

<p>In Attendance: E. James (RLMPS); L. Burry (ORPS); K. Tella; D. Armstrong-Ross (DHS); S. Smith (KPS); M. Forsythe (RLDHS); S. Aubin (VVPS)</p> <p>NWHU: S. Cran Trustee: Darrin Head, Michelle Guitard Director: Sherri-Lynne Pharand Guest: Jane Lower, Superintendent Secretary: B. Barradell</p>		
Agenda Item	Discussion	Follow-Up
Chair of PIC Welcome Introductions Roll Call	Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m.	
Approval of Agenda Date: Nov 2, 2020	Moved by: Shawna Aubin Seconded by: Maria Forsythe CARRIED	
Approval of Minutes Date: June 1, 2020	Moved by: Erin James Seconded by: Lindsay Burry CARRIED	
Business Arising from Minutes	None	
Policy 501, School Councils/Parent Involvement Council – Role of the Committee	<p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand reviewed Policy 501: School Councils/Parent Involvement Council – Role of the Committee.</p> <p>Since it is a new school year and there are some new members, she felt it would be a good opportunity to review the roles and responsibilities of members of the Parent Involvement Committee – as noted on page 12 of the policy (which everyone received in the meeting package).</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne introduced Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education who will be taking over the primary responsibility as the KP member designate for PIC, for the rest of the year. Jane will begin this role at the next PIC meeting. Also sitting on the committee is one representative from each school council and two Trustees appointed by the Board. Annually in December, new Trustee reps are appointed to serve from January onward. We also have the ability to have student membership, so this year, an invitation will be extended to the two student trustees as well to see if either of them is interested in sitting on the committee. If they are unable to attend, they will be asked to extend the invitation to their peers in each of the secondary school councils, in the hopes of getting a student voice on the committee. We have community representatives that can participate as well. However, parent members should form the majority of the</p>	Sherri-Lynne

	<p>committee.</p> <p>Resource staff – B. Barradell is the recording secretary and Sherri-Lynne Pharand and Jane Lower will be the support for this committee.</p> <p>The Committee focuses on areas of concern that are common to all our schools; sharing information and communication; providing advice to the Superintendent of Education or Trustees on any matters that are relevant to PIC. Minutes and Agendas are shared with all Trustees, the Director and Senior Team. PIC can hold an event (perhaps virtually this year) if that is what the group wishes.</p> <p>Responsibilities are to represent views and opinions of the school council and to bring forward the information from the PIC committee to your school council i.e. to act as a link between the school councils, the community, and the Board. If you can't attend a meeting, please try to send an alternate representative so we have that loop of information.</p> <p>A new school council should be elected by the end of September. Some schools may be a bit behind due to COVID, and that's OK. A representative from the virtual school will also be joining the committee this year.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	
<p>COVID 19 Update - SLP</p>	<p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand shared the preparations that were put into place this year, as well as a sense of how they are working. The Board has been working very closely with the NWHU in order to determine the protocols that were needed to be in place to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, families, and staff. The NWHU has been available within 24 hours to provide advice and guidance. Grade 4-12 students must wear masks; k-3 students do not <u>have</u> to wear masks because it has been shown that younger children (under the age of 10) are not good transmitters of the virus. However, as a Board, we strongly recommend that they do wear a mask if they are ready and able to do so because it is an additional precaution. The NWHU regularly reminds us about good handwashing hygiene; mask wearing; coughing into sleeve, social distancing etc. Sherri-Lynne thanked the parents for their help getting children ready for these protocols. Students have adapted quickly to the protocols and new routines. She spoke about the outdoor classes that have been taking place e.g. band class at Dryden – lots of creativity on the part of the teachers. She talked briefly about the mask exemption practice, and also thanked the Dryden hospital / testing centre for their respiratory support for those who are having difficulty wearing masks i.e. strategies for coping and help with identifying the best type of mask for them. Sherri-Lynne spoke about the 2 confirmed cases that we've had in our schools: Red Lake and Valley View. She noted that our protocols are working since there wasn't a spread. We are reminding students to follow protocols due to the recent outbreak in Manitoba. We</p>	

