



# PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 7, 2020  
5:30 p.m. – TEAMS virtual meeting  
Chair: Lisa Mooney  
**MINUTES**

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PRESENT: Lisa Mooney, Joy Janzen, Kelly McNeil, Melissa Lofquist, Pauline Dawson, Stacia Heaton, Susan Jovanovic  
GUESTS: Carrie Soucy, Alison Moore  
REGRETS: none  
SUPERINTENDENT: Simon Hancox  
TRUSTEES: Nancy Beamer, Doug Newton  
ADMINISTRATION: Fred Louws, Tracy Leemet  
RECORDING SECRETARY: Elisha von Wuthenau

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## WELCOME

Meeting was called to order. Chair Lisa Mooney welcomed everyone. She introduced Superintendent Hancox and welcomed the guests.

## ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Joy Janzen  
Seconded by Pauline Dawson

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

none

## SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Hancox welcomed all the members and thanked them for their commitment to being part of the DSBN Parent Involvement Committee.

He shared the following:

- Students have completed their first month of school. Over 5500 elementary students have enrolled in the virtual school, with over 200 virtual teachers. Secondary students who selected the in person learning model are attending school in cohorts of half class sizes for a portion of the week and completing the remainder of their learning online.
- The DSBN continues to work closely with Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH). There have been 7 positive cases of Covid in our schools. Schools worked closely with Public Health to respond quickly and communicate with school communities. The NRPH department has also been collaborating with the DSBN. There have been proactive visits to schools to support and provide feedback regarding school process and new schedules. They indicated DSBN has excellent protocols in place that are consistent across the schools.

- Kindergarten through grade 8 teachers have been learning about the Ministry's new elementary math curriculum. Math scores have been first or second provincially over the past few years and over one thousand teachers in the DSBN have taken the Math Additional Qualification courses. The DSBN Math Scope and Sequence has been used as an exemplar for the Province.
- Due to new provincial public health restrictions the graduations for the Class of 2020 were unable to be held as planned. Currently all 17 secondary schools are creating alternate plans, adhering to NRPH guidelines, to distribute diplomas and other items planned to be distributed at graduation ceremonies.
- School Council meetings will be held virtually until further notice. This aligns with the approach being used for both board committees and school based staff meetings.
- School Councils will receive \$500 (per school) Ministry of Education funds before the end of October.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Lisa Mooney shared the following:

- PIC Chairs throughout the Province have been communicating through the summer into early fall regarding questions/concerns about School Council meetings and how they are all working through the challenges.
- Lisa addressed the need for a co-chair. Nominations should be submitted to Lisa prior to the next meeting.
- The committee was told about the Board policies that are open for review are on the DSBN website and encouraged the committee to read through them.
- Due to school closures and Covid restrictions, the committee was not able to utilize the entire Pro Grant for 2019-2020 before the initial July cut-off. At the beginning of July, the Ministry of Education provided an extension allowing the committee to use the remaining funds for Covid related communication and return to school supports for students.
- The Ministry of Education has offered \$21 803 for 2020-2021 Pro Grant.
- \$500 for School Council spending will need to be used differently this year. Councils will be provided with new suggestions that will follow Public Health guidelines and Board protocols.

### **TRUSTEE UPDATE**

Trustee Nancy Beamer shared the following:

- The DSBN Equity Action Plan began in 2018 and is still underway. The final phase includes conducting a student census. The information gathered will focus on valuing equity, valuing diversity and valuing inclusion.
- On August 31<sup>st</sup> the Trustee's unanimously approved the motion to commit an additional 1% of the DSBN accumulated surplus funds for 2020-2021. This provided approximately \$4.5 million, combined with other funds, used to hire approximately 70 additional teachers and subsequently reduce class sizes within the schools.
- On September 10<sup>th</sup>, the Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce and MPP Sam Oosterhoff visited Twenty Valley. They also went to Wainfleet to celebrate the joint partnership with Niagara Catholic District School Board, approved by the Ministry of Education, to build an amalgamated school joining St. Elizabeth, William E. Brown and Winger schools.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- PIC Conference was discussed in relation to the Pro Grant funds expected this year. The committee recognized that the traditional format of the PIC Conference cannot happen with present COVID restrictions. The committee discussed a variety of ideas. The committee decided they would like to offer a virtual speaker series. The committee discussed topics of interest within the school communities and ways

to utilize the Pro Grant funds to assist our school families virtually. The committee will continue to work through the suggestions and plans and bring this to the November meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Joy Janzen

Seconded by Stacia Heaton

“That the Parent Involvement Committee meeting adjourn.”

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 6:45p.m.

Next meeting – November 4th, 2020

Location – TBD