



## RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Parent Involvement Committee – Annual Report 2016/2017

File Code: M03

**Date:** 2016/2017  
**To:** Trustees  
**From:** Rainy River District School Board - Parent Involvement Committee

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

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#### 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.”

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#### CONTEXT

As demonstrated by decades of research, when parents are involved in their children’s education, students have higher grades, test scores and graduation rates, better school attendance, increased motivation, better self-esteem, and lower behavior incidents.

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#### SUMMARY

The Parent Involvement Committee met six times to:

- plan training for school council chairs;
- update the School Council Handbook;
- develop a newsletter to parents;
- complete a Bylaw Review; and
- implement the Parents Reaching Out Grant 2016/17 for Family Math/Mental Well-Being Nights across the District.

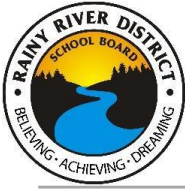
#### Professional Development for Parent Involvement Committee Members and Parents

In April 2017, Angela Siemens, Co-Chair of the RRDSB PIC, and one of the school council representatives from Atikokan High School attended the annual Ministry of Education Parent Involvement Regional Symposium.

#### Parent Involvement Committee Newsletter (see attached)

To support the work of school councils and highlight best practices, the Committee published a newsletter in the Fall of 2016 and one in the Spring of 2017. The newsletter features helpful tips for parents to support their child’s time management, special needs, and supporting mentally healthy children and youth, as well as useful websites for parents and students.

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### School Council Handbook and Templates

The Parent Involvement Committee hosted a School Council Chairs' Session in November 2016. A presentation on various areas of interest for School Councils was provided as a guide. The participants took part in a mock meeting in order to illustrate some best practices for running meetings. A School Council Handbook was distributed. The overall feedback on the session and the supporting materials was very positive.

### Family Math/Mental Well-Being Nights

The Parent Involvement Committee allocated funds from the Regional Parents Reaching Out Grant for each school hosting a Family Math/Mental Well-Being Event. Included in the allocation was an amount for refreshments, and an amount for workshop materials. Each elementary school hosted at least one Family Math/Mental Well-Being Night/Event, with over 1,500 people – students, parents/guardians, extended family members, and community partners – attending these events throughout the District. The application of a 2017/18 Parents Reaching Out Grant focused on supporting the Connecting Communities through Creativity (Family Arts/Math Nights) was submitted in the spring, with a subcommittee struck to inform its creation. This grant has since been approved.

### Conclusion:

In conclusion, the 2016/17 school year was a very successful year for the Parent Involvement Committee, with development and distribution of resources to school councils, and the funding and support for Family Math/Mental Well-Being Nights at all of the Board's elementary schools.

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Parent Involvement Committee	October 25, 2017
Board	November 7, 2017

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### **APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Parent Involvement Committee Newsletter