

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

Board Room  
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2022 NOV 21  
6:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Anne Antenucci  
Serena Essex  
Shannon Jessiman  
Sherry-Lynne Pharand  
Laura Prodanyk  
Rae-Ann Rees

George Saarinen  
Jena Samakese  
Fred Van Elburg

**RESOURCE:**

Judy Hill, Executive Assistant

**MEMBERS ABSENT, WITH REGRET:**

Robin Cawlishaw  
Chitra Jacob  
Stephanie Rea

**GUESTS:**

Mehar Mago, Student Trustee

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

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

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

Director Pharand acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.

3. **Disclosures of Conflict of Interest**

There were no disclosures of conflict of interest.

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

Director Pharand called for nominations for chair of the Parent Involvement Committee. Rae-Ann Rees, School Council Representative, self-nominated. Director Pharand called for further nominations. As no further nominations were forthcoming, Rae-Ann Rees was acclaimed as chair of the Parent Involvement Committee.

Moved by Serena Essex and seconded by Shannon Jessiman that nominations be closed. Carried.

5. Election of Parent Involvement Committee Vice-Chair

Chair Rees called for nominations for vice-chair of the Parent Involvement Committee. Trustee Saarinen nominated Jena Samakese, parent member. Jena accepted the nomination. Chair Rees called for further nominations. As no further nominations were forthcoming, Jena was acclaimed as vice-chair of the Parent Involvement Committee.

Moved by Laura Prodanyk and seconded by Serena Essex that nominations be closed. Carried.

6. Confirmation of Minutes – September 12, 2022

The minutes were approved by consensus.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. Summer Learning Programs

Fred Van Elburg, Elementary Program Coordinator, provided a power point presentation on the Summer Learning Programs. Funding for these programs is provided by the Ministry. Three Hundred and forty-four students attended 18 camps. Fifty to sixty educators worked on the programs and a number of community partners participated. At the end of the program, each student received a certificate of participation. There was an inquiry as to how or can PIC be involved.

9. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee, Mehar Mago, provided an update on her work to date:

- focusing on hearing back from students re their concerns and needs;
- Mehar and Indigenous Student Trustee, Alexa Sagutcheway, had the opportunity to meet with Education Minister Stephen Lecce and MP Patty Hajdu when they visited Superior CVI. Director Pharand commented on how articulate and well spoken both student trustees were and represented the Board well;
- hoping to have an elementary student senate mentored by the secondary student senate.

10. Parent Involvement Committee Representative on School Year Calendar Committee

Director Pharand asked for a Parent Involvement Committee member to sit on the School Year Calendar Committee. The committee meets once in December and once in January. Serena Essex volunteered to be the PIC representative.

11. Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee (AEAC) and Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Funding for 2022-2023

The Parent Involvement Committee agreed, by consensus, to fund AEAC and SEAC \$2,000.00 each for the purpose of parent engagement. Letters will be sent to AEAC and SEAC chairs advising of this decision and requesting a final report by the end of August 2023.

12. Draft Parent Involvement Committee 2022-2023 Meeting Schedule

Director Pharand referred to the proposed 2022-2023 meeting schedule included in the package. The meeting schedule was approved by consensus.

13. PRO Grant 2022-2023

The following suggestions were offered to utilize the PRO Grant funding PIC receives:

- bring school councils together a couple of times a year;
- bring parents together – meal, guest speaker;
- supporting parents as everyone is coming out of the pandemic;
- mental health and wellness.

Fred Van Elburg, Shannon Jessiman and Trustee Saarinen offered to take the lead and bring ideas back to the January 16, 2023 meeting. It was suggested to survey parents whether they would like a session in-person or on Zoom and topics that they might be interested in. Fred and Shannon will develop the survey.

14. Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Report

Serena Essex, AEAC representative, provided the following update from AEAC's last meeting:

- Treaty Awareness Week – list of resources available;
- working on planning an event in the Spring;
- membership; and
- discussion on renaming of the committee.

15. Special Education Advisory Committee Report

Anne Antennuci, SEAC representative, reported on the following:

- presentations on English Language Learners and Special Education Protocol;
- Right to Read – waiting on response from Ministry regarding next steps;
- staffing for Special Education;
- Kindergarten Registration Evening – SEAC will have a booth; and
- presence at secondary school information evenings.

16. Director's Report

Director Pharand reported on the following:

Reports to the Board included Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol, Student Achievement, Summer Learning Program Update, Adult Education Report, Multi-Year Capital Forecast, Legal Representation for 2021-2022, Director's Annual Report and committee reports at the Inaugural Meeting.

Three new trustees were elected to the Board – Donica LeBlanc, Leah Vanderwey and Pat Johansen.

Ellen Chambers was re-elected Chair of the Board and Donica LeBlanc Vice-Chair at the November 15, 2022, Inaugural meeting of the Board.

The Government and CUPE have reached a tentative agreement. This is the first of nine agreements to be completed this year. Serena Essex thanked the Board for keeping schools open during the CUPE labour disruption and putting students first.

Kindergarten Information Evening will be held January 30, 2023 at Ecole Elsie MacGill Public School.

17. Other Business

Director Pharand stated that the Board is in regular contact with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit. As a Board, we will not mandate masking as it is a health decision. Education Minister, Stephen Lecce, has said that schools will not close this year due to the pandemic. If we reach 30 percent illness, we will report to the Health Unit.

18. Next Meeting Date

Monday, January 16, 2023.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.