

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

M I N U T E S

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Festival Room, Seaforth Education Centre

Parents: Jenn Cox (Clinton) Chair, Jen Love-Campbell (FE Madill), Anna Chisholm (Stratford/Hamlet), Denise Nivens, Heather H Mental Health well-ness coach; Jennette Versteeg (LDSS), Rosalie Mills (Iistowel), Judy Greig (SMDCVI/Little Falls), Sarah Campbell (Goderich) Lisa Sheldon (South Perth CPS)
 Ruth Ann Ogilvie (Central Perth – absent) – 16 people in total

Principal Rep: Marie McDade

Trustees: Nancy Rothwell, Laura Bisutti

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	Moved by Anna Chisholm <i>That the Agenda be approved as presented.</i>
1.2 Approval of the January 16 and February 27, 2019 Minutes	Moved by Judy Greig <i>That the Minutes be approved as presented.</i>
2.0 Items Brought Forward	
3.0 New Business	
3.1 Reflection, Overview of February 27 th Mental Health, Addictions and Well-Being presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jodie Baker and Dr. Anne Robinson had presented at the February 27th PIC meeting and it was agreed to continue discussion about Mental Health, Addictions and Well-Being. The following points were made: • Having observed a COPE class – students can learn at their own pace, COPE rooms seemed more comfortable; would like to see that in more classrooms • Ideal setting for reducing the stigma for mental health and wellness and being able to identify concerns • Promotion, prevention and early intervention, and intervention – 3 tier approach; as PIC our role would fall into promotion – would like to brainstorm how we want to see that support in our schools and share how others schools are supporting their students

- Heather Hirdes: experience with the board mental health and wellness school counsellors, was hired effective September 2018. On our team we have tTara who is a Child & Youth worker at FEMSS and GDCI and Laura Plum – CHSS her role is shared between CHSS and St. Anne’s.
- Initially thought most work would be at SCSS/SNSS however we saw need in elementary and throughout other parts of the board; variance between urban and rural schools – have touched at 14 schools in variety of ways – supported approx. 50 students and have 40 students on caseload from grades 2 to 12; this is additional support to what was already in place; in school we have a number of supports ie HU, Choices for Change who already support our students – their support is structured, my position is more on-call and more flexible; working closely with community service providers to ensure we are not duplicating services; working at the COPE sites – every Monday – for 3 hours and meet with students one on one and working around getting basic needs, home visits, working with attendance counsellor
- COPE is an alternative education program; junior cope – students identified by home schools as either having missed school or with significant behaviour and struggling; anxiety/depression unable to engage in regular classroom, able to all work at their own pace; do more experiential learning, COPE 9 – 12 – for variety of reasons the traditional school doesn’t work – many students are working so some are in for short periods and only able to do an hour or so – there’s no shame or guilt in that
- STIVE – child and youth worker provide support, mindfulness, about behaviour management coaching
- Jenn – what can PIC promote that could happen for every child, every day and how the teacher comes out and welcomes the child every day?; consideration of what could happen in the classroom – is this something that we can ask school councils if they do this?
- Suggest Facebook for PIC? – filter it from AMDSB website page; some method, where parents can go – there’s many events and articles that can be filtered
- Denise – like the simplicity of acknowledging – the more we advocate mental health – how important it is for teacher to have the ability to connect with each student – eye contact a few seconds – “I see you, how are you doing and glad you are here”; have home and school think about similar practices that don’t take time and money
- Jenn – schools have math nights, etc. for students and parents – could suggest to school council that they spend a portion of every meeting on mental health if they are not already – and share what is happening already in their schools, principals make it a standard part of the meeting

- Judy – how can we be consistent – mental health can be subjective – if it's an agenda item then consistently across the board it's being talked about; from that small agenda item need to find specific ways to address what will come out of that; small things are the easiest way to stay consistent, believe the small things that are the seeds; body language and teaching kids from small age about body language is about image;
- Encourage children will also create sense of well-being and belonging
- Parents need to encourage life skills even starting a conversation; kids want to feel safe with who they connect with
- Marie – social skills that kids may be missing – that is being embedded through the social thinking program
- Marie – in Wingham trying to bring together our 3 schools and find out what each are doing; elementary teach students common language – 'arrow eyes' – look into what the social thinking program – there is an explicit curriculum
- Fear, joy, anger and sadness – posters throughout our classrooms
- North Easthope – pilot program through the University of Waterloo – through their peace and conflict studies – met with grades 5 – 8 and had sessions on empathy, conflict resolution, etc.
- Nancy –chair or someone on school council through school Facebook could share what they are doing at their school – another way for school councils to support; relationship is really important – bus drivers are very important
- Lisa – K/1 classrooms – self regulation training – through our early years and FDK funding – hoping to expand but we didn't have the money
- Promote idea to other parent councils – having mental health on every meeting – how can we suggest or monitor?
- Lisa – PIC is to make suggestion to other school councils re good practices – we talk about well-being – mindfulness, self-regulation; having people be aware and active in promoting in their schools and providing ideas that you have tried in your own schools
- Basic tool box – taking some of the tools from the program that the board had provided – and say here's a basic start
- Lisa – social thinking is a license program – license for certain #; social thinking can't be accessible to all; what else can you bring to table from different perspective, different angles; one program or one focus doesn't meet everyone's needs
- Heather – give some parameters – about wellness ie physical or nutrition, more connection or having the time; saying putting mental health on the agenda – maybe promote different coping school each month
- Call it wellness instead of mental health

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health and wellness – share the Spring 2019 newsletter – bringing awareness • Jenn – suggesting a Parentvoice email – to send information to school council chair • Add as an agenda item of ‘update from school’ • Lisa – invite Superintendent Kim Black to talk to PIC – to talk about mental health for students with special needs? Strive program is funded through Learning Services (special education) – this year for the first time every school built in their school plan the well-being and mental health
3.2 Brainstorming Ideas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send newsletter from PIC • Share the mental health and wellness newsletter • Recruitment ideas • Website / communication – how we communicate to parents and school councils
3.3 Overview, Discussion of Ontario Mental Health Strategy		
3.4 Goderich Joint School Council Meeting May 15 th – 6:30 to 8:00		<p>Regional joint school council GPS, GDCl, Brookside – agenda is to talk about the role of school councils, finances, effective school councils, PIC and Foundation for Education</p> <p>Jenn Cox – as Chair of PIC will ask to attend their joint meeting to talk about PIC</p>
4.0 Future Agenda Topics/Ideas/Discussion (from January 16, 2019)		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
		Suggested topics:

		<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)		
		June 5, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Seaforth Education Centre
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).