

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, February 11, 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					
Elementary Schools	OS	TC	VC	A	R	Bahm, Wendy (TBPS)	OS	TC	VC	A	R
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)		X			
(MTPS)	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	
Kadikoff, Ernie (NRHS)					X	Kappel, Colleen	X				
McPherson, Jamie (GCHS)					X	Keenan, Darlene		X			
McRae, Pinky (MRHS)	X					Lockwood, Anne (NRHS)			X		
Young, Tammy (LSHS)			X			Mannisto, Mark (ex-officio)		X			
Guests						Notwell, Kathryn					X
Desaulniers, Kim			X			Passi, David (MNPS)			X		
Guignard, Christine	X					Pella, Patti			X		
						Sparrow, Julie (alt)				X	
						Turner, Jim				X	

1.0 Welcome

P. McRae

The Chairperson Pinky McRae welcomed everyone to the meeting and took roll call. Mari Mannisto of MMPS requested a correction that is, she requires copies of minutes and agendas as the PIC representative for MMPS. Deanna Hoffman is the alternate.

2.0 Review and Approval of Minutes: November 12, 2007

Moved by Mari Mannisto / Seconded by Clare Kempe
That, the minutes from the November 12, 2007 Parent Involvement Committee Meeting be approved.

3.0 Update: Provincial Parent Board

Chairperson P. McRae provided an overview of the mandate of the Provincial Parent Board. She is one of 18 members appointed to the board by the Minister of Education in August 2007. Three members (including her) hail from Northwestern Ontario. The board's chairperson is Aimee Gerdevich who is from Thunder Bay.

The mandate of the board includes two key roles; the first being able to give advice to the minister on how to increase parental involvement in schools. The second part of the mandate involves monitoring the parental involvement levels, implementation of program and effectiveness of these programs. The board meets monthly in Toronto where the group can discuss what is happening in their area schools and the strategies being used to enhance parental involvement.

She noted that the board has significant involvement in the Parents Reaching Out Grants as well as the Parent Involvement funding as it is directly related to the initiatives that involve engaging parents with their children in the schools.

4.0 Update: Parent Involvement Committee

P. McRae sent out a memorandum today, February 11/08 with information on the procedure for applying for a portion of the 2007-08 funding available to the PIC in schools along with a template that school PIC groups can use to apply for funds to implement their site specific parent involvement activities.([Go to Memo](#))
.....([Go to Template](#))

The total grant for Superior-Greenstone DSB is \$5000, plus \$0.17 per student enrolled. She encouraged PIC members to use the application template, share it with their school council chairs and submit a proposal in concert with their school council. Proposals should not be short and succinct.

Proposals can be e-mailed to her at dgmcr@shaw.ca or faxed to the board office at 807-229-1471 by * March 7, 2008. P. McRae will meet with the board to review all applications to determine a list of approved projects. Funds will be disbursed to schools by March 18 and must be used by June 30, 2008. Final reports about the events held are due into P. McRae by August 30, 2008.

She shared the example of the proposal that Marathon High School will submit. The proposed activity in that school is to organize an Olympic Family Day. She will have a summary of the MRHS idea posted to the website for reference by other PIC/School Council groups who wish to develop a plan for their school. The planned activity does not have to take place during the school day.

If anyone is unsure of the merit of their idea, P. McRae invited anyone who needs clarification or advice to e-mail her.

* Update to Minutes: On February 12/08, P. McRae forwarded e-mail to advise that the submission date for the PIC proposals has been extended to March 31. School will be notified by April 11 if the proposal submitted has been approved for funding.

