



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes
Microsoft Teams
September 26, 2022 – 6:30pm**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Carla Magisano, Trustee; Alexa Wideman, Mine Centre School Council Representative; Lonna Oster, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; Sherri Hay, Elementary Teacher Representative; Robin Holden, Nestor Falls School Representative; Sharla MacKinnon, Principal Representative; Jessica Tucker, Crossroads School Council Representative; Helena Guertin, JW Walker School Council Representative; Heidi Loney, Donald Young School Council Representative

STAFF: Casey Bye, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Cindy Homer, Robert Moore School Council Representative; Carly Pruy, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit; Shannon King, Fort Frances High School/Seven Generations Institute, Community Representative

ABSENT: Chantal Seguin, Sturgeon Creek School Representative; Michelle Strachan, Weechi-it-te-Win Family Services Inc, Community Representative; Krista Brusven, Rainy River K-12 School Representative

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Alexa Wideman called the Parent Involvement Committee meeting to order at 6:32pm 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 the May 31, 2022 Parent Involvement Committee meeting were approved by consensus.

5. New Business

a) Notice of Motion for Updated PIC Bylaws

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reviewed the proposed changes to the PIC Bylaws with the Committee. Notice of Motion for the updates was proposed last meeting to be voted upon at the September meeting. The Notice of Motion was approved by consensus.

A Notice of Motion was proposed this evening for two additional changes regarding member alternates and conflict of interest; these amendments were introduced in May, with voting to take place at the next meeting in October.

b) PIC Newsletter Ideas

Suggestions were welcomed from the Committee regarding the upcoming fall PIC newsletter. Ideas included:

- Speech Language ideas for parents to do at home
- Parent Involvement – Support home reading bags, math games, contact of teachers, regular attendance – how parent involvement doesn't necessarily mean School Council
- What is School Council and Parent Involvement Committee? What do they do and what is the commitment?
- Vaccines with Northwestern Health Unit – Schedules and support for students who have yet to get their regular vaccinations
- Bullying vs. Mean Moments – What's the difference?
- Anxiety – When is it something to be concerned about and how to get support for your child?

c) Recruitment

Alexa Wideman, Co-Chair, lead the discussion regarding Committee recruitment for the next term. It was determined that Alexa Wideman would continue as parent representative for Mine Centre School, Sherri Hay would continue as a teacher representative, and Helena Guertin would continue as parent representative for JW Walker School. Other parent representatives will bring PIC recruitment to their respective School Council meetings to determine interest in representation. A new representative will also need to be established for Northern Lakes School.

d) Healthy Fundraising for Ontario Schools

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, shared a memo from the Ministry of Education regarding Fresh from the Farm: Healthy Fundraising for Ontario Schools 2022. This program is a healthy fundraising alternative that supports local farmers and the economy.

6. Director's Update

Director Campbell provided an update on recent events including:

- The school year startup has been smooth, with a return under more normal circumstances. Enhanced cleaning at schools is still taking place, and face masks and Rapid Antigen Tests are available by request.
- Field trip transportation, including coach buses for extracurriculars at the secondary level, has been procured for the year. All bus companies are currently experiencing driver shortages; coaches are being pulled from Winnipeg as there are no providers in our area.
- Student Support Foundation is being established, with \$500k allocated by the Board of Trustees from surplus funds towards student nutrition. The Foundation will have a broader mandate to support students in other ways, such as participation in extracurriculars.
- September 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation; schools are open and will be focused on celebrating and helping students understand the significance of the day.
- Regular attendance is being prioritized this year; families are encouraged to try to get their children to school even if buses are cancelled.

- An updated science curriculum is being implemented this year, for students in Grades 1 to 9.
- Experiential learning is a big focus for the year; students can participate in land-based learning, field trips, and opportunities to help broaden their choices for pathways in the future.

7. Correspondence

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 Tuesday, September 27, 2022. All feedback will be brought to the attention of the Policy Committee.

8. Next Meeting

Casey Bye will send out a poll with possible meeting dates.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:14pm CST.