

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 Monday, May 12, 2008— 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Chair: Pinky McRae

Director: Patti Pella
Moderator / Recorder: RM. Joannette

1.0 Roll Call

Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)													
Parent Involvement Committee						PIC Alternates		OS	TC	VC	A	R	
Elementary Schools		OS	TC	VC	A	R							
				X			Bahm, Wendy (TBPS)						
Bulmer, Susan (RRPS)				X			Borutski, Tosha (SCPS)						
Dumonski, Kitty (DOPS)				X			Collins, Mandy (RRPS)						
Hamel, Tina (SCPS)				X			Hoffman, Deanna (MMPS)						
Kempe, Clare (TBPS)				X			Mangoff, Stephen (GOPS)						
Koning, Fran (BEPS)					x		Marceau, Roxanne (GOPS)						
Langthorne, Bernadette (GOPS)				X			Marino, Jody (BAPS)						
Mannisto, Mari (MMPS)				X			O'Brien, Berndadine (BAPS)						
Sagle, Kelly (MNPS)				X			Roper, Tonya (SCPS)						
Slomke, Lisa (BAPS)				X			Dumonski, Michelle (NRHS)						
(MTPS)		Name unavailable					Jones, Tammy (NRHS)						
Secondary Schools		OS	TC	VC	A	R	Trustees/Administration		OS	TC	VC	A	R
Budgell, Lou (MNHS)					X		Fisher, Cindy						X
Kadikoff, Ernie (NRHS)					X		Kappel, Colleen		X				
McPherson, Jamie (GCHS)						X	Keenan, Darlene					X	
McRae, Pinky (MRHS)		X					Mackenzie, Sharon				X		
Young, Tammy (LSHS)				X			Mannisto, Mark (ex-officio)					X	
							Notwell, Kathryn				X		
Guests							Passi, David		X				
Gurney, Jack				X			Pella, Patti				X		
Lachance, Brian				X			Penna, Linda				X		
McArthur, Birgit				X			Sparrow, Julie (alt)					X	
Turnbull, Helen				X			Turner, Jim					X	
							Wisikin, Brenda		X				

1.0 Welcome

The Chairperson Pinky McRae welcomed everyone to the meeting and took roll call.

2.0 Review and Approval of Minutes: February 11, 2008

Moved by Mari Mannisto / Seconded by Kitty Dumonski

That, the minutes from the February 12, 2008 Parent Involvement Committee Meeting be approved with minor corrections re typographic and grammar.

3.0 Update: Provincial Parent Board

P. McRae provided an update on the last Provincial Parent Board Meeting on April 4 and 5, 2008. She reported that there are five working groups. These groups are addressing, Terms of Office, Parent Effectiveness, Parents Reaching Out, Logistics Model and Professional Development.

A major thrust is on to complete a Parent Involvement Brochure that would help guide parent groups that compile proposals for funding approval. The goal is to have this piece ready for distribution to school councils in September 2008.

Progress is being made in the communication area with Sharon Stuckless, Manager of the Parent Engagement Office working on completing a directory of PIC Chairs. The directory will be used by the Parent Engagement Office (PEO) to communicate directly with each school board's PIC chairs regarding parent engagement initiatives, including base funding for boards and school councils, Parents Reaching Out grants for both school councils and regional/provincial projects, and to obtain the perspective of PICs on parent engagement for the Provincial Parent Board (PPB). The PIC directory will also be used to facilitate communication among PICs throughout the province.

The next scheduled meeting is on May 23-24, 2008, while the final meeting of the year is set for June 20-21.

4.0 Provincial English Public School Council

P. McRae noted Brenda Hopkins of the Thames Valley DSB has sent here information on the formation of a Provincial English Public School Council group.

She is concerned over the movement and its current solicitation of support from provincial school boards for a number reasons including:

- how were members of the new council came to be selected
- who was appointed to represent our northern school boards and furthermore how did this person(s) get the nod
- she has no knowledge of what the process is to share northern board concerns and have them heard at the ministry level.
- if this is a done deal, what concerns have been brought forward so far and why are we not aware of the issue addressed
- why is only is the group only an English public group

Consensus from SGDSB PIC is that P. McRae articulates these concerns to B. Hopkins before any form of support is forwarded.

5.0 Update: Parent Involvement Committee

5.1 Update: Approved Parent Involvement Activity Funding

P. McRae noted that nine proposals were sent in for PIC funding and all of these were approved for total of \$5,000. She reminded all that the funds must be spent by June 30, 2008 and a report of the activity must be submitted to her no later than August 30/08.

P. McRae also advised that approximately \$2,400 from last year is available for division among the schools and Manager of Accounting Services Cathy Tsubouchi is preparing a memo for distribution to PIC members to explain the parameters.

