

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

September 18TH J.D. HOGARTH PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Martha Rogers, Erin Kelly, Kay Elford, Joyce Hopkins Kirkup, Janet Holmes, Iris Rendon, Lynne Dyson, Claudia Vsetula, Anna Spiteri, Tamara Reso Guests: Sharon Molyneaux and Ruth Gilmour

Regrets: Cheryl Hincks, John Gray, Neta Gear, Amanda Laird, Giselle Scanlon, Jerry Diamond, Janet Hofstra, Eric Lunn, Bob Borden, Mark Bailey

7:00-7:15 Welcome and Introductions

Erin Kelly opened the meeting by welcoming returning and new members.

7:15-7:25 Review PIC Mandate

Martha Rogers reviewed the PIC Terms of Reference June 2007. Martha noted that this document was originally written by the IPIC and that some revisions, additions, including Guiding Principals may be in order. She stressed the mandate of encouraging all parents to become involved and that there are certainly barriers that do prevent this.

7:25-7:35 Text Book Concerns Sharon Molyneaux GCVI SC

Sharon Molyneaux, School Council Chair at GCVI discussed her concerns about the text book situation at her school. Text books, especially in the tech department, are worn out, outdated and in some cases nonexistent. She expressed that this is sending a mixed message to our students and strongly believes each child is worthy of having appropriate resources. Sharon pointed out that not having proper texts is a barrier to Parent Engagement. Parents cannot work with their students at home without this valuable resource. The cost of all the photocopying is also concerning.

Anna asked how money is allocated and it was explained that Principals are given an instructional budget. In some cases new courses are not supported by Ministry suggested or recommended books and teachers are left to find appropriate/relevant materials.

All High School PIC members agreed that this is an issue.

ACTION ITEM: Anna, Claudia, Lynne will work with Sharon to collect information about the situations at other High Schools. This group will report their findings at a future meeting and decide how/if the PIC can play a supportive role.

ACTION ITEM: Request to have an Elementary and/or a Secondary Principal give a presentation to the PIC on how Instructional Budgets are spent. (Erin)

7:35-7:45 Water Bottle Motion

Mark Bailey

Please see attached Memo.

*This is a very complicated issue and the Board staff will be seeking input. Sharon Molyneaux expressed concern about the Business Partnership that GCVI has with Nestle. Schools could stand to lose a significant amount of money as well as important programs. (Links) Anna expressed concerns from Erin District High School as they have just taken out juice and pop and replaced it with water (healthy alternative.) This issue will be **CARRIED FORWARD** to discuss at the next meeting.*

ACTION ITEM: PIC members are encouraged to discuss this motion with their councils and seek input; not only from parents but also from the Students.

7:45-8:10 Parent Liaison Update

Kay Elford

- PIC Communications (PIC School Allocations)

One of the main goals of the PIC is to communicate information to all School Councils, so that they may in turn communicate information to their Parent Communities. The First Class passwords and Logins have been distributed and each Principal has been asked to encourage the chairs to log in. After 2 weeks, the Parent Liaison will assess which schools are logging in and which are not. Each PIC rep will be responsible for contacting his/her schools (see allocation chart) to see if there is something that the PIC can do to support the use of First Class. Some Chairs will not want the bother of having another mail box site to check and in this case the PIC rep can offer to get the information distributed in another way. For example via the Principal.

ACTION ITEM: All PIC reps. Be Positive about First Class. It can work if given a fair chance. Find out if your school is using it or what they need to get started.

- Budget Review

This year's budget is \$10 521. This is based on \$10 000 for each school board plus .17 per student. There is surplus of \$1486.63 from last year which the PIC may or may not be able to keep. It cannot be counted in the opening budget.

For the 2007-2008 year the PIC had a budget of @ \$18000. This was due to a surplus of \$8294.87 being carried forward from the previous year. Breakdown of 2007-2008 expenditures:

Parent Liaison @ \$8000, Communications (folder, pamphlet) @ \$2100, Betty Boulton @ \$4500, Workshops and Conferences @ \$750 Catering @ \$ 1200

CARRIED FORWARD: The PIC will set the 2008-2009 budget at the next meeting. Each member is encouraged to review the budget guideline. (Attached)

ACTION ITEM: Kay will request a detailed report from the Finance Department.

- Folder and Distribution

The folder is being held for the logo to be added. The PIC decided that they would like the folders to go out in mailbags. Three copies per school will be sent out; one for each of the School Council Chair, Principal and the Library.

