



Minutes

Parent Involvement Committee Monday, October 6th 2014 – 5:30 p.m. Bluewater DSB Education Centre - Chesley

Parents: Jennifer Barratt-Parker (Co-Chair), Jim Thorpe, Joe Grieco
 Trustee: Kevin Larson
 Community member: Sue Loyst
 Administration: Steve Blake, Jean Stephenson, Keith Lefebvre, Matt Pickett, Bev Sims
 Guests: Judi Chambers, Christine Laur, Jennifer Isber-Legge, Tanya Shute, Jennifer Hicks, Alisha Sunderland
 Regrets: Betty-Jo Raddin, Jennifer Miller, Katherine Arnold

| Agenda item | Decision / Action Taken | Follow-up/person responsible |
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| Welcome and introductions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ JBP gave welcome address ▪ Round table introductions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendees asked to briefly describe our connection with BWDSB and our children. Also asked to mention a barrier to parent engagement that we may have encountered and any solutions. Barriers included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parent/principal differences ○ New to the area ○ Make everyone feel welcome in the school community ○ Cultural differences and trouble with the English language ○ Parents with no time ○ Parents taking on too much ○ Red tape to go through to become involved ○ Parents with children of special needs having difficulty getting voices heard ○ Insufficient communication between school and home. | |
| 1. Approval of Agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approved by consensus. | |
| 2. Review of June 9 th , 2014 Minutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposed: Jim Thorpe ▪ Seconded: Judi Chambers ▪ Approved. | |
| 3. Business arising from the minutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joe will follow up with June homework (from June minutes: about perceived <i>gaps in safe school policy</i>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Students need to have somewhere to go to</i> ▪ <i>AP2574D refers to employees</i> ▪ <i>Action – Joe will send out a video link to PIC for us to review for discussion at a later meeting)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joe Grieco to follow up |
| 4. What is PIC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Links were sent out to committee members prior to this meeting ▪ Reviewed PIC mandate (from PIC bylaws) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The purpose of the Parent Involvement Committee is to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Support, encourage, and enhance meaningful parent engagement at the Board level to improve student achievement and well-being.</i> b. <i>Provide information and advice to the Board on parent engagement.</i> c. <i>Communicate with and support School Community Councils</i> | |

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| | <p>(SCCs).</p> <p>d. Undertake activities to help parents support their children's learning at home and at school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reviewed ministry handout on Parent Involvement Committees (http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/PIC_EN.pdf) | |
| 5. PIC Membership | <p>Parent representatives appointed and reappointed (some positions currently occupied and not requiring reappointment are not listed here)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jennifer Miller (North elementary) ▪ Jennifer Barratt Parker (North JK-12)) ▪ Tanya Shute (North elementary) ▪ Joe Grieco (South secondary) ▪ Jennifer Legge (South JK-12) ▪ Christine Laur (West elementary) ▪ Jim Thorpe (West elementary) ▪ Judy Chambers - one year term (Parent at large) <p>Decisions made by consensus of all present. Lengths of terms to be confirmed Elections for executive positions deferred to November</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jim and Jennifer to review bylaws ▪ All – to consider their interest in standing or making nominations for executive positions |
| 6. Chair Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reviewed draft report that JBP prepared (attachment) ▪ Includes summary of PIC activities for last 2 years. Key projects included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PIC School Council Network Meetings (one or two per year) ▪ PIC communications efforts (email address, parent corner) ▪ PIC awareness efforts (Promotional post-card) ▪ PIC Symposium participation ▪ PRO grant to develop PIC Website ▪ Input into BWDSB Website | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jennifer BP to finish the report and arrange for presentation to the Board |
| 7. Financial Update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budget of approximately \$7500 for 2014-2015 | |
| 8. PIC Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members are encouraged to attend People for Education conference on Nov 7th and 8th <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PIC agrees to allocate to cover the expenses of 3 attendees. | |
| 9. Parent Engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parent survey to support the Strategic Plan was undertaken by the former Parent Engagement Committee (PEC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PEC and PIC were merged ▪ Majority of surveys completed by elementary school parents ▪ Most respondents specified that parent engagement occurs in or at school. ▪ 71% of parents did not know what SEAC is. ▪ 1100 responses to “what is your school doing to support you” – good to excellent communication ▪ 1032 responses to what needs to be improved - 400 stated school communications ▪ Working on improving the web site ▪ Every school has parent engagement as part of the school improvement plan ▪ Overall goal was to find ways to improve communications ▪ New communication plan presented to the Board which includes the use of social media. ▪ Nov 3rd at OSCVI presentation on social media ▪ Bus Port link on transportation consortium website with a number communication methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All - What could our role as PIC be to improve the communications experience for parents. - send ideas to Jean |
| 10. Director's Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All day kindergarten classes now running at all schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jennifer to add |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reviewed Ministry of Education document Achieving Excellence http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/excellent.html ▪ Revision to strategic plan to include a more widespread consultation to ensure that BWDSB are on track ▪ EQAO results in Bluewater DSB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gains in 7 of 9 indicators - grade 6 numeracy continues to be a challenge (abstract reasoning multistep problem solving.) - grade 9 results show improvement in numeracy ▪ Reviewed EQAO student survey result handout re: student answers to questions about parent engagement ▪ Reminder that Homework help is a great resource for students from grades 7 – 10. ▪ Data can now be tracked for each student from Grade 3 to grade 10 (not just EQAO) ▪ Challenge exists with funding formula due to declining enrollment. (Watson Report commissioned to address this) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We operate about 1% more efficiently than other boards. - room closures used to generate savings at schools that are not full. Money saved is re-invested in the system. - new ministry document regarding the ARC process is imminent. Bluewater will wait for new ministry guidelines before announcing planned ARCs. - policy reviews are currently out for input - international students are invited to attend schools (currently students are visiting from Brazil) | numeracy to our next agenda |
| 11. Trustee's Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ARC policy development took into account feedback from parents and the community. ▪ Nearly 1 of 2 trustees are acclaimed in the municipal elections ▪ New school is being pursued in Hanover (JDSS to cost \$40 mil to repair over a 10 year period while a new high school would cost \$20 mil) ▪ Student exchanges – BWDSB high schools are currently hosting Brazilian exchange students. ▪ Swearing in ceremony for Stacey John up-coming for Saugeen First Nations Trustee ▪ Budget process has been successful to date with a projected small surplus ▪ Social Networking Safety for parents on October 29th at SDSS | |
| 12. Agenda items for next meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Networking meeting discussion will occur at the next meeting ▪ Elections and appointments as needed ▪ Sustaining our website and communications ▪ Improving Numeracy (with some focus on Grade 6) | |
| 13. Meeting Dates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thursday November 20th is the next meeting | |
| 14. Adjournment | Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. | |
| Next meeting | Thursday, November 20th, 2014 | |