	<p>are at a point now where families have chosen whether to have their children continue in virtual school or attend in class (bricks & mortar school) or vice versa.</p> <p>She thanked the health unit for working with the Board to inspect schools, to make recommendations for improvement – there have only been minor changes recommended. Medical professionals remind us that it's all of our responsibilities to work together to ensure that COVID-19 remains low in our community to ensure the safety of our children in our schools.</p> <p>A question was asked about nurses being available in the schools.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne noted that in the Northwest area we have been allocated funding for 5 nurses (they are employees of the HU). Stephanie Cran shared the fact that they did get funding for 5 nurses in the Kenora and Rainy River district, so recruitment is underway. They are having some challenges recruiting. However, schools have a 'touch base phone call' with the principals and nurses once a week - with a scenario to help with preparedness in the event of a case. A local nurse will follow up if there are any red flags, so there is a system in place for constant contact.</p> <p>All questions were answered.</p>	
<p>Pro-Grants</p>	<p>Sherri-Lynne Pharand gave an update regarding the 2019 – 2020 Pro-Grants. We received info as at Aug. 2020 that the following schools have submitted reports and/or costs associated with their portion of the Pro Grant: Keewatin; Lillian Berg; Open Roads. We also need info (i.e. the final amount) from the other schools who received Pro Grant dollars. Mary will reach out directly to those schools. If you haven't spent the funds – just let Mary know.</p> <p>Question: can we carry over the funds? Answer: PRO Grants cannot be carried forward. We had an indication that the \$\$ could be spent before Aug. 31 for an event at a later date.</p> <p>2020 – 2021 In the meeting package, there is a 5-page document for Pro Grants for this year. Start date was back dated to Sept. 8 – July 31, 2021. There is \$4,873.63 available for the board, and info on what is eligible for it to be spent on and it also talks about the reporting process. Budget details are on page 65. There is also a list of <i>ineligible</i> expenses, so when speaking with your parent council – let them know what is OK and what is not. Sherri-Lynne carefully went over all items that were OK for spending.</p> <p>Question: will schools apply to the Board for funding or will it be divided equally?</p>	<p>Mary to contact schools who did not send in reports for 2019 – 2020 Pro Grants.</p> <p>Erin to share info with Sherri-Lynne and then send out email to school councils re applying for 2020 – 2021 Pro Grants</p>

	<p>Answer: it's up to PIC to decide if you all get an equal portion or let schools apply for specific amounts.</p> <p>After a lengthy discussion, it was decided Erin would draft some information (from the memo in today's package) to send out on the grant money that is available, how to submit a request, along with what is and is not allowed as part of the grant. She will have it approved by Sherri-Lynne and then send information to the School Councils. School councils would then send a submission to PIC by the end of December if they were interested in applying. The PIC committee would then look at the submissions and decide on how to divide the grant money. Last year only 11 schools applied, and the money was divided evenly among those schools – some spent it, and some did not.</p>	
<p>School Sharing Reports</p>	<p>Written Report Submitted by Erin James of Red Lake Madsen Public School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held 1 meeting start of October, next meeting set for next week. • A few key members have moved on to HS, however we welcome 2 new eager members (Amy and Drew), bringing our total to 8 for this year. • Our Community Rep from the NWHU has relocated, however we have a new NWHU member Michelle we are excited to welcome to our team. • Breakfast Club (approx. 30) zzz is now a "Give & Go" program, and we have seen an increase in costs due to the nature of this type of food. Will be looking at fundraising to help support this program. • Need to really focus on communication this year as there will be less families physically in the schools. • Currently brainstorming on our strategy/focus for this school year. <p>Verbal Report submitted by Kristi Tella of Beaver Brae Elementary School</p> <p>The first meeting of the Beaver Brae council was very brief and informal. They talked about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protocols/challenges; • how families are feeling about kids being in school; • families are happy with communications coming from Board and open communication with staff; and • students are happy to be back and are respecting regulations that are in place. <p>Verbal Report submitted by Lindsay Burry of Open Roads</p> <p>Open Roads Public School council has had 2 meetings with some new people attending. They have started to work on fundraising for this year, knowing that it going to look a lot</p>	<p>-</p>

different than in the past. A lot of their fundraising happens through their special programs e.g. fine arts and explore programs, but these aren't running as they would normally, so those fundraisers aren't happening for those programs. Also, a lot of the fundraisers come from outside of the community and they are trying to minimize some of that travel and where things are coming from this year. They are trying to support the local businesses and those connected to our schools this year.

Verbal Report submitted by Shauna Aubin of Valleyview PS

Valleyview has had 2 council meetings - they've been busy! They had to halt their biggest fundraiser (last year) which was a Draw (due to COVID-19). With the help of the Health Unit, they were able to execute the vacation draw day effectively. The draw finally happened after the 'outbreak in the school'. The winners were very happy!: This year there are a lot of changes (no field trips so spending funds on things they don't usually do) e.g. they have purchased 60 sets of snow shoes and are looking at purchasing ukuleles, and supporting local businesses. They are trying to be creative with their fundraising to get ready for next year. The whole parent community at Valleyview is thrilled about going through protocols after the COVID cases at the school – excellent work by all. Administration provided calm and thoroughness during a scary time!!

Virtual meetings are good because they are getting more people out. They are trying to make the best out of a difficult year.

The Chair added: Trying to involve the virtual students – it's good to share ideas. There is more power in numbers so, if you find a cool idea – please share!!

Verbal Report submitted by Maria Forsyth or Red Lake District High School

Maria Forsythe (Red Lake District High School) got excited when hearing about Valleyview and really would like other groups to share their ideas.

They have had just one meeting and their main focus is on mental health – not sure how yet, but that is their focus.

