



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes**  
**Microsoft Teams**  
**April 13, 2022 – 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; Lonna Oster, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; Alexa Wideman, Mine Centre School Council Representative; Sara McCormick, Donald Young School Council Representative; Carly Pruys, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit; Helena Guertin, JW Walker School Council Representative; Shannon King, Fort Frances High School/Seven Generations Institute, Community Representative; Sherri Hay, Elementary Teacher Representative; Robin Holden, Nestor Falls School Representative; Sharla MacKinnon, Principal Representative

**STAFF:** Casey Bye, Recording Secretary

**REGRETS:** Jessica Tucker, Crossroads School Council Representative; Heidi Loney, Donald Young School Council Representative (alternate); Chantal Seguin, Sturgeon Creek School; Nancy Pitura, Atikokan K-12 School Council Representative; Michelle Strachan, Weechi-it-te-Win Family Services Inc, Community Representative

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**1. Call to Order**

Co-Chair Cindy Homer called the Parent Involvement Committee meeting to order at 6:32p.m. CST.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of March 2, 2022 were approved by consensus.

**5. Unfinished Business**

**a) PRO Grant – Member Updates and Next Steps**

*(Reference: Parents Reaching Out Grant 2021-2022 – Update)*

Director of Education, Heather Campbell, provided a report outlining the funding allotment for each school. There was discussion regarding second options for the focus of this year's PRO

Grant in place of the cookbook project. New ideas brought forward by Committee members included purchasing resource books for families and organizing in-person activities on school grounds with a meal option.

Committee members expressed wanting to prioritize in-person gatherings with the new lifting of restrictions. Funding Option 1 on Director's report was chosen by consensus. Funds will be distributed to individual schools to use as per the funding parameters outlined in memo to be created by Director Campbell. After discussion, Committee members agreed that anecdotal and attendance assessments should be used to measure success for their PRO Grant projects.

## 6. **New Business**

### a) **Northwestern Health Unit School Update**

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 are resuming, with dental screening and routine immunizations being brought back into the schools.
- April is Dental Health Month, those who inquire about dental programs this month will be entered into a draw.
- Needle Safety is important as snow melts, educate children about what to do if they find a discarded needle on the ground.

### b) **Communication Pathways for Parents/Guardians**

Director of Education, Heather Campbell, reviewed the report provided to the Committee in the agenda package. The report identified avenues for communication with parents and guardians, as well as information on how to resolve concerns. Director Campbell responded to questions regarding whom parents should contact about a concern in the event of the child's teacher's absence and concerns with respect to school council's voice/role.

### c) **2022-23 Budget Preparation (ThoughtExchange)**

Director Campbell reviewed a letter from Meghan Cox, Superintendent of Business, sent to the Co-Chairs of the Parent Involvement Committee requesting feedback on the 2022-23 Budget Preparation. The Committee was walked through the initial questions within the ThoughtExchange, with a letter to be drafted on behalf of the Committee. The deadline for feedback on the budget process is April 22, 2022.

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

Director Campbell provided a report on recent events including:

- Speech contest May 12<sup>th</sup>
- Gagwe-gikendamaawiziwin Anishinaabemowin Language competition
- Extra-curriculars
- Registration for virtual schooling for one more year
- High absenteeism rates for students and staff

A handout regarding the Tutor Program was provided to the Committee; the Board is in the process of staffing the program and hoping to catch interest of post-secondary students returning home this spring.

**8. Correspondence**

The Committee reviewed the following pieces of correspondence:

- a) Policies Under Review Memo from the Rainy River DSB Policy Committee

Committee members were provided with the policy that is currently out for stakeholder review and were asked to forward any feedback to Marni McDonald by Monday, April 25, 2022. All feedback will be brought to the attention of the Policy Committee.

**9. Next Meeting**

Casey Bye will send out a poll with possible meeting dates for a meeting to be held in May.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. CST