

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Board Room
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2024 NOV 18
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ellen Chambers
Dawn-Marie Francis
Tara Ingram
Kristi Lees
Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Laura Prodanyk

Fred Van Elburg
Robin Cawlishaw
Terry Godick
Brittany Kennedy
George Saarinen
Michelle Riemer

RESOURCE:

Brenda Barradell, Executive Assistant
Jamie Smith, Communications Supervisor

MEMBERS ABSENT, WITH REGRET:

Carla Mulholland
Connor Pratt
Chelsea Siver
Lorraine Mashongoane

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

Director Pharand called the meeting to order in the absence of Chair Siver.
Introductions were made around the table and new members were welcomed.

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. **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda of November 18, 2024, was approved by consensus.

5. **Election of Vice Chair**

Director Pharand, explained the role of Vice Chair and called for nominations from the floor. Michelle Riemer, School Council, volunteered and was acclaimed by consensus.

6. **Confirmation of Minutes – September 9, 2024**

The minutes of the September 9, 2024, were approved by consensus.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. New Business

8.1 Kindergarten Registration Evening

Jamie Smith, Communications Supervisor, shared that the kindergarten registration evening on January 13, 2025, at Ecole Elsie MacGill Public School will be same format as previous years. Children will receive a book and t-shirt, with many prizes and booths sponsored by our partners in education. Individual schools will host open houses in the spring. Committee members shared the following suggestions for Jamie to take back to the committee;

- advertising at city run childcare centres prior to the registration night;
- supporting families who don't have transportation;
- an information booth at inter-city mall;
- a possible earlier start time; and
- having a booth at Marina Park during their Winter Fun Days to share information.

8.2 Miiniwewinan, Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) and Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Funding for 2024-2025

Director Pharand, shared that the funding is available for IEAC and SEAC of \$2,000.00 each for the purpose of parent engagement. The Parent Involvement Committee agreed, by consensus, to fund. Letters will be sent to IEAC and SEAC chairs advising of this decision and requesting a final report by the end of August 2025.

8.3 Parent Involvement Committee Representative on School Year Calendar Committee

Director Pharand, explained what the work of a representative on the School Year Calendar committee would entail before asking for a volunteer. The committee meets once in December and once in January. Dawn-Marie Francis volunteered to be the PIC representative and Brittany Kennedy volunteered to be the Alternate.

8.4 Miinewewinan - Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Report

Report deferred to next meeting.

Trustee Chambers sits on this committee and shared the committee recently met with consultants to provide input into the strategic plan redevelopment. Also, the Seasonal Celebrations & Commemorations Related to Indigenous Education, 13 moons of the year/seasons resource, was shared with all schools and has been well received.

8.5 Special Education Advisory Committee Report

Tara Ingram, SEAC Representative, reported the following:

- a community event is being held on November 20, 2024, at Superior Collegiate Vocational Institute, and will also be live streamed. The guest speaker on Autism is Kate Swenson, founder of “Finding Cooper’s Voice” and co-founder of “The More Than Project” and Author of “Forever Boy”; and
- will be developing a ‘map’ to assist parents navigate the supports available to families with special needs children.

Director Pharand shared that the November 13, 2024, SEAC meeting was held at Westgate Collegiate Vocational Institute which included a tour of the special needs classrooms and resources available. The class has developed a business called “Special Brew”, they take orders and make various beverages for staff (coffee, hot chocolate, juice). Students had the opportunity to serve the new Minister of Education, Jill Dunlop, when she visited Westgate Collegiate Vocational Institute earlier this year.

8.6 Director’s Report

Director Pharand shared the development of the Strategic Development Plan. On October 29, 2024, a planning meeting was held at DaVinci Centre with all committees represented. The consultants hired to assist in the development of the plan. A on-line survey will be open December 15, 2024 to January 10, 2025. Jamie Smith, Communications Supervisors, will send reminders to everyone in an effort to maximize responses

Directed Pharand also reported on the following:

- Language Revitalization funding received;
- EQAO Math and Literacy results showed improvement over previous years;
- LDSB became a certified Childcare provider at Five Mile Public School, for before and after school and Gorham & Ware Public School, for after school childcare and thanked the hard work of Superintendent Harris. Michelle Riemer, Vice Chair, shared that all parents and children at her school are extremely happy with the program;
- Lakehead Public Schools Foundation hosted their annual Bruce Nugent Memorial Golf Tournament. Funds raised are used to support students in various ways; ie. Grade 8 Awards Night, essentials such as clothing and meals for disadvantaged students, and students who go to Kingfisher without proper clothing;
- Grade 8 Reach-Ahead program piloted at Westgate Collegiate Vocational Institute, allows students to receive a credit before entering high school. This same program was held at Armstrong Public School this summer virtually and are plans to expand the program this year; and
- Fred Van Elburg, Teacher, presented an excellent presentation on the Math Achievement Action Plan.

All questions were answered.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Next Meeting Date:

Monday, March 3, 2025

11. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.