



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

P.I.C. Chair - Tuula Bernard, Roland Michener Secondary School
Kim Skidmore, Cochrane High School
Cathy Senyuk, W.E. Miller Public School
Janet McDowell, Elk Lake Public School
Roxanne Thompson, Englehart High School
Joanne Hagger-Perritt, Golden Avenue Public School
Linda Knight, Director of Education
Saunders Porter, Chair, District School Board Ontario North East
Rosemary Pochopsky, Vice-Chair, District School Board Ontario North East

Committee Members

Present: PIC CHAIR - Tuula Bernard, RMSS
Kim Skidmore, Cochrane High School
Roxanne Thompson, Englehart High School
Janet MacDowell, Elk Lake Public School
Joanne Hagger-Perritt, Golden Avenue Public School
Cathy Senyuk, W.E. Miller P.S. (at 5:50 p.m.)
Saunders Porter, Chair, District School Board Ontario North East

Administration

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

Date: March 2, 2008
Time: 5:37 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 SCHOOL COUNCIL INFORMATION SESSION

Tuula updated the committee members on the status of the School Council Information Session. Tuula has been in touch with Jacquie Strachin from "People for Education." Jacquie will be coming to Timmins for our session on Thursday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m. She will then travel to Elk Lake on Saturday for her session there.

The committee is hoping to invite as many sites within District School Board Ontario North East as possible so everyone can hear Jacquie's presentation.

Cost sharing will be done with the Elk Lake group as they are presenting a session with Jacquie and will only received \$1000.00 in grant money for their session. By piggy-backing with Elk Lake both groups will save on costs.

Jacquie will be discussing parent involvement and what it means to school councils and parents. There will opportunity for discussion and a question and answer period following her presentation. Jacquie is very open to any suggestions the committee has for topics.

Tuula suggested that one of the videoconferencing sites be New Liskeard due to the size of the viewing screen there. Cochrane and Kapuskasing were also suggested but it was felt that any more sites would not work well. Generally 3 – 4 sites are ideal.

Discussions led to the types of training available to school councils. Kim Skidmore brought up Peel District School Board's website and its excellent school council information area. It gives excellent ideas on how to take minutes, how to organize meetings etc. We will look into getting permission to use some of their ideas or simply review our own School Council page and further develop it. Tuula noted that the Peel Board has scheduled School Council Training for the Spring and the Fall. This committee should look at scheduling training sessions in the spring and fall to get new people on board. Everyone agreed that this type of school council training was needed within our board.

Joanne noted that it was important to talk to parents about how they can be involved in their children's education. She discussed introducing them to roles and strategies that will help enhance the impact school councils have on the school and community.

All agreed that training can be intimidating to some. It was suggested that if we do future training sessions that it be more welcoming and use local people such as Tuula, who has been involved and could speak from experience. Have successful school councils speak and explain how they recruit. It was decided that the phrase "Information Session" be used instead of Training.

It was decided that the P.I.C. would cover the speaker's travel and Elk Lake will cover the food and accommodation.

Arrangements for the Information Session were discussed. Linda Knight will look into the videoconferencing available. Janice will look after refreshments for each site. It was agreed that the session would take place April 10th from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Tuula will draft up a poster and Janice will send it out to all school councils and principals. It will also be advertised on the board website. We will contact the media as well.

3.0 P.I.C. COST BREAKDOWN

Linda Knight distributed a list of expenses incurred by the Parent Involvement Committee since its inception last year.

Kim Skidmore was concerned about the advertising dollars attributed to the P.I.C. Linda explained that costs associated with giving parent's information were charged to the P.I.C. Linda felt that it is part of the communication process which is one of the mandates of the committee.

4.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on April 14th to discuss the results of the School Council Information Session evaluation form that Tuula will develop to hand out at the session.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

*Janice Sharpe,
Recording Secretary*