



REPORT

Parent Involvement Committee

- *Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting September 25, 2014.*



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes
Education Centre
September 25, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Sinclair, Sturgeon Creek Alternative School Council; Dianne McCormack, Trustee; Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Kirsty Sinclair, Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program Council; Leslie Danielson, J.W. Walker School Council; Janice Gagne, Community Representative, Kenora-Rainy River Child & Family Services; Sharla MacKinnon, Elementary Teacher Representative; Char Bliss, Parent, J.W. Walker School Council; Kendall Olsen, Principal, Sturgeon Creek School/SCAP/NFS; Bridget McGinnis, Crossroads School – Parent; Lonna Oster, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit, North Words;

REGRETS: Rhonda Spuzak, J.W. Walker School Council; Jennifer Learning, North Star Community School Council; Owen Johnston, Secondary Teacher, Fort Frances High School; Tara Jerry, Crossroads School – Parent; Gabrielle Langlais, Rainy River High School Council;

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sandra Ward, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Bridget McGinnis at 6:33 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Char Bliss and seconded by Kirsty Sinclair to approve the agenda. All were in favour.

3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the April 3, 2014 meeting were reviewed and no changes were noted. A question was asked regarding whether surplus dollars had been used to cover additional costs from schools for Family Math Night activities, and it was noted that all costs had been covered. A motion was made by Sharla MacKinnon and seconded by Char Bliss to approve the minutes as distributed.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) 2013-2014 Annual Report

The Co-Chairs reviewed the draft report and provided input. The final report was submitted at the Board meeting September 3, 2014. The report is posted on the Board web site.

b) PRO Grant 2014-2015 Announcement

The Rainy River District School Board with input from the Parent Involvement Committee, submitted an application for PRO Grant funding to use toward promoting Math and Science initiatives. \$27,500 was awarded to the Board. The Stewardship Council was approached to



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participate and is interested in promoting their organization at these events. The focus for the next meeting will be to start the planning and budgeting of activities.

6. New Business

a) 2014-2015 PIC Budget

The Director of Education reviewed the spending for last year. There was discussion regarding the minimal cost to print School Council Handbooks and provide an evening training session for School Council members. It would be beneficial to provide a refresher session in early November, paid for by the Parent Involvement Committee. The Director of Education will ask Principals to inform their School Councils and parents that may be interested in joining School Council, that support and training will be available and to ask for areas of need for further training.

b) Building Healthy Relationships Tool Kits

Tool kits were distributed to all Committee members. The kits have also been given to principals to share with their school councils. The Director of Education will inquire about the cost of the tool kits and whether they would be available to purchase. The Committee will then determine if they want to purchase these kits for all parents.

c) Draft Fall PIC Newsletter

Nestor Falls and SCAP School Council dates will be added to the newsletter. A reminder about the upcoming Municipal Election will be included in the "Who does what in education?" section on page 2.

d) Review of Mandate, By-Laws and Recruitment

Committee members were asked to confirm if they intend to serve another term. A Recruitment Sub-Committee to include Heather Campbell, Sharla MacKinnon, Char Bliss and Lonna Oster was formed. Current members not in attendance will be called, school councils will be contacted and an additional community representative will be pursued.

e) Ontario College of Teachers Conference Invitation

Committee Chairs have been invited to attend the conference in November. Members will look at their schedules and decide if they would like to attend. This item will be brought forward to the next meeting, when new co-chairs will be elected, to determine if the Committee will send anyone to the conference.

7. Director's Update

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reported as follows:

- Spencer West, a motivational speaker, spoke to students across the district from Grades 7-9 early in September.
- Fall Harvest activities are happening next week with students from Grades 4-8 participating.



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- Some Rainy River District School Board administration staff and the Couchiching Chief and Council members played a baseball game and attended a fish fry on September 24, 2014.
- Policy review feedback dates have been extended. Feedback will be accepted up to one day prior to the Policy Committee meeting.

Discussion followed with regard to timing of School Council meetings not always coinciding in a timely manner to review policies prior to the meeting. It was requested that a list of policies up for review in a given year, be provided to School Councils. Dianne McCormack, Rainy River District School Board Vice Chair, explained the process and timing of meetings and encouraged feedback. The Director of Education will produce a memo for Principals to share with their school councils regarding the process and ask for ideas about what they would like provided to them in order to ensure they are able to provide timely feedback on policies under review.

8. Correspondence

It was noted that the information include in the letter contains valuable wording regarding parent engagement as a resource when trying to recruit new school council and Parent Involvement Committee members.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting toward the end of October will be determined with a poll of dates sent to all members in order to ensure we have quorum. A suggestion was made that if child care were provided, parents may find it easier to attend a meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.