



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting

Monday, November 14, 2016 at 4:45 p.m.

Schumacher Board Office

Board Room – 153 Croatia Avenue, Schumacher, ON

(with video-conferencing to New Liskeard Board Room)

Committee Members Present:

Brian Conley, R Ross Beattie PS, PIC Chair
Shannon Sayeau, New Liskeard PS (v/c TDSS)
Einas Makki, New Liskeard PS (v/c TDSS)
Bob Brush, Vice Chair, DSB Ontario North East
Doug Shearer, Chair, DSB Ontario North East (v/c TDSS)

Committee Members Absent:

Amanda Roy, Bertha Shaw PS, Vice-Chair
Natalie Roy, WE Miller PS

Administration Present:

Linda Knight, Director of Education (v/c TDSS)

Recording Secretary:

Susan Allen, Executive Assistant to the Director

1.0 Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Brian Conley called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.0 Adoption of the Agenda

Added to the Agenda:

- OPSBA Northern meeting;
- PPM 159;
- Child Care Act & Before & After School programs.

Moved by Bob Brush seconded by Einas Makki that the amended Agenda for November 14, 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

3.0 Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Bob Brush seconded by Doug Shearer that the minutes of the April 18, 2016 PIC meeting be approved.

CARRIED

4.0 Business arising from the Minutes:

Doug... suggested that we will deal with updates as we go along

5.0 Updates from the Board (L. Knight):

i. September 1st PD Day:

- September 1st PD Day was a very successful event, appreciated by all staff as they attended 46 workshops; keynote speaker Leonard Brody spoke on the Education re-Write to focus on engagement, technology & vision of 21st century needs.

- Shawn Lenny of Apple spoke on challenge-based learning; he will return to work with teachers on workshops based on his expertise;
- Bob commented on Brody's macro-trends; over next 2 years, one billion new users will use internet; focus more on the "virtual" student who spends much time in virtual world; re: automation – a lot of talk re training students for "real world of work", but he predicts by 2025, 60% of our current jobs will be automated out.... Thought-provoking comments for all to consider in our lives and education.
- There is a need to focus on "soft skills" and not the "hard skills" that will be replaced "in a flash"!
- Shannon added her perspective of the notion that today's students will graduate from post-secondary courses that don't even exist now! - and that "soft skills" are the difficult concepts to teach – critical learning, empathy, emotional intelligence require a total switch of perspective.

ii. iPad 1:1 Project

Director L. Knight updated the PIC on the progress of the 1:1 iPad project including:

- iPads were returned for summer updates; we continue to repair or replace damaged ones as it happens;
- gr. 3-4 going 2:1 with some issues with iOS10...requiring re-programming; anticipate end of November all will be in their hands;
- Chad and iCoaches are busy in the schools supporting teachers & curriculum and continuing their own PD in applying apps to iPad learning.

iii. Strategic Plan

- L. Knight reviewed the key components of the hand-out;
- Goals for innovation include the iPad project and Board Improvement Plan (BIP), math and literacy focus;
- Final goal of community engagement includes school hubs & parents; looking to enhance our PIC and overall involvement;
- Example of our encouraging parental involvement was the Special Education department holding a 5-point interactive workshop on Learning Disabilities – unfortunately, there were only small numbers representing communities.

iv. School Administrator's Toolkit – Attendance & Student Success foci

- Linda stressed the importance of regular attendance for student success and the need to improve individual attendance;
- Student Success Toolkit- for secondary student success teachers re: support of students by monthly monitoring, contact with parents/students; attendance included as part of overall tracking;
- Looking for credit recovery; "next steps" for students struggling with completion of assignments and/or tests.

v. School Cash

- All schools are currently online with this with more parents enrolling.

vi. Technology Funding / Library repurposing

- Many libraries have been refurbished with furniture for students to meet and work in “maker spaces” - including addition of 3-D printer, lockable cupboards for robotics, coding tools, moveable white boards, Smart TVs with Apple TVs;
- Technology funding will continue to put influx of new equipment in our shops & tech classrooms – noting some costs have increased significantly... resulting in our using the \$400,000 more quickly and without getting all the items requested; over 3 years we will have invested approximately \$1.2 million in tech classrooms.

vii. Bill 37

- Re: the “before and after” program, the ministry has re-done the child care act; will be hearing more about it as we attempt to have these programs in schools where needs are identified;
- Government will continue to be in collaboration with DSSAB; day-care spaces will continue to expand over the next 5 years.

viii. PPM 159

- A Policy Program Memo which requires Boards to meet with union partners regarding steps we are taking with respect to initiatives such as attendance;
- Under new government benefit/sick day plans, employees have up to 31 days of sick leave; need to make accommodations to encourage and address needs to return to work sooner; falls with focus on staff well-being.

ix. OPSBA (Doug & Bob summarizing)

- Referred to pp. 8-9 of our Agenda re: Well-Being – David Trantor, prof of Lakehead University addressed group re well-being and focus on paradigm shift if incorporating well-being into our understanding of student achievement;
- Bob recommended *The Gardner & the Carpenter* re: 8 key relationship factors that produce well-being;
- Doug summarized new GSN document with changes in SHSM programs (up to 25% increase) – copy to be emailed to PIC members;
- *21st Century Competencies* document has been introduced for discussion;
- *Building a Workforce for Tomorrow* – also new challenges to us as a Board;
- Great conversation with Board of Directors & Northern Chairs at OPSBA – similar frustration levels felt in the North (graduation rates, SHSM expectations, etc.);
- President of OPSBA will tour our District to see 1st hand our geography & challenges;
- Ministry has turned down our capital plan for second time; we have requested meeting with the Minister;

x. Additional items of interest (D. Shearer added):

- Mental Health & Well-Being – being built in and moving forward; OPSBA will do joint submission by January;

- GSN – Ministry is making changes that will challenge us;
- FN change in processes – if funded for their own schools, several schools in our Board will be in jeopardy;
- We are looking at bussing of secondary students using public transit in Temiskaming Shores & Timmins (following lead of other communities);
- Capital plan... on hold;
- Survey on use of iPad plan – “looking good so far”;
- Board has hired Phelps group to assist in hiring new Director of Education.

xi. **Regional PIC symposium: (B. Conley)**

- Smaller meeting (50 attendees vs. large Toronto meetings) but although fewer ideas to share, much more accomplished;
- Keep on the Agenda for more update at next meeting

xii. **Later secondary start to the day (discussion)**

- Bob will bring notes in on the (+) effects on starting secondary days later.

7.0 **Correspondence:**

- Attached to Agenda - list of correspondence is for information of the group

8.0 **Other Business:**

- Brian Conley, as parent of RRBPS, thanked the Board and all employees who led and assisted in the move from RRBPS to THVS during the time needed to repair RRBPS;
- Linda acknowledged the efforts of all on the “team”.

9.0 **Next Meetings:**

The following dates have been selected for our 2016-2017 PIC meetings:

- Monday, January 30th, 2017
- Monday, April 3rd, 2017
- Monday, June 5th, 2017

Agenda items:

1. Brian reporting on regional PIC (request to provide further details/update)
2. Election of 2016-2018 Chair & Vice Chair

10.0 **Adjournment**

MOVED by Einas Makki, seconded by Shannon Sayeau that the meeting be adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

CARRIED