

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting
Unofficial Minutes
Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 7pm
Rainbow District School Board Office
69 Young Street, Sudbury, Ontario**

Attendance:

PIC Executive:

Chair Sharina Appanna

PIC Members:

Ruth Ward, Trustee; Dr. Sharon Speir, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Maria Bouwmeester, ETFO; Linda Goulais, Vice-Principal, Sudbury Secondary School

Parents:

Trish Kitching, Gatchell School; Deena Zmijowskyj, MacLeod Public School; Silvio Vitiello, Westmount Public School; Michelle Hempel, Cyril Varney Public School; Lisa Brancati, Lockerby Composite School; Yvonne Peloquin, Lasalle Secondary School; Ann Barbeau, Lively District Secondary School

Guests:

Terry Moss, Principal, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School/Ernie Checkeris Public School; Janelle Bast, Vice-Principal, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School/Ernie Checkeris Public School; Linda Goulais, Vice-Principal, Sudbury Secondary School; Ron Hodgkinson, Principal, Cyril Varney Public School; Judy Noble, Student Success Leader; Kathy Dokis-Ranney, Principal, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education

RDSB Regrets:

Iva McNair, Principal, Gatchell School

1. **Call to Order:** 7 pm

2. **Welcome:** Sharina Appanna, Chair

3. **Self Introductions**

Chair Appanna invited all in attendance to introduce themselves.

4. **Guest speakers on Nutrition Standards in Schools**

Erik Labrosse, Manager of the School Health Promotion Team

Sudbury & District Health Unit

Mélanie Chenard, Registered Dietitian, Sudbury & District Health Unit

School Health Promotion Team

The speakers provided an overview of the Province of Ontario's nutrition

standards for schools (PPM 150). The nutrition standards, part of Ontario's new School Food and Beverage Policy, come into effect on September 1st, 2011.

The standards will make it easy for students to eat food that is good for them, food that promotes learning and healthy growth and development. Students will learn at a young age that healthy eating is important for learning and life.

The Health Unit representatives distributed the following resources to parents:

- Nutrition Tools for Schools
- New School Food and Beverage Policy Coming to Ontario Schools
- Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment (chart)
- Applying the 80/20 rule activity

All of the information that was shared with parents, including the PowerPoint presentation, is posted on the Board's website – rainbowschools.ca.

5. With the Chair's concurrence, Superintendent Sharon Speir introduced a video featuring a message from Laurentian University President Dominic Giroux regarding Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. Dominic Giroux is this year's Awareness Month co-chair along with Krissy Battistoni, a graduate from Lockerby Composite School. This year's theme is "The Right to Learn – The Power to Achieve."

Parents also received a brochure and flyer from the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury. The flyer provided information about a free advocacy and self-advocacy workshop for parents and students on October 27th at 7 pm at the Canadian Hearing Society.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury is a charitable non-profit organization dedicated to supporting all individuals with learning disabilities in reaching their potential, within a community that values their unique contributions and abilities.

6. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion: That the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by Ruth Ward. Seconded by Sharina Appanna. Carried.

7. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 2010 be approved.

Moved by Maria Bouwmeester. Seconded by Ruth Ward. Carried.

8. Parent Involvement Committee Annual General Meeting

It was suggested at previous PIC meetings that the Annual General Meeting be more interactive, giving those in attendance an opportunity to connect with each other, share ideas and network. Parents were asked to provide input on School Council displays and/or roundtable-style discussions for the AGM on November 9, 2010. The majority preferred the roundtable format and offered the following as possible topics – fundraising, regreening, literacy nights, math nights, ideas for PRO grants, bullying awareness campaigns, healthy living, how to engage parents, engaging the First Nations, Métis and Inuit community, cyberbullying.

Parents who serve on a Rainbow School Council and are interested in becoming members of PIC were invited to let their names stand. Superintendent Speir will send School Councils an invitation for parent members via school principals. Ten parent representatives for PIC will be approved at the AGM. Interested School Council members must file their intent to run for a PIC position by 4 pm on the Friday before the Annual General Meeting of PIC.

9. PRO Grants

A total of 13 Rainbow Schools will share a total of \$11,200 in Parents Reaching Out Grants in 2010-2011 to support School Council initiatives to further engage parents/guardians in their child's learning. A news release will be issued with details regarding the projects. PIC did not receive funding for its Regional PRO grant application to support Early Learning.

10. Parent Engagement Policy Update

Trustee Ruth Ward spoke about the newly amended Regulation 612, O. Reg. 330/10: School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees and that a review of PIC by-laws is taking place in order to ensure compliance with the legislation.

