



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Our Mission:

"In SGDSB we are learners. Everything we do is designed to help all students succeed and make a difference. We build positive places for learning and working... together".

Our Vision:

"Inspiring our students to succeed and make a difference".

Our Motto:

"Small schools make a difference".

Our Values:

"Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking".

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

Tuesday, November 23, 2021 — 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Microsoft Teams meeting

Or call in (audio only) 1 807-701-5980 Phone Conference ID: 528 251 438#

Acting Chair: Nicole Morden Cormier

Recorder: GerriLynn Christianson

1.0 Roll Call

Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)										
Parent Involvement Committee										
Elementary Schools	O S	T C	V C	A	R	Secondary Schools	O S	T C	V C	A R
BAPS – Natalie Cormier, School Cncl & PIC				x		GCHS – Candace Sitar, School Cncl			x	
BAPS – Ashley Northam, School Cncl & PIC				x		GCHS – Jenny Leuenberger, School Cncl				x
BAPS – Jenny Leuenberger, School Cncl & PIC				x		GCHS – Paulette Abraham, School Cncl			x	
BEPS – Nikki Goodman, School Cncl & PIC			x			LSHS – Karen Figliomeni, School Cncl & PIC			x	
BEPS – Jacinda Upton, School Cncl & PIC					x	LSHS – Kim Figliomeni, School Cncl & PIC			x	
DOPS – Lee Chase, School Cncl				x		MRHS – Tara Paterson, School Cncl & PIC			x	
DOPS – Gary Adduono, School Cncl					x	MNHS – Serafina Orcoven, School Cncl & PIC			x	
GOPS – , School Cncl & PIC						MNHS – School Cncl & PIC				
MNPS – Jennifer Warren, School Council & PIC			x			NRHS – Kelly Mangoff, School Cncl				x
MTPS – , School Cncl										
MMPS – , School Cncl										
NAPS – Sam Poulin, School Cncl				x						
NAPS – Christine Young, School Cncl				x		Trustees/Administration	O S	T C	V C	A R
SCPS – , School Cncl						Allison Pelletier			x	
TBPS – Malorey McGrath, School Cncl & PIC			x			Mark Mannisto (alt.)				x
						Jason Nesbitt (alt.)				x
						Pinky McRae (Ex-Officio)			x	
Principals						Nicole Morden Cormier, Director of Education			x	
MTPS - Cameron Craig			x			Will Goodman, Superintendent of Education			x	
MRHS – Stephen Willson			x			GerriLynn Christianson (Recorder)			x	
MNPS – Tara Balog					x	Deana Renaud, Mental Health Manager			x	
NRHS – Jennifer Rissanen					x	Hillary Freeburn, Early Years Lead			x	
Annick Brewster, System Principal			x			Carol Leroux, Student Success Lead			x	
LSHS – Christ Martin					x	Shy-Anne Bartlett, Indigenous Education Lead			x	
DOPS – Erik Leroux			x			Alex Marton, Superintendent of Business			x	
MNHS – Jody Kuczynski			x			Kathlenn Schram, School Effectiveness Team – Numeracy/MISA Lead				x
						Kellie Wrigley, School Effectiveness Lead/NTIP Lead				x

Land acknowledgement

2.0 Welcome & Introductions

Nicole Morden Cormier, Director

2.1 Parent Member Introduction – Tell us about your child(ren)!

The Director encouraged all committee members to introduce themselves. Then Parent members each had an opportunity to talk about their child. Many discussed the extra-curricular activities their child participates in, along with likes and dislikes.

3.0 Review/Approval of Minutes:

The Director advised of an error in the agenda. Quorum could not be established on May 18th, 2021 and therefore, there are agenda review notes as appose to meeting minutes.

Mover: Serafina Orcoyen

Second: Karen Figliomeni

That, the minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting dated March 2, 2021 be accepted and approved.

4.0 PIC Chair

The Director provided a description of the role of Parent Involvement Committee Chair. She opened the floor to any nominations or volunteers for the role. She suggested that Parents email her at nmorden-cormier@sgdsb.on.ca to advise if they are interested in the role or if they have any questions.

