



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes
Microsoft Teams/Education Centre
January 16, 2023 – 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, J.W. 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; Tanis Tom, Rainy River K-12 School Council Representative; Jorge VanSlyke, Atikokan K-12 School Council Representative

GUEST: Tracey Idle, Mental Health Leader

STAFF: Casey Bye, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Lonna Oster, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; Katie Mowe, Crossroads School Council Representative; Laura McCormick, Sturgeon Creek 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

1. Call to Order

Alexa Wideman, Co-Chair, 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 December 12, 2022 Parent Involvement Committee meeting were approved by consensus.

5. New Business

a) Human Trafficking Protocol

Tracey Idle, Mental Health Leader, provided a presentation on the Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol. The Protocol was created in partnership with our coterminous school board and other community organizations to establish a coordinated response to prevent, identify, and recognize sex trafficking. Tracey educated Committee members about risk factors, warning signs, how

trafficking happens, and who are most vulnerable.

Jessica Wilson from the Binesiwag Centre for Wellness has recently finished a series of Anti-Sex Trafficking presentations for students in Grades 7-12. Virtual and in-person parent/guardian sessions also took place but were not well attended; a mental health memo was included in school newsletters to promote the events. Ideas from the Committee to help communicate this messaging to parents included using social media (community Facebook pages, mental health TikTok) and for school councils to host an information session. Interested school councils are asked to reach out to Heather Campbell or Casey Bye to organize dates and invitations.

Additional efforts to inform and support students include:

- The Kids in the Know program is being piloted at JW Walker School and North Star Community School for students in Grades 5 and 6, to teach personal safety strategies and building resiliency.
- Informational trafficking posters are being posted in schools.
- The Board has been connecting with the One Child organization to arrange free presentations to schools.

b) PRO Grant Funding Options

(Reference: Parents Reaching Out Grant 2022-23 Funding Options)

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reviewed PRO Grant funding options with the Committee and opened discussion to determine focuses, to decide on the amount to be provided to each school council, and to identify how to evaluate the activities. Out of the two funding options up for consideration, the Committee was in favor of Option 1, with a base amount of \$500/school. Ideas for the use of funding included hosting a family night or family game night, offering transition sessions for parents/guardians to learn about their child's new school, and holding information sessions with a focus on student safety. School councils will be required to submit a report to evaluate their chosen project. Heather Campbell will send out a memo to school council chairs and principals with further information.

c) 2023-2024 School Year Calendar Survey

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reminded the Committee that the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar is live and will be closing this week. This survey is an opportunity for parents/guardians to provide input on what the next year's school calendar will look like.

d) PIC Newsletter

Feedback was invited for the PIC Winter Newsletter. No changes were identified, and the newsletter was approved by the Committee. The newsletter will be sent out later this week.

6. **Director's Update**

Director Campbell provided an update on recent events:

- There have been two Period Purse presentations to date for the secondary level on Period Poverty, educating students on costs and barriers to access menstrual products. Grade 5-8 students will get the Periods 101 presentation on January 23 and 24.
- The Ministry of Education has announced new curriculum changes coming forward, including Language Arts updates for Grades 1-8, the release of the Grade 9 Destreamed English course,

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updated areas to First Nation Métis and Inuit expectations in the elementary Social Studies curriculum, and updates to the Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum to address antisemitism. A new Computer Studies course for Grade 10 will be released in 2023-2024.

- There was a large Microsoft settlement ordered to pay a settlement to post-secondary and K-12 schools. The Board has already received over \$100,000 per high school to support information technology equipment and will be applying for all schools by the end of the month.

7. **Correspondence**

a) Policies for Stakeholder Consultation

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, January 30, 2023. 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 for February or March 2023.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm CST.