	<p>Verbal Report submitted by Doren Armstrong-Ross of Dryden High School</p> <p>Dryden HS is having their first meeting tomorrow (Nov. 3) and will be talking about pro-grant. They didn't submit last year – not sure why. They will talk about communication things at the high school. They will talk about supporting the grad committee/graduation.</p>	
<p>Trustee of the Board Update</p>	<p>Michelle Guitard – The Board is continuing to advocate with OPSBA and the Ministry to ensure that all the schools receive the PPE that is required. There was an announcement last week about providing more funds for HVAC systems – more information to come on this topic. The Board is still meeting virtually. Michelle invited PIC members to be part of the meetings, as they are livestreamed. The Board continues to work on capital plans. There are some exciting updates e.g. we are getting a new school in Savant Lake. Joan Kantola is now on a secondment to School Mental Health Ontario to follow her passion for supporting youth mental health and wellness. Interviews for her replacement happened last week and a news release will be forthcoming. We are always happy to hear back from parents and community members about what is working and what isn't. Michelle appreciated hearing the positive feedback re Valley View staff's handling of COVID case.</p> <p>Darrin Head – NWH Unit have advised us that there are no new restrictions for NW Ontario. Winnipeg's code red hasn't impacted us yet, but things could change, and we could eventually be impacted. We are ready to move to remote learning within 24 hours. There has been a backlog in filling technology orders, but our Chrome books should be arriving this month – this is important should we have to move into remote learning on short notice. There is an anticipated / shortage of supply teachers, but the Board is working on this.</p>	
<p>Northwestern Ontario Health Unit Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie Cran 	<p>There is a dedicated webpage on website for all COVID-19 resources that have been created: i.e. link to Ontario School Screening Tool, FAQs, instructional letter for what you need to do when your child is ill, and a letter from Dr. Kit Young Hoon every couple of weeks highlighting information for parents. The Medical Officer of Health is very supportive of schools being open because of the many health and well being benefits for children. A Media Release came out today re Manitoba's situation, with a strong encouragement to not travel there and what to do when you get home if you really must travel. There is a hot line number. Also, there is information about what happens/what is needed if there is a positive case in a school.</p> <p>Regular in school services are not being provided right now but they can be accessed at Health Unit offices if needed. School immunizations will be caught up at some point during</p>	

	<p>the year. Right now, the emphasis has been on flu shots which can be booked online or received at a pharmacy or from your health care provider.</p> <p>Question: Is there a potential of the Manitoba side of border being closed? Stephanie hasn't heard of this (in the spring, it was the gov't of Manitoba that put this restriction in place, not the Health Unit).</p> <p>Comment: Parents are grateful for the info on the HU website. Chair thanked Stephanie and her team, on behalf of PIC.</p>	
<p>Director of Education Report</p>	<p>A Media Release re name of new superintendent of Education will be forthcoming as noted by Trustee Guitard. Sherri-Lynne discussed the process re writing a letter to Ministry to get confirmation first before it can be released externally. She wished Joan Kantola well in her new position with the Schools Mental Health Ontario team.</p> <p>Virtual School – the Board must provide options for parents to select virtual learning if they so wish, and to provide options throughout the year where students can move between different modes of learning. Those options are at the end of natural assessment periods within the school year. This year, we have approximately 500 elementary students and 300 secondary students in our virtual school. Jennifer McMaster is the principal of the secondary virtual school and Jason McDonald is the co-principal of the elementary school. She gave kudos to them and their staff for all their efforts and thanked superintendents for their help as well! Principals have said that students are now in a routine for virtual schools – there will be an example of a music teacher working in virtual environment at the Board Meeting next week.</p> <p>It is important for all students to know how to shift to virtual learning if needed, should we have to resort to full virtual learning or if there is a case of COVID in the school and a class needs to go to virtual learning during the period of isolation. We are grateful that our new technology is arriving shortly. Our new devices are to support K-3 students as we already have the technology in place for the other students.</p> <p>Teleconference venue is more challenging than the virtual environment and Sherri-Lynne wondered if PIC would be interested in trying a google meeting, zoom meeting or teams meeting, going forward.</p> <p>All agreed. It was noted that there will be a phone number if you weren't able connect for some reason.</p> <p>Google is the preferred platform – SLP will talk to IT dept re G-Suite</p>	<p>Sherri-Lynne to speak to LT Re G-suite.</p>
<p>Correspondence</p>	<p>nothing</p>	
<p>New Business</p>	<p>nothing</p>	

<p>Next Meeting Date(s) / Suggested Agenda Items</p>	<p>Monday, January 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne suggested that she, Jane, Mary, and Erin will work on dates that would work for the rest of the year. They will present possible dates to the committee at the next meeting.</p> <p>Comment: Shauna Aubin from Valley View noted that students at Valleyview are 'adopting a senior' for the holiday season. They will be making cards or ornaments. They want to keep loved ones/grandparents in mind and to lift the spirits of the seniors.</p> <p>Sherri-Lynne thought this was a great idea.</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.</p>	