

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE: Minutes Meeting Feb.-09-09

Present: Jerry, Barb, Claudia, Iris, Anna, Mark, Eric, Kay, Erin, Martha

Welcome

Anna welcomed Barb Evoy. Barb lives in Fergus and is interested in finding out more about the PIC.

ADMIN:

Parent Liaison Report: Kay

- PRO grants have been awarded. UGDSB submitted 46 proposals; 32 will be funded.
- UGDSB will receive a total of \$26,075
- There were 14 schools that applied this year for the first time.
- Some schools that applied last year but not this year commented that the poor parent support, for their organized events, was discouraging.
- The School Year Calendar Committee has met to set the 2009-2010 school year calendar. Anna and Kay are sitting on this committee as parent reps. Traditionally, we begin the school year on the Tuesday following Labour Day. This year Labour Day is Sept. 7 and beginning on Sept. 8 does not allow for the required 194 days of instruction. There are many issues to consider including transportation costs and our neighbouring boards. The Calendar Committee will meet again on Feb. 11 to review the feedback that they have received from the various stakeholders. The PIC discussed the 3 options presented, it understands the options do not shorten the length of the summer holidays; the regular 9 weeks are still available. Whatever is decided PARENTS should be made aware ASAP to plan accordingly. It was the opinion of some parents that the Friday prior to labour should remain a holiday to at least allow for a "long" weekend.
- Kay and Michelle Provencher are sitting as parent reps on a Nutrition Committee. This committee, organized by the Public Health Unit, will look at how schools can make healthy eating a focus. Parent Education in this area will be important and the PIC may be asked to play role. The committee meets again in April. In the meantime, Kay has asked school councils to share what is happening in their respective schools around nutrition. Success stories will be highlighted on the PIC website. School Councils have also been invited to participate in the Ministry's Healthy Eating Recognition Program.
- The brochures for the ASCD conference were distributed. (attached) The conference focusing on "Parents and Communities as Partners" will be held in Guelph on Tuesday April 28, 2009. The PIC discussed sponsoring all interested PIC members plus 2 parents from each "family:" West Guelph, North Wellington, East Guelph, South Guelph, Centre Wellington, Dufferin, East Wellington, & Secondary. Kay will prepare an invitation to send to all councils. The PIC will organize a "follow up" meeting for the parents that attend, to discuss how the engagement strategies can be employed by the PIC. **ACTION ITEM:** If you, as a PIC member, would like to attend this conference, email Kay immediately.

- Borrowing the concept (with permission) from the Ottawa Carleton Board, Kay, together with Wendy Duncan has prepared a booklet called “Your Child’s Education – Be a Partner!” (attached) The group decided on sending 2 copies to each school with a letter explaining that the council is free to use the booklet as they would like ie. Use the ideas for monthly newsletters or possibly giving a copy to each new registrant JK and Grade 9. **ACTION:** Please review and send any comments to Kay by Friday Feb.20.

RECAP OF MANDATE AND OBJECTIVES

- Carried forward until there are enough people at the meeting to reach quorum.

PARENT LIAISON JOB DESCRIPTION

- Carried Forward

WORKSHOPS/PRESENTATIONS/CONFERENCE ACTION PLANS

- The PIC has been awarded \$26 000 for the PRO REGIONAL Grant. Congratulations and thank you to Anna for the submission. A series of events about Literacy, Numeracy and Parenting will be held in 3 different geographical areas. Dave Mitchell is a confirmed presenter on getting parents involved in their student’s math education. The PIC discussed targeting a specific audience ie Primary, Junior, Secondary etc. as opposed to a general audience; however involvement as a continuum is a theme of the Proposal. Anna will contact Dave Mitchell to see what his area of expertise is and to hear his suggestions. **URGENT ACTION:** Please review the attached proposal and reply to Anna immediately on how you can contribute to the organization of the workshops. There is a lot of work to be done in the next couple of months and many hands will be needed. Suggestions are also being solicited for highly recommended guest speakers. The Planning Committee will meet prior to the next PIC meeting to establish the plans.

BUDGET FOR 2008-2009

- The PIC currently has \$9470 which reflects payment of the PL position until December 2008.
- Due to the fact that there were not enough members present to reach quorum on this issue, it will be carried forward: however the following was suggested: \$ 5000 to send Parents to the ASCD conference, \$1000 to send PIC members to various conference eg. People for Education, \$200 for booklet “Your Child’s Education- Be a Partner.”