



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Committee Members

Present: PIC CHAIR - Tuula Bernard, RMSS
Kim Skidmore, Cochrane High School
Roxanne Thompson, Englehart High School (via videoconference)
Cathy Senyuk, W.E. Miller P.S. (at 6:10 p.m.)
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

Administration

Present: Linda Knight, Director of Education

Date: October 30, 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 Approval of the Agenda

That the following be added to the Agenda Under Other Business:

- a) Recruitment for P.I.C. Committee
- b) PIC Survey

3.0 Chair of P.I.C. Committee

Tuula Bernard agreed to continue in her position as Chair for the upcoming year.

4.0 Minutes of May 7, 2007

The minutes were approved as amended.

5.0 P.I.C. Budget

Linda Knight advised the P.I.C. that the Board receives \$6,000 in grant money which covers the costs of conferences, P.I.C. meeting costs, advertising. Linda will provide the committee with a copy of costs associated with the P.I.C. so the members will know cost forward for meals, meetings, travel plus any costs we estimate for workshops that members attend.

6.0 Bill 212

Tuula Bernard attended the Bill 212 Symposium in Timmins which was put on by Council of Directors of Education. An overview was given of the definitions of bullying and safe schools as well as progressive discipline.

Linda advised members of the current legislation which has caused board's in the province to re-vamp their current "Safe Schools" policy in order to comply with the legislation. Our Board is holding their District Principals' council meeting on the 22nd of November at which time all principals and vice-principals along with superintendents will be reviewing the seven policies effected and focus on revisions. The policies affected are the Bullying Prevention Policy, Anti-Harassment Policy, Suspension Policy, Expulsion Policy, Student Discipline Policy, Violent Incident Policy and Code of Conduct Policy.

7.0 People For Education

Tuula Bernard will be attending the People for Education Conference in Toronto. Tuula hopes to attend those workshops that relate to school councils and bring back a lot of information.

8.0 Accommodation Review

Linda advised the committee that the Board is in the process of accommodation review with 2 schools: Cobalt-Coleman Public School presently has 69 pupils. The other school is Charlton Savard Public School with 70 students in it. We would be looking at consolidation with schools in close proximity to these schools due to low enrolment in one school and a decrease in enrolment in a receiving school. Both are not utilizing their accommodation – in smaller schools you have triple and quadruple grades. We have had the first meeting with each of the Accommodation Review committees. We have six municipal people and six Board people who sit on these (A.R.C.) committees. We have our first consultation with the public at Charlton Savard Public School on November 7th and at Cobalt-Coleman Public School on the November 8th.

There will be 3 more consultations with the public. The entire process takes about 9 months. Following these meetings we will write a report that is brought to the Chair, Vice-Chair and Senior Administration with a recommendation. 3 weeks later a report will go to the board to view and analyze; the Board will then accept or change the recommendation and vote on it at the First Board meeting in May.

The Board is hoping to build a new school in Haileybury to house the students from Cobalt-Coleman. Englehart P.S. has room for the students from Charlton-Savard Public School.

9.0 Report on Provincial Parent Board

The Ministry of Education identified the creation of a Provincial Parent Board, Parent Involvement Committee at the board-level and a Parent Engagement Office as critical vehicles to implement Ontario's Parent Involvement Policy. This policy highlighted the importance of parents playing a vital role in the development and education of their children and in the success of our schools. Helping all students achieve their potential requires collaboration among education partners at all levels.

The Provincial Parent Board (PPB) has now been established representing Ontario's diverse population, geographic regions, four publicly funded education systems, rural and urban areas, and elementary and secondary schools. Please access the ministry's website for information on the Provincial Parent Board and a list of board members: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/ppb/index.html>. ***P.I.C. member Kim Skidmore submitted her name for the Provincial Parent Board, and was chosen to be a member.***

The Provincial Parent Board will play a vital role in enhancing parent involvement in Ontario's schools and guiding province-wide efforts to mobilize and support parent involvement. Its mandate is to provide advice to the minister on the development of effective parent engagement programs and supports at the provincial, board and local levels. As well, it is responsible for monitoring the state of parent engagement in the school system, the progress of program implementation at all levels and the effectiveness of parent engagement initiatives. Board members will be attending three to six meetings in Toronto during this school calendar year.

Kim reported on the recent meeting she attended with this new Provincial Board. There are currently no protocol nor procedures – it is a brand new committee. 18 parents from across the province are on the committee; dynamic people with different backgrounds and strengths and representing all areas of the province. The Provincial Parent Engagement Committee will serve parents and children of Ontario. Kim reported that they are currently working on a vision and a mission statement. The role of the group is as an advisor to the Minister of Education.

Kim advised the members that the next meeting will be providing the committee with 5 key messages that she will be able to pass on to District School Board Ontario North East. Kim explained the breakdown of the committee and the protocol for reporting of information to boards.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the mandate of the Provincial Parent Board. Kim will have further information on the Board's mandate following her next meeting and will report back to the P.I.C.

10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Recruitment of New Members

The Parent Involvement Committee should number 9. We are currently looking to add one more member from the south and 2 from the northern corridor. Another notice will be sent to the principals of these areas asking for parents interested to contact Linda Knight.

Survey Letter

The committee discussed the survey letter that was circulated last year. Unfortunately little response was received. It was suggested that this letter be sent out again. If enough interest is received this time it was suggested that the committee look at some training for school councils. Kim Skidmore will look into training available provincially.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

*Janice Sharpe,
Recording Secretary*