

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, March 6, 2023
Board Room – Jim McCuaig Education Centre

Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Director of Education

Rae-Ann Rees
Chair

AGENDA
6:30 P.M.

	<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions	R. Rees	
2. Land Acknowledgement	R. Rees	
3. Disclosure of Conflict-of-Interest	R. Rees	
4. Approval of the Agenda	R. Rees	
5. Confirmation of Minutes – January 16, 2023	R. Rees	1-4
6. Business Arising from the Minutes	R. Rees	
7. New Business		
7.1 Introduction of Human Rights and Equity Advisor	S. Pharand	
7.2 Presentation on Children & Anxiety	P. Ribotto	Verbal
7.3 2023-2024 Budget Process	A. Lee-Wiwcharyk	Verbal
7.4 Anxiety 101		
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dT3nsDyJH2E	S. Pharand	
7.5 PIC Budget Deputation	R. Rees	5-6
7.6 PIC Representative on Equity and Inclusive Education Committee	R. Rees	Verbal
7.7 Parent Involvement Committee/Mental Health Symposium Update	F. Van Elburg/ S. Jessiman	Verbal
7.8 Parent Engagement Meeting February 22, 2023 Update	S. Jessiman	Verbal
7.9 OPSBA 2023 Awards Program	R. Rees	7-8
7.10 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Report	S. Essex	Verbal

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|-----|--|------------|--------|
| 8. | Director's Report | S. Pharand | Verbal |
| 9. | Other Business | | |
| 10. | Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 1, 2023 | | |
| 11. | Adjournment | | |

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Board Room
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2023 JAN 16
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robin Cawlishaw
Ellen Chambers
Tara Ingram
Chitra Jacob (virtual)
Shannon Jessiman
Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Laura Prodanyk

Stephanie Rea
Rae-Ann Rees
Jena Samakese (virtual)
Fred Van Elburg

RESOURCE:

Judy Hill, Executive Assistant

MEMBERS ABSENT, WITH REGRET:

Serena Essex
George Saarinen

GUESTS:

AJ Keene, Superintendent of Education (virtual)
Jane Lower Superintendent of Education (virtual)
Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education
Alexa Sagutcheway, Indigenous Student Trustee
Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead

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

Chair Rees called the meeting to order and welcomed Tara Ingram, new SEAC representative on the Parent Involvement Committee, Superintendents Keene, Lower and Probizanski, and Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Rees acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.

3. **Disclosures of Conflict of Interest**

There were no disclosures of conflict of interest.

4. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus with the following change:

Item 7.5 New e-Learning Requirements for Graduation be received first on the agenda.

5. Confirmation of Minutes – November 21, 2022

The minutes were approved by consensus.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. New e-Learning Requirements for Graduation

Superintendent of Education, Jane Lower, provided a power point presentation on the requirements. Every student who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-2021 school year will be required to earn two online eLearning credits to graduate. The exception to this is for students who were in Grade 9 during the province-wide school closure from April 2021 to June 2021. One secondary school credit that was completed at this time may be counted towards the graduation requirement. This cohort of students will only require one additional eLearning credit. Parents who wish to opt out or exempt their child from the online graduation requirement must complete the Lakehead Public Schools eLearning Student Opt-Out form. Exemption from the online learning graduation requirements may be requested by:

- the parent or guardian of the secondary student;
- students who are 18 years of age or older; and
- students who are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control.

Questions from the group were addressed.

8. 7060 Staff Training and Professional Development Policy & Procedures

Superintendent Keene presented the policy for feedback. Questions from the group were addressed.

9. 6010 Emergency Evacuation and Emergency School Closure Policy & Procedures

Superintendent Probizanski presented the policy for feedback. Questions from the group were addressed.

10. Mental Health Update

Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead, shared a power point presentation on:

- Mental Health Promotion;
- School Mental Health Ontario Caregiver Specific Resources;
- Training and Initiatives;
- Community Collaborations;
- Thunder Bay District Health Unit Initiatives;
- SNAP Program;
- Community Tables;
- Social Work Services; and
- School Mental Health Data Capture (September 2022 to the present).

Questions from the group were addressed. Director Pharand thanked Megan for her very informative presentation.

