

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 6TH MEETING AGENDA

J.D. HOGARTH PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY

7PM-9PM

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Martha, Erin, Jerry, Eric, Mark, David, Kay, John, Amanda, Giselle, Iris, Neta, Anna, Claudia

Regrets: Cheryl, Joyce, Janet, Lynne, Bob, Tamara

7:00-7:05 Welcome and Introductions Erin Kelly

Erin called the meeting to order. Members introduced themselves.

7:05-7:20 PIC Decision Making Process Erin Kelly

- Working to consensus
- Establishing Quorum

A discussion was started on how the PIC will make decisions. Decisions will only be made at meetings. There will be no email discussions. Items and information should be presented a minimum of 2 weeks, preferably 4 weeks before a meeting date, to be placed on the agenda. The committee will work to consensus. If consensus is not reached then a vote will be taken. The Parent Liaison will not vote and the Chair will only vote to break a tie. In the case of a vote, there must be quorum which will be 50% of the parents + 1; in this case 6 parents.

Erin discussed setting meeting dates for the year. The next meeting will stay as Nov. 3 as it was already set. Following that, meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month if needed.

Dec. 8

Jan. 12

Feb. 9

March 9

April No meeting

May 11

June 8

Extra Information: Toti will not be a member of the committee this year. There are 10 parents + chair + Parent Liaison.

7:20- 7:35 PIC Chair Position Martha Rogers

Martha reviewed the TOR and Anna is eligible to be the Chair. She had a daughter enrolled last year in the UGDSB which meets the 50% requirement for Anna's term. John and Neta gave first and second nominations, Anna will be the chair for 1 year. John suggested that a succession plan be in place.

Claudia and Iris will act as Vice Chairs. They will have a vote unless they are chairing the meeting; in which case they would only vote if there is a tie. Anna will act as a Mentor so that one or both of the Vice Chairs is ready to assume the role next year.

ACTION ITEM: Anna will mentor Iris and Claudia.

7:35-7:55

Water Bottle Motion

Mark Bailey

UGDSB Staff has until Dec. 2009 to bring a strategy to the trustees on the selling of water bottles in Schools. Currently there is a contract in place with Pepsi that goes until Aug. 2009. It is possible that an interim contract will be in place until a final decision/strategy is reached. Trustees and staff want to enter into this with more information and are seeking input from schools. The PIC can play a role in helping to gather this needed information. Schools do rely on the funding/proceeds that they receive from Nestle/Pepsi. GCVI, for example is able to run the LINK CREW program which is a program that supports character education, eases the transition from grade 8 to 9, builds community and supports student success. They have introduced an orientation/mentorship program for all grade 9 students. They receive \$5000 from Nestle to run this much needed program. As well, they are able to use the profit from Water Bottle Sales at their discretion @ \$5000. School Councils rely on this money and it will be important to gather as much information as possible.

Questions that arose during the discussion: 1. Why just Water Bottles and not all plastic bottles – if this is a recycling issue? Mark agreed that this is about recycling but is also about the availability of quality water from taps. Neta expressed concern as to whether this is really a PIC issue. 2. How does it relate to Parent Engagement? Mark cited specific cases of how this very issue has many parents engaged in the schools. One school has adopted the no water bottle motion and is selling stainless steel containers as a fundraiser. Many parents are involved. 3. Should there be a PIC rep on the committee that is working on a strategy? 4. If this motion is taking money from Councils and money from Pepsi is it worth the time to approach Pepsi to come up with a business plan which would be beneficial to each party and address the concerns? 5. Will they investigate Biodegradable bottles?

Wellington Water Watchers have approached Linamar about producing a Stainless Steel Bottle. The cost would be \$5-6 per unit.

Nestle has offered to compile a recycling program.

ACTION ITEM: Mark Bailey will revisit the letter that was previously written. At the next PIC meeting the letter will be discussed. If approved, the PIC will work to distribute this letter to all Councils in January; however feedback would go directly to Board Staff. (At this time either Martha or Janice.)

