

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

*Minutes of Tuesday, October 10th, 2006
7 p.m. – RDSB Board Room
69 Young Street, Sudbury ON*

Present:

*Ruth Ward, Chair; Pablo Gil Alfau; Norm Blaseg; Leo Bisson; Nicole Charette;
Judy Hunda; David Muldoon; Jeanna Miller, Recording Secretary*

1. Welcome

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Pablo Gil Alfau – Judy Hunda that the agenda for the meeting of October 10th, 2006 be accepted. CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Jeanna Miller – Judy Hunda that the minutes of the meeting of September 12th, 2006 be approved as circulated. Carried.

4. Presentation

Laura Whalen, Program Co-ordinator for the Best Start Program for the City of Sudbury assisted by Renee Chevrier made a presentation on the Best Start Program. Handouts were provided which contained information on the values of this program and the benefits provided to the children of the City of Greater Sudbury such as health services, education, child care, family support and so on. The information is from July 2005, however Renee advised many things have happened in the past year. Childcare programs in schools, which was implemented in two phases, has risen from 57 schools to 70.

Laura advised that this community has been very aggressive in this program and newsletters will be sent out in the next few weeks, which will promote visibility within the community.

Rene Chevrier, of the Early Learning Program, spoke on “Care Hubs” which would be contained in a certain number of schools.

In response to a question regarding the percentage of parents who utilize day care – the response was 17%. However, it is thought that this figure is a provincial average and they will check on this and let us know.

“The program is there for kids and there is no stigma attached to those who do or do not use the service, however, there is no research to address this issue.”

“There are not many spaces for children up to 1-1/2 years of age.”

The Chair thanked the guests and they left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

5. Review of Draft Agenda for November, 2006

A discussion took place on having pins for council members, i.e. presenting one to each school council the night of the meeting with each member to receive one at a later date.

A suggestion was made to have some form of I.D. to recognize their respective school council at meetings, etc.

6. Proposed Program for Coming Year

January – Sharon Orlak to do a presentation on her program “Choosing Next Steps”

February – Literary presentation with Sherry Conroy and Eila Kyrzakos

March – First Nation Night – Trustee Grace Fox and Dr. Pam Toulouse

April – Volunteer and Council appreciation night

*May – Denise Fraser – Presentation on bullying and cyberproofing, etc. and
Linda Burns from Crime Stoppers*

June – Lisa Dennis – Social Planning Council on social inclusion in our schools.

(Early Development Index could be included with this.)

September – Nicole Charette to present any new initiatives of the Board.

October – Norm Blaseg and Diane Cayen-Arnold on school budgeting and fund raising.

School Councils are to be advised that the Parent Involvement Committee meetings are open to all School Council members but there is only one vote allowed per council. A suggestion has been made to videotape some, or all, of our presenters and make it available on our web site for all schools.

7. Elections

It is suggested that several weeks prior to the election of officers for the PIC each council be asked to put forward a member who would accept a nomination to the chair of the committee. The election itself would take place at a later date when nominations from the floor would be accepted. (A quorum is made up of five (5) parent councils.)

Motion: David Muldoon – Leo Bisson: that pins and certificates be procured to be presented to our school council members. CARRIED

The following positions will be voted upon: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.

8. Coming up

- *People for Education Conference to be held November 4th, 2006.*
- *Newsletter can be accessed on line*
- *A directory to be made up containing phone numbers and e-mail addresses – but no home address.*
- *Web site should be included in the Parents’ Guide*
- *Next meeting November 14th, 2006 at Lockerby Composite School*

Adjournment: 9:00 p.m.