11. Parent Involvement Committee/Mental Health Symposium Planning

There was discussion on the logistics of the event. Fred Van Elburg and Shannon Jessiman will develop a survey to be shared with parents on whether they would like an in-person or virtual event, what they would be interested in, etc. Survey will go out to all families.

12. Special Education Advisory Committee Report

Tara Ingram, SEAC representative, reported on the following:

- January 11, 2023 meeting was held at Vance Chapman Public School;
- presentation from George Jeffries Children' Centre on Entry into School Program and Smart Start Hub Program;
- Board-wide special education review; and
- Upcoming SSP conference April 28, 2023.

13. Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Report

Deferred to next meeting.

14. Director's Report

Director Pharand reported on the following:

Reports to the Board included:

- International Education;
- Human Rights, Equity and Inclusive Education;
- EQAO Report;
- Director's Action Plan;
- Health & Safety Semi Annual Report;
- Policy Reviews: Information/Communication Technology Use and Electronic Monitoring, Use of Personal Vehicle, Access to System Programs and Library Resource Centre; and

- Work From Home Practice.

Director Pharand provided information on the upcoming Kindergarten Registration Night being held at Ecole Elsie MacGill Public School and Secondary Information Evenings.

15. Other Business

There was no other business.

16. Next Meeting Date

Monday, March 6, 2023.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



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

March 25, 2022

Mr. George Saarinen, Chair
Budget Committee
Lakehead District School Board
2135 Sills Street
THUNDER BAY, ON P7E 5T2

Dear Chair:

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the budget process. Over the years, as volunteers, we have witnessed the passion many of the Lakehead Public Schools staff and teachers have for the well-being of our children. Parents at PIC would like to mention that it is a privilege to volunteer beside our Board staff and teachers and the pride we have for our Board. We know our parent voice is important to the Board and appreciate the continued support.

The Parent Involvement Committee 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. The Parent Involvement Committee 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. This will be facilitated by working on a continued awareness campaign of PIC and school councils by offering training/lecture opportunities, with a focus on the importance of parent engagement. The Parent Involvement Committee will host an event for parents in the Fall of 2022.

The Parent Involvement Committee also supports an inclusive learning environment and supports the plans of the mental health team. Mental health, well-being and inclusion are top issues for families. With cutbacks, and this unprecedented time we are living in, parents understand that Lakehead Public Schools needs to be creative to make sure all student needs are met and PIC believes quality of schools begins with a student's well-being and that leads to academic achievement. For these reasons, PIC supports a budget that continues to support student's mental health, well-being, and parent engagement.

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The Parent Involvement Committee's top three priorities to enhance student success are:

1. Support of student mental health and well-being by supporting school wellness champions.
2. Effective parent/guardian communication and effective communication tools.
3. Enhanced use of technology-based systems to facilitate communication with parents and guardians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Parent involvement Committee

BACKGROUND

OPSBA Achievement Award

The OPSBA Achievement Award was created to recognize the outstanding contributions of non-teaching staff, parents, volunteers and community partners involved in education in the member boards. This award provides an opportunity to raise awareness and promote the importance of celebrating excellence and the necessity of recognizing the work of all members of the education community.

Recipients of the Achievement Award may be considered for the provincial OPSBA Award of Excellence.

Criteria

Outstanding, exemplary and/or unique contributions to the overall well-being of the school(s) or community(s) through in-school, board-wide, extra-curricular and/or volunteer work contributions.

Who can be nominated?



**Non-teaching staff
Volunteers
Parents
Community Partners**

Submission

Please include a 1-2 page biography of how your nominee meets the criteria for this award along with the attached nomination form to:

Michelle Tavares
Office of the Director
Jim McCuaig Education Centre
2135 Sills Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5T2
Michelle.Tavares@lakeheadschoools.ca

Fax: 622-0961

No later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 24, 2023.

Ontario Public School Boards' Association
OPSBA 2023 Awards Program

OPSBA
Achievement Award
NOMINATION
2023

NOMINATION

Name of Award **OPSBA Achievement Award**

Name of Candidate _____

Position/Title _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Nominated by _____

Title of Nominator _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please include a 1-2 page biography of how your nominee meets the criteria for this award to:

Michelle Tavares
Office of the Director
Jim McCuaig Education Centre
2135 Sills Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5T2
Michelle_Tavares@lakeheadschoools.ca

Fax: 622-0961

No later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 24, 2023.