

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting
UNOFFICIAL Minutes
Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 7 pm
Rainbow District School Board
Board Office – 69 Young Street - Sudbury

Attendance:

Leo Bisson, Chair, PIC, Cyril Varney Public School; Cathy Smith, Vice-Chair, PIC, Markstay Public School; Mona Aelick, Lasalle Secondary School; Barb Blasutti, ETFO; Chantal Lacroix, Principal, Lansdowne Public School; Ruth Ward, Trustee; Sharina Appanna, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Vickie Hancharyk, Lansdowne Public School; David Muldoon, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Norm Blaseg, Superintendent, Rainbow District School Board; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Rainbow District School Board (acted as Secretary for the meeting).

1. Welcome: Leo Bisson

Chair Leo Bisson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He noted that Stephanie Cooke was moving from the City and asked Nicole Charette to take the minutes of the meeting. He thanked Stephanie for her contribution to PIC.

2. Self Introduction

Chair Bisson invited Committee members to introduce themselves.

3. Approval of agenda

The agenda was followed, as presented.

4. Approval of minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held on March 18, 2008 be approved.

Moved by Ruth Ward. Seconded by Vickie Hancharyk. Passed.

Chair Bisson noted that he had not received any new information regarding the Thames Valley motion approved at the March meeting.

5. Terms of Reference: Superintendent Norm Blaseg

The Terms of Reference were distributed to the Committee. Superintendent Blaseg indicated that they were received by the Board as Terms of Reference and NOT bylaws. (Only the Board has bylaws).

David Muldoon asked if the Terms of Reference would apply to all School Councils. Superintendent Blaseg indicated that the only mandate for the Terms of Reference was for PIC but that he perhaps could ask School Councils in September 2008 to develop their own Terms of Reference based on the work of the PIC.

Superintendent Blaseg asked Committee members to refer to Section 5.5 on Page 8. This section ensures that PIC communicates any changes to the Director of Education.

He also noted that sections/pages were re-numbered. The Terms of Reference were presented on a Policy and Finance Committee agenda before being received by the Board in May 2008. PIC passed the document in February 2008.

The footer of the document will be updated to reflect "Terms of Reference" instead of "Bylaws". Superintendent Blaseg will ensure that School Council Chairs receive the document.

David Muldoon asked if the November meeting remains an AGM with elections. Yes.

**Motion: That we accept the Terms of Reference, as presented.
Moved by David Muldoon. Seconded by Mona Aelick. Passed.**

Chair Bisson thanked everyone for their input in the development of the document.

6. Board News: Superintendent Norm Blaseg

Superintendent Blaseg presented and distributed a copy of the book "*176 Ways to Involve Parents*" Practical Strategies for Partnering with Families by Betty Boulton. Superintendent Blaseg asked for the Committee's concurrence to purchase 50 copies (one per School Council) at a cost of \$24.50 each (plus 20% off). He said it would be a valuable tool for all School Councils. Chair Bisson indicated that he heard Betty Boulton speak and she was excellent.

**Motion: That PIC allocate \$1,200 to purchase a copy of "*176 Ways to Involve Parents*" Practical Strategies for Partnering with Families by Betty Boulton for each School Council.
Moved by Ruth Ward. Seconded by David Muldoon. Passed.**

Superintendent Blaseg provided an update on the following:

The fourth Public Meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee for Wembley Public School will be held on Monday, June 16, 2008 at the school at 6:30 pm. This will be an opportunity for the public to provide input on options presented by ARC and share feedback.

Sudbury MPP Rick Bartolucci visited George Vanier Public School on May 30, 2008 and announced \$9.4 million in provincial funding for a new green school in Sudbury West. The location of the new school will be announced at the Board Meeting in June 2008.

Grade 7 and 8 students from George Vanier Public School and Jessie Hamilton Public School are moving to Lively District Secondary School effective September 2008.

Renovations are proceeding at Sudbury Secondary School. The removal of the College Street wing and part of the Baker Street wing will result in some \$500,000 a year in savings

in operating costs. The Board is investing approximately \$17.2 million in the school. The auditorium will be upgraded, main building renovated, parking added, and sports field expanded.

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) passed its budget and staffing for 2008-2009 in the amount of approximately \$21 million. Lynn Ziraldo, Chair of the provincial advisory table on autism, toured Rainbow Schools. A joint SEAC meeting was held with the Sudbury Catholic District School board. Lynn Ziraldo made a presentation to both.

The Learning Disabled Grade 9 Pilot Project at Lockerby Composite School and Lasalle Secondary School will continue in the next school year. The project is sponsored by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE). Rainbow Schools received \$110,000 to purchase assistive technology for Grade 9 students as part of English and Learning Strategies courses in order to facilitate learning. The purpose was to give students the confidence to use these tools in all subjects. The initiative is now in its third year.

A number of Principals are retiring from the system, including Theresa Kelly (Student Success), Kathy Wierzbicki (Program) and Rita Della Vedova (Special Education Programs and Services). They will be replaced by Bruce Bourget, Kim Kalviainen and Margaret Stringer, respectively. There are many changes in the Board's administration in schools due to the "domino effect".

