

# SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



*Our Mission: "Inspiring our students to succeed and make a difference"*  
*Our Vision: "We are leaders in providing quality learning experiences in our small school communities"*  
*Our Values: "Caring, Fairness, Empathy, Responsibility, Honesty, Resilience, Respect, Perseverance and Innovation"*  
*Our Motto: "Small schools make a difference"*

## Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

Wednesday, November 14, 2012 — 6:30 p.m.

### MINUTES

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

Acting Chair: David Tamblyn

Director: David Tamblyn  
Recorder: RM. Joannette

### 1.0 Roll Call

<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 – Jenefer Poirier... <i>School Council &amp; PIC</i>					X	GCHS – <i>School Council ?</i>					
BAPS – Bernadine O'Brien... <i>School Council</i>				X		GCHS – Lynne Lafrance... <i>PIC</i>		X			
BEPS – Dominique Orban... <i>School Council &amp; PIC</i>		X				LSHS – <i>PIC &amp; School Council ?</i>					
BEPS – Brenda Goodman... <i>School Council</i>				X		MNHS - <i>Jane Bourgeois...School Council &amp; PIC</i>		X			
CAPS - <i>(no students enrolled)</i>						MNHS – Linda Baril... <i>School Council &amp; PIC</i>		X			
DOPS - Kim Landry... <i>School Council &amp; PIC</i>		X				MRHS – Jennifer Lake... <i>School Council</i>					X
DOPS – Kitty Dumonski... <i>PIC &amp; School Council</i>					X	MRHS – Pearl Cooper... <i>PIC</i>					X
GOPS - Suzanne Kukko, Chair... <i>School Council</i>					X	MRHS – Annette Heath... <i>PIC</i>					X
GOPS – Michelle Bird... <i>PIC &amp; School Council</i>				X		NRHS - <i>School Council ?</i>					
MNPS – <i>School Council ?</i>						NRHS – Martha Verville... <i>PIC</i>		X			
MMPS – Mari Mannisto... <i>School Council</i>				X							
MMPS – Trina Regan... <i>PIC</i>				X		<b>Trustees/Administration</b>	O	T	V	A	R
MTPS – Pearl Cooper... <i>School Council &amp; PIC</i>				X		Darlene Keenan	S	C	C		
MTPS – Annette Heath... <i>PIC</i>				X		Mark Mannisto					X
NAPS - Mathew Donavan... <i>School Council &amp; PIC</i>				X		Angel Santerre			X		
RRPS - <i>School Council ?</i>						Pinky McRae ( <i>Ex-Officio</i> )		X			
RRPS - Tara Thompson... <i>PIC</i>				X		David Tamblyn			X		
SCPS – Tina Hamel... <i>School Council &amp; PIC</i>				X		John Mutch					X
SCPS – Tosha Borutski... <i>PIC</i>				X		Nancy Petrick					X
TBPS – <i>School Council ?</i>						Donna Fry					X
TBPS – Terry Bell... <i>PIC</i>				X		Rose-Marie Joannette ( <i>Recorder</i> )	X				

### 1.0 Welcome

David Tamblyn

Director of Education David Tamblyn notes that in the absence of an assigned chairperson, he would act as chair. Suggested those present consider assumption of these duties and either an election or acclamation could be conducted at the next meeting.

## **2.0 Review and Approval of Minutes: May 14, 2012**

Mover: D. Keenan Second: A. Santerre

That, the minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting dated May 14, 2012 be accepted and approved.

## **3.0 Approval of Agenda**

Mover: J. Bourgeois Second: L. Baril

That, the agenda for the Parent Involvement Committee meeting for November 14, 2012 be accepted.

## **4.0 Business Arising from Minutes**

### **4.1 Election of Chairperson**

As per Item 1.0, this issue will be deferred to the next meeting.

## **5.0 Chair: Parent Involvement Committee**

(David Tamblyn)

### **5.1 Homework Help**

Stacey Wallwin, e-Learning Coordinator for Superior-Greenstone DSB provided an in-depth presentation regarding the on-line Homework Help program which is accessible to SGDSB students. She reviewed the contents of the several agenda attachments and attempted to demonstrate the on-line avenues available to students. Although there were some technical issues which prevented a full demonstration, the background information provided assisted participants in understanding the comprehensive and secure nature of the Homework Help provision. The program offers one-on-one help to students who can access direct tutoring by a qualified teacher (via chat-rooms) which are available Sunday through Thursdays from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Students from grade 7 to 10 can use this on-line tool to help with their mathematics program. She noted some user statistics for last year SGDSB students where 731 visits were pegged with 315 questions entered for homework help. The average wait time for service is recorded as three minutes with the average chat time being 9:39 minutes. She reported that across Ontario the on-line facility assisted about 160,000 in 2011-2012. So far this year, SGDSB there have been 54 students visit with 19 problems solved. The Homework Help banner is available at all time on the Board website at [www.sgdsb.on.ca](http://www.sgdsb.on.ca).