7:55-8:20

PRO Regional Grant

Anna Spiteri & Claudia Vsetula

Cheryl, Elaine and Anna worked on the proposal for last year. The PIC will revisit this proposal. Last year Joyce said that she would like to see more hands on workshops. Neta agreed that the Heart, Head and Hand approach works. Brainstorming: One big event or a series of events? Committee consensus is that it should be a series of workshops in different locations. Put out a survey to parents to see what they are interested in but be aware that you can't be everything to everyone. Communication about the event is key. Barbara Colorosso suggested as a keynote speaker. How will this reach the parents that are not engaged? Could there be a Guest Speaker followed by a series of workshops the next day? Committee decided that was too much of a time commitment; however could have the speaker in the morning and workshops in the afternoon. Brain gym and storytelling

workshops were suggested. Jerry mentioned that anytime Parents have a chance to work with their kids, it brings the Parents out. The Proposal could ask for child care and transportation provisions. Grant is up to \$30000. Should we consider partnering with other groups? Amanda spoke about the Parent Learning Fair and how it offered a lot of things to a lot of people and gave parents the opportunity to take what they needed and leave. How will the PIC be able to facilitate the proposal if there is no meeting before the deadline? It will be set out via email and feedback will be requested. What/Who are we targeting? How will the success be measured? Feedback, attendance as examples. A thorough evaluation will strengthen the proposal.

ACTION ITEM: Anna and Claudia to work on proposal and distribute via email to all committee members for feedback.

EXTRA INFORMATION: Last year Regional proposals were evaluated on the following criteria: * The project involves parents and the community and supports student success. *The project is led by parents or is carried out in partnerships with a parent group.* The project involves parents and can be adapted to other regions. * Applicants show how their project fits into at least one of the three categories. * The project has the potential to reach a large number of parents. * The project meets a need. * The project describes the expected results. * A plan is in place for evaluating the project results. * Examples of approved Regional Grants: Conferences, workshops, newsletters, development of multilingual resources, website development.

Logo Contest Update

This will be a process rather than an event. Students will be asked to put together a logo and Judges – parents, staff and principals will decide. Organizers will try to have a logo ready for the end of this school year. February will be the deadline for submissions. Winner will be announced after March Break. There will be a cash prize. John suggested opening it up to all grades and suggested choosing many logos. This may defeat the purpose of having one identifying logo for the PIC.

CARRIED FORWARD: Logo Contest Details and Logistics

8:20-8:40

PIC Budget

Erin Kelly

- Model of Last year's Budget: Based on @ \$18 000
 - Parent Liaison: \$8000
 - Communications: \$ 2100
 - Workshops & PD: \$ 5250
 - Discretionary: \$1200 (Catering)
 - Surplus: \$ \$1486.63 (May or may not be carried forward)
- **** 2008-2009 PIC Starting Budget **\$10 521**

The detailed yearend report from the Finance department has been received. All of the PIC monies are handled through them. Budget for 2007-2008 was \$18 829.87. This included a surplus of \$8294.87 carried forward from the previous year. There is officially \$895.63 remaining that may or not be carried forward – pending direction from the ministry.

Committee decided not to set the budget at this meeting as the budget is directly linked to goals. Some PIC members would like to hire an outside facilitator to help set the goals for the committee, which in turn will help shape the budget.

ACTION ITEM: John will chair a budget subcommittee to set this year's budget.

CARRIED FORWARD: Set Budget for 2008-2009

EXTRA INFORMATION: 2007-2008 Budget

44% of the budget spent on Parent Liaison Position.

7% on catering.

5% on Sending People to Conferences.

26% on Betty Boulton Workshop.

5% Supplies (Including Books and Pamphlets.)

13% on Folder

8:40-8:45 People For Education Conference Erin Kelly

- Discuss and decide process for sending PIC members to conferences.

Is it valuable for the PIC to send PIC members to conferences? May help generate ideas.

Need to establish criteria for sending people. *Should be a parent. *Should be a clear purpose for going: checking out speakers, bringing back information. Offer to present to School councils. Need to have follow up activities. There will be a 5 min time allotment at each meeting to discuss upcoming opportunities.

ACTION ITEM: Establish a subcommittee to determine which events are eligible and set criteria on choosing who is eligible to go.

8:45-9:00 Parent Liaison Update Kay Elford

- Folder and Distribution
- PRO Grants (Workshop (s))

It was suggested that PRO workshops should be set in June. For this year, if there is interest, one will be held in the Guelph area. Secondary and Dufferin schools have been covered.

Power Point presentation available to all schools.

Folder not discussed due to time.

Extra Information: Parent Liaison sent invitation to the School Council Conference and all VP/P. Only received interest from two schools and a workshop will not be held at Victory School on Thursday Oct. 16. The Parent Liaison will make the Power Point Presentation available to all schools and will personally meet with the two schools who were interested.

Parent Liaison will contact each school, which did not apply last year, to see if the PIC can do anything to help facilitate the proposal writing.