



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes
Microsoft Teams/Education Centre
December 12, 2022 – 6:30pm**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Sarah Creed, Trustee; Sherri Hay, Elementary Teacher Representative; Robin Holden, Nestor Falls School Representative; Helena Guertin, JW Walker School Council Representative; Carly Pruys, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit; Stevie-Lee Kaemingh, Donald Young School Council Representative; Shane Bliss, Principal Representative; Alexa Wideman, Mine Centre School Council Representative; Katie Mowe, Crossroads School Council Representative; Laura McCormick, Sturgeon Creek School Council Representative

STAFF: Casey Bye, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Lonna Oster, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; Shannon King, Fort Frances High School/Seven Generations Institute, Community Representative

ABSENT: Michelle Strachan, Weechi-it-te-Win Family Services Inc, Community Representative; Tanis Tom, Rainy River K-12 School Council Representative

1. Call to Order

Alexa Wideman, Co-Chair, called the Parent Involvement Committee meeting to order at 6:30pm CST.

2. Welcome & Introductions

Committee members were welcomed to the Parent Involvement Committee meeting and introductions were made.

3. Election of Co-Chair

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, opened the floor for nominations for the Co-Chair position of the Parent Involvement Committee. Helena Guertin was nominated by Carly Pruys. Helena Guertin accepted the nomination and was appointed Co-Chair for a two-year term, joining Alexa Wideman, Co-Chair, who is on the second year of her term.

4. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

5. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the September 26, 2022 Parent Involvement Committee meeting were approved as amended.

7. Business Arising

a) Bylaw Amendments

(Reference: Parent Involvement Committee Bylaws)

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reviewed the proposed changes to the PIC Bylaws. All were in favor and the amendments were approved by consensus.

b) Recruitment Follow-up

Community partner positions for the PIC Committee have been filled. Parent representatives are still required for Robert Moore School, McCrosson-Tovell School, and Northern Lakes School. Committee members were encouraged to invite parents from these schools to participate. Please contact Heather Campbell or Casey Bye with interest.

8. New Business

a) PIC Budget and Parents Reaching Out Grant 2022-2023

(Reference: Parent Involvement Committee Budget & Parents Reaching Out Grant 2022-23)

Director Campbell welcomed thoughts from the Committee regarding the use of funds for the Parents Reaching Out Grant this school year. New PRO Grant parameters will now allow the purchase of food and door prizes within the funding, provided that the events are focused on supporting parents/guardians. Ideas to engage parents included a game night for elementary schools and financial literacy night for secondary schools. Heather Campbell will provide an overview of funding for the next PIC meeting.

b) Committee Activity Schedule

(Reference: Parent Involvement Committee Activity Schedule 2022-2023)

Director Campbell highlighted topics of interest for potential presentations in the proposed Parent Involvement Committee Activity Schedule. Items related to the Strategic Plan requiring parent/guardian feedback are Support for Parent/Guardian Engagement in Pathway Planning and Mental Health and Wellness, including the Anti-Human Trafficking Protocol. For STEM presentations, the Board's numeracy coordinator has been busy teaching math in schools; therefore, there has not been as much of a focus in building teacher capacity in that area this year. Special Education is another option for a presentation. The Committee was in favor of exploring these topics more through short presentations at upcoming PIC meetings and will promote the information to school councils. Committee members are encouraged to forward any questions or other requests to Heather Campbell.

c) NWHU School Update

(Reference: NWHU December PIC Updates)

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

- NWHU Staff will be providing immunizations in schools; many students may need to be caught up on vaccines since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Public health nurses will visit secondary schools in December 2022 and March 2023, and elementary schools for primary immunizations in January and February 2023. Elementary and secondary school immunization visits for Grades 7 and 8 as well as remaining Grades 9-12 students will be done in April and May 2023. Letters and consent forms will be sent home for students requiring vaccination.
- Viral illnesses are widespread in the region. Masking in all indoor public spaces is encouraged. It is recommended that people stay home and keep children home when they feel unwell. The School and Child Care Screening Tool provides information on what to do when someone is sick.
- NWHU is still offering COVID-19 and flu vaccinations, appointments can be booked on the NWHU website.
- The Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program will begin in January for K-8 schools. This free program supplies two servings of fresh produce each week to elementary students helping them to like, accept and eat fruits and vegetables.

9. Director's Update

Director Campbell provided an update on recent events:

- Schools are experiencing serious staff shortages, the most concerning being the shortage of teachers, followed by the shortage of Education Support Personnel. Some central staff have been temporarily redeployed to support in schools and offset these shortages.
- Anti-Sex Trafficking presentations with Jessica Wilson of Binesiwag Center for Wellness have been taking place over the last month for students. Parent sessions have not been well attended; we are working with Mental Health Leader Tracey Idle on how to bring this to parents. The student presentations are tailored based on age, and counsellors are available at each presentation for support. Tracey Idle is also willing to organize presentations with school councils if there is interest.
- Period Purse is a Canadian company funded to offer free presentations to schools on menstruation. The Board has already committed to providing free menstrual products in all school washrooms, however products are being vandalized. The Student Senate feels strongly about the importance of this topic and suggested creating more awareness about menstruation and the barriers to accessing products. Presentations are being organized to take place in January; Grades 5-8 students will have Periods 101 presentation, and Grades 9-12 students will have a presentation on Period Poverty.
- Capital projects are progressing well.
- The Board administration is looking to form a Student Foundation to support breakfast programming, hot lunch, swimming lessons, or whatever students may need to be successful.
- EQAO results have come out but have not yet been formally presented to the Board yet. School and system administration are still receiving access to new reports from EQAO.
- There has been a struggle to get extra Speech Language support across the District. We have partnered with TinyEye, a virtual Speech Language program, to support the caseload and it has worked very well so far.
- School Year Calendar survey will be coming out in January.

10. Correspondence

- a) PIC Annual Report 2021-2022
(Reference: PIC Annual Report 2021-2022)

Director Campbell shared the PIC Annual Report 2021-2022 with the Committee for information purposes. The report will be going to the Board in January.

11. **Next Meeting**

Casey Bye will send out a poll with possible meeting dates for January 2023.

12. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm CST.