

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at 7 pm
Rainbow District School Board
Board Office – 69 Young Street - Sudbury

Attendance:

Norm Blaseg, RDSB; Nicole Charette, RDSB; Sharon Orlak, RDSB; Gord Santala, Trustee; Judy Hunda, Trustee; Ruth Ward, Trustee; Judy Noble, Principal Rep; Kim Kalviainen, R.L. Beattie Principal; Jacques Mantha, Pinecrest Principal; Stephanie Cooke, Ernie Checkeris; David Muldoon, CVDCS ; Sharon Provencher, Sudbury SS; Leo Bisson, Redwood Acres PS; Jane Peltomaki, Lasalle SS; Cathy Grenko, Lasalle SS; Ruth Morton, Lasalle/Churchill; Cindy Seguin; Lasalle/Churchill; Kathy Horgan, MacLeod PS; Gisele Sivret, R.L. Beattie PS; Megan Sproule-Jones, R.L. Beattie PS; Cathy Bayliss, R.L. Beattie PS; Nicole Ristimaki, Valley View/Confed; John Mazara, Valley View/Confed; Barb St. Jacques, Confederation; and Karen Wilson (video link from Espanola High School)

1. Welcome: Norm Blaseg

- Introduction of New Members: Ruth Ward, former Chair of Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), now elected as Trustee Sudbury Area 3

2. Student Success/Learning to 18 Leader – Student Success Initiative (SSI):
Presenter - Anna Barsanti, Principal

- Anna Barsanti discussed the Student Success Initiative, currently in its 4th year
- Emphasized the important role adults play in student success
- RDSB Secondary Schools have been profiled in the Northern Life supplement which highlights different programs for students.
- A “Course Selection for Career Pathways” guide presents opportunities to help students with their course selections and career paths.
- Learning to 18 - the legal age for school in Ontario has increased from 16 to 18.
- Alternative education programs are re-engaging students. Each Secondary School has 3 to 5 programs specifically geared to students who are at risk of leaving school.

3. Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP):
Presenter - Sharon Orlak, OYAP Project Manager

- OYAP was introduced in 1999
- 69% of current Co-op students are currently working as apprentices.
- Approximately 10% of all Grade 11 and 12 students are enrolled in OYAP.
- Traditionally, students graduate from high school, continue on to post secondary school and then register as an apprentice. Average age is 27 years. OYAP allows students to begin their apprenticeship while attending high school. The average age of an OYAP apprentice is 18.
- OYAP allows students to accelerate their career path and experience by 8 to 10 years, on average.
- Considerations for OYAP include: 16 years of age with 16 credits towards a secondary school diploma, an expressed interest in a skilled trade, and maturity.

- Students are encouraged to spend a semester working as a co-op student in their particular field of interest.
- Another important fact is that parents can apprentice their own children. If a parent owns a business and would like to one day turn it over to their child, they can in fact register under OYAP.
- Any employer interested in having an apprentice should contact OYAP or the secondary school directly.

5. Secondary School Education – Transitions/Pathways:

Presenter - Eila Kyrzakos, Coordinator

- Eila Kyrzakos highlighted the transition from Elementary school to Secondary school.
- In January and February, secondary schools host Open Houses for ALL students.
- Students then fill out option sheets for their intended secondary school.
- Each identified student undergoes the Identification Placement Review Committee (IPRC) process annually.
- Some students may be invited to spend part of the day in a special program.
- All levels of programs are available at various Secondary Schools.

6. New Business: Superintendent Norm Blaseg

- PIC submitted an application for funding to the Parent Engagement Office
- PRO Grants – 14 were accepted from RDSB School Councils and we will hear in the near future which ones were approved for funding. In total, 2500 applications were submitted for consideration.
- Provincial Parent Board: 20 member board, accepting applications by February 16, 2007
- Hub Announcement: Hubs provide a centre of services for children. 11 Hubs were announced by the City of Greater Sudbury. Four schools within RDSB were identified as HUB locations: Northeastern Elementary School, MacLeod Public School, Copper Cliff Public School and Redwood Acres Public School
- This initiative is scheduled to begin on September 1, 2007. Sites were selected by a Network Committee.
- C.O.D.E. Initiative: Council of Directors of Education
- \$250,000 has been provided to 8 schools, JK – Grade 3. This is for staffing and Assistive Technology, mostly distributed to rural area schools.

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

- French Immersion Information Night: Westmount Avenue Public School, Thursday, February 1, 2007, 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm
- New website is online - rainbowschools.ca
- Transportation link to Consortium provides status of busing daily
- 2005-2006 Annual report available and distributed.

8. Elections: Superintendent Norm Blaseg

- Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary
- Chair: 2 names put forward: Leo Bisson and Dave Muldoon
- Secretary: Stephanie Cooke, self nominated.
- Vote to be held at the beginning of the next PIC meeting.

9. Next Meeting Date

- Tuesday February 13, 2007
- Topic: Literacy – Presented by Sherry Conroy, Curriculum Consultant