

**Parent Involvement Committee Annual General Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 7 pm
Lockerby Composite School Auditorium
with video link to
Española High School and Manitoulin Secondary School**

Attendance:

Sudbury site:

PIC Chair Sharina Appanna, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Board Vice-Chair Trustee Doreen Dewar; Trustee Dena Morrison; Trustee Ruth Ward; Trustee-elect Robert Kirwan; Director of Education Norm Blaseg; Superintendent Sharon Speir; Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning Nicole Charette; Principal Iva McNair, Gatchell School; Vice-Principal Janelle Bast, Ernie Checkeris Public School/ Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Principal Chris Bourré, Adamsdale Public School; Parent Carol Woodliffe, Long Lake Public School; Parent Trish Kitching, Gatchell School; Parent Megan Sproule-Jones, R.L. Beattie Public School; Parent Lynsey Benoit, Adamsdale Public School; Parent Kerrie St. Jean, Lively District Secondary School; Principal Danielle Williamson, R.H. Murray Public School, Vice-Principal James Norrie, MacLeod Public School; Parent Janet Lewis, Sudbury Secondary School; Principal of First Nation Métis and Inuit Education Kathy Dokis-Ranney; Principal Lesley Fisher, Walden Public School; Parent Jodie Larsen, Walden Public School; Principal Denise Goodmurphy, Westmount Public School; Principal Pam DeMarco, Chelmsford Public School; Vice-Principal Paula Biondi, R.L. Beattie Public School, Parent Bobbi-Jo Oakes, Levack Public School; Parent Darlene Lennox, Lasalle Secondary School; Vice-Principal Enza MacEachern, Redwood Acres Public School; Principal Colleen McDonald, Wembley Public School/ Princess Anne Public School; Parent Bev Burmaster, Sudbury Secondary School; Principal Chantal Lacroix, Lansdowne Public School; Parent Lisa Brancati, Lockerby Composite School; Parent Karen Walker, Confederation Secondary School; Parent Ann Barbeau, Lively District Secondary School; Parent Natalie Lippert, Markstay Public School; Principal Pablo Gil-Alfau, Confederation Secondary School, Parent Michelle Hempel, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Vice-Principal Jim Wachnuk, Valley View Public School; Parent Susie Mathys, Monetville Public School; Parent Bobbi Deisinger, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Principal Michelle Walton, MacLeod Public School; Parent Michelle Ross, Lockerby Composite School; Principal Heather Gaffney, Lockerby Composite School; Parent Yvonne Peloquin, Lasalle Secondary School; Parent Renée McCormick, Wembley Public School; Parent Kate Barber, Lansdowne Public School; Vice-Principal Maureen MacNamara, Lasalle Secondary School; Vice-Principal Kerri Monaghan, Wembley Public School; Vice-Principal Kim Boulanger, Lansdowne Public School; Principal Stephen Winckel, Markstay Public School; Parent John Hamalainen, Long Lake Public School; Principal Paula Mackey, Monetville Public School; Principal Leslie Mantle, Lively District Secondary School; Parent Evelyn Cribari, Chelmsford Public School; Parent Chelsea Papineau, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Principal Trevor Dewitt, Larchwood Public School; Vice-Principal Jackie Balleny, Sudbury Secondary School; Parent Carol Woodliffe, Long Lake Public School; Vice-Principal Darren Wilson, Northeastern Elementary School; Parent Courtney Desormeaux, Princess Anne Public School; Principal of Special Education Programs and Services Margaret Stringer; Vice-Principal Christine Chisholm, Chelmsford Public School; Principal Randy Wallingford, Pinecrest Public School; and Principal David Farrow, Churchill Public School.

