

# SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



## Mission Statement

*In partnership with the students, the home and the community,  
Superior-Greenstone District School Board will address  
individual students' needs by providing:*

- ❖ a diverse education that prepares for and honours their chosen path for success,
- ❖ avenues that foster a love of learning, and
- ❖ the means to honour varied learning styles.



**Parent Involvement Committee**  
Tuesday, Feb 2, 2010 — 6:30 p.m.

## MINUTES

On-Site at Marathon Board Meeting Room  
Electronic Access via Videoconference and/or Teleconference

Chair: Birgit McArthur

Director: Patti Pella  
Moderator / Recorder: RM. Joannette

### Attendance

<i>Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i>											
<b>Parent Involvement Committee</b>											
<b>Elementary Schools</b>	O	T	V	A	R	<b>Secondary Schools</b>	O	T	V	A	R
	S	C	C				S	C	C		
BAPS - Megan Cade... <i>School Council</i>				X		GCHS - Abraham, Gerald <i>School Council</i>			X		
BAPS - Teresa Daines... <i>School Council</i>				X		LSHS – Birgit McArthur... <i>PIC</i>	X				
BAPS – Angie Archer... <i>School Council</i>				X		LSHS - Helen Turnbull ... <i>School Council</i>			X		
BEPS – Dominique Orban... <i>PIC</i>		X				MNHS... <i>No Pic or School Council Info</i>				X	
CAPS ... <i>TBD – No Pic or School Council Info</i>				X		MRHS – Pinky McRae... <i>School Council</i>				X	
DOPS – Kitty Dumonski... <i>PIC</i>		X				MRHS – Lori Wall... <i>School Council</i>				X	
GOPS – Bernadette Langthorne... <i>School Council</i>		X				MRHS – Jennifer Lake... <i>School Council</i>				X	
MNPS – Tammy Rathwell... <i>School Council</i>				X		NRHS – Colleen Kjellman... <i>School Council</i>				X	
MMPS – Darcy Taylor... <i>School Council</i>				X		NRHS – Tammy Jones... <i>School Council</i>				X	
MTPS – Annette Heath... <i>School Council</i>				X							
MTPS – Deb McDougall... <i>School Council</i>	X					<b>Trustees/Administration</b>	O	T	V	A	R
NAPS...Lee Ann& Mathew Donavan... <i>School Council</i>				X		Darlene Keenan		X			
RRPS... <i>TBD – No Pic or School Council Info</i>				X		Mark Mannisto		X			
SCPS – Tina Hamel... <i>PIC</i>			X			Kathie Notwell		X			
SCPS – Tosha Borutski... <i>School Council</i>			X			Cindy Fisher ( <i>alternate</i> )				X	
TBPS – Claire Kempe... <i>PIC</i>				X		Patti Pella	X				
TBPS – Jolene Bonnema... <i>School Council</i>				X		David Tambyln		X			
TBPS – Terry Bell... <i>School Council</i>			X			Donna Fry	X				
TBPS – Wendy Morriseau			X								

### 1.0 Welcome

PIC Chair convened the meeting with a roll call and welcomed the group.

*Birgit McArthur*

## **2.0 Review and Approval of Minutes: November 3, 2009**

Moved by: Terry Bell                      Second: Kitty Dumonski  
That, the minutes of November 3, 2009 be approved.

Birgit advised the group that minutes are posted on the website at [www.sgdsb.on.ca](http://www.sgdsb.on.ca) if anyone needs to look up any information on past meetings.

## **3.0 Business Arising from Minutes**

Darlene Keenan inquired about an update regarding the PRO grants, an update on the BAPS Project and if there has been any input submitted relative to the board Strategic Plan.

Director Patti Pella addressed the issues as follows:

PRO Grant: we are in receipt of a letter from the minister advising which projects are being considered. However there have been many applications and it appears the ministry is attempting to prioritize for selection. She said at this time she's been asked not to publish the potential list of recipients, but expects word to be out shortly.

BAPS Project: The timeline for start up in the new school remains as September 2011. Updates are provided at the board meeting each month. A link has been set up on the board website, so the public can view minutes and board reports.

Board Strategic Plan: This has been brought to the Leadership Forum. Have asked the principals to bring this to the school council for feedback.