5.0 Director's Update

- 5.1 **Director Memo 03: 2008-2009 School Year Calendar Draft**
Director of Education Patti Pella advised PIC that the school year calendar draft as attached has been forwarded to numerous board stakeholders for their review. She encouraged the PIC group to review the draft as well and forward feedback to her attention at ppella@sgdsb.on.ca .
- 5.2 **Policy 515: Community School Council**
In anticipation of the formation of PIC for Superior-Greenstone DSB, Policy 515 has been reviewed by the Board Policy Review Committee (BPRC) and is now referred to PIC for its input.
P. Pella encouraged PIC members to review and forward any comments to her attention by February 22. The BPRC can then complete its review; pass on its recommendation to the whole board for approval and posting of the updated review onto the board website.
- 5.3 **Policy 905 Pupil Accommodation**
P. Pella reported that the Board has its Trustee Residential planned in early April and one of the items on the agenda pertains to the Policy 905 Pupil Accommodation. As Superior-Greenstone DSB student enrolment declines, surplus space increases in the board. Policy 905 outlines the procedures and timelines required to review pupil accommodation among which is the board responsibility to determine a rationale for an accommodation review.
- 5.4 **Appreciation for PIC Group**
On behalf of the Board, P. Pella thanked all PIC members for their work on the committee. In whatever fashion the members may have been involved in the allocation of the Parents Reaching Out Grant projects, she extended thanks as well. SGDSB schools have had a good response to proposals with 10 schools being awarded funding.

6.0 Updates from each School Parent Involvement Representatives

- K. Dumonski: Reported that DOPS received \$440 PRO grant and inquired if the PIC Funding could be used to enhance this amount. P. McRae suggested that a short summary be forwarded to her advising that, if the project at DOPS as something to do with parental involvement, funding could be advanced.
- K. Sagle: Asked if information was available on how many applications were forwarded to the PRO Grant Initiative. P. Pella will bring this information back to the next meeting.

7.0 Q & A Session

- P. Pella: Advised that there is about \$2,450 carryover of Parental Involvement money from 2006-2007 school year.
- D. McRae: Brought forward a suggestion to the group involving the development of signage at the Marathon HS. An Aboriginal student has designed a welcome sign using Aboriginal artwork and the Ojibway language. Other schools may wish to embark on a similar project to promote the welcoming of our First Nation families into our school. P. McRae will check with the student at MRHS to get written permission to post the preliminary drawing on the website for viewing. There is an additional grant outside of parental involvement, i.e., aboriginal grant money that could be accessed.....([Go to Art Work](#))

8.0 Suggestions: Future Agenda Items

- Mark Mannisto Requested that development of the website area devoted to PIC, include information on upcoming events so that Board Trustees traveling through the area may be aware of the itineraries and attend in schools. In addition pictures of the events would be beneficial in promoting parental involvement too. The one caution

around posting pictures is that all subjects must give their consent to have these items up on the board website.

P. Pella suggested the pictures of events be submitted on CD's as large volumes of e-mailed pictures can create a bottleneck on the board server.

P. McRae: Advised there is a wealth of information available with respect to Regional Parents Reaching Out funding. She will try to get this information out to everyone, via e-mail or through the board website

9.0 Next Meeting Date

May 12, 2008

10.0 Adjournment

P. McRae declared the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Parent Involvement Committee

Memo: To all School Council Chairs

From: Pinky McRae

Further to our PIC committee videoconference held on November 12, 2007, please find enclosed the procedure for applying for the 2007/2008 funding.

This funding **must** be used to promote and implement strategies to involve more parents at the school level. Tips to keep in mind when discussing possible ideas are:

- Your event should make it easier for all parents to participate in their child's education and future successes.
- Your event should help create a more welcoming environment for parents in the education system
- It should promote support for more parental involvement

Steps for applying:

- Your school council will need to submit a proposal using the attached form describing your event, the cost associated and a brief explanation on how this event will be run.
- Any funds granted must be used by June 30th, 2008
- Final report of the event must be returned to me by August 30th, 2008
- Please submit your proposal to me by March 7th, 2008, I will then meet with SGDSB and review the applications.
- Funds will be sent to schools by March 18th, 2008

Please keep your proposal short and simple. We will be discussing this at tonight's meeting.

See you then

Pinky
Chair PIC Committee

Parental Involvement

Template

School: _____

Name of school council chair(s): _____

Name and brief description of activities:

1. Name of activity: _____
Description:

2. Name of activity: _____
Description:

3. Name of activity: _____
Description:

Comments/recommendations about the activities: (which was most successful, what were some of the stumbling blocks, suggestions for success):

Aboriginal Welcome Sign at MRHS

