

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting  
Minutes  
Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 7 pm  
Lockerby Composite School Auditorium  
Ramsey View Court, Sudbury  
With video link to  
Espanola High School and Manitoulin Secondary School**

Attendance: PIC Executive and Members, School Council members, Rainbow District School Board Officials

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

**1. Welcome: Leo Bisson**

Chair Leo Bisson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. On this Remembrance Day, Leo Bisson asked all present to observe a moment of silence.

**2. Introductions**

Present PIC Committee members, Trustees and Superintendents were introduced.

Greetings extended by Judy Hunda – Chair of the Board  
Chair Judy Hunda described the importance of parental involvement and thanked parents for their time and efforts in support of children in Rainbow Schools.

The choir from George Vanier and Jessie Hamilton Public School entertained the audience with their song “GO Green” that was written for the sod-turning event held recently at the site of the Rainbow District School Board’s new Green School in Sudbury West. Teacher Paul Dunn wrote the song.

**3. Positive Parenting Program (PPP) Presentation by Kate Barber**

Kate Barber, works for the City of Greater Sudbury, made a presentation about the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P). She is Chair of the School Council at Lansdowne Public School. (Co-presenter Dr. Burke Baird was unable to attend).

Triple P: A Community Strategy for Parenting Education

Goal: to offer the program throughout the community.

Status of parenting education in greater Sudbury

- Best start network – high level of co-operation/standardization of programs
- Review of what we are doing to help parents with the challenge of raising children
- Challenges

- Many programs offered
- Co-ordination is difficult
- Not enough parents are participating
- We don't measure the impact

Parenting isn't easy!

Australian study of 4,501 parents of 3 to 7 year olds

- 29% of parents reported their child having behavioural or emotional problems
  - Children with problems came from across income groups, not just low income families
- Over 60% of parents reported coercive parenting practices
- 52% reported moderate-high levels of stress
- 23% reported being depressed
- 14% had completed a parenting program

Parenting Education makes a difference

Parenting has a pervasive influence on children's lives (Collins et. al)

There are parenting education programs like Triple P that have been proven to work

Every Family Project:

- 22% reduction in psychosocial problems
- Parental reports of depression reduced by 26%
- 32% reduction in coercive parenting

Triple P program

- 5 levels from universal to enhanced
- Population wide system of co-ordinated programs
- Tiered continuum interventions of increasing intensity
- Range of delivery options (seminars, consultants etc)

Principles of positive parenting

- Ensuring a safe engaging environment
- Positive learning environment
- Using assertive discipline
- Having realistic expectations
- Taking care of yourself as a parent

What we like about Triple P

- Universal and targeted approaches – focus on prevention
- Is co-ordinated across the community
- Uses media to reach everyone and de-stigmatizes participation
- Multiple access points and delivery methods

- Is being used across Ontario active network of providers
- Strong evidence base

Goals for an improved system of parenting education

- A co-ordinated system of parenting education
- Higher profile/less stigma for parenting education
- More opportunities offered
- More parents participating
- A well designed evaluation to measure effectiveness
- Prevention of behavioural and emotional problems in children

How can Rainbow District School Board be part of the program?

Already playing a leadership role

- Student support leadership funding for planning
- PRO Grant PIC application for delivery of public awareness component

Schools are important allies in Triple P – provide space for seminars and courses as well as promotion and outreach to families.

Moving forward

- Willingness to change and to do more
- Is Triple P feasible?
- Good planning will take some time

Stay tuned...

Superintendent Norm Blaseg thanked Kate Barber for the Triple P presentation.

#### **4. 2008-2009 Election Process – Superintendent Norm Blaseg**

Chair Leo Bisson reviewed the election protocol then called for nominations

##### **Motion: That Mark Sydell be added to the nomination list**

Moved by Cynthia Seguin Seconded by Mona Aelick  
Carried.

##### **Motion: That Nominations be closed**

Moved by Jeanna Miller Seconded by Gord Apolloni  
Carried.

##### **Motion: That the slate of members of PIC be approved.**

Moved by Ruth Ward Seconded by Jeanna Miller  
Carried.

The slate of members included:

Mona Aelick - Lasalle Secondary School  
Sharinna Appanna - Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School  
Robert Beaudin - Manitoulin Secondary School  
Leo Bisson - Churchill Public School  
Gord Apolloni - Copper Cliff Public School  
Debbie Langlois - Espanola High School  
Carol Woodliffe - Long Lake Public School  
Cynthia Seguin - Ernie Checkeris Public School  
Megan Sproule-Jones - R.L. Beattie Public School  
Julie Beare - Lively District Secondary School

Those who were nominated the evening of the meeting will be considered if a call for alternates is necessary.

The community member is still to be nominated and appointed.

#### **5. PIC Meetings in 2008-2009**

Leo Bisson drew everyone's attention to the upcoming meetings. All parents are welcome to attend all meetings. Councils are encouraged to attend a PIC meeting as a group for their own meeting as well.

APRIL – Everyone is invited to attend the School Council Appreciation Evening, especially to hear Mr. Gerry Lougheed Jr. speak.

#### **6. PRO Grant Presentations**

Schools will be notified near the end of November/into December if they have received funds requested for the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants from the Ministry of Education Parent Engagement Office.

Ernie Checkeris School – Parent Resource Centre  
Presentation by School Council rep Shirley Peloquin

A room has been aside at Ernie Checkeris to provide a space for parents to access helpful educational and parental resources.

Parents as Partners – Making the Transition Video, Guide and Web info  
Presentation by Vice-Principals Pablo-Gil Alfau and Pam Potvin

PRO Grant funds were used to develop transition resources to introduce parents of Grade 8 students and students to the high school environment. A 12-page Transition Guide was produced with accompanying video to be presented at a Transition Evening at Cambrian College. It was important to ensure that parents had the resources and

contacts necessary to assist their children with this transition. The resources have been posted on the Board website rainbowschools.ca under the Parents tab.

The video is meant to pique interest, but information and answers are actually conveyed through the annual information night.

The Making the Transition video was previewed for all in attendance.

Pablo invited all parents to spread the word about the Transition Evening in the community by taking a poster and through word of mouth.

Question: The study from Australia... is that information available?

Answer: Kate will email a copy to the committee for forwarding to school chairs.

## **7. 2007-2008 Annual Report of the Parent Involvement Committee**

PIC created Terms of Reference for the committee – Spearheaded by Stephanie Cooke  
The Board's first Wear PINK Anti-Bullying Day was held on September 11, 2008 –  
Spearheaded by Leo Bisson

Reminder: November 16th is Anti-Bullying Awareness Week

Closing: Superintendent Norm Blaseg thanked the parents principals for attending.  
Mugs and pins were available.

Note: The December meeting was cancelled.

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, January 13, 2009**  
**Rainbow District School Board Office**  
**69 Young Street, Sudbury, Ontario**  
**Topic: Autism Spectrum Disorder**