

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Highlights

Date: Monday, Feb. 28, 2011

Time/Place: 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Trustees' Area, HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga

Karen McDonald, School Council Chair representing Caledon (PIC co-chair)

Kathy Parris-McDonald, Parent Member representing Brampton and French Immersion (PIC co-chair)

Ashis Basu, Parent Member representing Mississauga

Stan Cameron, Trustee representing Caledon

Barbara Cyr, representing the board's Special Education Advisory Committee

Lucy Ding, Parent Member representing Mississauga

Dr. Salha Jeizan, representing Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel

Savi Khanna, School Council Chair representing

Rabia Khedr, Parent Member representing Mississauga

Harinder Mahli, Trustee representing Brampton

Tony Pontes, Director of Education

Resource:

Alison Farbar, Acting Communications Officer

Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Co-ordinator

Carla Pereira, Acting Manager of Communications

Regrets:

Vijai Dasrat, Parent Member representing Brampton

Meredith Johnson, Trustee representing Mississauga

Velvet Dodge Matinna, Parent Member representing

Rabia Khedr, Parent Member representing Mississauga

Approval of highlights from previous meeting

The committee approved the highlights from the Nov.22 meeting.

Feedback on Growing Success – missed and late assignments, zeros

The ministry acknowledges there are two views on what to do about missed, late assignments and lowest mark. They have given boards the task of determining what will work best for the community. Shawn Moynihan, Superintendent of Curriculum and Instructional Support Services and Michael Bowman, Instructional Coordinator, Assessment Literacy met with the committee to gather feedback that will guide the development of the Peel board's policy.

The committee was asked to provide feedback on what the lower limit is that should appear on a report card, and what to do about late and missed assignments.

The committee is asked to send feedback on the fixed lower limit for report cards marks to Alison.farbar@peelsb.com.

Diversity Parent Committee

Varsha Naik talked about an initiative at Plum Tree Park Public School in Mississauga to enhance involvement among parents who haven't traditionally been involved in the school. The principal

made the decision to create a Diversity Parent Committee and sent home a letter inviting parents to join. The first meeting brought together 25 parents who haven't been visibly involved in the school in the past. The purpose of the committee is to advise the principal on how to create a welcoming school climate in order to encourage more parent involvement. Varsha will provide an update on the progress of the committee at the next meeting.

Approval of final Parent Involvement Report

The committee approved the final version of the Parent Involvement Report. The summary of the report will be updated and shared with school councils, principals, other school boards and the general public through www.peelschools.org.

Approval of bylaws

The committee approved its bylaws. The bylaws, along with the committee's terms of reference, will guide the committee's work. The bylaws will be available on www.peelschools.org. From the "Parents Boost Learning" tab, click on "Get Involved" and "Parent Involvement Committee".

Volunteers for selection sub-committee

Four new parent positions are available for a two year term from September 2011 to June 2013.

The following current members have volunteered to be on the selection committee:

Savi Khanna

Kathy Parris-McDonald

Information about the opportunities will be shared through school newsletters and websites, the board's website, a news release, Twitter and Facebook.

Discussion on question from public re: forming subcommittee to monitor PRO grant

The committee is not interested in forming a sub-committee to monitor the regional PRO grant.

Discussion on how to use funding

The committee discussed how to spend its remaining funding. Pending approval from at least one additional member of the committee, the following initiatives will be supported by the committee:

- Provide \$1000 sponsorship for a Make a Difference in Literacy and Beyond Conference.
- Provide \$2000 sponsorship to cover a portion of the cost of the guest speaker at the Volunteer Celebration.
- \$5000 to host a spring workshop for school council members on *How to write an effective PRO grant*.

In addition, the committee is considering the following ideas:

- Creating pre-printed tip sheets/folders that schools can order to create welcome kits. The estimated cost is \$10,000.
- Developing template workshops that school staff can use with parents—communications staff will ask for principal feedback at the next Communications Advisory Committee meeting. The estimated cost is \$2500 per workshop.

These will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Questions from the public

A parent suggested that more support for councils with the Parent Reaching Out grants application would be helpful.

A parent attended and pointed out that the principal at her child's middle school doesn't want parents involved in the school.

Next meeting:

The next Parent Involvement Committee meeting will take place in the Trustees' Area at the HJA Brown Education Centre on Monday, May 16 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Please let Alison Farbar know if you are unable to attend. Refreshments will be provided.