



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Parent Involvement Committee – Annual Report 2018/2019

File Code: M03

Date: November 5, 2019
To: Trustees
From: Rainy River District School Board - Parent Involvement Committee

Recommendation: It is recommended that the report be received for information only.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In the pillar of A Culture of Caring, the Rainy River District School Board Strategic Plan identifies the following home/school partnership goal: “Our students, staff, and communities are supported in safe, inclusive, and collaborative learning environments.”

CONTEXT

As demonstrated by decades of research, when parents are engaged in their children’s education, students have greater success in school, including higher grades, greater chance of graduation, better school attendance, increased motivation, and enhanced self-esteem.

SUMMARY

The Parent Involvement Committee met four times between November 2018 and November 2019. The work of the Committee included developing a bi-annual newsletter for parents and families, to providing input into the 2019-20 budget, to implementing the Parents Reaching Out Grant 2018/19 for STEAMing Ahead on Healthy Pathways across the District. The Committee was comprised of three community representatives, an elementary teacher representative, a principal representative, and 12 parent representatives from various schools and school councils across the District. Recruitment this past fall resulted in the expansion of representation to include school councils such as Nestor Falls School, Sturgeon Creek School, and Donald Young School.

Parent Involvement Committee Newsletter

To support the work of school councils and highlight best practices, the Committee published a newsletter in the Fall of 2018 and one in the Spring of 2019. The newsletters featured helpful tips for parents on how to support mentally healthy children and youth, promoted upcoming Board events such as the Roseneath Theatre performances and the Family Nights, provided supports for parents and students planning their post-secondary pathways, as well as offered information on internet safety.

Family Nights

The Parent Involvement Committee allocated funds from the Regional Parents Reaching Out Grant, as well as from the PIC annual budget, to support each school council in hosting a Family Night. These funds helped to provide parent materials to support and extend learning at home. As well, due to the limitations in how the funds could be spent, Board administration directed funding from the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Board Action Plan to assist school councils in schools with high student self-identification rates.

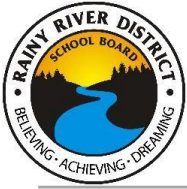
Many community partners assisted with the Family Nights. All school councils had at least one community partner involved, with most schools having three community partners participating in the Night. One school council worked with 16 different community partners for their event. The community partners included:

- Seven Generations Education Institute,
- the Northwestern Health Unit,
- Confederation College,
- RBC Royal Bank,
- Tramin,
- Atikokan General Hospital, Atikokan Family Health Team, and the Atikokan Medical Associates,
- Naicatchewenin First Nation,
- Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre,
- Community Living Atikokan,
- the Ontario Provincial Police,
- the Métis Nation of Ontario,
- the United Native Friendship Centre and the Atikokan Friendship Centre,
- Tribal Health,
- Kenora Rainy River Districts Children and Family Services,
- Couchiching First Nation,
- Weechi-it-te-win Children and Family Services,
- New Gold,
- Domtar,
- Atikokan Museum,
- Ontario Power Generation,
- Northern Waterworks,
- Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board, the Rainy River Best Start Network, and various daycares across the District,
- Energy Fitness,
- Seine River First Nation,
- Atikokan Library

By the end of the school year, over 1,500 people – students, parents/guardians, extended family members, and community partners – attended these events throughout the District.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the 2018/19 school year was a very successful year for the Parent Involvement Committee, with increased parent representation, the receipt of Parents Reaching Out Grant funding and the



subsequent support for Family Nights across the District, and the publication of two parent newsletters.

Parent Involvement Committee	October 24, 2019
Board	November 5, 2019

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Parent Involvement Committee Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 Newsletters