



Office of the Director

Jim McCuaig Education Centre  
2135 Sills Street Thunder Bay ON P7E 5T2  
Telephone (807) 625-5131 Fax (807) 622-0961

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Monday, March 2, 2020  
Jim McCuaig Education Centre**

Shaun Peirce  
Chair

**AGENDA**

**6:30 P.M. – in the Boardroom**

	<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions		
2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest		
3. Approval of the Agenda		
4. Director's Report	I. MacRae	Verbal
5. Confirmation of Minutes – January 20, 2020	S. Peirce	1-3
6. Business Arising from the Minutes		
6.1 Kindergarten Information Evening Follow-Up	B. Nugent	Verbal
6.2 Transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 Video	B. Nugent	
6.3 PIC/SEAC Event	B. Nugent/M. Otway	Verbal
7. New Business		
7.1 2020-2021 Budget Process	D. Wright	Verbal
7.2 Lakehead Adult Education Centre Presentation	S. Peotto	Verbal
7.3 PIC Representative for the Equity and Inclusive Education Committee	S. Peirce	Verbal
7.4 PIC Budget Deputation	S. Peirce	4
7.5 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants 2019-2020	I. MacRae	Verbal
7.6 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Report	S. Essex	Verbal
7.7 Special Education Advisory Committee Report	M. Otway	Verbal
8. Other Business		
9. Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 4, 2020		
10. Adjournment		

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

Board Room  
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2020 JAN 20  
6:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robin Cawlishaw  
Serena Essex  
Chitra Jacob  
Shannon Jessiman-MacArthur  
Ian MacRae

Julie Morin  
Shaun Peirce  
Laura Prodanyk  
Trudy Tuchenhagen  
Laura Walker

**RESOURCE:**

Judy Hill, Executive Assistant  
Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer

**MEMBERS ABSENT, WITH REGRET:**

Michael Otway  
Fred Van Elburg

**GUESTS:**

Keira Essex, Indigenous Student Trustee

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

Director MacRae called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Director MacRae welcomed Trustee Tuchenhagen, trustee representative, and Keira Essex, Indigenous Student Trustee.

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, Director MacRae chaired the remainder of the meeting.

4. **Election of Parent Involvement Committee Vice Chair**

Director MacRae called for nominations for vice chair of the Parent Involvement Committee. There were no nominations forthcoming.

5. Director's Report

Director MacRae reported that Ellen Chambers was re-elected as chair of the Board and Trudy Tuchengagen as vice chair at the Annual Meeting on December 3, 2019. Reports to the Board since the last PIC meeting included a report on Lakehead Public Schools International and a number of policy reviews. Director MacRae provided an update on the current labour situation regarding elementary and secondary teachers.

6. Confirmation of Minutes – November 18, 2019

The minutes were confirmed by consensus.

7. 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

Robin Cawlishaw, the Parent Involvement Committee representative on the School Year Calendar Committee, presented two options for the start date of the 2020-2021 school year. Option 1 had a start date of September 8, 2020 and Option 2 had a start date of August 31, 2020. By consensus, the group agreed to recommend Option 1. Robin will share this feedback with the School Year Calendar Committee.

8. Kindergarten Information Evening & Video

Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer, reported that the Kindergarten information evening will be held Monday, January 27, 2020 at the Valhalla Inn at 7:00 p.m. School open houses will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2020 with the exception of Valley Central Public School which will be held Wednesday, January 29, 2020. The new Kindergarten video was previewed by the group and will be shown at the Kindergarten information evening.

9. PIC Representatives at Kindergarten Information Evening

Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer, asked for volunteers for Kindergarten Information Evening. Laura Walker put her name forward to volunteer.

10. Transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9 Video Update

Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer, provided an update on the video being produced. This video will address any concerns that Grade 8 students and their families may have about entering Grade 9. There will also be an additional 12 mini videos that will provide information on topics such as co-curricular, IB program, Advanced Placement, volunteer hours, to name a few. Bruce will share the video at the March 2, 2020 PIC meeting.

