

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 7 pm
Rainbow District School Board Office
69 Young Street, Sudbury, Ontario**

Attendance:

PIC Executive:

Chair Sharina Appanna, Vice-Chair Mona Aelick
Mona Aelick served as Recording Secretary for this meeting.

RDSB:

Nicole Charette - Senior Advisor, Ruth Ward - Trustee, Norm Blaseg - Superintendent of Schools, Sharon Speir - Superintendent of Schools, Iva McNair - Principal of Gatchell School, Barb Blasutti - ETFO Rainbow Local, Pablo Gil-Alfau – Chelmsford Valley District Composite School Vice-Principal

PIC Members/Parents:

Cynthia Sequin – Ernie Checkeris Public School, Colleen Mailloux - Assiginack Public School (Manitoulin), Leo Bisson, Gord Este – Alexander Public School, Tonya Marcotte – Queen Elizabeth Public School, Megan Sproule-Jones, R.L. Beattie Public School
Regrets: Dave Muldoon and Julie Beare, Lively District Secondary School.

Guest Speaker:

Janet Gasparini, Executive Director of the Social Planning Council

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

2. Welcome: Sharina Appanna

3. Self Introductions

Present PIC Committee members, Trustees and Superintendents introduced themselves.

4. Presentation by Janet Gasparini - Social Planning Council

Janet Gasparini made a presentation about reducing the poverty level in Greater Sudbury. 2006 Census - 9.3% of Sudbury families were below LICO. There are 400 to 600 persons homeless or at risk of homelessness at any given time in the Greater Sudbury Area. To date, the Social Planning Council has created an extensive map of various opportunities, presenting the "maps" to key stakeholders and advocating for the creation of a Human Services and Social Policy Development Body - a "home" for poverty reduction and other social strategies. A question and answer period followed.

The presentation is available online at [rainbowschools.ca](http://www.rainbowschools.ca). at the following link:
<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/ParentInvolvement/meetingsAgendas.php>

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion: That the agenda be approved, as amended.

(Terms of reference was added under communications report.)

Moved by Cynthia Sequin. Seconded by Mona Aelick. Passed.

6. Approval of Minutes from November 2008 and January 2009

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on November 11, 2008 and the meeting held on January 13, 2009 be approved.

Moved by Leo Bisson. Seconded by Ruth Ward. Passed.

7. a) PRO Grants

School Councils receive \$500 annually.

Superintendent Blaseg will send an email to schools indicating how funds are to be spent.

The focus is on literacy, numeracy and engaging parents.

Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants were also approved, ranging from \$400 to \$1000.

20 schools will share in a total of \$18,000 in 2008-2009.

Parents indicated that they would like better guidelines when applying for funds to facilitate the process (ie. regarding eligible and non-eligible expenditures)

The regional grant application for the Triple P program did not receive funding.

The Board received PRO regional grants for the past two years.

For more information about PRO grants, click here:

<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/news/2009/4181.php>

b) Board News

Trustee Ruth Ward attended a three-day workshop in Toronto. One of the sessions focused on cyberproofing/pedophiles. The keynote speaker was Rob Nickel. Ruth also attended a presentation by Eva Olsen, an Auschwitz survivor, and a presentation by Susan Hess, regarding mental health entitled *Out of Shadows Into Life*. Ruth asked the PIC members if they would like Susan Hess as a guest speaker next year.

8. Communications Report

Nicole Charette provided a communications update, including the following:

September 1, 2009 is the first day school. Parents/guardians received a letter regarding the 2009-2010 School Year Calendar. A news release was also issued.

On February 25, 2009, there will be an information session on Canadian Parents for French at Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Secondary School Open Houses continue during the month of February.

Levack District High School Reunion will take place from July 2 to 5, 2009.

The Lockerby Composite School 50th Anniversary Reunion will take place the August long weekend, July 31st to August 2, 2009.

Principal Iva McNair indicated that Gatchell's Black Light Theatre performance was sold out.

9. Board Report

There is a need to review the PIC Terms of Reference. Leo Bisson, Nicole Charette and Sharina Appanna will review and report back.

PIC now has a community representative. It will be Laura Whalen, from the City of Greater Sudbury's Best Start program.

Kathy Longarini is the Board's new Community Use of Schools Co-ordinator.

Superintendent Fred Law is retiring.

Administrative Assistant Rae Tolonen is also retiring.

As a result, Administrative Council duties have been reassigned.

Superintendent Dr. Sharon Speir will replace Norm Blaseg at PIC meetings.

Superintendent Blaseg thanked PIC for working with him.

The Parents as Partners conference will be held in Guelph on Tuesday, April 28, 2009.

Any PIC members who may be interested in attending should advise Norm Blaseg.

The topic for the March PIC meeting will be Character Development.

Superintendent Ada Della Penta and team will invite parental input on character traits for Rainbow Schools. Parents are encouraged to attend to provide their input in this important consultation.

10. School Announcements

Leo Bisson reminded Committee members that Thursday, September 10, 2009 is Rainbow District School Board's second anti-bullying day. Everyone is encouraged to wear pink.

Colleen Mailloux announced the 6th annual talent show at Assiginack Public School.

Tonya Marcotte mentioned the Lip Synching Contest at Queen Elizabeth Public School and indicated that this builds self-esteem in children.

Cynthia Sequin announced that Ernie Checkeris Public School will host a Fun Fair on Thursday, April 2nd from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. She invited School Councils to share ideas for this event.

11. Motion to Adjourn (8:55 pm)

Motion: That the meeting now adjourn.

Moved by Barb Blasutti. Seconded by Cynthia Sequin. Passed.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Rainbow District School Board Office

69 Young Street, Sudbury, Ontario

7 pm

Topic: Parental Input on Character Traits