Ruth Ward, Sharon Speir, Sharina Appanna, Trish Kitching and Nicole Charette met prior to the regular meeting to begin reviewing the PIC by-laws. Work on the amendments will continue, with the goal of presenting a report to PIC at the January 2011 meeting.

Superintendent Sharon Speir reviewed Chapter 1 of the Ministry of Education recently released document called "Parents in Partnership – A Parent Engagement

Policy for Ontario Schools.” The policy and the regulation support the government’s commitment to improve student achievement and well-being, close the gap in student achievement and build public confidence in publicly funded education. The document is available on the Board website at rainbowschools.ca. See Parents section.

11. Communications Report

Nicole Charette provided a communications update, including the following:

Rainbow District School Board invites all parents/guardians to a FREE workshop with motivational speaker Allan Johnson at Espanola High School on Wednesday, October 13, 2010 and Sudbury Secondary School on Thursday, October 14, 2010. Both presentations will begin at 7 pm. All parents are welcome, regardless of which elementary or secondary school their children attend. During this high energy, interactive workshop, parents will receive practical, fun, brain-based, student-proven tools for creating motivation and success at home and school while also reducing power struggles and negative behaviour in the home.

The popular jazz group Broche à Foin will headline a community concert on Saturday, October 16, 2010 in support of the Joan Mantle Music Trust. The concert, featuring the release of Broche à Foin’s latest CD, will take place at 8 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium at Sudbury Secondary School, 85 Mackenzie Street. Tickets, at \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, are available at Guitar Clinic (765 Barrydowne Road), Octave Music (Cedar Pointe Plaza), Prom Music (255 King Street), and Records on Wheels (56 Elm Street). Tickets will also be available at the door.

Rainbow District School Board will hear public input related to the Accommodation Review for Sudbury South area schools at its regular meeting on Monday, October 18, 2010 at 5:30 pm. The meeting will take place in the Auditorium at Lockerby Composite School. Public presentations must be made in accordance with Board by-laws available on the Board’s website. The Accommodation Review Committee report for Sudbury South area schools and the report of the Rainbow District School Board’s Administrative Council were presented to the Board of Trustees during the regular meeting on Monday, September 20, 2010. Sudbury South area schools include Alexander Public School, Algonquin Road Public School, Long Lake Public School, MacLeod Public School, Monetville Public School, R.L. Beattie Public School, Wanup Public School, Lockerby Composite School and Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School.

Internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter Robert Paquette will join local musicians Stéphane Paquette, Les Cokrels, and Philip May and the Sudbury Saturday Night Orchestra for an Evening of Francophone Music to raise funds for World Literacy. The concert will take place on Saturday, October 23, 2010 at 7:30 pm at the Sudbury Secondary School Sheridan Auditorium.

A local charitable organization, Books for Reading/Mission of TEARS, is presenting the concert in partnership with Rainbow District School Board. Advance tickets are \$25 for adults. Tickets will also be available at the door at a cost of \$30 for adults and \$15 for students. Tickets can be purchased at Cosmic Dave's (420 Elgin Street), Prom Music (255 King Street), Records on Wheels (56 Elm Street), Durham Natural Foods (1191 Montrose Avenue) and Librairie du Nouvel-Ontario (93 Durham Street).

The Rainbow District School Board's secondary schools will host Open Houses to highlight pathways for exceptional students. Grade 6, 7 and 8 students with special needs and their parents/guardians are invited to attend the session at their community Rainbow secondary school. The schedule of open houses is posted on the Board's website.

Take Our Kids to Work Day for Grade 9 students will take place on Wednesday, November 3, 2010.

Parents will be invited to a Program Pathway Information Evening on Wednesday, November 10, 2010. The info session will highlight co-operative education, the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, dual credits and the Specialist High Skills Major programs.

Parents/guardians of students in Grade 7 and 8 are invited to an interactive information session designed to help students make key decisions in the transition from elementary school to secondary school. All students are welcome to participate along with their parents/guardians, regardless of which elementary school they attend. The session will take place on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at the Cambrian College Student Centre.

Please note: The French Immersion Secondary School Info Soirée scheduled to take place on November 23, 2010 at Collège Boréal has been cancelled.

Visit rainbowschools.ca for news.

10. School Announcements

Attendees were invited to make announcements.

Trustee Ruth Ward invited those in attendance to provide input for the Ministry of Education review of school fees. The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) is compiling feedback. Input can be sent to wardr@rainbowschools.ca.

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

Moved by Trish Kitching. Seconded by Maria Bouwmeester.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Auditorium, Lockerby Composite School

With video link to Espanola High School and Manitoulin Secondary School

Topic: Annual General Meeting of Parent Involvement Committee