

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 7 pm  
Valley View Public School  
1840 Valleyview Road, Val Caron**

**Attendance:**

**PIC Executive:** Chair Leo Bisson

**RDSB:** Trustee Ruth Ward, Superintendent Norm Blaseg, Senior Advisor Nicole Charette, Principal Iva McNair, Gatchell School, Lorrie Beausoleil, OPSEU, Principal Colleen McDonald, Wembley Public School, Vice-Principal Cathy Nursall, Valley View Public School, Principal Paul Dupont, Valley View Public School, Superintendent Diane Cayen-Arnold, Barb Blasutti, ETFO, Vice-Principal Pablo Gil-Alfau, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School.

**PIC Members:** Sharinna Appanna, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School

**Parents:** Trish Kitching, Gatchell School/Princess Anne Public School, Carol Woodliffe, Long Lake Public School, Adria Wereszczynsky, Wembley Public School, Wendy Nanef, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School, Melissa Mekers, Lasalle Secondary School, Mona Aelick, Lasalle Secondary School, Margaret Sun, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, Dawn Graham, Valley View Public School, Natasha Ivany-Millette, Valley View Public School.

**1. Welcome:** Leo Bisson

Chair Leo Bisson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to Greater Sudbury's Greenest School. Nicole Charette agreed to serve as recording secretary for the meeting in Cynthia Séguin's absence. Cynthia Séguin of Ernie Checkeris Public School will serve as PIC secretary. She can be reached at [cyn.home@gmail.com](mailto:cyn.home@gmail.com).

**2. Self Introductions**

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 September 9, 2008 be approved.  
Moved by Ruth Ward. Seconded by Pablo Gil-Alfau. Passed.**

**5. Tour of Valley View Public School**

Chair Leo Bisson extended regrets on behalf of Director of Education Jean Hanson. Superintendent Diane Cayen-Arnold provided an overview of the history of the new Valley View Public School, a model for sustainability for the North. She said the goal was to build a school that would last for the next generation – a school that was environmentally-friendly, cost-effective, and a healthier learning environment for students and staff. Valley View Public School, the Board's first new school in 40 years, is the first green school in Northern Ontario. It is a unique teaching tool for students and staff. Superintendent Cayen-

Arnold indicated that the Project Manager, Sandi Ackroyd, has been invited to sit on a provincial expert panel to establish guidelines for the future construction of schools using green technology.

Leo Bisson invited PIC members to ask questions. PIC members received copies of two Valley View Public School fact sheets, the Today's Parent Magazine feature on Canada's top 25 schools and the Education Today magazine feature on Green Schools Build Green Students.

Paul Dupont, Principal of Valley View Public School, led the tour of the school. He commended amazing staff and supportive parents. He thanks Sandi Ackroyd and the Plant Department for their leadership throughout the construction project and said Valley View Public School was a source of "great pride" for students, staff and the community that it serves.

#### **6. Board News: Superintendent Norm Blaseg**

Superintendent Blaseg indicated that Parents Reaching Out Grant applications are due on Friday, October 24, 2008. He encouraged all schools to submit applications and provided a summary of the types of activities that were funded in the past. The purpose of the grants is to engage parents in education. He added that the Board's focus this year is on "education for sustainable development" and indicated that the Board would like to create a package of education and parenting information for all schools.

He indicated that a number of community partners are working together to launch a Positive Parenting Program to provide supports to parents, including Rainbow District School Board. He invited PIC to support the effort through a Parents Reaching Out Regional Grant application for a public/media awareness campaign.

**Motion: That the Parent Involvement Committee apply for a Parents Reaching Out Grant to support the Positive Parenting Program.**

**Moved by Ruth Ward. Seconded by Mona Aelick. Passed.**

Superintendent Blaseg reminded everyone that the Annual General Meeting of PIC will take place on November 11, 2008 at Lockerby Composite School with video link to Espanola High School and Manitoulin Secondary School. The meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>, to take place at the Board Office, will be "meet and greet" with Trustees and Admin Council. The topic of the December PIC meeting will be the Accommodation Review Process. Superintendent Diane Cayen-Arnold will be the guest speaker.

#### **7. Communications Report: Senior Advisor Nicole Charette**

A sod turning ceremony will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to launch the Board's second green school. Located in Lively, the school will bring together students from George Vanier Public School and Jessie Hamilton Public School.

Parents of Grade 9 students are invited to participate in Take Our Kids to Work Day on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The Take Our Kids to Work program provides an opportunity for Grade 9 students to experience the world of work and the variety of career opportunities that await them.

A decision regarding the accommodation of students from Wembley Public School will be made at the Board meeting on November 17, 2008. The meeting will be held in the Auditorium at Lockerby Composite School.

Parents/guardians and students in Grades 7 and 8 are invited to an interactive information session designed to help students make key decisions in the transition from elementary school to secondary school. Rainbow District School Board will present *Making the Transition: Finding Your Way from 8 to 9* on November 18<sup>th</sup> at Cambrian College. The Transition Evening is supported by the Parent Involvement Committee with funding from the Ministry of Education Parent Engagement Office.

#### **8. Board Update**

Information has been shared in items 6 and 7 above.

#### **9. School Announcements**

##### **Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, November 11, 2008**

**Lockerby Composite School Auditorium**

**Ramsey Lake Road, Sudbury**

**With video link to Espanola High School and Manitoulin Secondary School**

**Topic: Annual General Meeting of PIC**