



Parent Involvement Committee Minutes
Microsoft Teams
March 2, 2022 – 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; Nancy Pitura, Atikokan K-12 School Council Representative; Jessica Tucker, Crossroads School Council Representative; Sara McCormick, Donald Young School Council Representative; Carly Pruys, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit; Helena Guertin, JW Walker School Council Representative; Sherri Hay, Elementary Teacher Representative; Heidi Loney, Donald Young School Council Representative; Shannon King, Seven Generations Institute, Community Representative; Michelle Strachan, Weechi-it-te-Win Family Services Inc., Community Representative

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Marni McDonald, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Sharla MacKinnon, Principal Representative; Robin Holden, Nestor Falls School Council Representative; Krista Brusven, Rainy River K-12 Council Representative

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Cindy Homer called the Parent Involvement Committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. CST.

2. Approval of Agenda

Item 6a was moved to precede unfinished business, and the agenda was approved as amended.

3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of January 31, 2022, were approved as amended.

5. Unfinished Business

a) PRO Grant – School Community Cookbooks

(Reference: Parents Reaching Out Grant 2021-2022 – Cookbook Option Update Report)

The School Community Cookbooks initiative was shared with the Special Education Advisory Committee and the First, Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee. The Board's Purchaser completed an initial investigation into printing costs, and it appears that there will be

no financial barrier to the project. Should the PRO Grant not cover the full costs, the Committee has access to annual funding for the PIC of \$6,000 that could be applied to the project.

Committee members noted that school councils had raised concerns regarding manpower barriers. Some schools would rather have a second option. As options and school preferences may change with the lifting of restrictions expected following the March Break, the Committee will reconvene at the end of March.

Director Campbell reminded Committee members of the funds available for school councils:

- The PRO Grant – \$10,185.95 to be distributed with parameters for use across the Board; schools can receive a base allotment topped with a per-pupil allotment.
- School Council Funding – each school council receives \$500 per school year to support the school council in parent/guardian engagement.
- PIC Funding – the Committee receives approximately \$6,000 per school year in funding to support the PIC in its activities.

b) **Bylaw Review Subcommittee**

Trustee, Carla Magisano, has joined the Bylaw Review Subcommittee. The first meeting will be held in May.

6. **New Business**

a) **Student Census**

(Reference: Count Us In RRDSB Student Census Presentation)

Peg Keffer, Superintendent of Education, and Elizabeth Fairfield, Assistant to the Director, provided a presentation on the upcoming Student Census. The Census will be open from April 25 to May 6, 2022. There will be two surveys which will take about 10 minutes to complete:

- Students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will complete the census at home with their parents/caregivers.
- Students in Grade 9 through 12 will complete the census themselves during class time.

Data will be gathered and analyzed by a third party. A final report without individual identifying data will be shared with the Ministry of Education and Board stakeholders.

b) **Northwestern Health Unit School Update**

(Reference: PIC Updates – Feb/March 2022)

Health Educator, Carly Pruys, provided an update on NWHU initiatives. Highlights included:

- COVID-19 public vaccination mass clinics are no longer running, but vaccines and booster doses are still available through NWHU offices, schools, and pop-up community clinics.
- School Health Services should be resuming over the spring, with dental screening and routine immunizations being brought back into the schools.
- The NWHU is promoting the *Great Big Crunch*, a Canada-wide nutrition initiative through the Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program.
- The school and childcare screening was updated by the Ministry of Health to reflect new guidance for the Omicron variant.
- The Ministry of Health has a new toll-free COVID information line for testing, symptoms, isolation, and close contacts.

Carly Pruys provided follow-up to questions brought forth at the previous meeting.

Carly also provided information on the Playground Stencil Program whereby the NWHU provides stencils to supplement schools' outdoor play offerings (E.g., hopscotch and four square). The stencils will be available once the snow melts and can be reserved through Elaine Fischer (efischer@nwhu.on.ca).

7. **Director's Update**

Director Campbell provided a report on recent events.

Grants for Student Needs were announced on February 17th. Accompanying the announcement was the Ministry's five-point Learning Recovery Action Plan addressing:

- The reintroduction of EQAO assessments
- Strengthening numeracy and literacy skills among students through summer programming
- A focus on student resilience and mental health and well-being and funding for supports
- Tutoring supports to be put in place by April of the current year and continue into the 2022-23 school year
- Modernizing education to prepare students for career and life skills, including funding for pathways

High School students will be required to complete two online credits as a graduation requirement; however, there will be an opt-out process.

The Board is still experiencing significant staff absences. Student absences also remain a significant challenge.

With the Province loosening restriction, after-school hours extracurricular events now permit spectators to 50% of capacity. Overnight extracurricular trips still remain on pause.

8. **Next Meeting**

Marni McDonald will send out a poll with possible meeting dates for a meeting to be held toward the end of March.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. CST