

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 7pm  
Rainbow District School Board Office  
69 Young Street, Sudbury, Ontario**

**Attendance:**

**PIC Executive:**

Chair Leo Bisson, Secretary Cynthia Seguin

**RDSB:**

Nicole Charette - Senior Advisor, Ruth Ward - Trustee, Jean Hanson - Director, Margaret Stringer - Principal of Special Education, Iva McNair - Principal of Gatchell School, Norm Blaseg - Superintendent of Schools

**PIC Members:**

Carol Woodliffe - Long Lake Public School, Julie Beare - Lively District Secondary School, Megan Sproule-Jones - R.L. Beattie Public School, Sharinna Appanna - Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, Mona Aelick - Lasalle Secondary School

**Parents:**

Margaret Sun - Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, Stephanie Boyuk - Cyril Varney Public School, Brenda Peacock - Redwood Acres Public School, Tina Smuland - Redwood Acres Public School, David Muldoon - Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, Greta Laplante - Carl A. Nesbitt Public School

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.

**2. Welcome:** Leo Bisson

Chair Leo Bisson welcomed everyone and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**3. Self Introductions**

Chair Bisson invited all in attendance to introduce themselves.

**4. Presentation by Jan Heppner – Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Jan Heppner gave a presentation regarding initiatives being undertaken within the Rainbow District School Board to assist and enrich students with ASD. One in 82 children in RDSB have some form of ASD. Discussion centered on general programs that are currently in place, including the *Understanding Friends* presentation, which is available to schools to increase awareness and make children more comfortable with their schoolmates who are afflicted with ASD. (The presentation has been posted on [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca))

April 2<sup>nd</sup> is Autism Awareness Day. In addition, Gatchell School will host a workshop for parents of children with ASD on Wednesday, January 28 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Everyone is welcome!

## 5. Approval of Agenda

**Motion: That the agenda be approved with one amendment - to postpone the Terms of Reference discussion to the next meeting.**

Moved by Ruth Ward. Seconded by Megan Sproule-Jones.  
Carried.

## 6. Approval of Minutes

**Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held on October 21, 2008 be approved.**

Moved by Mona Aelick. Seconded by Carol Woodliffe.  
Carried.

## 7. PIC Executive Election

Superintendent of Schools Norm Blaseg chaired the PIC Executive Election process. He explained the procedures as per the PIC Terms of Reference. Only standing committee members are eligible to vote.

Sharinna Appanna was nominated as Chair.

Sharinna Appanna accepted the nomination and was acclaimed as PIC Committee Chair.

**Motion: That nominations for the PIC Committee Chair be closed.**

Moved by Ruth Ward. Seconded by Julie Beare.  
Carried.

**Motion: That Sharinna Appanna be acclaimed as PIC Committee Chair for 2009/2010.**

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

Mona Aelick was nominated as Vice-Chair.

Mona Aelick accepted the nomination and was acclaimed as PIC Committee Vice-Chair.

**Motion: That nominations for the PIC Committee Vice-Chair be closed.**

Moved by Ruth Ward. Seconded by Megan Sproule-Jones.  
Carried.

**Motion: That Mona Aelick be acclaimed as PIC Committee Vice-Chair for 2009/2010.**

Moved by Leo Bisson. Seconded by Carol Woodliffe.  
Carried.

No nominations were accepted for the position of Secretary.

The election of Secretary has been deferred to the next meeting.

Question from Dave Muldoon: Have community members been appointed?

Answer from Superintendent Blaseg: There is a shortlist of two people and a name will be brought forward at the next meeting.

Sharinna Appanna assumed the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

## **8. PIC AGM Feedback**

Through Chair Sharinna Appanna, Superintendent Blaseg requested feedback on the PIC Annual General Meeting held on November 11, 2008.

Trustee Ruth Ward suggested that a break part way through the meeting might be useful for networking and chatting among attendees.

Julie Beare said it was great to hear speakers, but members needed an opportunity to get to know each other and connect.

Secretary Cynthia Seguin indicated that, in the past, an icebreaker-type game at the beginning of the meeting encouraged attendees to intermingle and meet new people and helped to kick off networking. She suggested that an ice-breaker be included on next year's agenda.

## **9. PRO Grants and Board News**

Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant applications were submitted in October 2008. To date, no approvals have been received. Superintendent Blaseg will notify School Council Chairs as soon as he hears about the status of these applications.

Superintendent Blaseg indicated that unused money from PRO Grants is carried over from the previous year and is returned to the Board. The PIC then has the ability to direct the funds where it deems appropriate.

