



**Parent Involvement Committee Minutes
Education Centre
April 28, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Kirsty Sinclair, Co-Chair, Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program Council; Ralph Hill, Trustee; Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Kendall Olsen, Principal Representative; Sharla MacKinnon, Elementary Teacher Representative; Leslie Danielson, Fort Frances High School Council Representative; Wendy Kabel, Community Representative, Zaagi-idiwin Aboriginal Headstart Program; Angela Mainville, Community Representative, Seven Generations Education Institute; John Fuhrer, Donald Young School, Parent Representative; Mellisa Gallagher, North Star Community School Council Representative (videoconference)

REGRETS: Alicia Gattoni, Co-Chair, Crossroads School Council Representative; JoAnne Davis, Robert Moore School Council Representative; Lonna Oster, Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit, North Words; Char Bliss, Secondary Teacher Representative; Kelly McFayden, J.W. Walker School, Parent Representative; Darryl Gannon, Atikokan High School Council

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Nancy Taggart, Recording Secretary; Dianne McCormack, Board Chair

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Kirsty Sinclair at 6:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Sharla MacKinnon and seconded by Leslie Danielson 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 January 25, 2016 meeting were reviewed and no changes were noted. All were in favour to approve the minutes as distributed.

5. Presentation – Ontario College of Teachers

The Director of Education introduced Roch Gallien, Director of Standards and Practice and Accreditation for the Ontario College of Teachers. The presentation included a review of the Ontario College of Teachers' website and explanations of the purpose and duties of different areas of the organization. There was a question and answer period to conclude the presentation.



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As it was 7:45 p.m. the Co-Chair made a suggestion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, as per PIC bylaw, and all Committee members agreed. The motion was moved by Wendy Kabel and seconded by John Fuhrer.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Inspiring Your Child to Learn and Love Math follow-up

The Director of Education reported that the web keys are very costly and enough for all parents would not be possible. Parents can access these resources at http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/parent_engagement-math/en/ and the PIC spring newsletter will promote the resource.

7. New Business

a) Memo – PRO Grant Program 2016-2017

The Committee had a short discussion and decided to apply for the PRO Grant for 2016-2017 with an elementary focus continuing in math and a focus on mental health and safe and inclusive schools for secondary students.

A sub-committee of Sharla MacKinnon, Angela Mainville, Mellisa Gallagher, Kendall Olsen and Leslie Danielson was formed to provide input and review the application with the Director of Education. The application for the funding will be completed and submitted to the Ministry by the May 29, 2016, deadline.

Last year the remaining funds at the end of the year from the Grant were used to purchase bags for the 2015-16 Family STEAM Nights. The Committee agreed to do the same this year.

Sharla MacKinnon shared with the Committee how well-received the STEAM nights were that she had attended and explained how the gift bags and prizes were unique to each school with the School Councils having input.

It was suggested that, once the Grant is approved, the School Council Chairs could meet and share best practices and ideas for parent engagement events. The Committee agreed that if schools were overspent in their allotted PRO budgets, surplus funds from other schools could be used to offset over-spending by other schools.

b) Review draft Spring PIC Newsletter

The Committee reviewed the draft newsletter and gave positive feedback. The final newsletter will be sent out next week.



8. Director's Update

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, reported as follows:

- Education Week is May 2 to 6 with the theme being Achieving Excellence: Promoting Well-Being.
- A thank you to Committee members and to school councils for their work in organizing Family STEAM Nights.
- The GSA Forum, a student symposium on LGBTQ-Straight Alliance school based programs, will be held on June 2 at La Place Rendezvous.
- Rainy River High School is presenting "Mulan" April 28 and 29 and Fort Frances High School is presenting the musical "Ghost" on May 4 to 7.

The Director of Education also relayed her apologies for the impact of secondary sanctions on students and parents, and assured PIC members of the Board's work to resolve this issue.

9. Correspondence

a) Invitation to PIC Symposia update

An invitation was sent to the PIC Co-Chairs for PIC members to attend the Seventh Annual Parent Involvement Committee Symposium in Thunder Bay. Kirsty and Steve Sinclair are interested in attending and four School Council members have already registered. There is room for one more participant. Members were asked to confirm by Friday, May 6 if they are interested in attending.

10. Next Meeting

A Doodle Poll will be sent out with possible dates for the next meeting to be held in September. Once it is determined which date will provide quorum, a confirmation email will be sent for the date.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.