## **4.0 Update: Birgit McArthur, PIC Chair**

### **4.1 Parent Engagement Funds: 2009/2010 Application Process**

B. McArthur reviewed the process for applications, advising it is the same as has been in place the last couple of years. Proposals for projects can be sent into her via e-mail at [bmcart@vianet.ca](mailto:bmcart@vianet.ca), or mailed to P.O. Box 1317, Terrace Bay, ON P0T 2W0, or faxed into the board office at 807-229-1471 (attn. P. Pella). Proposals need to be in by March 5; the plan being for her and Patti to review proposals by March break, with the goal toward getting funds to school by the end of March. Reporting back on events is required by the end of August.

Patti mentioned that if anyone else wishes to be involved in the proposal review, they are welcome to do so by contacting her or Birgit.

Birgit reviewed some of the past project ventures for the group. As per November 3, 2009 meeting some of the PIC funds have been earmarked for the Student Art Calendar that has been well-received in the last two years. Thus far, she has one application on hand for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual BAPS Curl-up With a Book event.

### **4.2 Parent Involvement Committee Symposium**

On April 16, 2010 there is a Parent Involvement Symposium in Toronto. An invitation to PIC Chairs and second PIC member to attend has been extended by the Minister of Education. Birgit will go and extends an invite for another person. Anyone who wishes to accompany Birgit should contact her. If more than one member applies, a name will be drawn. Birgit shared some of the content of the invitation letter.

## **5.0 Director's Update**

### **5.1 Automatic Defibrillator Training**

Patti confirmed that the Superior North Emergency Medical Services have completed their generous donation for an Automatic Defibrillator machine in every school. A board policy has been developed and at this point the board is in the process of ensuring that training takes place so that each school

has a person on-site who is versed in its operation. The equipment is user-friendly and operators are guided throughout the process with prompts that are programmed into the equipment.

## 5.2 Character Education Proposal Approved

Patti reported that a Character Education proposals in partnership with the Superior-North Catholic DSB has been approved by the ministry. The proposal involves the production of a play to be coordinated through Geraldton Composite High School Communication Teacher Rob Haslam. Student actors will explore the subject of bullying in schools and the goal is to have the production ready for school tours in the spring. As well, this spring, the Northern Ontario Education Leaders (NOEL) Character Education Symposium is being organized for grade 7/8 students to attend in Thunder Bay.

## 5.3 Student Community Hours and Field Trip Permission Forms

Patti noted that early this year, Birgit inquired about having some board forms available on the website for parents to access if need be as relates to Student Community Hours and Field Trip Permissions. She advised that the field trip permissions cannot be posted as there are too many variables and school specific issues to consider. However, the forms for the Student Community Hours can be posted for parents to download and complete as may be required. It will be posted on the website under the "Students" section.

## 5.4 Policies Posted

### 5.4.1 Policy 536: Equity and Inclusive Education

Patti advised that there is a major thrust by the ministry that requires all Ontario board to have such policies in place. Our policy has been done and is posted for on the website. If anyone is interested, each school also has a ministry produced DVD on hand that provides information on the topic.

### 5.4.1 Policy 906: Environmental Education

Dave Tamblyn, Assistant to the Director reported that SGDSB Environment Education policy is posted on the website now. It too is one mandated by the ministry. Boards are required to deliver effective environmental education and to model environmentally responsible practices as well as raising environmental awareness for all staff, students, trustees and the community. Under the umbrella of NOEL, a Regional Environment Education Lead is in place to provide direction to all regional boards to ensure that Environmental Education Policies are aligned with the Policy Framework.

## 5.5 New Policies for Stakeholder Feedback

### 5.5.1 Policy 719: Accessibility Standards for Customer Service

This is posted on the website now for feedback from the public. The expectation is that we focus on service to students in all our schools.

### 5.5.2 Policy 413: Video Surveillance in Schools

This policy too is on the website for feedback. Surveillance is not to add a layer of school detectives, rather it can help deter vandalism by having some of the loitering moved away from school facilities. It is not a means to replace administrative monitoring, but it assists with some schools' hot spots. It is a pilot project at this point.

