

Minutes of PIC March 3rd, 2021

Prayer and Welcome by Superintendent McDonald

1. **Regional Update from Members** – Co-Chair Julie Marshall started the discussion by sharing her survey experience.
 - a. Julie shared the provincial presentation from the PIC Chairs & School Board Leads virtual meeting that she and Norma joined the evening of February 24th. The topic on Feb. 24th was from the Youth Advisory Table regarding Youth Apprenticeship and better informing parents of what is available in the trades and trade related fields. Both Julie and Norma have completed the Ministry's follow up survey that gathered feedback and future dialogue topics.
 - b. Julie sent out surveys and shared that she has had 8 responses from the schools in her region so far. Question – **Barriers to parent engagement in your school?**
 - i. Answers: lack of communication with teachers, COVID and working parents, not knowing what is happening next year, too busy, no barriers as parents can be in CSC, time constraints, more website notifications. Summary: Communication, Time Constraints and COVID related issues.
 - ii. Survey question **Where do parents want to see monies allocated?**
 1. Technology, school spirit, assisting parents with online learning and to improve communication.
 2. PIC Committee members shared: Special education supports, online safety, post COVID activities – mental health, learning and retention.
 - iii. Julie encouraged PIC members to survey parents in their regions and use guiding questions to plan for the future. Julie offered assistance in drafting surveys for PIC members to use. Useful to increase parent engagement.
 - iv. It was shared that some parents in the Catholic School Council at St. Mary CHS couldn't open the surveys that were sent. Parents could access the surveys on their cell phones, but computers will not allow them access. In some cases, opens the survey under their children's names. (Action Item: Norma to check with ICT to find out what the problem might be)
2. **PIC Committee Discussion – excellent ideas shared around increasing parent involvement.**
 - a. Survey completion rate – increase the number of survey responses by the following:
 - i. Give prizes such as gas cards, grocery store cards, Starbucks gift card to help parents who are struggling. \$25 is a decent card value. Gift cards to be purchased and mailed to parents. E-cards great idea as they arrive simply by email.

- ii. Framework to improve communication through email, social media presence, website presence. Like the newsletter but really like the survey idea so people can have input. Some parents say they do not receive the emails. Email addresses are updated at schools. A lot of millennial parents so their social media is the most successful method. Continue to have CSC Chairs update emails.

- b. **Sub-Committee – Veronica and Shannon to look at communication.** Clear consistent message is key. Message to be a 1–2-minute read. Email to also incorporate Julie’s survey to get parent feedback. Last week of the month email will be sent. Math month, Mental Health month, links to materials and how to sessions for parents, homework help. Literacy tips and tricks of the week. Link to an exercise. Monthly newsletter a good idea. Monthly newsletter could include: what is the PIC Committee, what is the mandate, why does it matter to parents, what kind of voice does it give parents and why are the issues important. COVID related, curriculum, events related highlight one per newsletter. Julie suggested a newsletter format but have it a survey so they may be prompted to respond. Ashley suggested a focus and short. Email is to be created and sent to Norma by March 26th to be sent out the week of March 29th. Norma will ensure the email and survey is pushed out centrally from the board office through Amber LaBerge (Communications).

- c. **Next PIC evening -**
 - i. Jennifer suggested another night like the Dr. Jean Clinton evening for one-hour good idea. What is relevant for parent support right now. Veronica suggested tutoring and helping with kids online. New Math sessions – tips and tricks on how to help their kids at home. How the teacher would have presented it, coach parents through the subjects. Mental Health was decided as our next session which will take place on **April 28th** at 7pm. CDSBEO Mental Health Lead, Michelle Neville, and community partners will present to parents on behalf of PIC. Norma has confirmed this presentation date and time with Michelle who is preparing the evening.
 - ii. Other presentation topics include – developing leadership. Student Senate leaders could be involved. What the options are, getting involved – what is available. How do you get children to have those traits? How parents can help children reintegrate and have self-confidence.

3. Next Meeting Date – April 21st, 2021.

4. Closing comments:

- a. Shannon – echo what you are saying that the engagement has been quite different. Excited to see the survey last week. Completed the apprenticeship survey for Julie.
- b. Trustee Jennifer Cooney – happy with any and all response. Great starting point. Any feedback better than none. Email concept is great even if we reach 5 people that is 5 more than other years. Get creative around engagement.
- c. Ashley – connected with CSC last week and haven't got any responses back yet. Attached video link to Dr. Jean Clinton and added Julie's surveys and added the parent newsletter. Touch base again in a week or so.