Espanola site:

Principal Lynn MacDonell, A.B. Ellis Public School; Principal Kendra Mihell, Webbwood Public School and S. Geiger Public School; Principal Marty Punkari, Espanola High School, Parent Lisa Podlatis, A.B. Ellis Public School; Parent Terry Gervais, A.B. Ellis Public School and Espanola High School; Parent Devina Soares, Espanola High School; Parent Leigh Swinimer, S. Geiger Public School; Parent Suanne Joisten, Webbwood Public School

Manitoulin site:

Trustee Grace Fox, Trustee Larry Killens, Principal Tracey Chapman, Central Manitoulin Public School; Principal Wayne Murdock, Assiginack Public School; Principal Jamie Mohamed, Little Current Public School; Principal Anna Armstrong, C.C. McLean Public School; Principal Laurie Zahnow, Manitoulin Secondary School; Parents Daughness Migwans, Valerie Beaudin, Rhonda Bondi, Marilyn Proulx and Sue VanHorn; Manitoulin Secondary School

1. Call to Order: 7 pm

2. Welcome: Sharina Appanna, Chair

Chair Appanna welcome everyone and introduced PIC members. Sharina Appanna indicated that Board Chair Tyler Campbell sent his regrets and extended his best wishes to all in attendance.

3. Greetings from Board Vice-Chair Doreen Dewar

Board Vice-Chair Doreen Dewar delivered greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees. She thanked parents for caring about education – not only today, but every day throughout the school year ... not only for their child, but for all children in Rainbow Schools. She also acknowledged Sharina Appanna and commended PIC for coming together monthly throughout the school year to give parents an opportunity to meet, to dialogue, to network and to share.

4. Greetings from Director of Education Norm Blaseg

Director Blaseg thanked Sharina Appanna for her leadership as Chair of PIC and thanked all parents for their contribution to Rainbow Schools. He focused on four key areas – full day every day Junior Kindergarten and the new Early Learning Program, impressive gains in Grade 3 and 6 EQAO results, the information session on Dual Credits, Co-operative Education, the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) on Wednesday, November 10 at 6:30 pm at Lasalle Secondary School and the transition evening for Grade 7 and 8 students going into Grade 9 on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 7 pm at Cambrian College. He also noted that 13 Rainbow Schools will share a total of \$11,200 in Parents Reaching Out Grants to support School Council initiatives to further engage parents in their child's learning in the 2010-2011 school year. Research has shown that the involvement of parents in their child's education has a positive impact on student achievement and overall school performance.

5. Meet and Greet Activity

Sharon Speir led the meet and greet activity which gave all those in attendance an opportunity to mix and mingle.

6. 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Sharina Appanna delivered the annual report, as follows:

Staff and students in Rainbow Schools wore pink on Thursday, September 10th, 2009, as Rainbow District School Board marked its second "Stand Up Against Bullying Day". Rainbow District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee championed this day under the leadership of Leo Bisson. Trustees unanimously endorsed the idea.

Parents received a regular update on H1N1, including the protocols that would be followed if children became sick at school.

At the September meeting of PIC, we welcomed Barb Nott, President of Volunteer Sudbury on Volunteering 101.

Holocaust Survivor Eva Olsson shared her poignant story to a capacity crowd at Sudbury Secondary School on September 30th, 2009.

Lise Denis of the Social Planning Council was our guest speaker in October 2009. Lise, along with two secondary school students, talked about Taking a Stand Against Bullying Using a Social Inclusion Approach.

Superintendent Diane Cayen-Arnold presented an overview of the revitalization of Rainbow Schools and the accommodation review process at the December meeting.

Landscape architect Mark Elliott invited parents to look at schoolyards in new and innovative ways at the January meeting of PIC.

In February, we welcomed Susan Hess on Children's Mental Health. This was a community presentation hosted by PIC.

Roxane Zuck of the Iris Addiction Recovery for Women joined us in March as we explored the topic of addictions.

In April and May of this year, PIC had the pleasure of hosting its annual School Council Appreciation Evening. Parents were recognized for their contribution to Rainbow Schools. Espanola High School star athlete Caroline Ehrhardt was the guest speaker at the PIC Appreciation Evening in Little Current. Social Planning Council Executive Director Janet Gasparini was the guest speaker at the PIC Appreciation Evening in Sudbury.

