

September PIC Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE September 13, 2012

Trustee Representative

Frank Favot

Board Representatives

Director of Education, Paul Picard

Executive Superintendent of Business, Mario Iatonna

Chair

Julie St. John

Elementary Parent Representatives:

Dana Tonus, St. Thomas of Villanova Family

Shelley Bolger, Holy Name Family

Derek Thachuk, Cardinal Carter Family

Heather Sawyer, Elementary Alternative

John Blevins, Elementary Alternative

Secondary Representatives:

Heather McAuley, Assumption Family

Jill Braido, Secondary Alternate

Andrea Mason, St. Anne Family

Post-Secondary Representative

Mike Houston

Guests:

Caroline Iatonna, Notre Dame

Recording Secretary:

Shelley Bolger

Meeting was officially called to order by Chair St. John @ 7:11 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA-** D. Thatchuk, J. Blevins
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES-** with the following amendments: Colleen Switzer was in attendance and change 5.3 to C. Switzer instead of H.,
Approved by : D. Tonus, J. Blevins
3. **Chair Report:** J. St. John
F. Favot spoke regarding his meeting with Supervisor Norbert Hartmann to determine roles of the Board now. He indicated that Mr. Hartmann will be taking a governance role and that he will ultimately be responsible for all decisions being made. He has asked that the Trustees be his eyes and ears on the ground, collecting and spreading information and that Board Meetings are suspended as of now. Motion was made to send out formal invitations to Trustees to attend School Council meetings. Motion moved by H. McAuley and seconded by Dana Tonus- Carried.

Director Picard indicated that Mr. Hartmann will engage in an extensive consultation process with everyone before we move to a Public Forum Board Meeting and that there was no set guidelines for how the Ministry does things but they were looked at on a case by case matter. Mr. Hartmann is now acting as the Board.

H. McAuley asked if there could be some sort of mandate for Trustees to attend school council meetings during this time but it was indicated that that couldn't really be done.

A recommendation was made that Chair St. John compose a letter to Barbara Holland welcoming attendance of Trustees at all School Council meetings.

Second motion was made by Chair St. John that Pic members distribute letters to their Family of School Council Chairs encouraging Trustee attendance at meetings- moved by J. Blevins and seconded by H. McAuley- carried.

Sub-Committee Reports

- A. **Regional PRO grant** – S. Bolger - Regional Pro grant was received. The next step is to order resource kits before October 31 to save approximately \$700.00. Also requested guidance for website development to ensure we are getting what we need from the website designer. H. McAuley offered her assistance and Superintendent latonna offered to assist with the purchasing process for materials and offered Board personnel to assist with expertise in website development.

-Discussion surrounding the topics for the information pamphlets lead to a committee being developed to come up with topics for the next meeting.

Fifteen grants were received by individual schools which is more than double than last year. The grants for individual schools are as follows:

1. Catholic Central --- Navigating Your Future ---- \$810.00
2. Holy Cross --- How is Technology Enhancing the Classroom --- \$985.00
3. Holy Name High School ---- Challenge Day Presentation --- \$1000.00
4. L.A. Desmarais ---- Online Social Networking Safety ---- \$450.00
5. Ste. Anne French Immersion ---- Parent Resource Library ---- \$1000.00
6. St. Anne High School ---- Adolescent Stress ---- \$1000.00
7. St. Gregory School ---- Technology and Social Media --- \$1000.00
8. St. Louis ---- Raising Resilient Children ---- \$1000.00
9. St. Mary --- Parent Workshop on Cyber bullying and internet Safety --- \$750.00
10. W.J. Langlois --- Bullying Presentation ----- \$820.00
11. Christ the King - Media Aware, Technology Sound & Parent Involved
12. Our Lady of Mount Carmel “ “
13. Notre Dame “ “ Family of Schools submitted same
14. St. Christopher “ “ proposal for a partnership
15. St. Gabriele “ “ each receiving \$1000.00

B. Parent Involvement- Heather McAuley

Heather will be sending out a form to school councils to collect information regarding the names and contact information of the school council Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

It was also suggested to collect information regarding the use of Parent Engagement Funds at each school.

