

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 7 pm

Rainbow District School Board

Board Office – 69 Young Street - Sudbury

Attendance:

PIC Executive: Chair Leo Bisson, Vice-Chair Cathy-Lynn Smith and Secretary Stephanie Cooke

RDSB: Trustee Ruth Ward, Trustee Jeanna Miller, Superintendent Norm Blaseg, Senior Advisor Nicole Charette, Principal Chantal Lacroix, Jan Yeomans Adamsdale Public School, Lorrie Beausoleil OPSEU

PIC Members: Vickie Hancharyk, Sharinna Appanna, Mona Aelick, Debbie Langlois

Guest Speaker: Hillary Holmes, Special Education/Assistive Technology

Parents: Stephanie Boyuk Cyril Varney Public School, Chantal Desalliers Cyril Varney Public School, Alyson Graham Larchwood Public School, Louise Paquette-Strong Larchwood Public School, Dawn Graham Valley View Public School, Lisa Lacroix Adamsdale Public School, Susan Dopson Wembley Public School and Deena Zmijowskyj MacLeod Public School

Regrets: Barb Blasutti ETFO, Vice-Principal Pablo Gil-Alfau and David Muldoon

1. Welcome: Chair Leo Bisson

- Self Introductions

2. Special Education/Assistive Technology: Guest Speaker: Hillary Holmes, Coordinator of Special Needs

- Introduction to Co-Writer and Kurzweil programs
- A Parent's Guide to Special Education provided as reference

Agenda Continued

- Agenda Approved with amendment: Guest speaker introduced prior to approval of agenda
- Minutes from January 8, 2008: Motion to approve, Cathy-Lynn Smith, seconded by Vicki Hancharyk, Carried.

3. Bylaws: Stephanie Cooke

- Stephanie Cooke put forth a motion that the Parent Involvement Committee receive the Bylaws, seconded by Trustee Jeanna Miller
- Motion carried

4. PRO Grants/Board News/Communications: Nicole Charette, Corporate Communications

- PRO Grants: Funding has come through, approximately \$6,000 to be shared by schools throughout the Board. Here are the projects being funded:

School	Title of Project	Amount Approved
Central Manitoulin Public School	Twilight Sessions	\$1000
Assiginack Public School	Sharing Community Talents and Parents as Partners in Reading	\$600
Redwood Acres Public School	Math Magic	\$450
Carl Nesbitt Public School	Balancing Healthy Families: Socially, Mentally & Physically	\$1000
Ernie Checkeris Public School	Parent Resource Centre	\$800
Chelmsford Valley District Composite School	Literacy Community Connections	\$1000
Sudbury Secondary School	EQAO School/Parent Connection	\$500
Lively District Secondary School	First Nations Engagement Project	\$600

- PRO Grant Board: PIC Grant approved for Parents as Partners - Making the Transition in the amount of \$20,000. Several members worked together on the proposal. The committee will be meeting at the beginning of March to discuss the project.
- Open Houses are continuing: dates are listed on the Board Website – rainbowschools.ca
- FAMILY DAY: Schools and Board Offices are closed. Board meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday February 19, 2008.
- Consultation to be held for the accommodation review for Wembley Public School. First public meeting for this accommodation review will be held on March 5, 2008.

- French Immersion/Core French Information Sessions: January 31, 2008 at four schools in Sudbury. Information sessions to be held on February 20, 2008 on Manitoulin Island and February 28, 2008 in Espanola.
- RDSB Annual Report 2006-2007: Copies of the Annual Report were provided.
- Parent's Guide: Information regarding IEP and IPRC's are available in the Guide.
- Presentation: Lesley Andrew: Beating the Odds - Life for students with disabilities does not have to be a gamble! Tuesday March 4, 2008 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm. This presentation will take place at Sudbury Secondary School, Sheridan Auditorium.
- SEAC passed a tentative budget for next year of \$20 million.
- Bill 212 came into effect on February 1, 2008. More information will be presented at the PIC meeting in March.
- Valley View Public School: Open House Celebration for the new Green School took place on January 30, 2008. It was suggested that PIC host a meeting at VVPS in the future.
- WTK – Welcome to Kindergarten, a new initiative, is being introduced at some schools.
- Any questions or feedback, please email Nicole Charette at info@rainbowschools.ca

5. School Council Success Stories:

- This new item on the agenda will enable Councils to share their success stories.
- School Councils were encouraged to attend PIC as part of individual School Council meetings.
- The School Council Appreciation Evening will be held on April 8, 2008 at Lockerby Composite School and May 13, 2008 at Little Current Public School.
- Lo-Ellen hosts a barbecue to welcome new parents, a great way to recruit parent volunteers.
- Larchwood: February 26, 2008 Denise Fraser of the Greater Sudbury Police Service will provide a presentation on cyber-bullying at 6:30 pm.
- It was suggested that Councils who received PRO grants share information about their projects at the School Council Appreciation Evenings in April (Sudbury) and May (Espanola and Manitoulin).

6. Meeting Adjourned

- The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.
- Next Meeting - Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Board Office.