And, at our last meeting in June, we gathered to plan the agenda of speakers for the current school year.

In 2009-2010, eight Rainbow Schools shared a total of \$6,555 in Parents Reaching Out Grants to support School Council initiatives to further engage parents/guardians in their child's learning.

We were also introduced to new resources, including a booklet called "La boîte à outils" and an accompanying interactive website to help parents learn French along with their children and a new

guide called First Nation, Métis and Inuit Presence in Rainbow Schools. These resources are available on the Board's website – rainbowschools.ca.

The speakers for 2010-2011 are highlighted in the Guide for Students and Parents. As always, everyone is welcome to attend the monthly PIC meetings. This is an opportunity to meet others, share ideas and learn more about what's happening in education today.

7. 2010-2011 Election Process

Superintendent Sharon Speir presented the slate of candidates for the PIC Executive, as follows:

Sharina Appanna - Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School
Yvonne Peloquin - Lasalle Secondary School
Lisa Brancati - Lockerby Composite School
Gord Apolloni - Copper Cliff Public School
Selena Lavigueur - Carl A. Nesbitt Public School
Jodie Larsen - Walden Public School
Trish Kitching - Gatchell School
Theresa Gervais – Espanola High School
Kate Barber - Lansdowne Public School
Carol Woodliffe - Long Lake Public School

Motion: "That the slate of candidates for the PIC Executive be adopted, as presented".

Moved by: Terry Moss (Nesbitt/Checkeris) / Seconded by: Michelle Ross (Lockerby)
Carried

8. PIC Meetings in 2010-2011

Sharina Appanna reviewed the schedule of PIC meetings for the balance of the school year, as follows:

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Kathy Longarini
Community Use of Schools/Positive Parenting Program

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Diane Cayen-Arnold
Accommodation Review Process

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Margaret Stringer
Special Education

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Lesleigh Dye
Assessment and Evaluation (Report cards, homework, EQAO)

School Council Appreciation Evenings
Tuesday, April 12, 2011 in Sudbury
Tuesday, May 10, 2011 in Espanola
Leo Leclair – Specialist High Skills Major Programs
Linda Urisk – Dual Credits
Sharon Orlak – Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

9. Roundtable Discussions – Engaging Parents

Parents were given an opportunity to attend three roundtable discussions, selecting from the following topics:

Fundraising

Heather Gaffney, Principal, Lockerby Composite School
Michelle Ross, Parent

School Fundraising

Michelle Walton, Principal, MacLeod Public School
Deena Zmijowskyj, Parent

Anti-bullying and Character Development

Linda Goulais, Vice-Principal, Sudbury Secondary School
Bev Burmaster, Parent

Green Schools and Natural Playgrounds

Leslie Fisher, Principal, Walden Public School
Mark Elliott, Landscape Architect and parent

Literacy Nights

Chantal Lacroix, Principal, Lansdowne Public School
Kate Barber, Parent

Literacy Nights

Chris Bourré, Principal, Copper Cliff Public School
Gord Apolloni, Parent

Math Nights

Bob Deeth, Principal, Algonquin/Long Lake Public School

PRO Grant Ideas

Iva McNair, Principal, Gatchell School
Trish Kitching, Parent

Healthy Living

Paul Dupont, Principal, R.L. Beattie Public School

Engaging First Nations, Métis and Inuit Parents and Communities

Kathy Dokis-Ranney, Principal, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education

Cyberbullying

Craig Runciman, Principal, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School
Sharina Appanna, Parent

Parent Resource Centre

Terry Moss, Principal, Carl A. Nesbitt and Ernie Checkeris Public School
Chelsea Papineau, Parent

Fundraising Ideas

Janelle Bast, Vice-Principal, Carl A. Nesbitt and Ernie Checkeris Public School
Selena Lavigueur, Parent

Engaging Parents of Students in French Immersion

Paula Biondi, Vice-Principal, R.L. Beattie Public School

10. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Kathy Longarini, Community Use of Schools Co-ordinator
Board Office, Board Room, 7 pm