



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Parent Involvement Committee – Annual Report 2015/2016

File Code: M03

Date: October 4, 2016
To: Trustees
From: Rainy River District School Board Parent Involvement Committee Co-Chairs, Kirsty Sinclair and Alicia Gattoni

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

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In the pillar of Engagement of Students and Parents, the Rainy River District School Board Strategic Plan identifies the following home/school partnership goal: “Positive outreach to parents as essential partners in their children’s education enhances the success of students.”

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.

SUMMARY

The Parent Involvement Committee met four times to plan training for school council chairs; to develop a newsletter to parents; and to implement the Parents Reaching Out Grant 2015/16 for Family STEAM Nights across the District.

Professional Development for Parent Involvement Committee Members and Parents

Committee members attended a presentation from the Ontario College of Teachers in April of 2016. The College offered the presentation to the Parent Involvement Committee and the Board of Trustees to give an overview of the work and mandate of the College. This was done to enhance public awareness of the College.

As well, in May 2016, Kirsty Sinclair, Co-Chair of the RRDSB PIC, and three school council representatives from Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program and J. W. Walker School attended the annual Ministry of Education Parent Involvement Symposium. This year, the Ministry of Education held regional conferences, with representatives from our District attending the one held in Thunder Bay.



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 2015 and one in the Spring of 2016. 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.

School Council Handbook and Templates

The Parent Involvement Committee hosted a School Council Chairs’ Session in December 2015. A video entitled “School Councils – An Introduction”, and a second video entitled “Effective School Council Meetings” were shown. Both videos have been posted on the Board website for future reference. A School Council Handbook was distributed. The Overall feedback on the session and the supporting materials was very positive.

Family STEAM Nights

The Parent Involvement Committee allocated funds from the Regional Parents Reaching Out Grant for each school hosting a Family Science Night Event. Included in the allocation was an amount for refreshments, and an amount for workshop materials. Each elementary school hosted at least one Family Steam 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 2016/17 Parents Reaching Out Grant focused on Family Math/Mental Health Nights was submitted in the spring, with a subcommittee struck to inform its creation. This grant has since been approved.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the 2015/16 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 STEAM Nights at all of the Board’s elementary schools.

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| Parent Involvement Committee | September 26, 2016 |
| Board | October 4, 2016 |

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Parent Involvement Committee Newsletter Fall 2015
Parent Involvement Committee Newsletter Spring 2016