

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

The committee met on September 14, 2015 and reports as follows.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Denise Durnan and Elizabeth Ward (Committee Co-chairpersons), Trustee Sarah Bobka, Chairperson Cathy Abraham, Rhonda Brough, Karen Gleason, Kelly Holy, Aaron Huizinga, Carolyn McColl, Mary-Ann Meagher, Jim Treen, John Vickers and Marie Visser.

Also Present: W.R. (Rusty) Hick (Director of Education), Judy Malfara (Communications Officer- School Liaison) and Greg Kidd (Manager – Corporate Affairs).

Regrets: Annette Simpson

Greeting and Thank You from the Chairperson

Chairperson Cathy Abraham and W.R. Hick (Rusty) Director of Education, extended their sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of the committee for their efforts in the past term.

Update from the Director

Director Hick provided a general update on current board and provincial news, including the following subject areas: start-up of the new school year, provincial health and physical education curriculum, local and provincial labour relations, long-term accommodation planning, including possible school accommodation reviews this fall.

2015 Annual Parent Conference

J. Malfara and G. Kidd briefly reviewed discussion from the previous meeting with respect to planning for the fall 2015 annual parent conference. Scheduled for October, 2015, this conference rotates location by region each year, and provides workshop opportunities for parents on issues of common concern in education. This year's conference was scheduled to take place in the Northumberland region.

As part of this discussion, Director Hick and staff reviewed with the committee that current labour conditions have created a challenge for the normal operation of this annual conference.

Specifically, escalating, legal work-to-rule actions being taken province-wide has resulted in directions to board staff not to do any volunteer work at their school board. This affects the conference directly as staff deliver the majority of workshops for parents – all on their own time – and assist with the significant logistical efforts (set-up, moving and placing tables, chairs, equipment and refreshments) required for the conference

The committee discussed that board employees have freely volunteered their time for many years to prepare, and deliver, their workshops, and that the committee appreciated their willingness to give up most of a Saturday to do so, for the benefit of parents and guardians.

The committee discussed possible alternate arrangements but agreed that, as a result of these provincial labour disruptions, the conference should be postponed for the year.

Staff and the committee also noted the value and importance in providing other mental health resources to parents this year, in lieu of the conference.

#kprfirstday

Director Hick and staff reviewed with the committee the very positive pictures and stories that parents and school staff had shared online as part of the board's #kprfirstday social media campaign to celebrate the start of school.

Denise Durnan and Elizabeth Ward
Co-chairpersons