- PRO Grants School and Regional

Information is now available on the Ministry Website. The PRO grants for school councils are intended to support school-based initiatives to reach parents who face barriers to becoming involved in their child's education. School councils may develop proposals individually, with other councils or with other groups in the school or in the community. The entire process is done online; one proposal per school \$1000 cap. This may not seem like a huge amount but if the PIC can support each UGDSB school to submit a proposal the board would be eligible for \$71 000 for parent engagement initiatives. Those schools that did not apply last year have been denoted on the Communication Allocation Chart. PIC members will be proactive in contacting these schools to see if they can assist in anyway.

The PRO grants for regional/provincial projects are available to parent organizations, school boards, non-profit organizations and post secondary institutions working in partnership with parents. Eligible Projects must fall under at least one of the following areas: PARENTS AS PARTNERS; WELCOMING SCHOOL BOARD AND SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL PARENTS; and SKILL BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS

Anna suggested that the committee revisit the proposal that was declined last year. It fits under the Skill Building Opportunities for Parents. She did receive feedback on how it could be improved from the PEO.

ACTION ITEM: Anna will distribute a copy of the 2007-08 Regional PRO grant proposal to all PIC members for review, prior to the next meeting.

CARRIED FORWARD: The committee will review and discuss the proposal at the next meeting.

- PIC Website

The PIC website is up and running. It has examples of successful Parent Engagement ideas from various schools, tips on how to engage parents, the agendas and minutes for meetings and much more. If anyone has an idea please let the Parent Liaison know. The Parent Liaison is also working on a booklet called "Your child's education – be a part of it" which will be available on line.

- Logo

All

Four Parent members have designed logos (to be considered) that reflect the concept of Families, Schools, and Communities working together to support Student Success. Everyone

agreed that it would very valuable on the PIC correspondence. Sharon Molyneaux pointed out that School Council Chairs are inundated with “stuff” and it would be fantastic to have this quick identifier. It was also agreed that the logo should be simple and that colour may cost. Anna suggested that the committee open this up into a contest for all schools and possibly the various communities. Claudia agreed that this would be good PR for the committee. It was pointed out that this process could take a great deal of time and the committee would lose the opportunity to use this new logo on the folder and on the early correspondence going out to School Councils and Principals.

ACTION ITEM: Anna and Claudia to set up a logo contest.

8:10-8:20 Workshop Presentation Lynne Dyson

Lynne Dyson and Ruth Gilmour were able to attend the OASAR 20th Annual conference. They thanked the PIC for making this possible for them. Lynne attended: Coney’s 7 habits of Highly Effective Teens, Youth Speak, Reduce Stress Get Success, Redirection of Special Education in Ontario, How to Write an IEP. Ruth attended: Toward an Equitable Education, Poverty, Diversity and Students at Risk, Reaching & Teaching our Students Brains, Cause It’s Not My Fault – Understanding the Behaviour and Education of Children with FASD, Strategic Directions for Special Education in Ontario, It’s All about Relationships: Toward a Shared Framework for Communities and High School to Support At Risk Youth. Both Lynne and Ruth heard Margaret Trudeau – Keynote speaker.

8:20-8:25 Conference and Workshops Janet Hofstra

At various times throughout the year conference and workshops are brought to the attention of the PIC. As an example the People for Education are holding the conference “Making Connections” on Saturday November 8. (See attachment)

CARRIED FORWARD: Decide process for supporting and sending PIC members to conferences and Workshops.

8:25-8:45 Setting PIC Goals Erin Kelly

- Discuss Budget considerations for this year.

CARRIED FORWARD: PIC to review the Parent Liaison Position and the amount of Budget to be allocated to this. Other Budget Considerations are Communications, Workshops and PD.

Erin also made the PIC aware of an opportunity to work with the ASCD to bring a workshop to Guelph on April 28th. The topic is Parent and Community Involvement. The PIC would probably take on an advisory role by suggesting topics that would be engaging for parents.

ACTION ITEM: Erin will get more details about this opportunity.

8:45-8:55 Chair and Secretary Positions Janet Hofstra/Martha Rogers

As no one expressed an interest in taking on the PIC secretary position, the job will be assumed by the Parent Liaison.

Anna Spiteri and Neta Gear have expressed an interest in becoming the PIC chair. There is some question as to whether Anna is eligible to hold this position as she does not have a student enrolled in the UGDSB. There is some ambiguity in the Terms of Reference.

ACTION ITEM: Kay will contact the Parent Engagement Office to see what the exact rules are surrounding this.

CARRIED FORWARD: Chair position to be decided at the next meeting.

8:55-9:00 Set Next Meeting Date Kay Elford

Next two meetings: Monday October 6 and Monday November 3. To be held at JD Hogarth Library starting at 7pm.

It was suggested that the meeting start earlier but this was not a popular option. It was agreed that the meetings should end by 9pm.