The \$500 Parent Involvement Funds that are allocated annually to each school are meant to engage parents in the school, primarily to support literacy and numeracy, in keeping with the following goals – higher levels of student achievement, reduced gaps in student achievement and increased public confidence in publicly funded education.

Superintendent Blaseg will send a memo to School Councils regarding what are appropriate expenditures.

Tina Smuland suggested the topic of boys/girls cliques for a future PIC meeting. Denise Fraser of the Greater Sudbury Police Service would be a good speaker on this topic.

## **10. Board News**

Superintendent Blaseg presented the Board's Five-Year Capital/ Accommodation Plan approved at the annual Accommodation Meeting held on December 2, 2008. Information is posted online at [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca)

The Plan, approved as part of the ongoing revitalization of Rainbow Schools, included the following:

- Ernie Checkeris Public School and Westmount Public School be detwinned and that Ernie Checkeris Public School and Carl A. Nesbitt Public School be twinned effective September 2009.

- The outcome of the French Immersion program review by the Ministry of Education be monitored in light of the organization of elementary and secondary French Immersion program delivery in Rainbow Schools.
- The Sudbury Secondary School Revitalization Project be submitted to the Ministry of Education for consideration of Prohibitive to Repair (PTR) funding.
- Staff explore partnership opportunities with the City of Greater Sudbury for an enhanced arts facility at Sudbury Secondary School.
- An Accommodation Review Committee be considered for Sudbury South area schools at the December 2009 Accommodation meeting of the Board.
- The administration and support services be considered for consolidation into one site at the December 2009 Accommodation meeting of the Board.
- An Accommodation Review Committee be considered for the Espanola area schools at the December 2010 Accommodation meeting of the Board.
- An Accommodation Review Committee be considered for the Valley North (Chelmsford, Dowling, Levack) area schools at the December 2010 Accommodation meeting of the Board.
- Full-time early learning for four and five year olds be included in the Board's planning for projected implementation in September 2010.

This plan is subject to review/revision at an annual Accommodation Meeting of the Board.

Superintendent Blaseg indicated that the Pinecrest Drama Club will present "Carrie and Catherine's Character Chronicles" in May 2009. For more information, please contact teacher Scott Zoldy at 675-0200.

### **11. Communications Report**

Nicole Charette presented the RDSB Annual Report for 2007-2008. This document has been provided to the Ministry of Education and is available on [www.rainbowschools.ca](http://www.rainbowschools.ca) for review.

Secondary School open houses begin on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and continue into February. Making the Transition materials have been distributed and are also online. All are welcome to come out and learn about the programs offered at the secondary level. Dates are posted on [www.rainbowschools.ca](http://www.rainbowschools.ca).

Lasalle Secondary School is hosting the grand opening of their new Aboriginal Room and Mural on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend.

On Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Todd Cunningham from the University of Toronto will speak about Assistive Technology at Lockerby Composite School. Everyone is welcome.

Throughout the first week of February, all parents of prospective JK and SK students are welcome to come to open houses at their area Rainbow School and register for the fall of 2009. The French Immersion Info Soirée will be held in all French Immersion schools on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 7:30 pm.

## 12. School Announcements

Attendees were invited to make announcements or offer commendations.

Ruth Ward attended the Transition Evening held in November 2008. Congratulations to all who were involved for an excellent event. She commended PIC for receiving PRO Grant funds two years in a row. The Making the Transition video, Guide and web info were produced with a PRO regional grant received in 2008.

Carl A. Nesbitt Public School has created a reading room for parents within the school and has applied for a PRO grant to support the parent resource centre. Parents at Nesbitt are very excited to be twinned with Ernie Checkeris Public School and are looking forward to working with the parents from Ernie Checkeris.

Iva McNair was commended for the ASD program at Gatchell School.

Committee members enquired about the Gatchell School Black Light Theatre being held in March 2009. (For ticket information, visit [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) and click on news.)

Mr. Leo Bisson offered congratulations to new Chair Sharinna Appanna. He encouraged parents to come out and participate.

Congratulations were extended to the original PIC Executive, Leo Bisson, Dave Muldoon, Stephanie Cooke and Ruth Ward who were pivotal in developing the Terms of Reference. Hats off to them. We offer thanks and appreciation for all their dedication and hard work. PIC has grown, a credit to the parents who have made this happen.

### **Motion: That the meeting be adjourned. (8:40 pm)**

Moved by Leo Bisson. Seconded by Mona Aelick.

Carried.

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, February 10, 2009**

**Rainbow District School Board Office**

**69 Young Street, Sudbury, Ontario**

**Topic: Poverty**