



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Parent Involvement Committee Annual Report 2020-2021

Date: October 25, 2021
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. This Annual Report summarizes the work of the RRDSB Parent Involvement Committee to fulfil its mandate of:

- considering broad parent/guardian interests to support and enhance meaningful, inclusive and constructive parental/guardian engagement in all our schools
- undertaking activities to help parents/guardians support their children’s learning at home and at school
- promoting and supporting school councils in their advisory role
- providing feedback to the Board from a parent/guardian perspective.

SUMMARY

The 2020-21 Parent Involvement Committee was comprised of two community representatives, a trustee representative, the Director of Education, an elementary teacher representative, a principal representative, and 10 parent representatives from various schools and school councils across the District.

Throughout the school year, the Committee met five times between February 2021 and October 2021 to:

- develop two newsletters for parents/guardians and families,
- provide input into the 2021-22 budget,
- receive presentations on pathway planning and the program Xello,
- provide feedback on the development of parent/guardian tip sheets on supporting financial literacy within the home,

- review the School Council handbook, and
- implement the Parents Reaching Out funding.

Parents Reaching Out Grant

This year, the Ministry of Education provided a set amount to each board to support parent engagement activities. The Committee held a ThoughtExchange to solicit feedback on priorities for topics that parents felt would help them to support their child’s learning and well-being. A total of 287 participants provided 198 thoughts and 5,535 ratings. Using this feedback, the Parent Involvement Committee generated the following possible projects ideas:

- Pathway planning presentations for parents/guardians
- Mental Health supports offered both within the Board and within communities, and how parents/guardians can seek this support, when to seek help, etc.
- Online safety training for parents/guardians as well as some basic navigation and supports for parents/guardians on Google Classroom
- A cooking at home kit for families, with all ingredients provided with instructions, so that families could make a soup for dinner. Links to the recently updated Ontario Math Curriculum would be provided and a possible video outlining the steps and curriculum connections could be created.

The majority of school councils chose to provide math meal kits, with nine school councils participating in this project. This activity allowed families to cook together while parents/guardians learned ways to extend everyday activities such as cooking to the learning of mathematical concepts. The Parent Involvement Committee chose a vegetable soup recipe with math tips for parents/guardians on how to extend the learning at home (e.g., measurement of recipe items, multiplication/division to adjust the serving size, costing of recipe items). Some school councils chose a different recipe (e.g., bannock and wild rice soup) and the tip/recipe sheet was updated accordingly.

Financial literacy tip sheets were also designed by the Numeracy Coordinator with feedback from the PIC and these were also distributed to all elementary families to build on financial literacy that occurs within the home.

A short survey link was included with the recipe and tip sheet. Of the 930 families participating, only 26 families completed the survey. Ninety-five per cent of respondents indicated that the activity increased their awareness of how to extend the learning of math, particularly financial literacy, within the home. Informal feedback collected through school administrators and school council representatives revealed that families enjoyed the activity, with many families sharing pictures of the cooking activity on social media.

Parent Involvement Committee	October 25, 2021
Board	November 2, 2021
