

PIC Meeting - October 30, 2017

Co-chairs: Debbie Bush and Rabia Khan

Those present: Martha Rogers, Brent McDonald, Lynne Vink, Jane Bibby, Vikki Brown, Jennifer Edwards, George Fletcher, Heather Janes, Kumudinie Karlyapperuma, Martha MacNeil, Krista McGregor, Paul Smith, Kevin MacLean, Frances Paterno, Maureen Oesch

1. Welcome and introductions
 - Agenda approved - Maureen Oesch
 - Last month's minutes approved - Kumudinie Kariyapperuma

2. Parent Communication App
 - Bill McKenzie presented information on the Upper Grand Mobile App
 - Over 300 responses to Board survey last January
 - 75% wanted digital notification about events at school
 - 69% wanted easy access to the calendar
 - Schools use different ways to communicate - can be confusing for families
 - Found an app that takes news information and calendar information from school websites and gathers it into one app - will also send that information to social media if the school uses it
 - Self-subscription - CASL compliant
 - Green listed - safe in terms of privacy, insurance and purchasing
 - One app for the Board - not one per school - families with students at more than one school can grab all information from all schools in one place
 - Bill gave a demonstration of the app and its features
 - Board wants to have all schools using the app by the end of the year
 - 50 schools were using it by the end of September
 - This app may begin to replace the traditional monthly newsletter to some degree
 - 3000 downloads of the app in the first two weeks - about 5000 now

3. Board and Ministry Report
 - 2 upcoming parent expositions
 - Nov 11 - People for Education
 - Nov 16 - Let's Get Together
 - Showed the new PIC sign for events
 - Digital Saturday at Arbour Vista - Saturday, November 18
 - Open to any school community
 - 200-400 parents have attended previous Digital Saturdays
 - Every 10 families from a school who attend can win a free Chromebook for their school
 - The focus is on the day-to-day application of technology

- Shows how parents can access online supports to support students
- Update on lunch providers
 - Lunch Box is now allowed
 - The policy is concerned with regular lunch providers and not one-time special events
 - There is a common database of acceptable food providers that principals can access for School Councils if they wish
- PRO Grant info has been shared - it's on the PIC website
 - Schools can connect and pool resources if they wish
 - Please submit reports by the end of June
- \$500 has been given to each school for parent engagement - report due to Brent by the end of the school year
- Ministry initiatives
 - Refresh of curriculum - Math first
 - Ministry is doing an analysis
 1. Ministry initiatives
 2. Assessment
 3. Curriculum
 - Hope to align all three areas of exploration
- A question was asked about the hiring of French Teachers
 - Will continue the practice of attending job fairs and doing pool hiring
 - There is a real shortage of French Teachers and the board is actively searching for ways to meet the need

4. Trustee Report

- Policy review
 - Display of Flags
 - Need to revise policy on how Canadian, provincial and other flags are flown
 - Hope to display flags that reflect our values in terms of diversity and inclusion
 - Review and send feedback by November 30th by 4 PM
- Career Education Council event
 - Wed, Nov 15 from 6-8
 - Career fair for students and parents
 - Business, education, community organizations have booths
 - All pathways represented
 - For grades 8-12
 - Free

5. Chair's Report

- Games available for schools to borrow for special evenings - check with the Principal or school librarian - can also find a link to the Terry James Resource Centre on the PIC website

6. PRO Grant Update and Event Planning Fall event coming up
 - Wednesday, Nov. 8 at CCVI
 - Thursday, November 9 at Westside
 - Dr. Laura Markham will speak starting at 6:45 PM
 - 256 parents currently registered at CCVI
 - 88 parents registered at Westside
 - Childcare form - can be reimbursed for babysitting costs
 - Necessary to pre-register
 - Book-signing and question answer period after the talk
 - Need volunteers to help
7. Spring event
 - Got \$10,000 from the PRO Grant
 - Some used for Fall event
 - Spring event is for reps from schools
 - Hoping to meet the week of November 13 to start planning
 - Let Debbie know if you want to participate
8. Treasurer's Report
 - After the purchase of the sign, current balance is \$9,323.01
9. Review Exec. Positions
 - Will continue with rotating secretary role - no one showed any interest
 - Jane Bibby offered to take minutes
10. Communications Report
 - Kumudinie Kariyapperuma reviewed the website and found some broken links that have been fixed
 - The mobile app is not currently promoted on the PIC website - suggested it be added
 - School Councils can advertise events on the PIC website
11. Other business
 - Need to a date and location for a PIC meeting in the north
 - Will explore date options and bring it back to the November meeting
12. Next meeting is Monday, November 27th, 2017 at 6:45 PM at the Guelph Board Office