



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes  
Microsoft Teams/Education Centre  
March 21, 2023 – 6:30pm**

---

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Sarah Creed, Trustee; Sherri Hay, Elementary Teacher Representative; Helena Guertin, J.W. Walker School Council Representative; Carly Pruys, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit; Alexa Wideman, Mine Centre 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; Krista Brusven, Rainy River High School Council Representative

**GUEST:** Beth Fairfield, Assistant to the Director

**STAFF:** Casey Bye, Recording Secretary

**REGRETS:** Jorge VanSlyke, Atikokan K-12 School Council Representative; Shane Bliss, Principal Representative

**ABSENT:** Michelle Strachan, Weechi-it-te-Win Family Services Inc, Community Representative; Robin Holden, Nestor Falls School Representative; Stevie-Lee Kaemingh, Donald Young School Council Representative; Lonna Oster, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; Tanis Tom, Riverview School Council 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 January 16, 2023 Parent Involvement Committee meeting were approved by consensus.

**5. New Business**

a) Student Census Results

Beth Fairfield, Assistant to the Director, provided a presentation on the RRDSB Student Census. Parents/guardians of elementary students and students in Grades 9 to 12 were invited to complete

March 21, 2023

this voluntary census to help the Board get a better understanding of how students identify themselves. Data from secondary students was analyzed for this census as the response rate for elementary students was low and could not be reliably used. The secondary response rate was 55% providing sufficient data to report on. This data will be used to minimize barriers to student success by identifying supports and programming.

Results have been shared with different interest groups and stakeholders within the RRDSB community. The slideshow is also posted on the Board website:

<https://www.rrdsb.com/cms/one.aspx?portalId=73704&pageId=15303788>

Concerns were raised about sharing the data publicly as it was felt the data could be interpreted to further some stereotypes. Administration will look at providing context to the census and will identify how this data will inform current and future supports for students.

b) 2023-2024 School Year Budget Feedback  
(Reference: 2023-2024 School Year Budget)

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, shared a letter from Meghan Cox, RRDSB Superintendent of Business, requesting feedback to help inform the development of the 2023-24 budget. The Committee was asked to identify programming to prioritize supporting student achievement and well-being. Some areas identified by the Committee were:

- Continued support for outdoor education and land-based learning
- Increase Speech Language programming supports
- Continued support for the Reading Recovery Program
- Investment in the Handwriting Without Tears program for all Kindergarten classrooms
- Increases to school office budgets to accommodate mailing of Individual Education Plans
- Continued support for financial literacy programming (e.g., Smart Start/Enriched Academy)

Heather Campbell will draft a letter outlining the ideas that were brought forward and will share with the Committee via email next week.

c) Family Engagement Nights Check in

Two school councils provided an update on their planning:

- Crossroads School is planning to have another fish fry finale, as last year's event was a huge success. Ideas for the event include language and math games, outdoor activities, a talent show, a family meal, and exciting raffles.
- Sturgeon Creek School is planning a parent engagement night with pizza and a presentation on Human Trafficking by Jessica Wilson. Childcare will be provided to help parents be engaged in the presentation. Further details to follow.

d) NWHU School Update  
(Reference: NWHU March PIC Updates)

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

- COVID-19 or flu vaccines for children aged 6 months to 11 years are available for booking by phone.
- The Health Unit is now providing vaccine clinics through their local offices, instead of community-based clinics.

March 21, 2023

- Northwestern Health Unit's 75th anniversary is this year. To celebrate, monthly draws for great prizes are occurring, with information available on the NWHU website.
- As a partner in school health, the Northwestern Health Unit is providing some key information and resources to school boards to share with parents at time of JK registration. NWHU staff may also be able to support school Welcome to Kindergarten events on request.
- The Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program for all K-8 schools in the region began the week of January 9th and will run to the end of June. The program offers two servings of fresh fruit or vegetables to every elementary school student per week. The goal is to increase consumption, awareness of, and provide resources about fruits and vegetables for students and their families.

## 6. **Director's Update**

Director Campbell provided an update on recent events:

- The Ministry of Education announced that there will be a compulsory Technological Education credit requirement for graduation starting in 2024.
- Grade 11 students will soon be able to begin their apprenticeship, which will count towards completion of their high school diploma.
- School councils will be receiving a letter requesting input to inform the drafting of the 2023-2024 budget. Please talk to principals about budget development discussions at the school level. A Thought Exchange will also be released at the end of the month for feedback.
- There will be another launch for Enriched Academy in the spring; information will go out in school newsletters.
- The Student Support Foundation Ad Hoc Committee had its first meeting and is in need of another parent representative. Helena Guertin agreed to represent the PIC on this Ad Hoc Committee.

## 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, March 27, 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 spring meeting dates.

## 9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm CST.