

# 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 3, 2009 — 6:30 p.m.

## MINUTES

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

2009-2010 Acting Chair: P. McRae

Director: Patti Pella  
Moderator / 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>											
Elementary Schools	OS	TC	VC	A	R						
BAPS - Megan Cade & Teresa Daines... <i>School Council Co-Chairs</i>		XX									
BEPS - Orban, Dominique		X									
CAPS ... <i>PIC and School Council Info TBD</i>				X							
DOPS - Dumonski, Kitty		X									
GOPS...Bernadette Langthorne		X									
MNPS - Rathwell, Tammy... <i>School Council Chair</i>				X							
MMPS - Taylor, Darcy... <i>School Council Chair</i>				X							
MTPS... <i>PIC and School Council Info TBD</i>				X							
NAPS...Lee Ann & Mathew Donovan		XX									
RRPS... <i>PIC and School Council Info TBD</i>				X							
SCPS... Tina Hamel					X						
TBPS – Terry Ball Kempe, Claire... <i>School Council Chair</i>			X	X							
Secondary Schools	OS	TC	VC	A	R	Trustees/Administration	OS	TC	VC	A	R
GCHS - Abraham, Gerald <i>School Council Chair</i>			X			Fry, Donna	X				
LSHS - McArthur, Birgit	X		X			Keenan, Darlene		X			
LSHS - Morriseau, Wendy	X					Mannisto, Mark ( <i>ex-officio</i> )				X	
MNHS – Dennis Lamontagne <i>School Council Chair</i>				X		Notwell, Kathryn		X			
MRHS – Pinky McRae & Laurie	XX					Pella, Patti	X				
NRHS... <i>PIC and School Council Info TBD</i>				X		Simmons, Tina ( <i>alternate</i> )				X	
						Sparrow, Julie				X	
						Wisikin, Brenda	X				

### 2.0 Welcome

Acting Chair, Pinky McRae welcomed everyone and took roll call as noted above. She advised that the agenda be amended to include elections for a new chair for 2009-2010. The group agreed to have this item addressed as the last order of business for the evening's meeting

### **3.0 Review and Approval of Minutes: May 11, 2009**

The minutes were omitted in error. With permission of the Acting Chair, RM. Joannette read out the minutes. There were no errors of omissions reported.

### **4.0 Business Arising from Minutes**

#### **4.1 Item 3.1-Minutes re May 11, 2009 – SGDSB Tote Bags**

Director Patti Pella reiterated her finding from last spring, i.e., given funds available, affordable tote were very low quality. Such a purchase will be revisited should funding permit, however the first priority will remain with the production of the school calendar.

### **5.0 Provincial Parent Board-Dissolved**

Pinky McRae confirmed that this board was dissolved, but the ministry continues to focus on strategies for parent involvement in schools. It is expected that shortly, the ministry will have a schedule of meetings organized toward that goal.

### **6.0 PRO Grants**

Ms. McRae advised that the closing date for PRO Grant applications was October 16, 2009. Approvals from Wanda Percival (ministry) will be forthcoming shortly.

### **7.0 Director's Update**

#### **7.1 Updates**

##### **7.1.1 Character Education Proposal**

Formerly, this funding was available as direct grant to boards. In 2009-2010 boards must submit project proposals to qualify and gain approval from the ministry. An application has been submitted for Positive Parent Program. This is a parenting and family support strategy to prevent severe behavioural, emotional and developmental problems in children by enhancing the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents. Another proposal was sent in partnership with our coterminous board to organize a Student Character Symposium in the Spring 2010 in Thunder Bay where two students per school (Grade 7 to 12) could attend. Finally, there is a proposal to have a character building play produced as a group project by SGDSB and coterminous board students. The production would tour around the schools. GCHS media class would be given the task of writing and taping the play, while the actors would join from various other of our and coterminous board schools.

##### **7.1.2 Early Learning Rollout**

Director Pella referred to the provinces plan derived from the Pascal Report to phase in full-day learning for all four and five-year-olds. SGDSB implemented full-day JK already this year; however, the provincial phase in model is somewhat controversial. It is a blended model where JK/SK Teachers and Early Childhood Educators work in concert to provide meaningful daily activities. Our task now is to explore ways that we can set up partnerships between the teachers and ECE workers.

##### **7.1.3 Dr. Ross Greene Seminar**

Dr. Ross Greene, a psychologist and author of the highly acclaimed books *The Explosive Child* and *Lost at School* has agreed to conduct a seminar in Red Rock on Friday, November 13, 2009. He is the originator of the Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) approach, an evidence-based, proven approach to understanding and helping challenging kids. Agency staff can attend at a nominal fee, while parents of children in our schools and coterminous board schools can attend at no charge. The registration is online at [www.sgdsb.on.ca](http://www.sgdsb.on.ca). Permission has been granted by Dr. Greene to have the event taped so that this can be used in future staff PD session.

