

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 (PIC)
Wednesday, November 23, 2011 — 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

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

Chair: Birgit McArther (to January 17, 2012)

Director: David Tamblyn
Moderator / Recorder: A. MacGillivray

1.0 Roll Call

<i>Attendance Mode: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)</i>												
Parent Involvement Committee												
Elementary Schools	O	T	V	A	R	Secondary Schools	O	T	V	A	R	
BAPS – Jenefer Poirier... <i>School Council</i>		X				GCHS – Gerald Abraham... <i>School Council</i>					X	
BAPS – Bernadine O'Brien... <i>School Council</i>				X		LSHS – Birgit McArthur... <i>PIC</i>	X					
BAPS – Teresa Daines... <i>PIC</i>				X		MNHS - Denis Lanteigne... <i>School Council</i>					X	
BEPS – Brenda Goodman... <i>School Council</i>				X		MRHS ... Jennifer Hart... <i>PIC</i>	X					
BEPS – Dominique Orban... <i>PIC</i>				X		NRHS Albertine Van Ogtrop-Leale... <i>School Council</i>					X	
CAPS ... <i>(no students enrolled)</i>						NRHS – Kitty Dumonski ... <i>PIC</i>		X				
DOPS ... Kitty Dumonski... <i>PIC & School Council</i>		X				Trustees/Administration	O	T	V	A	R	
DOPS – Shannon Numan... <i>School Council</i>				X		Fred Simonaitis			X			
GOPS – Bernadette Langthorne... <i>School Council</i>				X		Darlene Keenan		X				
MNPS – Penny Morell... <i>School Council</i>				X		Mark Mannisto		X				
MMPS ... Rita Rabcaniak... <i>PIC</i>		X				Angel Santerre		X				
MTPS – Tonia Oldford... <i>PIC</i>	X					Donna Fry			X			
MTPS – Pearl Cooper... <i>School Council</i>	X					David Tamblyn	X					
NAPS - Mathew Donovan... <i>School Council</i>				X		Nancy Petrick		X				
RRPS ... Shari Kingston... <i>PIC & School Council</i>				X		Barb Willcocks					X	
SCPS –Tosha Borutski... <i>School Council</i>				X		Andrée MacGillivray		X				
SCPS – Tina Hamel... <i>PIC</i>				X		John Mutch					X	
TBPS – Wendy Bähm... <i>School Council</i>				X		Pinky McRae		X				
TBPS – Terry Bell... <i>PIC</i>				X		Pat Mooninal	X		X			

1.0 Welcome

Birgit McArthur did roll call and welcomed the group to the first of four 2011-2012 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meetings.

3.0 Election of 2010-2011 Chair - Parent Involvement Committee

Birgit inquired if anyone from within the group, attending, was interested in letting their name stand for Chair. Unfortunately, due to the number of people absent (19) election for Chair is postponed until the next meeting (January 17, 2012). Birgit McArthur indicated she will hold the position until the next meeting. Birgit did express her interest in holding Co-Chair position and is willing to help incoming Chair. All were in favour.

3.0 Review and Approval of Minutes: May 2, 2011

B. McArthur asked to have following corrected from May 2, 2011, minutes: incorrectly spelled Geoffrey Feldman (Toronto CPIC) name. Correction was made.

Moved by: Jennifer Hart

Seconded by: Mark Mannisto

That, the minutes of May 2, 2011 Parent Involvement Committee be accepted.

4.0 Business Arising from Minutes

B. McArthur asked to have following corrected from May 2, 2011, minutes: incorrectly spelled Geoffrey Feldman name (TDSB). The following will be removed from the Draft PIC:

-Page 7, i

-Page 9, 4.2

-Page 11 – 7.7, vii remove Catholic, xii remove Toronto

4.1 Parent Involvement Committee Bylaws: Draft

(Please see separate attachment on website)

B. McArthur shared her thoughts regarding the draft noting there are several helpful hints for note taking for any meeting and some areas of humour. There several points in the By-law members should take note of:

- Introduction
- Ethical codes,
- Samples of meetings etc. (especially Schedule B on page 32)
- Annual Report template (used in 2010-2011 year-end report)
- Tips for note taking
- Vocabulary at the end which would be useful for other committees
- Parliamentary procedures

D. Tamblyn addressed same and suggested adoption of the by-laws as modeled from the Toronto Catholic DSB. The document is very large and still working on the draft to give it Superior-Greenstone DSB voice. D. Tamblyn and B. McArthur expressed their thanks to R.M. Joannette for her work to date with PIC.

R. Rabacaniak indicated high Aboriginal population in Longlac area and suggested the committee invite an Aboriginal person to join the PIC group.

B. McArthur attended meeting in Toronto and was given a video recorder to tape local PIC meeting and share with other PIC groups. She took time to videotape attendees at the Board Office.

5.0 Parent Involvement Committee Chair

5.1 Correspondence: September 2, 2011 – Deputy Minister, K. Costante

B. McArthur read letter addressed to PIC members thanking them for their hard work in these challenging times. As well, acknowledging the role of the Chair and Co-chair and the important role they play in the community.

5.2 Correspondence; November 17, 2011 – Director Inclusive Education, R. Flynn

B. McArthur touched on PIC Handbook which is in draft format. The handbook deals with what PICS are about, roles, regulations, templates; some of which can be found in our By-Law.

5.2.1 A Practical Handbook for PIC Members (Draft) – Feedback Form

Members are encouraged to review the handbook and to complete the feedback form located at the back of the handbook. Deadline to submit form is November 30, 2011.

