

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Board Room
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2023 MAR 6
6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robin Cawlishaw
Shannon Jessiman
Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Laura Prodanyk

Stephanie Rea
Rae-Ann Rees
George Saarinen

RESOURCE:

Judy Hill, Executive Assistant

MEMBERS ABSENT, WITH REGRET:

Serena Essex
Tara Ingram
Chitra Jacob
Jena Samakese
Fred Van Elburg

GUESTS:

Anthony Jeethan, Human Rights and Equity Advisor
Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk, Manager of Finance
Paula Ribotto

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

Chair Rees called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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.

5. **Confirmation of Minutes – January 16, 2023**

The minutes were approved by consensus.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Introduction of Human Rights and Equity Advisor

Director Pharand introduced Anthony Jeethan, the Board's Human Rights and Equity Advisor who commenced employment with the Board on January 9, 2023.

8. Presentation on Children and Anxiety

Paula Ribotto, a retired Early Child Educator, parent, and grandmother, addressed the group about the rising number of children suffering from anxiety in Thunder Bay. Some causes of the anxiety in children are caused by family dynamics, kids being bussed to school, more women working outside the home, structured activities, virtual reality, to list a few. Research has shown that independent and uninterrupted play is vital for a child to foster their sense of importance. The website [Let Grow - When Adults Step Back, Kids Step Up.](#) has a number of resources available for parents and teachers. Questions from the group were addressed. Director Pharand thanked Paula for her very informative presentation.

9. 2023-2024 Budget Process

Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk, Manager of Finance, provided information on the upcoming 2023-2024 budget. Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans, is the chair and Trustee George Saarinen, is vice chair of the Budget Committee this year. Chair Rees thanked Angela for her presentation.

10. Anxiety 101

Director Pharand referred to the link in the agenda to the presentation by Lakehead Public Schools social workers on anxiety and its impact on children. Tips and strategies were given on how to cope and feel better overall. Stephanie Rea, Communications Officer, will promote the presentation on social media. The link will be sent to principals to include in school newsletters. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dT3nsDyJH2E>

11. PIC Budget Deputation

Last year's deputation was shared with the group for input into this year's presentation. The Budget Deputation evening will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Rae-Ann Rees, Chair of PIC, will present the report. The group was asked for feedback on what PIC's top three priorities are to enhance student success. Judy will send out previous priorities that PIC submitted in previous years to the group. Input to be sent to Judy by Monday, March 20, 2023.

12. PIC Representative on Equity and Inclusive Education Committee

Robin Cawlishaw, parent member, volunteered to be the PIC representative on the above committee.

13. Parent Involvement Committee/Mental Health Symposium Update

Shannon Jessiman, principal representative, provided the following update on the symposium:

- event will be held at Westgate CVI on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.;
- a number of booths from community partners;
- key note speaker;
- three 20-minute workshops for parents;
- Giant Gymnastics for the children;
- food; and
- child care.

14. Parent Engagement Meeting February 22, 2023

Shannon Jessiman, principal representative, attended the above meeting virtually with the Ministry of Education. Topics discussed were PRO Grants and a presentation from School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO). Attached is a resource summary from SMHO.

15. OPSBA 2023 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(ies). This information has been shared with school council chairs as well. Completed nomination forms are due to Michelle Tavares in the director's office, michelle_tavares@lakeheadschoools.ca no later than Friday, March 24, 2023.

16. Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee (AEAC) Report

Deferred to next meeting.

17. Director's Report

Director Pharand reported on the following:

Reports to the Board included:

- Information Technology;
- Early Learning;
- School Calendar Report;
- Ontario Human Rights Commission Right to Read;
- Policy Reviews on:
- Facility Partnership;
- Emergency Evacuation and Emergency School Closure; and
- Conflict of Interest.

Director Pharand congratulated Dave McQueen, Senior Information Technology Specialist, on receiving Lakehead District School Board's Leadership Award and thanked Dave for always keeping us connected.

Director Pharand provided updates on the following:

- Tiny Home project at Hammarskjold High School;
- math contests;
- return of drama presentations this spring;
- gold medals for Westgate CVI's Sr. Girls Volleyball and Hammarskjold High School's Jr. Girls Volleyball;
- girls hockey – Westgate CVI won 3rd straight SSSAA High School Hockey Championship; and
- a number of medals in wrestling.

18. Other Business

There was no other business.

19. Next Meeting Date

Monday, May 1, 2023.

20. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.