



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes
Microsoft Teams/Education Centre
November 20, 2023 – 6:30pm**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Sarah Creed, Trustee; Helena Guertin, JW Walker School Council Representative; Carly Pruys, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit; Robin Holden, Nestor Falls School Council Representative; Joelle Katona, Robert Moore School Council Representative; Brooke Caul, Northern Lakes K-12 School Council Representative; Benita Retief, Donald Young School Council Representative alternate.

STAFF: Mia Sexton, Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Graham, Trustee

REGRETS: Lonna Oster, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; Alexa Wideman, Mine Centre School Council Representative; Stevie-Lee Kaemingh, Donald Young School Council Representative.

ABSENT: Katie Mowe, Crossroads School Council Representative; Krista Brusven, Riverview/McCrossen School Council Representative; Tanis Tom, Rainy River K-12 School Council Representative; Shannon King, Fort Frances High School/Seven Generations Institute, Community Representative; Sherri Hay, Elementary Teacher Representative.

1. **Call to Order**

Co-Chair Helena Guertin called the Parent Involvement Committee meeting to order at 6:31pm CST. Director Campbell welcomed new Committee members, and Committee member introductions were completed.

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 June 1, 2023, Parent Involvement Committee meeting were approved, as moved by Robin Holden, School Council Representative and seconded by Carly Pruys, Community Representative.

5. **Unfinished Business**

a) Annual Report to the Board

Director Campbell reviewed and summarized the draft Annual Report that is required to go to

the Board and advised of the new term of the Committee, with the last term ending at the end of October. Any further suggestions for the report are to be forwarded to Director Campbell.

6. **New Business**

a) Election of Co-Chair (2023-2025 Term)

As per the PIC Bylaws, the term of Co-Chair is two years. The seat of Co-Chair is now vacant as previous Co-Chair Alexa Wideman's term has now finished. Co-Chair Helena Guertin is starting her second year. This item was deferred until the next meeting, with notice of the election of Co-Chair to accompany the notice of the next meeting.

b) Student Achievement Plan Consultation

Director Campbell gave an update on the *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act*, which was passed in the spring of 2023. One important aspect is the introduction of the Student Achievement Plan, previously the Board Improvement Plan, which now has 11 key indicators that every school board must report on annually.

- The Student Achievement Plan presentation has been provided to all principals to share and discuss with each school council.
- The 2022-2023 EQAO results were shared and the Board's strategies and focuses for literacy and math in elementary schools.
- The Board's focus on improving graduation rates was also shared, by providing more flexibility for alternative education programming, by emphasizing pathway planning from grades 7 to 12, and by offering specialized programs to engage students.
- Some areas recommended by Committee members included an emphasis on supporting the development of life skills (e.g., cooking, financial literacy), continued focus on literacy and numeracy, communication on the importance of attendance to parents/guardians and to students, and an approach to explicitly teach learning skills (e.g., resiliency, perseverance, organization, etc.) with students.

c) PIC Fall Newsletter

The PIC Fall newsletter is about to be created and Committee members provided suggestions such as attendance (including data on attendance rates), impact of screen time on children, EQAO results.

Other suggestions for topics and ideas to be forwarded to Director Campbell, and the draft newsletter will be sent to the committee for review.

d) Parents Reaching Out Funding 2023-2024

A report was provided on the now annual funding for the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant. The Parent Involvement Committee chose Option #2 for school council funding and agreed with the funding parameters suggested in the report. Rather than provide themes or suggested focuses, it was suggested that the memo to school council chairs and principals include examples of possible projects. Heather Campbell will draft a memo for Co-Chair Guertin's review, with the memo being distributed in December.

e) NWHU School Update

Community representative, Carly Pruys provided an update of the Northwestern Health Unit's

health services and immunizations schedule at schools, as well as the dental screening and sexual health clinics. Carly highlighted the continued need to screen for respiratory viruses and practice good hygiene.

7. **Next Meeting**

Mia Sexton will send out a poll with possible meeting dates for the weeks of January 15-19 and January 29-February 2, 2024.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm CST.

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