

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

The committee met on November 14, 2016 and reports as follows.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Denise Durnan and Elizabeth Ward (Committee Co-chairpersons), Trustee Jaine Klassen Jeninga, Janet Clarkson, Danielle Magvas, Carolyn McColl, Dana Petrillo, John Vickers and Marie Visser.

Also Present: W.R. (Rusty) Hick (Director of Education), Sonia Wilson (Strategic Priorities Lead) and Greg Kidd (Manager – Corporate Affairs).

Regrets: Amanda Amyot, Eric Baker, Jennifer Jickels, and Annette Simpson

Welcome from the Co-chairpersons and Director, Review of the Role of the Committee

Committee Co-chairpersons D. Durnan and E. Ward welcomed members to the committee and reviewed the role of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), its activities, and the committee's mandate as established by Board policy and within the provincial Parent Engagement Policy and the Education Act.

It was noted that, in accordance with Board policy and provincial directives, the committee also has community representatives for the current term. After a public call for interested persons in this volunteer position, Marie Vissers (Clarington), John Vickers (Northumberland) and Annette Simpson (Peterborough) were introduced as representatives for the new term.

2016 Annual Parent Conference De-briefing

G. Kidd reviewed with the committee programming and feedback from the most recent annual parent conference.

Taking place on October 15, 2016, this annual conference provides workshop opportunities for parents on issues of common concern in education. This year's conference occurred in the Northumberland region (Cobourg Collegiate Institute), and focused on continuing the broad theme of Healthy Children, including youth mental health supports.

General discussion by the group included positive feedback from participants with respect to the workshops provided, with special commendation and praise for the keynote speaker, Dr. Ian Manion. Members of the committee expressed support and thanks to the presenters, and shared comments from participants on the great value in the material presented.

The committee discussed the various workshops, length of conference timing, organization of the day, keynote speakers, as well as possible future overall themes for

the 2017 conference. More discussion and next steps in planning for the 2017 conference will continue at future meetings.

Parent Guides for Learning Refresh Project

S. Wilson provided an update on this initiative to refresh the parent brochure series on topics such as literacy, math, kindergarten, homework, and many more. This project will use web-based communications to refresh these promotional materials, and take advantage of both print and digital communication strategies to provide more, and improved, resources to parent communities. This will be accomplished through a multi-media campaign revolving around printed Parent Resource postcards and social media promotions, which will encourage visits to the Parent section of the KPR website. On the website, parents will find resources in a variety of formats including animated videos, links, and tip sheets.

As part of her update, S. Wilson presented to the committee a sampling of early versions of the animated videos for information and feedback. The committee expressed their appreciation to S. Wilson for this project, and provided positive feedback on the value of the newly formatted material for school councils and parents.

Parent Involvement Committee #Hashtag Brainstorming

Trustee Klassen Jenninga and G. Kidd initiated a conversation with respect to the establishment of a dedicated hashtag for schools to link parent engagement activities and events at schools. The committee discussed the logistics of how such a dedicated area could be available, and contributed to, by all schools, and the overall value of enabling schools to share and broadcast positive parent involvement events. G. Kidd and S. Wilson will electronically share possible hashtag proposals for consideration and feedback from the committee.

Director's Updates

Director Hick provided a general update on current board and provincial news, including specifically highlighting the Ministry of Education's engagement paper on promoting well-being in Ontario schools.

Parent Involvement Funds Update

G. Kidd reviewed the committee's current budget. The committee has received \$9,772.00 from the Ministry of Education for the school year (based on a base amount of \$5,000, plus a per pupil amount). The committee also reviewed funding roll-over central to the PIC committee that, balanced with expenses to-date reflects \$15,739.28 in remaining available committee funds for the year.