Heather indicated that the best time to hold workshops would be in the spring.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Future PIC Meetings --- consensus that we will have 5 meetings a year and will limit meetings to a reasonable length. Meetings will take place in September, November,

February, April and potentially May. Under the Terms of Reference and Review PIC will informally adjust the meeting date for November to November 8, 2012.

2. **Meeting with Norbert Hartmann** --- Chair St. John indicated that she spoke with Mr. Hartmann and he seemed agreeable to meeting with the PIC. H. McAuley suggested it be an informal meeting not included in the five set meetings. OCTOBER 10 @ 6:30 was the date set to meet with Mr. Hartmann.

Mr. Picard indicated that the single most important thing Mr. Hartmann will do is generate a public report putting the board on a path to sustainability and Parent involvement would play a huge part in that.

-J. Blevins questioned if board personnel would be available to take minutes. A discussion ensued with Mr. Picard regarding the circumstances of Superintendent Mario latonna and himself taking over the meetings and the incredible amount of stress the previous Board personnel were under last year. He indicated that the possibility of bringing back staff would be considered if they were not held to unreasonable standards and the length of the meeting was fair. Chair St. John and various other PIC members shared their opinions regarding the issues surrounding the change in personnel and all members of PIC were relieved and appreciative of the frank discussion surrounding the issue and looking forward to moving ahead toward a more productive year.

3. Election Vacancies

Chair St. John will contact Family of Schools with vacancies to assess interest. PIC will look at ways to solicit interest and come up with a discernment process.

Catholic Central- Elementary Rep

Brennan- Secondary Rep

Alternative Elementary Rep - 2 positions

A discussion regarding including parents who attended the PIC meetings lead to the decision to run the meeting similar to a parent council meeting where parents are involved but to set guidelines as to how long that portion of the meeting would be and what was appropriate to discuss. The meeting will need to move forward with a strict outline and time frame.

4. **By-Law Review Committee** – Chair St. John requested that everyone review the by-laws under the Terms of Reference and look for ideas as to what needs to be amended and w a budget committee will be formed in November.

5. **Communication** – The committee discussed the possibility of using another means of communication than First Class as it is not an effective means of reaching PIC members and School Council Chairs. D.Tonus suggested that the problem be circumvented by using one central email for the Chair and having her forward it to everyone else through personal emails. Superintendent latonna will look into the issue further.
6. **PIC Budget Update-** There is approximately \$8718.00 in the account
7. **Commissioning Ceremony-** The group expanded on the format of the event and the money spent to have it and agreed that things should be kept the same but take advantage of having the speaker to address more than just those at the dinner.
8. **Gay Straight Alliance-** D. Thachuk asked for clarification as to how the Board was going to deal with the newly passed legislation from a Catholic perspective. Director Picard indicated that the official standpoint as a board is that we will not break the law. If a GSA is requested with Bill 13 we will meet the request. However, it will be formed under strict regulations and it will be directed by a member of administration who will have a certain amount of control as to the content. The group will not be at the expense of the social justice groups already in existence. It is the hope that the two groups will morph together. Superintendent Mike Seguin will be brought in to discuss things in more detail. D. Thachuk asked if there was time to set legislation in place before February 2013 to make sure all groups are run the same way.

Director's Report

Mr. Picard spoke to the exceptional EQAO results, indicating that scores increased in all six areas. Our schools are at or above average in 4 of the 6 areas and superior in the other 2. In addition, the spec ed. scores were remarkable, proving the inclusionary model is working. Holy Cross was in the top 5% in the province and St. John showed substantial increases in their scores through Ministry monitored use of technology to assist them.

J. Braido suggested that the PIC compose a Letter to the Editor commending teachers and the board for the exceptional results which will be carried out by Chair St. John and J. Braido.

Motion to Adjourn: J, Blevins, H. McAuley