- 7.1.4 Superior-Greenstone DSB 16- Month Calendars  
The ministry for specific proposals allocates character Education funds this year. The group agreed the calendar project is beneficial and it should continue. It was agreed that Parental Involvement funds (\$2,000) would be made available for 2010-2011 Calendar. The balance of funds for the project would be available from the director's miscellaneous account.
- 7.1.5 B.A. Parker PS Replacement Project  
Minutes for this project are on the board website for viewing. It is expected that the project will go to tender in January 2010 with anticipated completion by fall to early winter, 2011.
- 7.1.6 Automatic External Defibrillators  
This equipment has been installed in all board facilities. The Superior North Emergency Medical Services donated the equipment, valued at about \$50,000. SGDSB is responsible for maintenance and batteries. Training for AED users will take place this month.
- 7.1.7 Policy Update:  
P-536 Equity and Inclusive Education  
P-906 Environment Education  
Director Pella explained the procedures for new and existing policy reviews and encouraged the group to visit the website to stay current with the reviews. She indicated that feedback from the stakeholders groups, including PIC and parent councils is important and helpful. Feedback from various quarters helps us to keep policies relevant and working, as they should for public and staff constituents.
- 7.2 School Administration
- 7.2.1 David Tamblyn: Appointed Assistant to the Director  
Effective October 26, 2009 David Tamblyn, formerly Principal of TBPS and SCPS was appointed as a senior administrator with the board. A 1.0 FTE Principal will be recruited for these two schools, as well as a 0.25 FTE teacher.
- 7.2.2 Sharon Mackenzie: Lake Superior High School  
Long time LSHS Principal Sharon Mackenzie is retiring in June 2010. Recruitment effort has started. Director Pella said that with the two long-standing principals in the schools in Terrace Bay / Schreiber coming out the schools, it is important to give these communities a significant period to adjust to the imminent change in school leadership. She asked parent members attending to ensure that they communicate the need for their group to begin thinking about the ideal characteristics required of a principal in these the facilities of TBPS, SCPS and LSHS.
- 7.3 Board Strategy Plan  
Director Pella reported on the draft Strategic Plan that will be finalized for the December 2009 presentation to the Board. She asked those present to provide feedback on the draft and explained how its content served as the guiding principles for the conduct and actions of administration and staff across the board.

## **8.0 Updates by Schools' Parent Involvement Representatives**

*(Open to each member)*

- 8.1. Lee Ann Donovan (NAPS) asked if it would be possible to set up a teleconference connection to the Nakina Public School, so that people out that way could hear Dr. Greene but not have to be driving into Geraldton on what could be ugly days in November. Ms. Pella will inquire with IT and pass on information through NAPS principal Angela Miller.
- 8.2 PIC Grants / PRO Grants Explained

Pinky McRae (MRHS) provided an explanation of the PIC Funding. The norm has been for each board in the province to receive \$5,000 plus \$0.17 per student. These funds are used solely for the purpose of parent engagement in schools. SGDSB practice has been to entertain proposals from schools' Parent Council/PIC members for events that would see parent parents getting into their child's school. Group concurred the process should continue.

She explained that parent engagement activities that qualify are those, which bring parents into schools with their children. She provided the example of the MRHS Family Olympics where snacks and beverages were brought in for an evening of games with parent and student teams.

With the decision to move ahead once more with the Board calendar, there will be \$2,000 set apart for that venture, while the rest of the monies would be allocated to parent councils that submit proposals for events in their schools. All PIC events run within a school must be accounted for in a report to the PIC chair, as a final reconciliation is due annually in August.

PRO Grants is a program that Ontario parent councils can apply directly to the ministry to receive grants for events, which would enhance parent involvement in schools, but the amounts approved are generally for grander projects. There is an earlier deadline for submitting proposals (this year, October 16, 20-09) and decisions for allocation are made at the provincial level.

8.3 Birgit Knoll-McArthur

Requested that consideration be given to have some of the forms that parents need to use for issue with their children be posted onto the website, e.g., Student Community Hours parent permission sheets and field trip permission sheets. Principal Brenda Wiskin and VP Dona Fry will bring the issue up at the next Leadership Form for feedback.

**9.0 Suggestions: Future Agenda Items**

No future agenda items were noted.

**10.0 PIC Chair Elections/Acclamation**

Pinky McRae asked if anyone wished to stand for election. Birgit McArthur indicated that she is prepared to be the Chair of PIC for the 2009-2010. No other nomination was received. Ms. Pella and McRae thank Birgit for taking on this task.

**11.0 2009-2010 Meeting Dates**

February 2, 2010

May 4, 2010

**12.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.