



# DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

## Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

---

### **Committee Members**

**Present:** PIC CHAIR - Tuula Bernard, RMSS  
Janet MacDowall, Elk Lake Public School (videoconference NLBO)  
Cathy Senyuk, W.E. Miller P.S. (at 5:50 p.m.)  
Joanne Perritt-Hager, Roland Michener Secondary School  
Saunders Porter, Chair, District School Board Ontario North East

### **Committee Members Absent**

Roxanne Thompson, Englehart High School

### **Administration**

**Present:** Linda Knight, Director of Education (videoconference NLBO)  
Jo-Anne Plaunt, Assistant to the Director

**Date:** September 9, 2008

**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 5:47 p.m.

### **2.0 Agenda**

Introductions were made. There were no additions to the agenda.

### **3.0 Minutes of May 28, 2008**

No comments were made regarding the minutes.

### **4.0 School Council Training**

At the meeting of May 28, 2008 it was agreed to hold an information session early in the new school year to give school councils a starting point by having experienced school council members and principals speak on “best practices” in achieving a successful school council.

The information session was originally planned for October 1<sup>st</sup> but due to busy schedules it was decided to hold on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Videoconferencing will be made available at the New Liskeard Board Office, Cochrane High School, K.L.D.C.S., R.M.S.S. and Hearst High School.

Tuula handed out several handouts from the Peel District School Board Website that had many valuable tips from successful fundraising to clarifying the election process to setting goals and objectives. It was decided that Tuula, Joanne and Janet would conduct sessions as experienced school council members and Linda Knight would arrange for a principal of an elementary school and a principal of a secondary school to speak about their school council successes.

Following a discussion the following outline was suggested for the Information Session:

- 1) Joanne will lead the group on Objective Setting.
- 2) Tuula will do a discussion on school councils and working with a principal. It would be a good approach to demonstrate the partnership that the school and parent share.
- 3) Janet will do a talk on membership, the difficulties of encountered forming a school council, advice on how to make a smaller school council effective.
- 4) Cathy will do a presentation on successful fundraising.

It was decided that these four presentations would be followed by a question and answer period. It would also be a wonderful opportunity for having people network and discuss successes.

Discussions followed on successful marketing of this information session. Notices will be sent home to parents, promoted in school newsletters and posted on the board website.

Tuula will draft up a letter to be sent home with students promoting this information session.

## **5.0 People For Education Conference**

Tuula discussed the upcoming conference that she had an opportunity to attend last year . She will be attending this conference again this year and will be partially funded by the People for Education group. It was agreed that Janet, Joanne, Tuula and Cathy will be attending.

## **6.0 School Survey**

People for Education will be sending their school survey out soon. This survey comes directly to the school. It was suggested that all of the PIC members talk to their school councils and make sure they see the survey.

## **7.0 Schools at the Centre**

Joanne discussed the issue of schools becoming the centre of the community. She suggested the group look into applying for a grant that would encourage partnerships between school and community. More information on this type of partnership will be provided in a Newsletter format from Jacque Strachan of People for Education. Joanne cited an example where Golden Avenue Public School worked with the community of South Porcupine by creating murals and beautifying the community.

## **8.0 School Council Budgets**

Discussion was held regarding the amount and distribution of the schools Parent Engagement funds and the criteria for spending. The committee was advised that school councils and the school principal decide jointly on how the funds are spent.

## **9.0 Parent Involvement Committee Budget**

Linda provided the committees with a copy of the Parent Involvement Committee Budget from 2007 – 2008. It was suggested that the Manager of Accounting send out a reminder to Principals that this money is available.

## **10.0 Roles and Responsibilities**

The Parent Involvement Committee membership was discussed. We currently have 9 members and need 3 from each district. We can include a membership drive when we have our sessions. We still require one representative from the South and someone from the North.

## **11.0 Healthy Schools**

The committee discussed food in the schools. Linda handed out a memorandum from the Ministry of Education outlining the expectations for schools regarding healthy foods. Schools would be allowed 10 or less days a year to have “special events” where trans fat prohibition would be lifted. These event days would be in consultation with the school council and parents prior to being held.

## **12.0 Other Business**

It was decided that meeting dates for the Parent Involvement Committee for the 2008 – 2009 school year will be as follows:

Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## **13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

*Janice Sharpe*  
*Recording Secretary*