

Upper Grand District School Board PIC Committee

Monday, September 27, 2021

MINUTES

Those present:

Matt McCutcheon, Martha MacNeil, Gillian Prieur, Kumudine Kariyapperuma, Ben McCabe, Jason Boyce, Peter Soveran, Debbie Bush, Anita MacFarlane, Tina Burden Coates, Rachel Albanese, Barb White, Caroline Folgman, Caroline Derderian, Jen Tulloch, Monica Cojocar, Tara Dean-Witt, Tracy Smith, Stephanie Deward, Leo Song.

1. Welcome and introductions

- Board staff, Trustees and attendees introduced themselves, shared their roles and explained what excited them most about being at PIC this year. Peter Soveran, our new Director of Education, shared his desire to look at the focus of reengagement, refreshing and reimagining how UGDSB can be best prepared to meet the needs and goals of our students and families.

2. Approval of agenda

Debbie Bush made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Barb White. All in favour.

3. Approval of minutes

Kumudine Kariyapperuma made a motion to approve the previous minutes. Seconded by Gillian Prieur. All in favour.

4. and 5. Board and Ministry Report and Committee Membership Review

Matt McCutcheon shared information.

- Matt summarized the role of PIC which was established in January of 2011 to promote parent engagement and foster greater parental involvement moving forward. It is a parent-led committee and includes the Director of Education, at least one trustee as well as principal representatives from both the elementary and secondary panels.
- People For Education is a great resource to consider: <https://peopleforeducation.ca>.
- PRO grants from the Ministry of Education have been continued. \$500 has been deposited into the School Council budget line and a report on how funds were spent is due to Amanda Creed by May 2022.

- Matt reminded the group that parents from both brick and mortar as well as remote schools are welcome to attend.
- Virtual meetings will be the mode of meeting until further notice.
- School Reopening Highlights and Procedures include:
 - Dr. Rogers retired on August 31, 2021.
 - Brent McDonald is now the Executive Superintendent.
 - Pat Hamilton (Secondary) and Matt McCutcheon (Elementary) are new Superintendents who are keen to support our current Superintendents.
 - Gerry Walker is the new Principal of Equity and Indigenous Education.
 - Student and staff well being and mental health are a key focus, as well as focusing on ensuring we are providing a safe, equitable and inclusive learning opportunity for all stakeholders.
 - Professional Development was led for staff on PD Days from August 31 through September 2, including such topics as anti-racist education, sex-trafficking awareness, as well as focusing on assessing and supporting students in their language and mathematics programming.
 - Key health and safety measures were reviewed and changes for this year were highlighted.
 - Parents were reminded to screen their children daily using the online screening tool.
 - New items for this year include outdoor breaks from masking when congregating with distancing within their classes, common use of shared spaces with sanitizing protocols, as well as clubs and extracurricular activities are being considered where possible.
 - Field trips are on pause for the moment, as are large group gatherings like assemblies.
 - The Board has invested in HEPA filters for classroom and learning spaces which goes above and beyond Ministry of Education requirements.
 - Vaccine disclosure policies have been introduced that include rapid testing requirements for staff who are not immunized against COVID-19.
 - 1034 elementary and 568 secondary students are enrolled in remote school this year.
 - UGDSB staff is working closely with Public Health authorities to manage positive cases to minimize the impact to school.

6. Trustee Report

Martha MacNeil shared information.

- The Trustees are excited to have Peter Sovran begin as our new Director of Education starting on September 1, 2021.
- Martha shared her appreciation for PIC and other parties who assisted in the selection and hiring process.
- In honour of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, the Trustees are engaging in and are supporting learning for all stakeholders to raise awareness of this valuable topic.

7. Chairs' Report and Parent Engagement Event Planning

Kumudinie Kariyapperuma shared information. See the attached "Chair's Report."

- Kumudinie welcomed newcomers and thanked members for their service in the various roles last year.

- The PRO Grant funding has been doubled to \$38,000. Suggestions from the subcommittee highlight a desire to arrange system/central events like last year, create resources and/or videos for councils depending on their needs, and investigate ideas from the broader PIC community. If you have ideas to share for this funding, please email them to Matt McCutcheon.
- If you are interested in joining the PIC meetings regularly, please email Matt McCutcheon and he will add you to the mailing list.

8. Committee Sign Up and Elections

Matt McCutcheon shared information.

- Matt shared a list of current regional representatives who would like to stand and invited others to join.
- Gillian Prieur is continuing in her 2nd year of her first term as co-chair and following Kumudinie Kariyapperuma's completion of her second term, we are seeking a second co-chair. Barb White has volunteered to stand.
- Kumudinie Kariyapperuma has offered to stand as treasurer.
- Tracey Smith has offered to be a Dufferin Rep.
- Monica Cojocararu has offered to be a Guelph Rep.
- Rachel Albanese has offered to be a Guelph Rep.
- Jen Tulloch offered to be a Centre /East Rep
- We continue to look for someone to stand as secretary.
- We continue to look for someone to stand for communications.
- Maureen Oesch has offered to stand for the SEISSC Committee Representative.
- If you are interested in one of the open roles, please email Matt McCutcheon. See the attached for open roles.

9. Questions, New Business and Final Remarks

- Gillian thanked everyone for their attendance and for their patience with the technical issues which should be worked out by the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Monday, October 25th, 2021 at 7:00 PM Using Microsoft Teams.