



# DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

## Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting Notes

Monday, June 5, 2017 at 4:45 p.m.

Schumacher Board Office – 153 Croatia Avenue, Schumacher, ON

Meeting Room #2

(with video-conferencing to TDSS Room 111)

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### **Committee Members Present:**

Amanda Roy, Bertha Shaw PS, PIC Vice-Chair  
Bob Brush, Vice Chair, DSB Ontario North East  
Doug Shearer, Chair, DSB Ontario North East (v/c TDSS)

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Natalie Roy, WE Miller PS  
Brian Conley, R Ross Beattie PS, PIC Chair  
Shannon Sayeau, New Liskeard PS  
Einass Makki, New Liskeard PS

### **Administration Present:**

Linda Knight, Director of Education

### **Recording Secretary:**

Shanyn Bradford, Executive Assistant to Jo-Anne Plaunt, Superintendent

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#### **1.0 Call to Order and Welcome**

Vice-Chair Amanda Roy called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Without a quorum, it was decided the meeting would be an informal one with notes taken rather than minutes.

#### **2.0 Adoption of the Agenda: Accepted.**

#### **3.0 Approval of the Minutes: Deferred.**

#### **4.0 Review of Meeting Notes: Deferred.**

#### **5.0 Updates:**

##### **i. Board Updates (L. Knight / D. Shearer):**

- **Technology update** - Our Grade 8 student iPads will be going to the Gr.12 students moving on to their 5<sup>th</sup> year. Therefore they will be getting new iPads in Grade 9. Students going to Grade 5 will also be getting new ones. They have come in (some at the Schumacher office, and some at the New Liskeard Office) and will be setup over the summer for student use. Current student iPads will be taken in. After saving anything they need on the cloud, they will be scrubbed and cleared to prepare for next year. Extra iPads from Grade 8 students will be moved down to primary to expand their clusters.
- **DSB1 Grad rates & Student Success Initiatives** – Our grad rates have increased over 4%, up now to 68%. Lisa Yee is watching our data and stats. She feels that next year our rate will be over 70%. She is very pleased, and feels credit should go to our student success initiatives to a great extent. Our

home communications are also making a difference, she believes. We do have some push back on that from teachers that she is dealing with, and will be discussing with the board tomorrow on what our next steps are. We don't want to give this up, as it helps to keep parents engaged and informed, and able to help their children keep on top of any missing assignments or slipping grades. Bob noted that another positive spin off to this initiative is that students now know their parents are aware of where they are in class, so they are being more open with parents and being more proactive. Linda added that we are also focusing a lot on attendance. 17% have twenty days or more absent, a large decrease from last year. Our efforts have been very effective, as we are told that an increase of 1% a year is a great impact, and we have surpassed this, though it will likely go down a bit by the end of the school year.

- **Phelpsgroup and search for a new Director** – Doug shared that they are nearing the end of process and they should have an announcement shortly. We should stay tuned.
- **Annual student forum** – We had just over 22 students plus our student trustees. Great information was gathered and shared. One area that needs greater support is in Grade 11, in guidance for selecting courses. This information has been sent out to guidance teachers. The students at the forum felt more guidance was needed at this particular grade in course selection in order to get onto path they are interested in, or in selecting their path.
- **Capital Plan update** – The Board is busy repairing and restoring roofs and lots of painting and upgrading in the schools. We are installing water stations – every school is going to have them, to fill their own containers, eliminating the need for bottled water. We are upgrading a couple of tracks, and she believes TH&VS will be getting their own track. They have been paying to use ECS Theriault, but now have the funds to get their own.
- **Grants for Student Needs (GSN)** - The grants have come in and we are presently doing our budget. We have done preliminary staffing for elementary and secondary. We do an initial staffing, and then the trustees allow her to add sections to schools as they send her their pressure points to meet collective agreements, class size, maintaining of programs. We are meeting again tomorrow for budget. Our enrolment has now plateaued. There was a bit of an increase in secondary last year, so that should equate to a bit more GSN for next year.
- **OPSBA executive compensation** – Is not settled yet. It is an ongoing task, and they are now putting the fine points to the regulation. It should be out any day. They have settled the principals and vice-principals. We don't have the specifics of this agreement yet, but expect it this week.
- **Update on RRBPS PRO grant (B. Conley)** - Brian isn't here to update us on this, but Linda noted that the PRO Grants are again out there, and the date is extended to June 15. The Ministry is hoping more schools will submit.

- **Transportation (community transportation vs school bussing)** – Linda shared that there has been a small increase in dollars, but this is to compensate for the increase in gas prices. Doug shared that across North America, free school transit is disappearing. We have been looking into using town transit to move our secondary students. In many places this is automatic, but many are balking at the idea here. We will need the Ministry on board to promote the idea and get people thinking. Amanda wondered about talking with city planners and getting them on board to work with the school boards – about expanding community transportation, even if just for some months, as well as about seeing more trails and safe pathways for students to walk or bike to school. If we can get input into city planning, it would be something to look into. Doug did note that a major problem with seasonal bussing is the drivers employment. Linda noted that we have had some studies done, and will need to be going over them and looking further into the possibilities. We do have a deficit in transportation, and it is something we need to address. We would be looking at partnering with municipalities in a way that would benefit both.
- **Canada 150** - The Ministry sent a bit of money for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>. We have decided to have one or more schools make benches with 'Ontario 150' etched into the wood, to be put out in their yards with some planters also with Ontario 150 on them. It ties in with our efforts of greening our school yards as well.

ii. **Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants applications 2017-18**

- Extended due date: June 15, 2017 (see comments from Linda, above)

6.0 **Correspondence:** None.

7.0 **Other Business:**

- i. **Minister's Regional PIC Symposium Report – April 29, 2017 (B. Conley)**  
Deferred.

8.0 **Next Meetings:**

**The following dates have been selected for our 2017-2018 PIC meetings:**

- **Monday, October 16, 2017**
- **Monday, January 22, 2018**
- **Monday, March 26, 2018**
- **Monday, May 28, 2018**

9.0 **Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.**