11. PIC/SEAC Event

PIC and SEAC would like to do a combined event. A number of ideas were discussed. There will be further discussion at the March 2, 2020 meeting.

12. OPSBA 2020 Awards Program

Individuals may nominate non-teaching staff, volunteers, parents and community partners for their contribution to the overall well-being of the school(s) or community(s). This information has been shared with school council chairs as well. Completed nomination forms are due to Michelle Tavares in the Office of the Director [Michelle.Tavares@lakeheadschoools.ca](mailto:Michelle.Tavares@lakeheadschoools.ca) no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 31, 2020.

13. Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee (AEAC) Report

Serena Essex reported on the following from the last AEAC meeting:

- Nathaniel Moses of the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, along with two students from Kingsway Park Public School, opened the December meeting drumming the Parent Song for the committee;
- presentation by Kali Bernst, Principal of Algonquin Avenue Public School and Jessica Lauzon, Aboriginal Achievement Tutor at Algonquin Avenue Public School on the Aboriginal Achievement Program; and
- farewell to Superintendent of Education and Co-Chair of AEAC, Sherri-Lynne Pharand.

14. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report

Deferred to the March 2, 2020 meeting.

15. Other Business

Director MacRae provided a handout on the OHRC Right to Read Public Inquiry. They are seeking input from public school students, parents and educators about the experiences of students who have or may have reading disabilities. Input can be shared via email [legal@ohrc.on.ca](mailto:legal@ohrc.on.ca), (416) 314-4547 or 1-800-387-9080.

16. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Parent Involvement Committee

Jim McCuaig Education Centre  
2135 Sills Street Thunder Bay ON P7E 5T2  
Telephone (807) 625-5131 Fax (807) 622-0961

March 8, 2019

Marg Arnone, Chair  
Budget Committee  
Lakehead District School Board  
2135 Sills Street  
THUNDER BAY, ON P7E 5T2

Dear Chair Arnone:

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) appreciates the opportunity to address the Budget Committee representing parents. PIC's role is to be the voice for all parents and to bring forward points of view affecting parents in 2019. As a parent representative, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication the staff of Lakehead Public Schools demonstrates for ALL students. Sometimes, as parents, we don't see all the 'behind-the-scenes' work that goes into programming. Thank you for all of your hard work and this opportunity to say it publicly.

PIC is an advisory group that supports student achievement and well-being by encouraging parents to be involved in their child's learning. Following Ontario's Parent Engagement Policy, PIC encourages and supports parent involvement by offering a range of opportunities for parent learning, networking and involvement. We also know that families come with different backgrounds and needs. PIC works with the Special Education Advisory Committee and the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee by supporting their committee initiatives to involve parents.

We all know parent involvement is vital to a child's learning. Parent communication and engagement is still the main goal for PIC. Last year, PIC supported a renewed version of the Council of School Council Chairs (CSCC). This informal gathering brought together chairs from various schools to discuss topics ranging from parent communication to ideas to involve more parents at a school level. Sessions were held on March 20, 2018, May 14, 2018, and January 15, 2019. These proved to be successful and engaging.

As a school Board community, our parents, our staff and most importantly, our young people, face issues dealing with mental health, well-being, and inclusion every day. To help address this, additional areas PIC is supporting this year include mental health champions for staff and schools, and continued education for school staff on varying topics for disorders, diagnosis and learning about grief and trauma. Mental health is a broad and heavy topic but it is a reality our community faces every day.

In summary, PIC's top priorities for the upcoming school year are:

1. Continued support for meetings of Council of School Council Chairs.
2. Continued support for parent communication via social media, and other technologies.
3. Supports and education for students, parents and staff to help them deal with mental health and wellness.

Thank you for your passion, time and consideration.

Jenn Davis, Vice-Chair  
Parent Involvement Committee

**Your Children Our Students The Future**  
[www.lakeheadschoools.ca](http://www.lakeheadschoools.ca)