



KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board Parent Involvement Committee 2010 – 2011 Year End Report

Role of Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

In Ontario's education system, all partners acknowledge the positive impact of parent engagement on student achievement. Students are supported and inspired to learn in a culture of high expectations in which parents:

- ✓ are welcomed, respected, and valued by the school community as partners in their children's learning and development;
- ✓ have opportunities to be involved, and also a full range of choices about how to be involved, in the educational community in order to support student success;
- ✓ are engaged through ongoing communication and dialogue with other educational partners to support a positive learning environment at home and at school;
- ✓ are supported with the information and tools necessary to participate in school life.

PIC Mandate

The mandate of the PIC is to:

- ✓ support, encourage, and enhance meaningful parent engagement at the board level to improve student achievement and well being
- ✓ provide information and advice to the board on parent engagement;
- ✓ communicate with and support school councils;
- ✓ undertake activities to help parents support their children's learning at home and at school

Each PIC decides how best to achieve these goals depending on the unique needs of its board and community, its organization, and the members of the committee. Funding of \$5,000 plus \$0.17 per student is provided to each school board to support its collaborative work with its Parent Involvement Committee. This allocation is intended to

fund activities undertaken by the PIC to support parent engagement at home, at school and through the PIC's work with school councils.

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board's PIC undertook many activities during the 2010 - 2011 year to support these goals.

Parent Conference

Once again this year the PIC sponsored the annual Parent Involvement Conference.

Kathy Buckworth, Author and TV Personality provided the Keynote Address on

Forget Balance, It's All About Blend: Kids, Life, Work and Everything in Between

This free event offered Parents the opportunity to participate in 2 workshops on a variety of subjects, network with other parents and share their thoughts on parent involvement.

In addition to our Board wide Parent Conference, this year we also held three regional parent conferences. Based on the feedback we received, we hope to continue offering the regional conferences in years to come.

Policy Development/Recommendations

All boards in Ontario were required to have a Parent Involvement Committee by February 2011. In KPRDSB, we have had a Parent Involvement Committed for the last 6 years. This year we were mandated under Ontario Regulation 612/00 to develop a set of Bylaws for our PIC. The PIC members put a great deal of thought and effort into developing this document, as it will provide the basis for our Parent Involvement Committee going forward.

Trustee/School Council Chair Dialogue

This year's Dialogue provided a carousel of conversations with a number of different topics or themes from which to choose. Two parent members from each school council were invited to attend the annual Dialogue session with Trustees and senior administration.

Topics at this year's Dialogue included:

- ✓ Understanding New Report Cards
- ✓ Instructional Technology Plan
- ✓ 2011-2012 KPR Budget

Parent Reaching Out Grants

This year 22 schools successfully applied for Parent Reaching Out Grants from the Ontario Ministry of Education. This is a sample of how these grants will be used to encourage parent involvement.

- A family game night to engage parents and students in a variety of math/literacy games.
- A workshop to learn more about digital literacy, educational value of the internet and safety on the internet
- A presentation to educate parents on how technology is used in their children's classrooms.
- A bi-monthly newsletter to improve communication
- A Math Night where students and parents work together at math stations sharing, clarifying, and defending their understanding of mathematics.
- An information package on the school, sessions to build skills and highlight the school as a resource centre for parents as they work to help develop their children's literacy.
- A Parent Information Evening on the EQAO Grade 3 & 6 Testing.
- A workshop to inform parents of the good and bad aspects of social networking

- A wellness workshop for parents and children using local health and environment partners to highlight wellness inside and out.
- Workshops for parents and guardians on the Elementary Curriculum, the Safe Schools Initiatives and the Healthy Schools Act, Literacy & Numeracy, Bullying and Healthy Alternatives.

In addition to the Parent Reaching Out Grants awarded by the Ministry of Education, each school is provided with \$500 that is to be used to promote parent involvement within their school. It is up to the School Council and Principal how this money is spent, the only criteria is that it must promote parental involvement. This is list of some of the ways this money was spent:

- ✓ A parent/student dance.
- ✓ A "Family Literacy Night".
- ✓ Created "Welcome Kits" for parents new to the school
- ✓ Mailed a newsletter on parent involvement tips directly to students homes.
- ✓ Provided Childcare for School Council meetings
- ✓ Hosted a Volunteer appreciation BBQ
- ✓ Hosted a community night for parents with booths from Community Services organizations

Regional Council Chairs Dialogue

This year we had our first Regional Council Chairs Dialogue. As one of the PIC's mandates is to communicate with and support school councils, this was an excellent opportunity to identify issues common to all three Regional Councils and brainstorm ideas for increasing parent involvement.

2010 -2011
Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB
Parent Involvement Committee Members

Parent Members:

Lynda Armstrong
Stephanie Bartsch
Rhonda Brough
Denise Durnan
Heather Robinson – Chair
Annette Simpson
Danielle Turpin
Marie Visser

Board Members

Jaine Klassen Jeninga – Trustee
W. R. (Rusty) Hick - Director of Education