

## KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Present: Aaron Huizinga and Danielle Magvas (Committee Co-chairpersons), Trustee Jaine Klassen Jeninga, Teira Brown, Cathy Galbraith, Carolyn McColl, Jadine Parr, James Rook, and Annette Simpson.

Also Present: Jennifer Leclerc (Director of Education), and Greg Kidd (Manager – Corporate Affairs).

Regrets: Amanda Johnstone, Kim Leger, Elizabeth Ward, Marie Visser

#### **Review of Role of Committee and Election of Chairperson**

Director of Education J. Leclerc, G. Kidd and committee members 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 Visser (Clarington), Elizabeth Ward (Northumberland) and Annette Simpson (Peterborough) were noted as representatives for the new term.

J. Leclerc and G. Kidd continued by outlining the specific role of the Chairperson and opening the floor for nominations. After discussion on the role of the Chairperson, Aaron Huizinga and Danielle Magvas were acclaimed as Co-chairpersons of the committee.

#### **Parent Involvement Funds and Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Updates**

G. Kidd reviewed the committee's current budget. The committee has received \$10,312.00 from the Ministry of Education for the current term (based on a base amount of \$5,000, plus a per pupil amount) combined with \$14,978.50 in carry-over funding. After reviewing commitments to date, the committee has \$17,807.12 in remaining available committee funds for the year.

G. Kidd also reviewed with the committee that KPR schools were successful in securing \$39,895 in Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants for the 2017-18 school year. The committee discussed the application process in general, previously successful school events funded through these grants, and supports that were available online to assist school councils in generating project ideas and completing grant applications.

#### **2017 Annual Parent Conference**

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

Taking place on October 21, 2017, this annual conference provides workshop opportunities for parents on issues of common concern in education. This year's conference occurred at Adam Scott CVI and focused on continuing the broad theme of MindsMatter@KPR. The keynote speaker, Sara Westbrook, spoke on strategies to support resilience, confidence and mental well-being and shared with parents approaches to help their children navigate challenges with confidence and wellbeing. Attendees also participated in a number of workshop opportunities for parents on issues related to children's and teens' mental health.

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. 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 2018 conference. More discussion and next steps in planning for the 2018 conference will continue at future meetings.

#### Parent Resources Review

G. Kidd briefly reviewed with the committee parent resource postcards that have been created on a variety of educational topics. The postcards provide some brief information about topics such as literacy, math, nutrition, and safe schools, and then direct families to the board's website where they can access more in-depth information and strategies to support their student's success and wellbeing in these areas. The postcards will be fully rolled out with display racks in schools in the coming weeks. All parents will be receiving the Parent Involvement postcard, and some of the other cards will be sent out to targeted grades, for example all Grade One and Three parents will receive the literacy and math postcards in the new year.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Parent Involvement Committee Report, dated November 24, 2017, be received for information.

Jaine Klassen Jeninga  
Trustee