- 5.2 Update: Parents Reaching Out Grants
P. Pella noted that 10 PRO grants were approved, and suggested that those that were not approved may not have met the criteria for funding because the activities were not set to happen on the school site. PRO grants are intended to engage parents but the initiatives are meant to bring parents onto school sites.

6.0 Director's Update

- 6.1 Policy 905 Pupil Accommodation
P. Pella explained the rationale for Pupil Accommodation study in this board. Excessive vacant space in school facilities with low pupil population must be reviewed for viability. Policy 905 delineates what a review committee should look at in terms of the value for students and community. Three reviews are scheduled over the next three school years.
- Less than five years ago the board had five categories of schools; from very small to large, with a small school category having 80 students or less. In 2008, we have 6 of 10 schools in the "very small" range; two schools have "small" populations, while only two are considered as having large enrolment.
- 6.2 2008-2009 Budget Estimates
P. Pella advised that the 2008-2009 Budget Estimates are schedule to come before the board on Friday, June 16, 2008.
P. McRae suggested PIC member reviewed the EDU memo attached to the agenda for information on EDU proposed funding.
- P. Pella requested that PIC, perhaps in conjunction with school councils compile a list of characteristics it considers desirable for their school principal should, during the school year it become necessary to recruit an administrator in the school. This information would be kept on file so that board administration is always aware of the local perception for appropriate principal style.
- 6.3 2008-2009 Elementary Staffing
P. Pella advised that this preliminary report went to the board on April 21st and a final report is scheduled for board review on May 20th. Stakeholder feedback is being considered and staffing numbers will be revised as the board attempts to address some of the multiple grade situations.
- 6.4 2008-2009 Secondary Staffing
P. Pella explained that the secondary staffing is prescribed by a formula in the collective agreement.
- 6.5 Parent Engagement Office: Correspondence- April 2-08
P. McRae referred to this letter from Sharon Stuckless under the Update: Provincial Parent Board

7.0 Updates: Schools' Parent Involvement Representatives

- 7.1 Mari Mannisto: Report that funds for MMPS were used to run a scholastic book fair from the library, convene a spelling bee with both parents and students participating. Prizes in the spelling bee included \$5 vouchers for book fair purchases.
- Kitty Dumonski: ,DOPS has held one of two events planned... Internet Safety was done a couple weeks ago and turnout was disappointing compared to last years events when about 80% of families were involved in the events that were run last year.

- Tina Hamel: Reported that SCPS had two projects. During education week there was a literacy and numeracy day, but parent turnout was disappointing too, although the children attending enjoyed the fruit immensely. The second event entitled "Are you Smarter than SCPS Student?" was attended by 10 parents. Finally there is a BBQ planned to mark the end of the school year.
- Pinky McRae MRHS held a Family Olympic day with attendance being about 30 people most of whom were student. Five sporting events were held with pizza, pop and prizes available to participants. Feeder schools' grade 8 classes were also invited.

7.2 Update: School Board Calendars

Kelly Sagle, explained that plans are underway to develop a 16-month School Board Calendar that will feature the artwork of students from around the board system. Information will go out to both the elementary and the secondary panel to solicit artwork from students. One piece of work from each grade would be selected (judging parameters to be determined) to face each calendar month. Kelly said she has some preliminary cost quotes from a printer in Terrace Bay and the plan is to have the work complete through the summer so that the calendar would be available to every student in the system. Kelly and Patti will send out a memo to each school to begin the work of collecting the artwork. Deadline to submit artwork to the board office is set for June 15, 2008. She and Patti will meet to determine the pieces to be used in the calendar. Regardless of which art pieces are used, all those students who submit will receive a certificate of acknowledgement.

8.0 Q & A Session

8.1 Kitty Dumonski

Inquired whether the significant number of teachers retiring this year would free up money to hire more teachers because these are senior teachers are at the max on salary scale. Younger teachers would be hired at entry level salary. Patti advised that there are implications on the funding formula with this scenario. EDU formula takes some of the saving back. As well, the board has obligation to teachers laid off as redundant.

K. Dumonski advised that the People for Education Annual Report it notes that the only funding that is enveloped in a board is that for Special Education. She would like clarification on this matter as SGDSB has always said funds are now transferable between departments. Patti will check with B. Rousseau Superintendent of Business.

9.0 Suggestions: Future Agenda Items

Report on the PRO and PIC Sub-committees by P. McRae
Presentation on compiling funding applications and proposals

10.0 Next Meeting Date

Monday, November 3, 2008

Monday, February 2, 2009

Monday, May 4, 2009

Subject to change pending other board schedules as may be determined in September 2008.

11.0 Adjournment

P. McRae adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.