



Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Committee Members

Present: PIC CHAIR - Tuula Bernard, RMSS
Kim Skidmore, Cochrane High School
Roxanne Thompson, Englehart High School (via videoconference)
Joanne Hagger-Perritt, Golden Avenue Public School
Saunders Porter, Chair, District School Board Ontario North East
Rosemary Pochopsky, Vice-Chair, District School Board Ontario North East

Committee Members

Absent: Stephen Aitchison, Kerns Public School
Cathy Senyuk, W.E. Miller P.S.

Administration

Present: Linda Knight, Director of Education
Michelle Leigh, Assistant to the Director

Date: May 7, 2007

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Schumacher Board Office

1.0 Call to Order

Tuula Bernard, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

2.0 Report on 4th Annual School Council Symposium

Kim Skidmore attended the 4th Annual School Council Symposium in Toronto and reported that it was very well attended. There was cross-representation from across the province by trustees, principals, superintendents and parents. Two other parents from our board attended: Andrew Fitch and Sandro Purificati. A detailed report can be found on the Thames Valley District School Board website http://www.tvdsb.on.ca/schoolcouncils/PDFdocs/4thannual_sym_report.pdf.

3.0 Parent involvement Committee Policy Review

Tuula Bernard inquired about the short turnaround time regarding the opportunity for school councils to give input to policies. Tuula cited the recent Handheld Electronic Communication and Listening Devices policy which was only posted for one month. Linda Knight advised that most policies are posted for a minimum of two months for parental input but as this was considered a safety issue the turnaround time was quicker than usual.

Kim Skidmore suggested that as we now have a Parent Involvement Committee that any new policy comes through the committee as part of the consultative process.

Moved by: Kim Skidmore
Seconded by: Joanne Hagar-Perritt

That policies be shared with the Parent Involvement Committee as part of the policy consultation process.

Carried.

Tuula Bernard brought up the necessity of communications between schools and the board. Discussion followed which included various ways of communicating parent to board and board to parent. Linda Knight suggested that Ministry initiatives be sent out regularly to principals who in turn would share the information with their school councils. Parent councils should share information with the principals who would contact the Director/designate who would bring the information to this group.

4.0 PIC letter to School Councils

Tuula discussed the proposed letter to School Councils outlining the role of the Parent Involvement Committee and asking them for priority items for the PIC during the 2007 – 2008 year. This was a suggestion from the Parents for Education conference; parents wanting to know how they use the PIC. Tuula felt that this would give the committee an opportunity to be more effective by helping them set goals for this committee.

Communication was discussed at length including methods to enable parents to be kept abreast of issues and allow them to better utilize their roles as school council members. Some suggestions were:

- 1) deal with communication
- 2) school council training
- 3) liaison – how do we connect

Tuula will take this letter and revise it. As a committee can we look at having this sent out before the end of the school year. She will report on the comments in the Fall of 2007.

5.0 Membership to Committee

The committee is low on membership. We will look at expanding the membership in the new school year. Our first meeting will be in the first week of October. The majority present felt that Wednesdays were the most suitable meeting day.

6.0 School Year Calendar

The committee discussed the School Year Calendar and confusion regarding its communication to schools.

7.0 Minutes of February 12, 2007

Section 7.0 – Virtual Learning should not have included E-Learning in its description. The minutes will be amended.

8.0 Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Parent Involvement Committee will be October, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in the Schumacher Board Office. The actual date will be announced in September.

***Janice Sharpe,
Recording Secretary***