## 5.6 Keeping our Kids Safe at School Act: Ministry Memo & Parent Brochure

New legislation (Bill 157) came into effect February 1, 2010 and it affects how school board employees handle incidents at school. It requires all school staff to report, and those who work directly with students to respond, to incidents that happen in school. The law continues the effort to make Ontario's schools safer for students and staff. All school staff are obligated to report to their principal any incident that could lead to suspension or expulsion. Principals in turn are required to contact the parents of victims of these types of incidents.

5.7 Parent / Community Outreach Session

P. Pella reported that with the Amendment to the Education Act (Bills 212 and 157), the ministry is working with the Social Planning Network of Ontario to conduct outreach sessions on the subject. With this approach the ministry expects it can better inform parents about what changes schools are being directed to undertake to make positive changes in regard to the safe school initiatives. Sessions are planned in Thunder Bay on February 10, 17 & 18 at 6:30 p.m. There is a possibility one of these will be accessible via teleconference. Patti will try to find out which one it may be and send information out to group.

5.8 Ontario School Year Calendar

Patti reviewed the process for developing a school year calendar each year. It has been a fully consultative effort this year as the proposed models were posted onto the board website to solicit as much feedback as possible on the three models proposed. Using SurveyMonkey, the public could vote and/or provide comments. Response has been very good with over 240 votes submitted and a multitude of comprehensive comments offered. Model A calendar (traditional type calendar) received most favour. It has school start for students after Labour Day weekend. Model C was least favoured with an early year start-up and a two-week Christmas break going from a Wednesday to Wednesday. Having gathered this information, another consultation will be done with coterminous board to align calendars as close as possible, especially where bussing issues are concerned. The goal is to have our board's draft done for the February Board meeting. There have been some issues raised by teachers' federation in regard to correlation of PD days with examination and semester turn around dates. Patti explained that the calendar models are required to reflect ministry directives in regard to PD day activities. Two of the six are heavily conscripted and the ministry demands accountability for the process on every one of the PD days. Patti will get a finalized copy of the calendar to schools once the model is approved by the board.

5.9 Planning for 2010-2011 Student Art Calendar

Patti provided an overview of past planning for the calendar. The project will be done as the third annual calendar. The Character Education theme continues to be a theme that bears merit, i.e., developing the character traits in students is good for education. Dave Tamblyn suggested that this year we try to provide a stronger correlation between character traits and school year timing, i.e., a trait like "perseverance" coincides well for the month of June.

Student artwork should be into the board office by the end of March if printing to be done on time for distribution first day of school. Last year, three pieces of work were submitted by high schools and two were accepted from elementary schools. School councils reviewed the work submitted at their school and made the decision on what to send to the board office. All agreed it could work the same way this year. The final decision about calendar pages resides with the director's office in conjunction with an available parent member. Deb McDougall volunteered to do this with Patti this year.

A discussion regarding the insertion of "system-wide" meeting dates ensued, especially since in the last couple years, issues like the board meetings were projected so far in advance that potential for change was great, leading to out-dated information when dates were changed. One way to alleviate this would be to order up a page of stickers to insert into the calendars, so that parents could mark off with stickers, the dates of import for them, be it Board meeting dates, school pizza days, or their school community dates such as school council dates, sports dates, exam dates, etc. RM. Joannette (director's office) will explore this opportunity when getting print quotes.

Tina Hamel suggested that calendars be made available on a one per family basis. There was also a suggestion to offer these for sale to help replenish PIC funds. Patti advised the cost might be prohibitive to parents because the print job is quite expensive

**6.0 Updates: Schools' Parent Involvement Representatives**

Terry Bell, Toshu Borutski, Tina Hamel reported on Terrace Bay and Schreiber PS events including a pizza luncheon to welcome new principal, Kim Asmussen. This was followed by karaoke and a jeopardy game. Over a hundred people also attended a spaghetti supper to welcome him.

**7.0 Suggestions: Future Agenda Items**

- Update on Character Education Forum in Thunder Bay in April (D. Tamblyn)
- Update Early Learning Initiative (D. Tamblyn)
- Environmental Education –Secondary Students (D. Tamblyn)
- Student Trustee Role and Responsibility (Student Trustees-P. Pella to inquire)

**8.0 Next Meeting Date**

May 4, 2010

**9.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.