancy Pitura, Atikokan K-12 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

REGRETS: Ross Donaldson, Crossroads School Council Representative; Chantal Seguin, Sturgeon Creek School Council Representative; Sharla MacKinnon, Principal Representative; Angela Siemens, Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Nancy Taggart, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Alexa Wideman, Mine Centre School Council Representative; Nadine Gerula, Rainy River K-12 Council Representative

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Heather Campbell, Director of Education, at 6:32 p.m. and introductions were done. Heather Campbell, Director of Education, provided a brief overview of the Parent Involvement Committee mandate and reviewed the bylaws.

2. Election of Chair

Director of Education, Heather Campbell, asked for nominations for two Co-Chairs. Lonna Oster nominated Elaine Fischer. Elaine Fischer nominated Lonna Oster, but due to Lonna's position as a Board employee, she was disqualified from serving as chair. Lonna Oster nominated Cindy Homer. There were no other nominations. Elaine Fischer and Cindy Homer accepted the nominations and were acclaimed as Co-Chairs, with Cindy Homer assuming the role for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated.

4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.



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5. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of October 29, 2020 were approved by consensus.

6. Unfinished Business

a) School Council Handbook Update

The Director of Education, Heather Campbell, provided an overview of the revisions made to the School Council Handbook. Positive feedback on the appearance and content were provided by the members, with the following suggestions being made:

- Add that Parent Involvement Committee representatives are appointed for a two-year term.
- Include a glossary of terms.

It was asked if PIC members could have more time to review the handbook. Heather Campbell will share the draft revised handbook with principals for feedback and will have a final version ready for the next Committee meeting.

7. New Business

a) PRO Grant Report

The Board has received the Parents' Reaching Out (PRO) Grant in the amount of \$3,641.45. This amount is based on student enrolment, as the PRO Grant is no longer applied based. The PIC budget for this year is \$6,500. In the past, this funding assisted in covering metrage, travel, childcare, school council chairs' training sessions and the printing and distributing of the newsletters and school council handbooks.

The Committee had a discussion regarding what could possibly be done with these funds. The Committee made the following suggestions:

- Google training for parents
- Provide information/presentation on online security/safety
- Supports for reading and math at home
- Look at the option to provide a taped version of the presentation to parents after the event.

A Thought Exchange will be created to survey parents/guardians on the supports that would benefit them to be engaged in their child's education; this information will help to determine what to do with the grant. The link to the Thought Exchange will be sent to the Committee to be shared with school councils. The Committee will discuss the PRO Grant further at the next Parent Involvement Committee meeting.

Heather Campbell
Director of Education



Raymond Roy
Chair

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8. Director's Update

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reported as follows:

- The PIC bylaws are due for a more thorough review. One item that may need to be addressed is when parent and community representatives do not attend for several meetings in a year. This will be a focus of a future PIC agenda.
- A priority of the Annual Operational Plan is enhancing communication with parents/guardians. Administration is looking to determine best practices to communicate with and engage parents/guardians. A working group consisting of staff and parents/guardians and community members will be formed in the coming months to look at this.
- Dr. Jon Callegher, Executive Director of *Job Talks*, will be doing a virtual presentation on Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. to speak about the importance of skilled trades. This presentation is being planned by the Board's OYAP Coordinator.
- Enhanced health and safety protocols have been introduced this past month. Effective February 10th the Ministry of Education has made it mandatory that all secondary students will confirm that they completed their daily COVID screen prior to or upon arrival to school.

9. Next Meeting

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

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.