

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, November 18, 2008— 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

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

2007-2008 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					
Elementary Schools	OS	TC	VC	A	R		OS	TC	VC	A	R
Bulmer, Susan (RRPS)				X		Bahm, Wendy (TBPS)					X
Dumonski, Kitty (DOPS)				X		Borutski, Tosha (SCPS)					X
Hamel, Tina (SCPS)			X			Collins, Mandy (RRPS)					X
Kempe, Clare (TBPS)					X	Hoffman, Deanna (MMPS)					X
Orban, Dominique (BEPS)		X				Mangoff, Stephen (GOPS)					X
Langthorne, Bernadette (GOPS)				X		Marceau, Roxanne (GOPS)					X
Mannisto, Mari (MMPS)					X	Marino, Jody (BAPS)					X
Slomke, Lisa (BAPS)			X			O'Brien, Berndadine (BAPS)					X
(MNPS)	Name unavailable					Roper, Tonya (SCPS)					X
(MTPS)	Name unavailable					Dumonski, Michelle (NRHS)					X
	Name unavailable					Jones, Tammy (NRHS)					X
Secondary Schools	OS	TC	VC	A	R	Trustees/Administration	OS	TC	VC	A	R
Budgell, Lou (MNHS)				X		Fisher, Cindy					X
McRae, Pinky (MRHS)	X					Kappel, Colleen	X				
Young, Tammy (LSHS)				X		Keenan, Darlene		X			
(GCHS)	Name unavailable					Mannisto, Mark (ex-officio)					X
(NRHS)	Name unavailable					Notwell, Kathryn		X			
	Name unavailable					Passi David	X		X		
Guests						Pella, Patti	X				
McArthur, Birgit (LSHS)			X			Sparrow, Julie (alt)					X
Demers, Linda (MTPS)	X					Turner, Jim					X
						Wisikin, Brenda	X				

1.0 Welcome

Pinky McRae welcomed the group.

2.0 Review and Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2008

No comments were received regarding the minutes as they were attached.

3.0 Election: Chair of Parent Involvement Committee

P. McRae advised she preferred not to run or accept nomination for Chair of Parent Involvement Committee. She requested that Director of Education Patti Pella to convene election to nominate persons for position. P. Pella called for nominations, but none were forthcoming. She acknowledged that perhaps small group in attendance did not offer the optimal conditions for nominations. P. McRae advised she was amenable to standing in as chair for the meeting, but noted it would be for the interim only until someone else came forward at the next meeting to take on the duties as chair. Colleen Kappel, Superintendent of Education advised she would address call for chairmanship at the next Principals Administrative Council (PAC) Meeting as a means to rally nominees, perhaps from within their respective school council groups.

P. McRae offered to provide training for anyone who may be nominated, acclaimed and/or elected as chair of PIC for 2009-2010.

4.0 Update: Provincial Parent Board

P. McRae reported that first Provincial Parent Board meeting was held in October where work on next year's agenda had begun. Another meeting is scheduled before the end of November.

Birgit McArthur asked if P. McRae thought Parent Board was having an impact of MOET direction., P. McRae advised that Provincial Parent Board Chair Aimee Gerdevich was the spokesperson with whom Birgit could address this topic. P. McRae offered to e-mail address of Parent Board website to all schools to facilitate communication.

5.0 Update: 2007-2008 Projects

Director of Education Patti Pella provided an update on school issues including the completion of the Board's 16-month calendar. The item was well received and a similar project is planned for 2009-2010. Work to commence the next issue would have a goal toward completion for August 2009 and distribution in September. She noted that with the longer preparation time than the first, she hopes that PIC and school council groups can be more involved in selecting pieces of artwork and/or setting selection criteria. A pressing issue is the cost. The run of 2700 copies cost about \$5500.

Trustee Darlene Keenan said that she had a few people inquire about purchasing the calendar. There are not enough copies to sell this year, but the sale of calendars may be way to offset print cost. P. Pella suggested that a sub-committee of PIC may be able to develop ideas for some manner of cost-recovery. C. Kappel will address this to PAC in December.

Suggestions from the group on cost saving included:

- Linda Demers - wider distribution could be gained by making one calendar per family available rather than to each student
- David Passi – look at getting it out to businesses in community for more visibility and send issues out to partners in education, like ISNC, municipalities
- Schools with excess copies in schools could forward to those whose stock is depleted so that more copies can be made available to business community in towns
- Get input from School Council in December and January and report back at next PIC meeting

6.0 2008-2009 PRO Grant Submissions Procedures

P. McRae put out final call to solicit for project ideas. She expects to know the extent of funding for this initiative by January 2009.

