

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at 7 pm
Rainbow District School Board
Board Office – 69 Young Street - Sudbury**

Attendance:

PIC Executive: Leo Bisson and David Muldoon
RDSB: Trustee Jeanna Miller, Trustee Gord Santala, Trustee Ruth Ward, Superintendent Norm Blaseg, Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning
Guests: Lise Denis, Social Planning Council
Parent Reps: Martha Musicco and Sharina Appanna
Regrets: Stephanie Cooke

1. Welcome: Leo Bisson

- Approval of agenda - June 12, 2007
- Approval of agenda - April 10, 2007 (School Council Appreciation Evening at Lockerby)
- Approval of agenda - May 8, 2007 (School Council Appreciation Evening in Espanola)
- Approval of Minutes - March 20, 2007 – Approved

2. Social Inclusion Project

**Presented by Lise Denis, Social Inclusion Project Coordinator,
Social Planning Council of Sudbury**

- The Social Planning Council is a non-profit organization that works in partnership with all sectors to ensure the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. The Council facilitates the planning process to lead to change.
- The Social Inclusion Project has grown in the past five years. Lise provided an updated.
- Lise talked about two programs being offered in schools in the Sudbury area – Creating Peace in the Classroom (Secondary) and Peer Mentoring (Elementary) – *An intervention model to counter violence and intimidation amongst youth*. Both programs build leadership skills in young people and help them feel connected.
- Lise engaged committee members in two exercises aimed at breaking down stereotypes – exercises used with children in schools. She provided ideas to engage parents – give them incentives, select a venue away from the school for a presentation, pick up the phone and call to invite parents to obtain buy-in, communicate with parents via email parent to parent.
- Lise Denis made a number of recommendations to the Parent Involvement Committee, as follows:
 - “ The focus of the social inclusion initiative for next year will be around adults. Too many parents and teachers, both, are failing kids because of their absence, disengagement, fear of connecting deeper. We believe in collaboration and partnerships and I invite this committee to consider the following priorities in your planning:
 - It is important to develop mechanisms, activities and opportunities to engage parents/adults in the schools.... Even if we need to be creative and offer some type of incentive for the students for this to happen.

- It is imperative for parents to heal from their past and bad experiences around school in order to better support their children and teenagers.
 - Teachers will not become more engaged if parents are not more engaged and supportive. We need to bridge the gap between the adults who have the most impact in children and teenagers' lives.
 - Young people should be invited as guest speakers.”
- Lise Denis can be reached at the Social Planning Council should there be any more questions: (705) 675-3894

New Business:

3. Brainstorming for Guest Speakers for 2007-2008 – Committee

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
September 11, 2007	Governance – Jean Hanson, Director of Education, Rainbow District School Board Presentation of Literacy Video and Tip Sheets – Nicole Charette	Board Office, 69 Young Street
October 9, 2007	Funding – Diane Cayen-Arnold Superintendent of Business	Board Office
November 13, 2007	Orientation Session* / Elections	Lockerby Composite School
December 11, 2007	Meet and Greet – Trustees, Admin and School Council Chairs	Board Office
January 8, 2008	Social Inclusion Project – Lise Denis and students	Board Office
February 12, 2008	Special Education	Board Office
March 18, 2008	Safe Schools / Discipline Policy – Superintendent Lesleigh Dye	Board Office
April 8, 2008	School Council Appreciation Evening (Greater Sudbury Area)	Lockerby Composite School
May 13, 2008	School Council Appreciation Evening (Espanola and Manitoulin)	Little Current Public School
June 10, 2008	Working meeting – Preparing for 2008-2009	Board Office

- Leo Bisson to invite Gerry Lougheed Jr. to be the guest speaker at the Orientation Session. Gerry Lougheed Jr. had a previous commitment.
- Meetings take place from 7 pm to 9 pm.
- Meetings will be video conferenced to Espanola and Manitoulin, on request.

4. Establishing by-laws for meetings – Leo Bisson

Leo Bisson indicated that the PIC Executive will be meeting several times this summer to develop by-laws for the committee. The by-laws will be presented to the entire committee at the September meeting.

5. Board news and report – Norm Blaseg

Superintendent Blaseg informed Committee members that the Ministry of Education had launched a new parent resource website called abc123. The site features simple and valuable ideas for parents on fun, everyday ways to engage their children in reading, writing and math. The site also has

information that will help parents partner with their child's teacher, deal with homework, identify the need for extra help, and understand school readiness. The site can be accessed through the Ministry of Education homepage at www.ontario.ca/abc123. The link has also been set up on the Rainbow District School Board website –

<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/ParentInvolvement/Resources.php>

Superintendent Blaseg indicated that there was PIC funding remaining in the budget.

Motion by Ruth Ward / Seconded by David Muldoon

“That the balance of PIC funds be allocated as follows – technology, items for the School Council Appreciation Evening, Guide for Parents / web information.” CARRIED

6. Communications Report – Nicole Charette

Nicole indicated that the *Parents as Partners – Reading at Home* literacy video and tip sheets would be complete by the end of June for distribution to schools in late August. This series was produced by the Parent Involvement Committee with funding from the Ministry of Education Parent Engagement Office. The literacy strategies will be available on the Board's website (rainbowschools.ca). The video will also be streamed online. Copies will be provided to schools for literacy evenings, etc.

Nicole will order an item for presentation to parents at the School Council Appreciation Evenings in 2008. (Note: Mugs with the Rainbow Schools logo were ordered in June 2007).

Committee members were asked to provide input on the parent section of the Guide for Students and Parents for the 2007-2008 School Year.

School Council pins have been ordered for presentation at the November 2007 Orientation Session for School Councils.

Schools will be invited to share their “School Council Success Stories” for posting on the Board's website.

7. School Announcements

There were no announcements specific to schools.

8. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, September 11, 2007 – 7 pm – Board Office

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.