

## KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

The committee met on November 16, 2015 and reports as follows.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Present: Denise Durnan and Elizabeth Ward (Committee Co-chairpersons), Trustee Sarah Bobka, Kerri Bath, Carolyn McColl, Chandra Reader, Angela Ronco, Annette Simpson, Jim Treen, Becky Tzagadouris, John Vickers and Marie Visser.

Also Present: W.R. (Rusty) Hick (Director of Education), Joe Tompkins (Superintendent of Education) and Greg Kidd (Manager – Corporate Affairs).

Regrets: Aaron Huizinga

#### **Welcome from the Director, review of the Role of the Committee**

Director of Education R. Hick 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, Jim Treen (Clarington), John Vickers (Northumberland) and Annette Simpson (Peterborough) were introduced as representatives for the new term.

#### **Election of the Chairperson**

R. Hick outlined the specific role of the Chairperson and opened the floor for nominations. Denise Durnan and Elizabeth Ward were acclaimed as Co-chairpersons of the committee.

#### **Bullying Awareness and Understanding Campaign – Educational Presentation**

J. Tompkins, Superintendent of Education, shared with the committee an initiative to promote understanding and awareness amongst students and parents of bullying and conflict. J. Tompkins reviewed local and national data with respect to incidences of bullying, and the differing factors that contribute to bullying inside and outside of schools. The group discussed cyber bullying, and shared personal experiences related to incidences of bullying as individuals or of family members.

J. Tompkins shared a poster campaign, and other visual logos that have been developed to support broader understanding amongst students, staff and parents of the differences between bullying and conflict, and how bystanders can make an immediate

difference in stopping incidences of bullying. The group discussed data shared by J. Tompkins with respect to individuals involved in bullying incidences based on gender and other bullying stereotypes, and thanked him for the informative presentation.

### Director's Updates

Director Hick provided a general update on current board and provincial news, focused largely on local and provincial labour relations.

### Parent Involvement Funds Update

G. Kidd reviewed the committee's current budget. The committee has received \$10,315.00 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 unspent allocations from the previous term that, balanced with expenses to-date reflects \$21,397.06 in remaining available committee funds for the year.

G. Kidd also shared with the committee that their regional Parent's Reaching Out Grant application in the spring was successful. The committee has been awarded \$15,000 to dedicate toward supporting the board's Parent/Volunteer Learning Kits initiative. Developed by the Teaching and Learning department, this program supports parents and volunteers in helping their children academically at home through using resources in the learning kits (e.g. math manipulatives, magnetic board and letters, questions and prompts for reading). .

### Youth and Mental Health and Well-being presentation – Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt

On Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Children's Mental Health and Violence Prevention is presenting at Bowmanville High School Auditorium.

Dr. Vaillancourt will focus on identifying students who may have mental health problems, promoting positive mental health in the classroom and at home, and connecting students with appropriate services.

The committee approved providing \$1,500.00 in funding to support the cost of Dr. Vaillancourt's presentation, which will be live streamed online for parents across the board's jurisdiction.

### KPR Website Refresh

G. Kidd provided a brief update and presentation on plans for a refreshed corporate website for the board.

Denise Durnan and Elizabeth Ward  
Co-chairpersons