PIC member Tina Hamel noted that she has encountered difficulty with acceptance for her project as her entry was submitted on wrong form. Disappointed for work that went into item, which has apparently been rejected because the wrong form was used. T. Hamel will e-mail Patti Pella what she prepared to see if P. Pella can intercede for acceptance.

7.0 Director's Update

7.1 Accommodation Review Committee re Terrace Bay/Schreiber 08-09

P. Pella noted that an Accommodation Review approved in April 2008 was rescinded at November 17th Board meeting. The Terrace Bay/Schreiber area Accommodation Review Committee will not proceed. Since the Board's announcement to have Accommodations Reviews, the MOET has advised that \$4.5 million funding for the B.A. Parker Public School Replacement Project has been approved. She noted that considerable time and travel is involved to see this project through fruition. The future of the 2nd and 3rd stage reviews would be determined with the development of a new rationale for study. She referred members to Board Report 67, dated November 17, 2008 and Report No 25, dated April 21, 2008 as attached to agenda.

She explained that the B.A. Parker Replacement Project resulted from the MOET declaration that BAPS was prohibitive to repair while at Geraldton Composite High School significant excess space exists. Funding of \$4.5 million is available to bring together BAPS and GCHS, as a Kindergarten to Grade 12 School Model. To-date, two community consultation meetings have been held to address the issue in the Greenstone area.

7.2 Full Day Junior Kindergarten

A priority planning report to advocate for full-day junior kindergarten is scheduled for presentation to Board in December 2008. P. Pella noted that both the French and English coterminous board offer this and it impacts our board's ability to sustain and or gain a bigger share of potential enrolment.

7.3 2009-2010 School Year Calendar

P. Pella noted that in September 2009 the Labour Day statutory holiday is on September 7th. School traditionally starts day after this, but this would mean school would continue very late into June to fulfill the 194 instruction days required by MOET. To alleviate this end-of-year fatigue, it is advisable to have a school year start before Labour Day (August 31st). Considered a modified calendar, the MOET requires early submission by (March 1, 2009) for approval.

7.4 2007-2008 Director's Annual Report

P. Pella advised this is being released to the Board on December 1st. It contains information of student achievement, including EQAO results from the last five years. Data illustrates that there are achievement gaps between boys and girls.

A strategic priority of the Board is to develop ways to engage male students, perhaps through technology projects in schools as grades 4 to 8 boys tend to become more engaged in learning when they are active participants in their learning, i.e., hands-on.

At the secondary level shops, technology and engagement in environment increases achievement among male students. Courses such as the high skills major and dual credit courses appear to be meeting with better outcomes for male students.

8.0 Updates: Schools' Parent Involvement Representatives

8.1 P. McRae

Gave a recap on first year's allocation of Parent Involvement Committee grants noting the reception was positive. This year she asked the group to keep to the timelines designated as final reporting has time constraints. Proposals for PIC activities in schools will be called for shortly. If project is approved, PIC members are required to keep all receipts for expenditures, and submit a brief report to the PIC Chair to consolidate a report to the board. She suggested a project in communities for outreach to parents might be a Board/School information "grab-bag" such as the example she brought in from the Thames Valley DSB's PIC. We would need to find out cost of a recyclable canvas or cloth bag to stuff. Colleen Kappel will scan the information on PIC outreach from TVDSB and forward to PIC members.

8.2 Parent Outreach Ideas

- Regional Learning Fair – for example, bring Beardmore parents into Geraldton in two streams one for elementary; one secondary. Use the “grab-bags for books
- Local Learning Fair – may be better in small communities as parents cannot travel so far for such things what with child care, single/working mom’s issue
- Each school could take ideas for grab-bags contents that would work in their area
- Get speakers in for presentations, but take advantage of WHO is in your own community to share information
- PIC members bring your ideas to your school councils for more input and or to launch project
- Whole PIC group share ideas that may be developed through your respective associations with school councils and discuss this at the next PIC meeting
- Need to find way to accommodate parent participation given childcare problems as even school council participation is lacking in some areas due to this problem
- Suggestion is to try to have electronic school council meeting and integrate idea and group, i.e., school council and PIC
- Instead of the big learning fair, maybe our board issue is the daycare piece, how can we support this through our grant
- Can some PIC monies be used to garner services of educational assistants out for an hour to help with child care while parents meet in schools
- Parent engagement project might include e-learning resources for parents council
- Birgit McArthur to send around e-mail to outline the work done for Lake Superior HS career fair for parents

9.0 Q & A Session

10.0 Suggestions: Future Agenda Items

2009-2010 Board-Wide Art Calendar Planning
2009-2010 PIC Chair Elections

11.0 Next Meeting Date

Monday, February 2, 2009
Monday, May 4, 2009

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.