



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes
MS Teams Virtual Meeting
October 25, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Carla Magisano, Trustee; Cindy Homer, Robert Moore School Council Representative; Lonna Oster, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; Alexa Wideman, Mine Centre School Council Representative; Chantal Seguin, Sturgeon Creek School Council Representative; Sharla MacKinnon, Principal Representative; LaDawn Schmidt, J.W. Walker School Council Representative; Maria Fuhrer, Donald Young School Council Representative

GUESTS: Helena Guertin, Rebecca Mosbeck

REGRETS: Ross Donaldson, Crossroads School Council Representative; Angela Siemens, Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board; Elaine Fischer, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit; Nadine Gerula, Rainy River K-12 Council Representative; Reta Dykstra, Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program School Council Representative; Nancy Pitura, Atikokan K-12 Council Representative

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Nancy Taggart, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

The final meeting of the 2020-2021 Parent Involvement Committee was called to order by Cindy Homer, Co-Chair, at 6:31 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 April 26, 2021 were approved by consensus.

5. New Business

a) 2020-2021 Draft Annual Report

The draft Annual Report was reviewed by the Committee members. The report will be finalized and presented to Trustees at the regular Board meeting on November 2, 2021.



MAIN OFFICE: 522 SECOND ST. E., FORT FRANCES, ON, P9A 1N4 Telephone: (807) 274-9855 FAX (807) 274-5078 Toll Free 1-800-214-1753

b) Draft Fall 2021 PIC Newsletter

The Committee reviewed the draft newsletter. Heather Campbell, Director of Education, noted that the newsletter contains a mix of information for both elementary and secondary panels. The Committee was happy with the draft newsletter, and no changes were noted. The newsletter will be distributed electronically with some print copies provided for each school.

c) Strategic Planning

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, provided a presentation outlining the purpose and the process to develop a Strategic Plan. Proposed timelines including opportunities for stakeholder consultation were provided to the Committee with the finalized new Strategic Plan being presented to the Board of Trustees at the January Board meeting.

The Committee was asked to provide feedback to the following questions regarding the Strategic Plan:

1. What are the strengths of the Rainy River District School Board?
2. What areas can be improved upon?

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- The current Strategic Plan is simple, visually pleasing, and inclusive in its focuses.
- One parent questioned if we are challenging our students?
- Another suggestion was to include equity and inclusivity in the language.
- A continued focus to build on is the provision of healthy nutrition to all students, beyond the school day.
- Another suggestion was to help students to extend their learning, so they understand the practical applications of what they are learning.
- One parent commented that with the pandemic, there should be continued emphasis on students' well-being and sense of belonging.
- Extending learning outdoors and connecting learning to the land, through outdoor classrooms, was another suggestion.
- Increased focus on student mental health was a final comment.
- The two overarching ideas (pillars) work well.

d) PIC Representation and Recruitment

Director of Education, Heather Campbell, provided an update to the Committee on the current work for Committee recruitment. Letters have been sent to school councils to confirm existing members for the 2021-22 year. McCrosson-Tovell is currently the only school without a representative, and Heather Campbell will contact the Principal to inquire about getting a representative. A letter of invitation for a representative was sent to Weechi-it-te-win Family Services.



6. Director's Update

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reported as follows:

- The Minister of Education will be making an announcement soon regarding schools that are using the quadmester system, indicating if there will be a change to a semester structure for the second half of the year.
- EQAO assessments for Grades 3, 6, 9 (Math) and 10 (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) are going ahead this year, with an online format.
- The Rainy River District School Board has expanded the Connected North opportunities that have been available at Mine Centre, J.W. Walker, Fort Frances High, McCrosson-Tovell, and Crossroads Schools. For this year, the program will occur in Grade 4 classes across the District, as well as support some of the specialized secondary programming, such as the Understanding Contemporary Indigenous Voices English courses occurring at all three high schools.
- The Rainy River District School Board is implementing a K-8 Literacy Plan, which will include Reading Recovery, and Speech/Language support for elementary students.

7. Correspondence

- a) Annual School Council Reports for 2020-2021

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

8. Next Meeting

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

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.