

February 2019

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

The committee met on January 14, 2019 and reports as follows.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Aaron Huizinga and Danielle Magvas (Committee Co-chairpersons), Trustee Rose Kitney, Teira Brown, Cathy Galbraith, James Grieve, Kimberly Leger, Carolyn McColl, Tanya Ogden, Corry O'Toole, and Elizabeth Ward.

Also Present: Jennifer Leclerc (Director of Education), Judy Malfara (School Liasion and Communications Lead), Sonia Wilson (Manager, Marketing and Community Outreach) and Greg Kidd (Snr. Manager, Corporate Affairs).

Regrets: Annette Simpson, Marie Visser

Director's Updates

As part of her update, Director Leclerc welcomed and introduced Trustee Rose Kitney to the committee for the 2019 term. Among her updates, the Director also noted for the group that provincial Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants have recently been approved for the year. For the upcoming year, 32 board schools will receive a total of \$31,640 in support of school activities that foster parental involvement in local schools.

Kindergarten Registration and Information Sessions

S. Wilson reviewed with the group this year's Kindergarten promotions to encourage online registration, including a 30 second video being used on our social media channels, along with Google Adwords placements, and radio ads. This year, the board is also hosting Regional Kindergarten Information Sessions again in all areas of the board. Committee members received a flyer that is being used to advertise these events to Kindergarten families, and had an opportunity to see the resource packages families will receive, which will support student preparation for and success in Kindergarten. It is expected that 400 families will attend the sessions again this year. Committee members expressed their continued support for these sessions and indicated a willingness to provide funding for the resources packages. The amount of support will be determined at a later date during a review of budget and other expenses.

The committee discussed aspects of these parent sessions and noted the initiatives alignment with the committee's mandate of supporting parent engagement in the education of their children.

2018 Annual Parent Conference

J. Malfara reviewed with the group attendance data, including the number of registrants who failed to attend, as part of a continued discussion debriefing the most recent Parent Conference that was held on Saturday, October 20, at Bowmanville High School.

The theme for this year's conference was Mental Health, Math & Modern Learning, with Dr. Greg Wells as the keynote speaker. This year's conference had an expanded platform of overall wellness. For the first time, workshops also were offered that parents and children could participate in together, including learning supports in areas such as mathematics and literacy, as well as information sharing around modern learning environments and technology tools.

General discussion by the group included positive feedback with respect to the keynote speaker, and workshops that were offered. Extended discussion focused on the significant percentage of registrants who failed to attend, and the very low workshop participants as a result. Discussion also of attendance rates over-time. Administration indicated it would bring information back to the committee in future, exploring possible alternate planning and/or formats, including possibly scheduling every second year, or changing the format to include only a sponsored keynote speaker.

Aaron Huizinga and Danielle Magvas
(Committee Co-chairpersons)