

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

to support, encourage and enhance parent involvement at the Board level, and to support improved student achievement and well-being

Avon Maitland District School Board

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Bayfield Room, Seaforth Education Centre

Parents: Jenn Cox (Clinton) Chair, Sarah Campbell (Goderich) (absent), Rosalia Mills (Listowel) (absent), Ruth Ann Ogilvie (Central Perth) (absent), Judy Greig (St. Marys), Ange Chisholm (Stratford) (absent), Anna Michener (Hamlet/Stratford)

Principal Rep: Marie McDade

Trustees: Nancy Rothwell, Robert Hunking

Staff/Resource: Lisa Walsh (Director), Sarah Stright (Communications Manager), Barb Crawford (Admin Assistant)

Agenda Item	Notes
1.0 Routine Matters	
1.1 Approval of the Agenda	
1.2 Approval of the January 16, 2019 Minutes	Defer to next meeting for quorum
2.0 Items Brought Forward	
2.1 Snow Day Expectations of Teachers/Students, Use of Technology to Distribute Snow Day Learning?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This topic will be brought forward during discussion of the Technology Plan• Different time/place – technology has to benefit learning and what's the balance.• Opportunity for parents to be an advisory body to trustees, director to know what parents are thinking• Bring questions forward when the Technology Plan is presented• Jenn – for next meeting can provide resources – how to balance, and what is the best way to deal with this
3.0 New Business	
3.1 AMDSB Mental Health, Addictions, and Well-Being Dr. Anne Robinson and Superintendent Jodie Baker	<p>Dr. Robinson and Superintendent Baker gave a detailed presentation on what is happening in AMDSB to support mental health, to help our children be well, clarify what is bullying, help children feel valued and respected – and an overall better sense of well-being and belonging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not necessarily bullying but children in conflict• Definition of mental health – not equivalent to mental illness; mental health is how you cope with stress, every day relationships, coping at work, etc• Mental illness is a diagnosed condition – anxiety disorder, etc

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dual continuum model – mental health / poor mental and serious mental illness / no symptoms of mental illness • 2011 Ontario Mental Health Strategy – looks at education and the 10-year strategy • School Mental Health Assist – there is a group of psychologist and educators working together to write program to issue stress lessons to go to elementary students • There is a clear relationship between student mental well-being and academic success • What mental health concerns do you see at your school? And what supports do you see? Students may not feel safe to put up their hands to answer, in elementary – connect to resilience and how do we build that in our children – challenge is our risk culture • Kids want to be themselves but they also have to fit in; pressure to get the grades • Secondary COPE – those classrooms are a learning environment – relaxing • Currently there is 1.5 mental health and wellness coaches / counsellors <p>How do you see the community and the PIC helping?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency so each school has same messages, tools, resources – maybe PIC can help create the consistency to ensure every school is offering message of mental health; sense of leadership from board level so administrators, teachers and parents know; need leadership and decision • Can we push school councils to automatically have meeting about mental health and provide supports and resources? • Communication to each parent council? • Design a module or mental health video? What are the ways we can connect with school/parent councils? • Marie: In Wingham – Maitland River ES principal Ang Cowley is hosting a school council meeting to bring schools together through a well-being strategy – brought 3 staffs together – rotating meetings; identify gaps in community and build a network • In Listowel – North Perth is hosting a stakeholder meeting and planning for 50-70 people to attend. Purpose is to bring awareness and keep discussion going, the mayor has a task force on mental health

4.0 Future Agenda Topics/Ideas/Discussion (from January 16, 2019)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for April 24th meeting – try to expand / recruit PIC membership; want to collect parent voice • Have sent invitation to every school council – ideas on how to promote more parents coming • Each member to try and bring a friend – talk about what the benefit of PIC is – we are here to support our schools • Continue Mental Health topic and student well-being; positive culture in our schools • PIC support – ways to engage parent community to support the school; • Review mental health strategy for April meeting? Methods to engage more parents plus mental health • Provide school councils with the handout summary of the mental health presentation; ie here are the supports, and resources – what are your questions? • Find out what is happening in your schools
	<p>Suggested topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology plan (tech enabled learning plan) – looking at sustainability, expensive to maintain, etc. (technology and how it is being used by students) • Identity Based Data Collection (AMDSB was one of 17 boards that piloted this survey) • How do we improve communication and how do parents get better informed about what their child is doing at their school ie School Messenger is a capable tool; it's earlier stages but that program can help us with communication; streamlining communications ie School Messenger • Talk about big picture – things that affect a lot of kids; grade 11 attendance, interest and motivation; how do we communicate better and how do we communicate what the disciplinary rules are
5.0 Next Meeting(s)	
	<p>April 24, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. June 5, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Seaforth Education Centre</p>
6.0 Adjournment	

From Board Policy #10 re Committees of the Board

The PIC is a parent-led committee. The chair/co-chairs are parents, and the majority of members are also parents. For parents to qualify for election or appointment, they must have a child enrolled in a school of the board. To provide a direct link to the board, the director of education and a trustee are also members. The PIC appoints up to three community members. Each Parent Involvement Committee decides, based on its local needs, who else to include, such as a principal, teacher and support staff. The committee meets at least four times a year.

5.4 **Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)**

5.4.1 **Purpose:**

- a) The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being.
- b) A Parent Involvement Committee shall achieve its purpose by providing information and advice on parent engagement to the board; communicating with and supporting school councils of schools of the board; and understanding activities to help parents of pupils of the board support their children's learning at home and at school.

5.4.2 **Membership:**

- a) The number of parent members specified in the by-laws of the committee (parent members must constitute a majority of the members of a PIC)
- b) The director of education (or designate)
- c) One trustee and one alternate appointed by the board
- d) The number of community representatives specified in the by-laws of the committee

5.4.3 **Meetings**

PICs are to meet at least 4 times in each school year. Meetings are to be held in public and no meeting may be held unless the following members are present: a majority of parent members present, the director of education (or designate) and the board member (or his/her designate).