

Upper Grand District School Board

## Parent Involvement Committee

### October 22nd Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Martha MacNeil, Heather Janes, Maureen Oesch, Giselle Scanlon, Ann Charles, Carrie Proudfoot, Sue Shaw, Sarah Bolton-Blair, Jane Brown, Brent McDonald, Martha Rogers, Jaspreet Dhillon, Scott Doern, Kay Elford, Deb Drake, Kathy Watts, Axy Leighl

Regrets: Krista Thompson, Heather Bailey, Manizha Wodud

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

- Welcome extended to all and introductions made
- Approval of Sept. Minutes & Oct. Agenda
- Thank you to Deb for thorough job on September minutes

#### **Board & Ministry Update**

- Bill 13: Accepting Schools Act: Premise that all students should feel safe at school and deserve a positive climate that is inclusive and accepting. A safe and inclusive learning environment, where all students feel accepted is a necessary condition for student success.
- Mandates that bullying programs have to be communicated to parents, programs & supports need to be in place for the bullied and the bullies
- Bullying Prevention & Awareness Week is the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November. There is up to \$500/school available to support events during this week
- Board Wide **Climate Survey** for teachers, parents and students showed that students in grade 7-12 indicate:
  - \*bullying takes place most often in the hallways & outside
  - \* it takes many forms: physical, verbal, social and cyber
  - \* Reasons Students feel bullied: appearance, grades, family income, sexual orientation, skin colour, ethnic background, religion or faith, a disability, aboriginal or language background,
  - \*most bystanders will tell someone about bullying

\*  $\frac{3}{4}$  of bullied students feel supported at their schools

\* 14% of bullies won't tell

\* not all parents are aware of how to report bullying

- Other Survey data shows: involvement in clubs & sports drop in Grade 11 & 12, not as many grade 9 students are getting involved even though much effort is being invested in the transition of students from grade 8 to grade 9, students indicate sense of belonging drops in grade 12
- How can School Councils inform their communities about programs and the supports around bullying?
- It was suggested that every High School have a way of reporting bullying anonymously
- Trellis Walk in Service Available: info out to schools
- Martha attended the Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy conference. Key message that one significant adult can change the direction of an at risk student. Martha will present in greater detail about conference at the November meeting.

#### **Budget items:**

- \$10709.33 is the opening budget.
- Brochures YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION -BE A PARTNER! were printed for all JK and new families at a cost of \$ 2 971.90. PIC should get HST back \$341.90
- PIC will try to move towards electronic copies next year

#### **Focus Group Project Progress**

- 3 different quotes have been received and reviewed by the PIC subcommittee: The Resource Management Group, Juice Inc. & Sage Solutions
- 1 has been eliminated
- Pros & cons of remaining 2 although no clear front runner
- Concern noted that the 1 company may not be providing enough facilitators
- Suggestion to ask for a quote from the university. There is a graduate program that works on projects like this for cost only recovery. Giselle had previously contacted the University but has not heard back. Timeline is getting tight. Vote was taken to further investigate the University option although timeline is an issue.

#### **Spring Event**

- Would like to build on the success of last year's event with Anne Henderson
- Focus on Parent Engagement
- Must be a Canadian Speaker for @ \$4000 available in April

- Would a symposium format work?
- Should be interactive in nature
- PIC members are invited to forward any suggestions to Sarah. She will put a list of options together and then send it out to all members to vote. Please provide a brief summary about the guest speaker and their cost. Send ideas to [sarahboltonblair@hotmail.ca](mailto:sarahboltonblair@hotmail.ca) by Nov.1
- Reminder to check system calendar before booking the April date.

### **Communications**

- PIC website could have a current news section. Part of this would be a listing of all the PRO grant events that are being held at various schools. Would like to see schools being invited to each other's events.
- Some of the links listed on the website are not functioning. Some time should be spent on checking all of them to see that they are working. The list of grant ideas was purchased by PIC but contains several links that are not current. Brent will investigate to see if there is anything in the purchase contract that will cover/update this.
- Campaigner is an electronic communications program that will organize and handle emails being sent out to parents and community members. Schools can sign up for a cost is @ \$10 per month. Sign up is easy it seems to be very effective.

### **Visioning 2012/2013**

- Improve communications btw PIC and schools & btw schools & parent community
- Geographical Representation. PIC members could attend various school Council meetings in their home areas.
- Prepare meeting minutes quickly so that School Councils could reference them prior to meetings.
- PIC could provide Grant writing seminars to help School councils find out what is available and how to write a successful proposal.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:40 pm Next meeting on Monday November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 7pm.