

PIC Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 | 6:00-7:30 PM

Via Microsoft Teams

Present

Melanie Gray, Superintendent of Education
Kyla Kadlec, Principal of Alliance
Stephanie Norrie, Executive Assistant
John Skidmore, Chippewa, Chair of Parent Council
Stephanie Bergman, Alliance, Parent Council
Meaghan Mullen, Nobel School Co Chair of Parent Council

Guests

Christopher Walkling, Principal of K-12 Student Achievement and Well-Being
Lana St. Louis, NNDSB Mental Health Lead
Emily Samuel, Principal of Safe Schools, Early Years and Leadership Development

Land acknowledgement – SO Gray

Call to order at 6:04 pm

Welcome/Introductions - SO Gray/Principal Kadlec

1. SO Gray made introductions and reviewed the change in portfolio going forward
2. Principal Kadlec spoke to the ideas of connecting the different committees to achieve cross committee engagement
3. SO Gray put forward the motion to record the presentations by Emily Samuel and Christopher Walkling, Lana St Louis and new business. All in favour to record.

Motion to accept the agenda as presented/revised.

Meaghan Mullen Moved, John Skidmore Seconded.

Minutes from November 6th meeting be reviewed by the committee.

Notes from December 11th meeting be reviewed by the committee.

Discussion; Principal Kadlec asked if the presentation was recorded so that people unable in person to attend could participate. Emily Samuel replied that the in-person approach had more value added, and the networking bandwidth in some locations didn't support an online presentation.

New Business

Update from Principal Samuel on Health Unit and Book Study - Childhood Unplugged Presentation

- Emily Samuel, Principal of North District School Board, discusses her role in overseeing safe schools and supporting healthy relationships among students.
- Principal Samuel highlights the increasing time students spend online and the relevance of Katherine Martinko's book "Childhood Unplugged."
- Katherine's book provides strategies for parents, caregivers, and educators to help children reduce screen time.
- Principal Samuel shares details of Katherine's presentations for parents and students. Presentations were made to grades 7-12 students, May 13 at Chippewa Secondary and May 15 to students of McDougall, Nobel at PSHS. Students were engaged.
- It was suggested to use remaining funds to purchase more copies of Katherine's book for a lending library in schools and including the book in the "Journey into Learning Kit" for kindergarten students.
- Principal Samuel discusses the importance of online safety and introduces the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P) as a valuable resource for parents. There are many free resources online for download and as well as via free shipping. She suggests creating a lending library of C3P resources at schools to support parents in monitoring their children's online activities.
- The Planet Youth initiative was discussed, which aims to reduce high-risk behaviors among youth by providing low-cost or no-cost activities. Principal Samuel proposes a pilot project to provide YMCA passes to students, encouraging them to engage in healthy activities. She highlights the benefits of the YMCA as a popular youth destination and suggests using the remaining funds for this project.
- The inclusivity of the YMCA passes was discussed and the potential for broader community engagement.

School Improvement Planning Student Achievement and Wellbeing presentation by Christopher Walkling, Principal of K-12 Student Achievement and Well-Being

- The Ministry of Education used Bill 98- Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act to re-focus Ontario's education system on student achievement. Learning outcomes in Core Academic success, preparing students for future success, student engagement and well-being.
- SAP 2024-2025 timeline reviewed.

- The key indicators for success, such as EQAO scores, are discussed. NNDSB was able to identify indicators significant.
 - Literacy and more specifically early literacy has been recently identified.
 - 98% of students screened for reading difficulties as of May.
- Continuing to grow pathway programming.
 - students who participate in these programs have high graduation statistics
- There is a focus on improving student engagement and participation which includes mental health supports
 - Absenteeism is higher than the average in the province.
 - High absenteeism can lead to lower achievement- vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected.
- NNDSB has seen an increase in Grade 1-8 attendance of 18% which represents significant growth over the last couple of years
 - What factors should be considered when looking at the data?
 - How can we engage families as meaningful partners in our efforts to increase student participation in class time?
 - How might we as a system acknowledge the learning that occurs beyond the school walls (using indigenous cultural activities as an example)?
 - What opportunities might exist to promote student participation in class time?
 - **Family Survey Available. Live now until the end of October.**
 - Please share this information with SACs and include SAP communication and link to survey.
 - Principal Kadlec indicated she would like to send to all parent representatives of SACs via school messenger.
 - Principal Walkling was invited to be listed on the agenda for the September meeting agenda to further discuss the rollout of the student achievement plan feedback.

NNDSB Mental Health and Addiction Strategy Presentation by Lana St. Louis, NNDSB Mental Health Lead

- Policy/Program Memorandum 169: Student Mental Health issued July 28, 2023 which will be aligned with the board's updated strategy and annually posted on the NNDSB website.
- The tiered approach to mental health programming, including mental health promotion, early identification, and early intervention, is discussed.
- The importance of a strong foundation in anti-oppression and anti-racism in mental health support is emphasized. School can provide supportive environments, provide resources, assist in navigation local supports.

- The implementation of Right Time, Right Care Report and role of regional working groups in collaboration are explained.
- The importance of engaging stakeholders, including students, staff, and community partners in the development of the strategy is emphasized.
- Identity-affirming strategy- A focus on equitable access to mental health supports was reviewed
- Overview of the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (Gr 7-12)
 - 10135 students from 235 schools participated
 - Nearly half of all students experience moderate to serious psychological distress
 - Mental health declines as students progress towards graduation
 - Recent accomplishments include
 - adding additional regulated mental health professionals via ministry funding
 - increased training in evidence-based interventions
 - proactive and restorative circles,
 - Principals, VPs, EAs and Sec teachers trained in emotional coaching
 - Ongoing collaboration with community partners
 - Mental Health SharePoint launched
 - Website updates
 - Student mental health champion groups
 - NNDSB provided support to over 4000 students
- Where are the gaps? Seeking feedback from PIC and community partners. Looking to ensure feedback represents all communities

Parent Reaching Out (PRO Grant) Review

a. PRO Grant Funding

- i. Round 1 - Open to schools to apply until November. Many schools took advantage. Some examples included math night, STEAM nights, trades awareness, math night, seasonal and bowling events.
- ii. Round 2 - Open to schools to apply until January.
- iii. In addition to Round 1 and Round 2 funds, the Childhood Unplugged Presentation by Katherine Johnson Martinko was a major component to this year's PRO program.

Next Meeting – September 2025, Date and Time TBD, via Teams

Adjournment at 7:22 pm

Motion to adjourn by Meaghann Mullen. Seconded by John Skidmore - Carried

Official