



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting Notes

Monday, April 3, 2017 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)
Bob Brush, Vice Chair, DSB Ontario North East
Doug Shearer, Chair, DSB Ontario North East (v/c TDSS)

Committee Members Absent:

Einas Makki, New Liskeard PS (v/c TDSS)
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. Without a quorum, it was decided the meeting would be an informal one with notes taken rather than minutes.

2.0 Updates from the Board (L. Knight, D. Shearer, B. Brush):

i. Board Updates included:

- **Director's Annual Report 2016-** highlights of the year summarized and can be found on the website.
- **Status of repurposing of libraries and technology funding** – moving along very well with most of the furnishings installed; with respect to the technology based items for robotics and coding – there are exciting results (e.g. use of Sphiros, VEX, Codapillars, etc.).
- **Reflections on the OPSBA Northern tour** – Doug and Bob summarized highlights of the tour with Laurie French of OPSBA; led to a meeting with Minister Hunter to discuss northern concerns and distances; GSN comes out next week so will see if any concerns are reflected in this new budget.
- **Ministry funding / Support for Rural Boards** – Doug highlighted two recent meetings with Minister Hunter with hopes of major concerns such as northern graduation rates and special needs students “wait listed” for assessments.
- **School Board meetings with municipalities** – Doug mentioned recent correspondence from Minister Hunter regarding recent memo and expectations.
- **DSB1 Grad rates & Student Success Initiatives** – Linda indicated that, although Ministry rates are not published yet (likely out in next few weeks), our own report based on ONSIS shows an increase of about 4%; largely due

to focus on student success and GL courses for credit recovery or credit rescue; impact of e-learning successes is also reflected;

- **Capital Plan** – Doug reminded PIC that our Plan was suspended in the Fall but will be brought back for discussion next week; recognizing small schools may need to be closed, but across the north unique circumstances and distances should be considered.
 - **Phelpsgroup and search for a new Director** – Doug thanked PIC for input for draft job description; the Trustees are moving forward and will be short-listing for interviews in near future; interviews may be in May.
 - **Indigenous Lead Lisa Innes** – Linda reported on this new position (specially and specifically funded by the Ministry) filled by Elizabeth Innes; a new consultation sub-committee has been struck to bring concerns, ideas, interests forward; meeting with tuition agreement communities and friendship centres;
 - **Texas Apple Distinguished School Tour** – Linda reported on the group who traveled to Texas (Adam Kemp, Chad Mowbray; Linda Knight, Jo-Anne Plaunt and Michelle Leigh) where they visited 3 secondary and one elementary Apple Distinguished Schools who have focused learning in an innovative culture with iPad tool as 21st century learning tool; schools set up in 21st century learning environment – more open concept, lots of windows, etc. Their focus was on 3 beliefs: Truth, Respect, Responsibility – which then led to organization of research and the fulfilment of specific tasks; as DSB1 moves forward, will be a great way to cover program with mixed groups and expectations. Interesting to see the elementary school which was “totally off the grid” – 5 pods in primary colours & white which had students in grades JK-gr. 5 learning together – very much like what our smaller schools in remote, rural communities could be doing. These Texas schools follow a state curriculum with assessment on competency & will be further discussed in the presentation to the Board tomorrow night.
 - Discussion ensued re how students moved between pods at different age groups, collaboration, assessment tools, changes after grade 5;
 - Looking to connect with new corporation called Newtech to broaden opportunities should they come to Canada;
 - **Student Trustees to OSTA conferences** – Linda reported on the opportunities to network and work on committees from across the province at the 2 Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA) conferences they have attended; one more conference in May.
 - **Ongoing policy revisions** – several revised, with several more to be brought forward for approval.
- ii. **DRAFT 2017-18 School Year Calendar**- following consultation with co-terminus boards, staff, students, parents and community, the draft calendar has been submitted to the Ministry for final approval.
- iii. **Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants 2016-17**
(reminder: 2017-18 applications due May 25, 2017)

3.0 Correspondence:

- i. DSB1 SEAC Chair letter to PIC and school councils

- ii. Ministry correspondence – posted & available publicly on website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/index.html> with Policy / Program Memoranda at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/ppm.html>

4.0 Other Business:

- **Minister’s Regional PIC Symposium – April 29’17 (3 confirmed)**
- **Later start to school day (Shannon S request to review status)** – per Doug-a lot to do with bussing times and rural distances; Durham proceeding with this (using double-runs by buses); some buses have been cut from last year (noting that we do reassess bussing regularly – e.g. since last year, 3 less buses in south, 1-2 less in Timmins); still looking to use town bussing in Tem Shores, Timmins and possibly Cochrane.

5.0 Next Meetings:

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

- **Monday, June 5th, 2017**

6.0 Agenda items:

1. Regional April 29, 2017 PIC report (Brian C)
2. Election of 2017-2018 Chair & Vice Chair (postponed from Sept. 2016)
3. GSN – to be released in April
4. OPSBA consultation – executive compensation
 - a. Update on RRBPS PRO project: *Student Resilience and Mental Health* (Brian C)
5. Capital Plan update (Linda/Doug)
6. Transportation – bussing on community buses vs school buses (Shannon requesting update)

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.