

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 24, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

Parents:

North: Jennifer Miller (Co-Chair), Jennifer Barratt-Parker (Co-Chair), Joe Grieco

South: Nicole Hatten

West: Jim Thorpe, Katherine Arnold, Terry Arnold, Colleen Madill

Guests: Craig Dawson

Trustees: Kevin Larson, Jan Jonstone

Community: Patricia Greig

Administration: Steve Blake, Director; Bev Sims, Director's Office; Staci Marck, Principal, Matt Pickett, Principal, Jean Stephenson, Superintendent of Education (rep re Strategic Planning for Parent Engagement Committee)

1) Welcome and introductions

New and returning members, guests, trustees and board staff introduced.

2) Approval of Agenda

Reviewed areas with vacancies:

- Katherine Arnold voted in as member for the west, with Terry Arnold as an alternate.
- Colleen Madill voted in as member for the west.

With new quorum in place, agenda approved.

3) Review of Past Minutes

May 29, 2013 minutes approved as submitted.

September 19, 2013 minutes approved as submitted.

4) Business arising from the minutes

None identified.

Old Business/updates:

5) Website Project

Jennifer Miller provided an update as follows:

- Website is near completion.
- Some remaining issues to be resolved before the launch of the PIC Webpage.
- BWDSB website committee (of which Jennifer is a member with Jamie Petit) will meet again prior to the SC Network Meeting
- Webpage will be consistent with the board site.
- SC communications issues still to be sorted out.
- Deadline for PRO Grant spending is end of December

ACTION: members wishing to provide content or assistance should email Jennifer Miller (10-24-13/1)

6) November 21 SC Networking Meeting

- Principals notified of the date.
- Nicole and Jennifer have been communicating since the last meeting.
- Review of proposed draft for discussion attachment including:
 - Handouts for participants would include the “Blue book” (SC Handbook)
 - Invitation is only to school council chairs (49 buildings)
 - Trustees and Principals to be invited.
 - Reviewed the list of suggested topics
 - Suggestion that people could choose which topics and attend two topics but have resources available on memory stick for all topics.
 - Suggestion made to provide networking time so that ideas can be shared.
 - Networking could be separated by elementary vs. secondary or large area vs smaller community schools
 - Jennifer BP will provide a method of note keeping so that ideas are not lost.
 - Jennifer M suggested providing laptops for SC chairs to provide direct input to the new web page.

ACTION: Jennifer M. to take idea back to the next website committee meeting to determine feasibility (10-24-13/2).

- Review of proposed draft for discussion attachment - continued:
 - Topic for discussion could be what to do during ARCs.
 - Decided that the timing was not advantageous since the meeting is for SC chairs and that the ARC policy is up for review.
 - Suggestions were made that former ARC members be tapped for input.
 - Suggestion made for area schools activities to be put on a calendar (for example: magazine campaigns from adjacent schools that may conflict, avoiding booking same speakers etc.)
 - Question was asked if information could be provided on applying for PRO and other grants.
- Agreed to Topics
 - running an effective school council... Jennifer
 - communications, administrator relationships... Steve
 - Reviewing parent engagement survey... Jean

Jennifer, Jennifer and Nicole will continue to work on narrowing topics.

ACTION: members who would like to lead a discussion or help to facilitate a specific topic should email Jennifer BP (10-24-13/3).

New Business:

7) Minister’s consultation

Jennifer Barratt Parker provided an update on the mini-consultation including

- Link was made between education and the economy.
- 150 people at the meeting from each of the regions, industry etc.

Jennifer has sent out links to provide input on “**Building The Next Phase in Ontario’s Education Strategy**” at your school and local level.

PIC as a whole participated in answering questions 1 and 3 provided on the working document

ACTION: Next step for committee members is to hold consultations in your own school community (10-24-13/5).

ACTION: Jan to send the “storify” link to Jennifer BP based on topic discussions held on Saturdays, which may provide a lot of ideas to start or foster discussions (10-24-13/6).

ACTION: Jennifer will then send it out to PIC (10-24-13/7).

8) Chair Report

Jennifer Barratt Parker Discussed up-coming People for Education conference.

9) Trustee’s Report

Kevin Larson reported on various topics including

- Declining enrollment and rural schools.
- London Free Press article stated that Bluewater is the worst board for split classes.
- Board decision on recent decision to keep Amabele Sauble Community School and Derby Public School open.
- Budgeting becoming increasingly difficult not to effect programming.
- Schools are submitting to stopabully.ca, Kevin will send out links.
- Policy committee update.
- Meeting of Western and Central Region Trustees coming up.

ACTION: Kevin to send out stopabully.ca links to PIC members(10-24-13/8).

10) Director’s Report

Director of Education Steve Blake:

- Has been visiting schools and has noticed a lot of pride demonstrated by Trustees and Administrators.
- Provided a brief verbal report highlighting recent initiatives throughout Bluewater District School Board, including the regional consultation sessions with the Minister of Education on October 18, Georgian Bay Secondary School students' chat with the Premier, support for the Grey Bruce Eat and Learn programs, and World Teacher's Day recognized on October 5.

11) Financial report

Bev Sims provided brief financial statement and notified PIC that upcoming expenses are P for Ed conference, mileage and meals for meetings, and cost to host 2 networking meetings.

12) Next meeting dates:

- November 21 networking meeting.
- March 25th – network meeting planning
- April 29th networking meeting.
- May 29th

ACTION: Bev to amend the September minutes to reflect meeting date changes (10-24-13/8).

13) Agenda items for next meeting:

- Elections/appointments

14) Adjournment