

Parent Involvement Committee: Minutes from Meeting March 9th, 2009

Welcome and introduction:

Present: Anna, Eric, Giselle, Peter, Erin, Kay, Martha, Mark, Claudia

Anna opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, including guest parent Tonya Brock from Sir Isaac Brock.

Admin:

- **Board/ministry initiatives/info pertinent to PIC:** Martha/Erin
Nothing to report

- **Parent Liaison Report:** Kay

Schools have received their PRO money. Liz Sandals is planning to attend a Media Violence PRO event at Mitchell Woods on April 16th, an Anxiety in Children PRO event at Ottawa Cres. on April 21st, and an Anti Bullying PRO event at Paisley Rd. on April 23rd. As schools send forth their information, it will be posted on the PIC website. It is hoped that parents from other schools will feel welcomed to attend events they are interested in.

The Calendar Committee has yet to set the “official” calendar for the 2009-2010 school year but it looks like school will definitely start prior to Labour Day. **** NEW INFORMATION** Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education, has since recommended to School Boards NOT to start prior to Labour Day. UGDSB has postponed a final decision.

Several School Councils have been asking about providing childcare during School Council events/meetings. The guidelines around this have been found and are now posted on First Class and on the Dufferin Parent Council Network. This is one way of helping more parents get out to the school.

The Booklet “Your Child’s Education- Be a Partner” will be finalized and distributed to all schools. It was decided that 3 copies would be sent to all schools and they could be added to the Folders.

The invitation to attend the ASCD conference “Parents and Communities as Partners” has been accepted by 8 parents to date. The committee discussed having more than one parent from a school attend, as well as, more than the original 2 parent reps. per family of schools. The group decided that it would send out the invitation once again to the schools in areas that are not represented. If there is still no interest, the PIC will send the School Councils that have indicated interest. Similarly, if a school has more than one parent interested and there are still spots, the second parent will also be sponsored by the PIC.

CORRESPONDANCE

Anna has received information from “Drug Proof Your Kids” www.drugproofyourkids.ca this group would like to present to the PIC. **ACTION ITEM:** Peter will arrange for the speaker from DPYK to present at the May meeting, to see if this is a program that the PIC would be interested in offering to School Councils.

Anna has also received information from the Ministry about e learning. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna will determine how/if the PIC has a role in this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **RECRUITMENT:** Neta will chair a recruitment committee. **ACTION ITEM:** Neta will review the application form and send a revised edition out to all PIC members prior to the next meeting.
ACTION ITEM: Anna will develop a skills matrix to see what the needs are around the table. Discussion around having a “community member” on the PIC. It was noted that if we are following Epstein’s model of involvement then a community is definitely important to have.
ACTION ITEM: Anna will contact Barb, a community member that has expressed her interest.
- **PLANNING:** Claudia, Anna and Kay met to discuss the PRO regional grant. The first workshop will be a Numeracy Workshop facilitated by Dave Mitchell www.arithmecode.com this will be held in 3 different locations; Guelph, Orangeville and in Central Wellington. The PIC is looking at clusters of schools to host the event. Dave Mitchell is available April 15, 16, 22, 23. Noted that School Councils already have dates booked. **ACTION ITEM:** PIC members will contact their respective school “clusters” to determine if there is a School Council that would partner/promote the workshop to 3 or 4 other schools. The goal would be to have 100 families attend each event. Anna will contact Dave to see if there is availability the last week of April. Noted that the ASCD conference is on the 28. Victory was suggested as a Guelph location; Principal Jerry Diamond is on the PIC. Could cluster with Central, June Ave., Paisley Road, Willow, and John McRae. Parenting Workshop suggested to be held in September. Discussed possible speakers for Literacy Workshops. **ACTION ITEM:** Anna will contact Board staff to see if they have suggestions. As well, UofG and Action Read. Noted that Parents would like to see the programs that the schools are actually using, demonstrated. Secondary Workshops will be held separate from the Elementary
- **COMMUNICATION:** Claudia will distribute info about the Workshops through the Board, local newspapers, First Class, Principals and radio stations. She has made preliminary contacts. Transportation to the event can be arranged if needed.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Criteria for attending presentations/conferences

PIC members attending must get prior approval and must be willing to do a write up/presentation to the PIC. There should be the opportunity for all PIC members to attend conferences.

NEXT MEETING: May 11