5.3 2010-2011 PIC Year End Summary

B. McArthur read attachment letter of thanks to those in attendance. As well, advised the summary was presented to the Board at their August meeting. Also, addressed the fact our board will not have elections for members. The members are appointed mainly by school council. Since the establishment of PIC, the Recording Secretary has followed proper by-law procedures. The minutes have been posted within a reasonable period of time and we are fortunate to have the support of the Board to take over this task, and are very grateful.

5.4 Grants and Funding

5.4.1 Parents Reaching Out (P.R.O.) Grants (up to \$1,000.00)

B. McArthur reported breakdown of funds allocated to schools within the board for the 2011-2012 year. B. McArthur congratulated those schools successful in receiving grant money. Applications are due in mid May and are applied to 2012-2013 school year.

B. McArthur encouraged members to visit the Ministry website to start early to apply. You have to sign-in and sign-out work on it. As well, share password with council so that other members have access if necessary.

5.4.2 Parent Engagement Grant (PIC)

B. McArthur reported monies for this group has been traditionally used by each PIC group for individual projects and for the board wide calendar. The question was posed: "*what do we want to do this year?*" There was positive feedback how the money should be spent: Parent Forum, Calendar, individual Initiatives and Project.

5.4.3 School Council Funds

B. McArthur reported every School Council receives \$500.00 per year to be used as the council wishes. The funds should be in schools account at the beginning of school year. They are strongly encouraged to keep receipts and filed within the school for school audit.

6.0 Director of Education

6.1 Board's Strategic Plan

David Tamblyn reported it is very important for the Board to address this topic on a regular basis (last time addressed 1996). There are many factors that have caused this review,

- Declining enrolment
- Downturn in economy (i.e. forest industry)
- Demographics of our school
- Changes in technology (i.e. e-Learning, SmartBoards, i-Pads in the classroom and the way teachers and students have adapted to the delivery of programs due to these changes)

D. Tamblyn has met with student representatives to get feedback on how to engage students in learning, the shared responsibility for student well-being (full bodied education), and how they can contribute to their communities as a result of their education. Tamblyn wishes to approach parents, PIC groups to discuss these points and would like to start the process in January and end in June. The goal is to start implementation in September 2012.

D. Tamblyn got feedback from School Council members regarding local councils and many are struggling to get parents involved, new ideas and participation in general. Tamblyn advised School Council Handbook is available on Board site and to make a hard-copy available and post in staffroom.

6.2 Children's Mental Health and Addictions Initiative

D. Tamblyn reported this as a huge concern and the topic being covered extensively in the media. This is not localized to urban centers. A number of deaths of Aboriginal children have occurred in the city of Thunder Bay. There are many factors that contribute to these children's mental health:

- Adapting to life in the city
- Not enough counselors
- Lack of child psychiatrist

- Not enough availability of these resources (counsellors etc.) in outreach communities and the geography in northern Ontario plays a huge role in accessibility to mental health programs.

D. Tamblyn sent out e-mail to elementary teachers requesting feedback on training on mental health issue. Overwhelming response was received and \$20,000.00 is available to provide training to elementary teachers. At the moment it is set for educators but is open to parents.

6.3 Superior-Model

D. Tamblyn shared with the group a website launched this fall entitled ***The Superior Model*** which promotes and supports positive behavior, well-being and mental health in all children and youth. This website was developed collaboratively by the Student Support Leadership partners in Superior-Greenstone and Thunder Bay with our data partner, 211 Ontario North. The site is updated on a regular basis. It can be accessed at <http://www.superiormodel.ca/>

6.4 Homework Help

Donna Fry updated the group regarding Homework Help. Stacey Wallwin is in charge of this program which gives the students, in grades 7-10, a chance to get help and work with a teacher on-line between 5:30-9:30 Sunday to Thursday each week. The website is secure and the students name is anonymous. Sessions can be saved and they may collect all tutorial sessions they like to review at any time. Students are able to interact with the tutor as well as place a question on the whiteboard. Parents are also able to visit the site as a guest and cannot ask math question.

6.5 Internet Safety – Cyber-Risk

D. Fry shared with the group, OPHEA and O.P.P. worked together to put together Cyber Safety video (20-30 mins.) geared towards students in Grade 4, to 6.

Grade 4 students dealing with Cyber Bullying:

- Password privacy
- On-line posting
- Etiquette

Grade 5 students dealing with Real Life vs. On-line Life

- Chat room
- Hidden Identity

Grade 6 students dealing with Making Cyber Bullying Difficult/Hidden Identity

- Gaming addictions
- Webcams
- Riskee Texting

There is a section for Parent Resources: www.realifeonline.ca this site provides parents with engaging objectives to help them with children in Grades 4-5-6.

D. Fry was invited to attend an Advisory Group along with O.P.P. where they shared information. Dick O'Brien was invited to attend this workshop. He has worked with parents that focus on developing personal resiliency in our children as the survival strategy for the 21st Century. D. Fry

shared his website address: <http://theresilientjourney.com/Workshops/RaisingResilientChildren.html>

This committee will be ongoing for the next three years.

D. Tamblyn thanked D. Fry for her work on the Homework Club and working along with O.P.P. on the Internet Safety.

7.0 **PIC Representative Feedback**

The group discussed funding, parent involvement, and the challenges each committee has in their respective communities.

8.0 **Suggestions: Future Agenda Items**

Strategic Plan (old copy on website under About Us section)

PIC Funding (spring)

- 9.0** **Next Meeting Date**
Tuesday, January 17, 2012
Tuesday, March 20, 2012
Monday, May 14, 2012

- 10.0** **Adjournment**
Mover: Birgit McArthur Second: Mark Mannisto
That, the Parent Involvement committee meeting on November 23, 2011 adjourn at 8:17 p.m.