## **6.0 Director of Education**

(David Tamblyn)

### **6.1 New PIC Handbook (Ministry of Education)**

D. Tamblyn advised the handbook had been sent to members today as it has just recently been released by the ministry. He read directly from sections of the document and recommended it as a resource for all PIC members.

### **6.2 2012 Annual Report on School Councils – People for Education**

D. Tamblyn provided a brief background on the People for Education organization explaining that it is an independent group that works to support education in Ontario schools. It advocates strongly for the parent voice in education, conducts research on a variety of prominent education issues and trends and makes policy recommendations on the current education issues. To provide a sense of what the workings of the group, he provided a media clip of the People for Education's 2012 Annual Report on School Councils Meeting.

Former PIC Chairperson Pinky McRae (now the current Board Chairperson) also provided some insight into the role of PIC in schools and its relationship with the Board, stressing that PIC does provide a most direct link to the Director of Education and the Board in order to move issues forward. She noted that the commitment of the PIC Chair is not a significant time-drain on anyone as meetings happen four times in each school year. Apart from the chairperson's school specific parent involvement issues, there role as Board PIC chair is to run the system meetings and consolidate a couple of annual PIC initiatives afforded through the PIC funding provided each school/board. The ministry funds PIC on an enrolment basis, being \$0.17 per student and \$5,000 annually for disbursement as deemed appropriate throughout the system. One of the bigger

projects adopted by PIC has been the annual Student Art Calendar. The PIC chair can convene the meetings from any site within which they reside; there is no requirement for them to run the meeting specifically from the Board office location. It was noted that although school staff members are welcome to participate in PIC, the role of chair must reside with an parent member. As it is just the parent/trustee members on PIC who retain voting rights.

D. Tamblyn made note that the requirement for PIC to have bylaws in place was fulfilled during the last school year and the SGDSB PIC Bylaws are available for review on the board website under the "Parents" menu tab.

### 6.3 Mental Health and Addictions Nurses in Ontario School Board Districts

D. Tamblyn noted that student mental health is a growing concern in our communities and that there has been increased funding in this area. Beginning in February 2013, Boards will in partnership with the Ministry of Community Social Services, have access to one Mental Health and Addiction nurse in our school board. The Superior North Catholic DSB will have the same and there is discussion taking place on provision of services given both our Board and the Catholic board have a vast area to cover. Discussions would center around using the nurse assignments on a geographic basis, that is one nurse to cover public and separate schools for the Geraldton, Longlac & Nakina areas, while the second nurse could more readily cover the southernmost school areas of both boards.

### 6.4 Bullying Prevention & Awareness Week, November 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

D. Tamblyn reported that with next week being dedicated to bullying awareness the Take the Pledge Against Bullying campaign is being encouraged. There is a banner on the board website that leads user to the Take the Pledge Campaign where they can also find a vast resource on the subject. He noted that along with this specific campaign, board schools are continually providing program and awareness through a variety of programs such as the Roots of Empathy Program, Second Step and Seven Generations programs.

It was noted that Bullying Prevention "Pink Shirt-Day" is something that usually takes place in the early spring each school year and it may be possible to use some funding available through the Safe Schools Initiative to purchase pink shirts for school community distribution.

### 6.5 Update on "Job Action"

D. Tamblyn reports that both the OSSTF and OSSTF-ESS will shortly be in a legal strike position as collective agreements have not yet been completed. In the absence of an agreement, the locals have indicated that there will be job action sanctions enacted for the most part targeting school administration. In all areas where job action has the potential to compromise student safety, ie., lack of supervision, provisions are in place to ensure that lead principals are deployed to those areas as may be required.

## 7.0 **Open Discussion**

PIC member Jane Bourgeois inquired about and or if Restorative Practices could be brought back into our schools. She noted that with the Restorative Justice System being discontinued in the Manitouwadge area, there is no longer an avenue for a reconciliation between victim/offender. The Restorative Practice program does require a trained facilitator to handle the cases and she asked what SGDSB could do to deploy such a person for a Restorative Practice process in our board.

Nancy Petrick, Superintendent of Education advised that the Lakehead DSB has two trainers on its staff who may be able to deliver this PD to school staff members interested in assuming such a role in their individual school community. Ms. Bourgeois noted her hesitation in this approach because the board teaching staff is already inundated with the classroom and curriculum responsibilities.

Rather, she feels there is more merit in having dedicated coordinator, perhaps installed at Manitouwadge High School for a full year to see how it works and then branch out thereafter.

N. Petrick suggested that with the advent of the Mental Health and Addiction nurse to be installed, perhaps there is a fit to be made with this person. Another suggestion was to have the schools' guidance counsellor tapped for such a role.

This topic will be put onto the next agenda for further discussion.

## 8.0 **Suggestions: Future Agenda Items**

- Restorative Practices

**9.0 Next Meeting Dates (6:30 p.m.)**

- Wednesday, January 16, 2013
- Wednesday, March 20
- Wednesday, April 17

**10.0 Adjournment**

*Mover: T. Hamel      Second: L. Baril*

*That, the Parent Involvement Committee meeting on November 14, 2012, adjourn at 7:34 p.m.*