

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Board Room
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2019 JAN 21
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robin Cawlishaw
Jennifer Davis
Sue Doughty-Smith
Robert Eady
Serena Essex
Chitra Jacob
Shannon Jessiman-MacArthur
Ian MacRae
Michael Otway

Krista Power
Laura Prodanyk
Fred Van Elburg
Ruth Vannieuwenhuizen

RESOURCE:

Judy Hill, Executive Assistant
Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer

MEMBERS ABSENT, WITH REGRET:

Sharon Kanutski
Shaun Peirce
Laura Walker

GUESTS:

Colleen Kappel, Superintendent of Education
Renee Monsma, Mental Health Lead

1. **Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

Director MacRae called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the table.

2. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

There were no disclosures of conflict of interest.

3. Election of Parent Involvement Committee Chair

Director MacRae called for nominations for chair of the Parent Involvement Committee. As no nominations were forthcoming, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

4. Mental Health Presentation

Colleen Kappel, Superintendent of Education, introduced Renee Monsma, Mental Health Lead, who provided a power point presentation on the Well Being Strategy and an update on mental health. Three new social workers were hired in September in partnership with Children's Centre Thunder Bay. This year's focus will be on trauma informed schools and there will be ongoing trauma training for staff. The first Mental Health & Well Being newsletter, "Mindmatters", was shared with staff and has been well received. Questions from the group were addressed.

5. Director's Report

Director MacRae highlighted recent reports to the Board that included Lakehead Public Schools International, Director's Annual Report and The Arts. Director MacRae reported that Ellen Chambers was elected Chair of the Board and George Saarinen, Vice Chair at the Inaugural meeting on December 4, 2018. Director MacRae provided information on the Kingsway Elementary Public School roof issue with regards to snow load and the evacuation of Westgate CVI on January 10, 2019.

6. Confirmation of Minutes – November 19, 2018

The minutes were confirmed by consensus.

7. Student Absence Reporting

Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer, advised that the Student Absence Reporting App has been moved to a more prominent location on the Board website.

8. 2019-2020 School Year Calendar

Vice Chair Davis, PIC representative on the School Year Calendar committee, asked the group for feedback on having back to back elementary PA days at semester turnaround to coincide with secondary PA days. By consensus, the group did not support this. Jenn will share this feedback with the committee.

9. Kindergarten Information Evening

Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer, reported that Kindergarten Registration Week will be held from February 4 to 8, 2019, with an information night for interested parents at the Valhalla Inn on Monday, February 4, 2019 and school information nights on February 6, 2019.

10. PIC Representatives at Kindergarten Information Evening

Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer, asked for volunteers for the Kindergarten Information Evening. Serena Essex put her name forward to volunteer. Anyone else wishing to volunteer was asked to email Judy.

11. Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Report

Serena Essex reported that at the December 13, 2018 AEAC meeting, there was a presentation of the Sacred Circle Blanket to Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Superintendent of Education and co-chair of AEAC, for her remarkable work and efforts on behalf of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

12. Special Education Advisory Committee Report

Michael Otway reported on the following topics from the January 16, 2019 SEAC meeting:

- presentation by Ruth Ann Fay on the Lexia and Empower programs;
- SEAC video update;
- parent/community engagement sessions;
- advocacy tracking;
- 2018-2019 SEAC work plan;
- Kindergarten registration;
- review of Special Education Policy; and
- trustee update.

13. Other Business

Krista Power commended Westgate administration on the way they handled the evacuation of the school on January 10, 2019 due to a suspected gas leak.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.