Parent member Tara Patterson, representing Marathon High School, volunteered to assume the position of Chair. She noted that she currently holds the position for the Superior-North Catholic District School Board and has previously attended several Ministry meetings regarding parent involvement. The Director expressed her gratitude and advised that if no other nominations or volunteers are received, Tara will be acclaimed the PIC chair at the next meeting.

5.0 Presentations

5.1 Student Census

Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Human Rights and Equity Advisor provided a detailed review of the Student Census project that will begin this year. She discussed the success of the pilot project that was conducted at Geraldton Composite High School last school year and advised that this year SGDSB will begin the full roll out of the Student Census across all schools. She reviewed the confidentiality of the information and the way the data will help support students.

6.0 Let's Talk About It: Round Table Open Discussion for Parental Input

(What would you/your child say about...? What do we need to know...?)

Round table, open discussions.

6.1 Learning: The Early Years

Early Years System Principal Hillary Freeburn provided a review of the Early Years program. She discussed the importance of instructed play, to help develop growth and fine motor skills. She advised that recess is scheduled differently now to support students; also, more time is spent outdoors, flexible lunches, snack programs and discussed the work being done to support transition to kindergarten. She requested Parent feedback regarding what has been helpful and how we can better support the children and families. Parents expressed appreciation for the healthy snack programs. They requested communication be shared with families regarding the type of snack being provided that week, to help avoid lunches being packed with the same fruits and veggies. The group discussed the benefits of the Edsby communication platform for this type of notice. A suggestion was provided to hold the initial school meetings between teacher and parent at the beginning of the year within the first few weeks of school. Either a meeting or a 5-minute phone call would be beneficial to better understand if the child is struggling with the time on the bus or if there is something challenging at school.

6.2 School Organization: Quadmester and Semesters

Superintendent of Education Will Goodman provided a review of the current Quadmester system for Secondary School students and the transition to the traditional Semester schedule for the second half of the school year. The calendar will now be updated to reflect these changes as the mid-term will now take place on April 14th and the final exams will take place on June 20-24. Parents provided feedback regarding their child's preference for Quadmester vs Semesters. Of the group present, the majority favored the Quadmester schedule for their students, as it allowed for more time to handle the course workload and participation in extracurricular activities, length of time for tech classes. Some parents expressed concern with changing the schedule midway through the year and others voiced their support for the traditional semester schedule. The Superintendent discussed a possible hybrid model between Quadmester and semester schedules. The data is being studied to review the benefits and challenges of the Quadmester system, to determine how best to move forward. He requested that if there is any additional feedback, please reach out via email at wgoodman@sgdsb.on.ca

6.3 Communication Between Home and School Defer.

7.0 Parents Reaching Out Grants

7.1 Option 1: Schedule 3 Open Sessions for all Community Members? Or Option 2: Applications from Schools for School Based Projects?

The Director advised that the Ministry has once again provided funding for Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants. These funds are provided to help support the bringing together of family and community in the school. She provided a review of the 2 options available to proceed with the spending of the funding allocation. Parents selected the second option to submit applications from each school to support school based projects. The Director noted that due to current health and safety restrictions, the schools are not currently open to the public, however, she encouraged virtual events or events outside of the school. Parents noted that they look forward to rebuilding the sense of community after the Pandemic restrictions of the last 2 years.

8.0 Director's Report for School Councils

8.1 Director's Report: Questions?

The Director's report was distributed in the meeting package. The Director advised that the report is created to help School Councils stay informed. She noted that if there are any questions, please reach out to her via email.

9.0 Suggestions: Future Agenda Items

The suggested topics to be discussed/added to future agendas are as follows;

- What does your child like to do at school? What is something that your child comes home from school excited about?
- Communication between home and school.
- Report card process – what are you wondering about when you receive a report card?

10.0 Next Meeting Dates

The dates of the 2022 year have not yet been set. They will be reviewed/approved at the November 29th, 2021 Organizational meeting of the Board. A save the date notice will be sent out to the group.

11.0 Adjournment

Mover: Candace Sitar

Second: Paulette Abraham

That, the Parent Involvement Committee meeting on November 23, 2021, adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

Carried