

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting
Minutes (Unofficial)
Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7 pm
Rainbow District School Board Office
69 Young Street, Sudbury, Ontario**

Attendance:

PIC Executive:

Chair Sharina Appanna, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Vice-Chair Julie Beare, Lively District Secondary School

PIC Members:

Carol Woodliffe, Long Lake Public School; Melissa Meekers, Lasalle Secondary School

School Council Members:

Patsy Alatalo, Wanup Public School; Maria Korciakoski, Wanup Public School; Alex Linnen, Markstay Public School

RDSB:

Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Ruth Ward, Trustee; Iva McNair, Gatchell School; Diane Cayen-Arnold, Superintendent of Business; Jean Hanson, Director of Education (until 7:30 pm) and Sharon Speir, Superintendent of Schools (until 7:30 pm)

Regrets:

Ada Della Penta, Superintendent of Schools; Linda Goulais, Sudbury Secondary School; Leo Bisson, Lansdowne Public School; Lynsey Benoit, Adamsdale Public School and Trustee Larry Killens

1. Call to Order: 7 pm

2. Welcome: Sharina Appanna, Chair

3. Self Introductions

Chair Appanna invited everyone to introduce themselves.

4. Meet and Greet

Those in attendance were invited to meet and mingle until 7:30 pm.

5. Guest speaker: Diane Cayen-Arnold

Superintendent of Business, Rainbow District School Board

Topic: Accommodation Review Process

Superintendent Diane Cayen-Arnold presented an overview of the revitalization of Rainbow Schools and the accommodation review process. A Five-Year Capital/Accommodation Plan is approved annually at the Accommodation Meeting of the Board. Trustees decide if any schools will be reviewed based on a number of factors including, needs of students and staff, viability of program, current and projected enrolment, capital needs, etc.

Since embarking on the program of revitalization, there have been many success stories – the old Valley View Public School and Val Caron Public School were consolidated into the new

Valley View Public School, the first green school in Northern Ontario and the Board's first new school in 40 years; Jessie Hamilton Public School and George Vanier Public School (JK to Grade 6) were consolidated into the new Walden Public School, the Board's second green school; Grade 7 and 8 students were relocated into their own wing at Lively District Secondary School; Sudbury Secondary School is being renewed with renovations to the A wing, an upgraded auditorium and an addition to accommodate Arts Education; the wing on College/Baker streets will eventually be demolished; an addition is being built to Princess Anne Public School to accommodate students from Wembley Public School; significant renovations have been completed at Alexander Public School, Little Current Public School and other schools thanks to Primary Class Size funding. With solid business cases, the Ministry of Education has approved funding for the revitalization projects and looks favourably on consolidations if/where it makes sense to do so.

Rainbow District School Board, like 60 of 72 Boards in Ontario, has declining enrolment. In the past, the Board would indicate to a community that its school has been slated for closure. The process is now much more collaborative. An Accommodation Review Committee is appointed to review options. Ministry Accommodation Review Guidelines were updated in June 2009 and have been posted on the Board's website. The Board subsequently updated its accommodation review policy.

An Accommodation Review does not mean that a school will automatically close. A number of options will be considered, including possible closures, consolidations, new schools, a reconfiguration of boundaries, etc.

In the South End, some schools are bursting at the seams while other schools have surplus space. In keeping with the Ministry of Education's recommendation that accommodation reviews focus on a group of schools within a geographic area, the Board appointed an Accommodation Review Committee for Alexander Public School, Algonquin Road Public School, Long Lake Public School, MacLeod Public School, Monetville Public School, R.L. Beattie Public School, Wanup Public School, Lockerby Composite School and Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School.

Working in an advisory role, the Accommodation Review Committee will provide to the Board's Administrative Council recommendations to maximize student learning within the resources available to the Board in keeping with two guiding principles – all students will continue to have access to the best programming possible in quality school facilities and surplus space will be reduced.

Board Policy 3.09 outlines the process. The policy is available on the Board's website. There will be four public meetings within specified timelines. The dates will be announced early in the new year. Parents/guardians and the community at large will have an opportunity to provide input as the consultative process unfolds.

Accommodation Review Committee members will be drawn from the school community and the broader community, including parents, educators, school board officials, a secondary school student representative, a First Nation representative as well as business and municipal leaders. A number of factors will be considered as part of the review process, including the quality of the

learning environment at the school, the range of program offerings, the adequacy of the school's physical space to support student learning, and the proximity of the school to students. Other factors, such as enrolment, operating costs, and capital needs, will also be considered.

Trustees make the final decision regarding the accommodation of students. Trustee Ruth Ward stressed that trustees have not made up their minds in advance. Trustees are not members of Accommodation Review Committees but they do attend meetings to hear public input so they can make an informed decision.

All agendas and minutes of public meetings are posted online. The School Information Profile and Glossary is available online. Once this information is completed for each school, it will also be posted.

PIC member Julie Beare said she participated in the Accommodation Review in Sudbury West and the experience was very rewarding for her as a parent. She added that when all was said and done, the best decisions were made. She told parents that being involved in an Accommodation Review Committee is a great opportunity to network with other parents. It is also an opportunity to give feedback and encourage other parents to share their ideas.

Superintendent Cayen-Arnold was asked if other board facilities are considered in reviews. She indicated that yes, this is indeed the case. The Media Centre and Computer Technicians, for instance, were relocated to Lively District Secondary School following the Sudbury West Accommodation Review to maximize the use of space in the secondary school.

