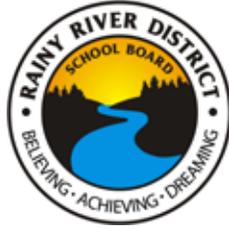




REPORT

Parent Involvement Committee

§ *Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting January 8, 2014.*



Parent Involvement Committee Minutes
Education Centre
January 8, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Leslie Danielson, J.W. Walker School Council; Gabrielle Langlais, Rainy River High School Council (teleconference); Steve Sinclair, Sturgeon Creek Alternative School Council; Dianne McCormack, Trustee; Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Kendall Olsen, Principal, Sturgeon Creek School/SCAP/NFS; Tara Jerry, Crossroads School - Parent; Bridget McGinnis, Crossroads School – Parent; Lonna Oster, Community Representative, Northwester Health Unit, North Words; Janice Gagne, Community Representative, Kenora-Rainy River Child & Family Services; Char Bliss, Parent, J.W. Walker School Council; Sharla MacKinnon, Elementary Teacher Representative; Rhonda Spuzak, J.W. Walker School Council; Jennifer Learning, North Star Community School Council (video conference)

REGRETS: Kirsty Sinclair, Sturgeon Creek Alternative School Council; Toey Bone, Robert Moore School Council

ABSENT: Owen Johnston, Secondary Teacher, Fort Frances High School;

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sandra Ward, Recording Secretary; Dr. Linda Colgan, Queens University (Skype)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Bridget McGinnis at 6:34 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Sharla MacKinnon and seconded by Rhonda Spuzak to approve the agenda.

3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.

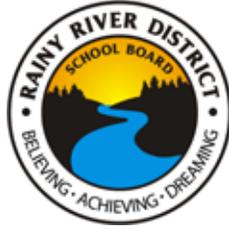
4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the October 17, 2013 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Steve Sinclair and seconded by Lonna Oster to approve the minutes as written.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Approval to amend By-law 7 - Meetings

Bridget McGinnis, Co-chair asked that the written notice to amend By law 7 – Meetings, which was presented at the last meeting, be approved. All in attendance were in favour. The amendment to the by law was approved.



PRO Grant – Speaker & Math Night Next Steps

The Director of Education invited Dr. Linda Colgan from Queen's University to speak to the Committee via Skype. The Director noted that Dr. Colgan's availability to come to the District for training and workshops would not be until the end of April. EQAO has indicated there is a possibility they could help fund a Parent Symposium with Dr. Colgan after April, but it would need to be open to any school board within the Region.

The Director introduced Dr. Colgan and asked her to give a brief overview of her background.

Some of the key points Dr. Colgan spoke about are as follows, including answers to questions posed by Committee members:

- Parents need to be engaged, especially to get them to help instill a positive attitude in their children regarding the importance of math skills.
- Sessions for parents should provide support strategies that parents can use to help their children at home.
- The Ministry of Education has announced four million dollars in spending to educate teachers in math. This is only half of the equation; parent education needs to be the other half.
- A possibility is to involve students from Grade 7 -10 as learning partners for workshops, allowing them to participate and be leaders.
- The Committee needs to determine what the goal is.
- Collaborative planning prior to the workshops could be done with Dr. Colgan via Skype, collaborative planning and delivery of workshops is very productive.
- There is no canned presentation; her preference is to work with individual boards to develop something that works on an ongoing basis going forward, as opposed to a one time workshop.
- By involving all parties early on, school councils have input and ownership of what a successful event would look like.
- Another possibility for ongoing support is to develop an online repository of activities for parents and children through the Rainy River District School Board web site.
- Considering geographic obstacles, can we use technology such as websites, Skype, and video clips to run sessions that could be a catalyst for discussion?
- There is typically more parent involvement at the elementary level. Fewer parents are willing to take on a role with high school math that can be intimidating to them.
- At the Secondary level panel discussion could be used, with professionals talking to students about the importance of math in their profession, the importance of math for future career planning.

Dr. Colgan suggested that the Committee decide what the goal is and what type of format would work best in order to make the time with her the most productive. She also suggested sending a survey to the schools to find out what kind of support the school councils would be looking for.



After the conversation with Dr. Colgan, the Committee discussed her suggestions and it was decided that a first step would be to develop a survey for school councils in order to obtain feedback to determine their interest in participating in such a workshop where they all come together to learn and then bring it to their school community.

Some possible options for school councils included:

- Survey needs to be out quickly to obtain feedback prior to next PIC meeting.
- If some school councils choose not to participate, parents could be invited to attend sessions at other schools.
- Schools could choose to combine math nights.
- Information could be provided to Grade 8 students to combine with transitioning to high school.

The Director of Education will develop a draft survey and will send it to Leslie, Bridget, Sharla and Kendall for review and comment prior to sending to the principals to share with their respective school council members.

Feedback from roll out of School Council Handbook Session

Networking could be more of a focus for any future sessions.

A draft survey was reviewed and will be sent to all those who attended the session for feedback.

The Handbook will be posted on the school board web site as well as Word templates for agendas and meeting minutes. The templates will also be sent to principals to share with their school council.

People for Education Conference

In follow up to the previous meeting minutes, while Committee members expressed interest in attending, no one was able to attend the Conference.

6. New Business

Budget Update

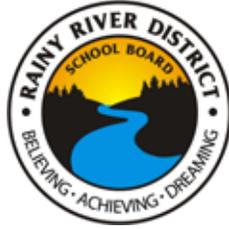
The Director of Education gave a report with details of the spending to date. The cost for the School Council Chair guidance session was \$310.75.

7. Director's Update

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reported as follows:

- The schools are going to be holding JK/SK Registration during the week of Feb. 3 -7, 2014.

Heather Campbell
Director of Education



Michael Lewis
Chair

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- The feedback from last year's PIC survey was again reviewed with principals to assist with planning.
- The School Council handbook has been reviewed with the Atikokan High School chair and she will meet with the Mine Centre and Riverview school chairs in the near future to review the handbook.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held February 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Education Centre.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:57p.m.