A number of teachers were declared redundant this year as a result of declining enrolment being experienced by 60 of 72 school boards in Ontario. Approximately 20 teachers remain on the redundancy list. The largest drop in student population is at the elementary level. Enrolment has declined by 90,000 students in the past five years in Ontario (outside the GTA). Despite the decline, the public could see specialized job postings, for instance, for Manitoulin Island, Ojibwe or French, depending on the needs of the Board.

Secondary school testing and exams will soon begin.

Summer School will be offered, under the leadership of Principal Rob Sime, Vice-Principal of Cecil Facer Secondary School. The program will be offered in Grade 9 to 12 at Lasalle Secondary School (depending on enrolment). Information will be issued by the Board (news release, website, newspaper ad).

Trustee Ruth Ward reminded everyone about graduations. Schools appreciate seeing a packed auditorium.

A number of Rainbow Schools participated in Welcome to Kindergarten sponsored by the Learning Partnership. 195 new students to the system benefited from the program, with 12 schools involved in 2007-2008. School Councils were encouraged to have a Welcome to Kindergarten presentation to learn more about the program.

Queen Elizabeth Public School won the 2008 Ugliest Schoolyard Contest and will benefit from extensive re-greening thanks to the generosity of community sponsors.

Pinecrest Public School won the contest in 2007 and held a grand opening of its new school grounds on June 5th, 2008. Home Depot provides assistance to schools for re-greening. TD Canada Trust also has a program through its Evergreen Fund.

Some 50 people attended the School Council Appreciation Evening at Little Current Public School on May 13, 2008. Over 100 people attended the School Council Appreciation Evening at Lockerby Composite School on April 8, 2008.

7. Communications: Senior Advisor for Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning, Nicole Charette

Nicole Charette provided an update on the following:

The Transition Evening video was currently in production. The guide for students and parents will also be updated for distribution in November 2008.

The Sudbury Secondary School 100th anniversary reunion will be held on the August long weekend in 2008.

A homework helper is being produced for parents and French Immersion students. The “boîte à outlis” will be produced in print and online formats for distribution in the fall of 2008.

The Strategic Board Improvement Plan for 2008-2009 will be presented to the Board at its meeting in June.

Adamsdale Public School was named a “School on the Move” by the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat.

Eight Rainbow Schools have received Primary Class Size Capital Funding, including, most recently, Little Current Public School, Alexander Public School and Algonquin Road Public School.

For more news, visit rainbowschools.ca and look under “What’s New” on the homepage.

8. Brainstorming possible guest speakers for 2008-2009

September 9, 2008

Topic: Parents Reaching Out Grants – Ideas

Presenter: Three presentations from School Councils (20 minutes each)

Location: Board Office

October 14, 2008

Topic: Rainbow Schools Go Green

Presenter: Jean Hanson, Diane-Cayen Arnold and Sandi Ackroyd

Location: Valley View Public School

November 11, 2008

Topic: Annual General Meeting
Presenter: Guest Speaker TBA
Location: Lockerby Composite School, Auditorium

December 9, 2008

Topic: Meet and Greet and Accommodation Review Process
Presenter: Diane Cayen-Arnold
Location: Board Office

January 13, 2009

Topic: Autism
Presenter: Jan Heppner, Special Education, Rainbow District School Board
Location: Board Office

February 10, 2009

Topic: Poverty
Presenter: Janet Gasparini, Social Planning Council
Location: Board Office

March 10, 2009

Topic: Drugs and Alcohol
Presenter: TBA
Location: Board Office

April 14, 2009

School Council Appreciation Evening
Lockerby Composite School, Sudbury
Keynote Speaker: Gerry Lougheed Jr.

May 12, 2009

School Council Appreciation Evening
Espanola High School, Espanola
Keynote Speaker: TBA

June 9, 2009

Working meeting to plan for 2009-2010

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY PIC:

Stand Up Against Bullying Day in Rainbow Schools (Wear Pink)

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Transition Evenings

Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at Cambrian College

Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at Espanola High School

8. School announcements

Leo Bisson attended the opening of the new Parental Resource Centre at Ernie Checkeris Public School, funded by a Parents Reaching Out Grant.

Norm Blasseg attended the School on the Move announcement and Literacy Day at Adamsdale Public School. He was impressed with the dogs from the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program.

Norm Blaseg indicated that the annual Challenge Meet, a much-anticipated event, would be held on Friday, June 13, 2008.

Mona Aelick indicated that Lasalle Secondary School is pleased that there are no changes to its administration.

Leo Bisson applauded the community involvement at the Fun Fairs for Redwood Acres Public School and Pinecrest Public School.

Dave Muldoon highlighted a community clean up initiative for Chelmsford Valley District Composite School.

Chantal Lacroix talked about raising money for the purchase of home reading books through the "snack shack" at Lansdowne Public School. This gives two students per class an opportunity to obtain a book to take home.

10.Evaluation

Superintendent Norm Blaseg invited committee members to complete the PIC Evaluation form on what should stop, start and continue. The form will be sent to committee members electronically.

Chair Bisson wished everyone a happy and safe summer.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Board Office, 69 Young Street

**Topic: Parents Reaching Out Grants – Ideas
in preparation for the grant application process**