Members of PIC asked who completes the School Information Profile. The Principal leads the process with input from Board Office staff, etc. The Accommodation Review Committee is involved in the process, including School Councils. The importance of community partners can be expressed in the "Value to Community" section of the profile.

PIC members stressed the importance of communications throughout the Accommodation Review Process. They suggested that information be included in school newsletters and school bulletin boards. It was indicated that parents would receive letters as the process unfolds.

To access information related to the accommodation review process, click here:
<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/boardroom/accommodation/overview.php>

6. Approval of Agenda

Motion: That the agenda be approved as presented.
Moved by Julie Beare. Seconded by Carol Woodliffe. Carried.

7. Approval of Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 2009 be approved.
Moved by Iva McNair. Seconded by Julie Beare. Carried.

Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held on November 10, 2009 be approved.
Moved by Alex Linney. Seconded by Sharina Appanna. Carried.

8. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Motion: That Sharina Appanna be acclaimed as Chair.
Moved by Alex Linney. Seconded by Carol Woodliffe. Carried.

Motion: That Julie Beare be acclaimed as Vice-Chair.
Moved by Sharina Appanna. Seconded by Carol Woodliffe. Carried.

There were no nominations for Secretary.
Nicole Charette will continue to prepare the minutes until a Secretary is appointed.

9. Tuesday, November 10, 2009 - Annual General Meeting Feedback

PIC members questioned the poor turnout at the AGM. They wondered if H1N1 may have had an impact on attendance, noting that many schools were not represented. Committee members indicated that they liked the format of the AGM, particularly the ice breakers led by Leo Bisson. They suggested that the meet and greet portion of the evening be a bit longer to allow for more time to network/dialogue. It was suggested that a specific bulletin board be designated in schools for "School Council News" and that more effort be made on ensuring that parents receive information.

Reminder:

The Committee decided that PIC orientation binders would not be distributed at the AGM to save on photocopying. This information is available online at the following link:

<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/SchoolCouncils/Overview.php>

Click on *School Councils – A Guide for Members* in the right hand column.

10. Ministry of Education Parent Engagement Policy - Survey

Nicole Charette invited School Council members to review the Ministry of Education Parent Engagement Policy and complete the survey, available at the following link on the Board's website: <http://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/ParentInvolvement/Overview.php>

11. Communications Report

Nicole Charette provided a communications update, including the following:

H1N1 vaccination clinics were held for elementary school children from November 18, 2009 to December 2, 2009. Consent forms were sent home for parents to sign along with a letter from the Medical Officer of Health. Parents received additional information regarding the date and time of clinics from their school principal. Information regarding H1N1 can be accessed on the Board's website at the following link: <http://www.rainbowschools.ca/schools/HealthUnitInfo.php>

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to Open Houses and Information Sessions at Rainbow Secondary Schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin. All students are welcome to participate, regardless of which elementary

school students currently attend. To help in the process, Rainbow District School Board has produced a Guide for Students and Parents called *"Making the Transition – Finding your way from Grade 8 to Grade 9."* The guide contains information about course codes, levels of study, timetables and tips. The guide can be accessed online at rainbowschools.ca. Copies are also available by emailing info@rainbowschools.ca or visiting area Rainbow secondary schools. For a complete list of Open House dates and times, visit rainbowschools.ca

Rainbow District School Board will offer a new Early Learning Program in Ministry of Education approved schools effective September 2010. In addition, the Board's Policy and Finance Committee has recommended that full-day Junior Kindergarten be offered every day in all other Rainbow Schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin. The recommendation will be presented to the Board for approval at its regular meeting on Monday, December 14, 2009. The Early Learning Program will be phased in over the next five years, beginning in September 2010. A teacher and early childhood educator will lead the program, with average class sizes of 26 children. For a fee, parents will have an option of enrolling their children in before and after school programs, providing there is sufficient interest. There will also be a new curriculum for four and five-year-olds.

The Susan Hess Quilt of Honour Children's Mental Health Presentation will now take place on February 9th, 2010 at Gatchell School (instead of the March meeting). The Addictions presentation will take place at the March meeting. The reason? Gatchell School's Black Light Theatre is on March 9th.

REVISED
Parent Involvement Committee
2009-2010 School Year
Schedule of Meetings and Topics
(All meetings begin at 7 pm.)

Tuesday, January 12, 2010
School Yard Rejuvenation
Presenter: Mark Elliott, Landscape Architect
Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

Tuesday, February 9, 2010
Quilt of Honour – Children's Mental Health
Presenter: Susan Hess
Gatchell School, 31 Tuddenham Avenue, Sudbury
Note: The broader community will be invited to this presentation.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010
Addictions
Presenter: Roxane Zuck, Iris Addiction Recovery for Women
Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

School Council Appreciation Evening

Lockerby Composite School, 1391 Ramsey View Court, Sudbury

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

School Council Appreciation Evening

Little Current Public School, 18 Draper Street, Little Current

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Working meeting to establish PIC schedule for 2010-2011

Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

Visit rainbowschools.ca for news.

12. School Announcements

The Long Lake Public School Christmas Tea will be held on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Snow date is Thursday, December 10, 2009.

Visit rainbowschools.ca under “news” for a schedule of Festive Events in Rainbow Schools.

The Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School Variety Show takes place from Thursday, December 10, 2009 to Saturday, December 12, 2009.

A Dramatic Reading of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol will take place in the Sudbury Secondary School Sheridan Auditorium on Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 7 pm. Director of Education Jean Hanson is one of the celebrity readers.

13. Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

Moved by Carol Woodliffe. Seconded by Julie Beare. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

School Yard Rejuvenation

Presenter: Mark Elliott, Landscape Architect

Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury