

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting  
Minutes (Unofficial)  
Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7 pm  
Rainbow District School Board Office  
69 Young Street, Sudbury, Ontario  
with video conference to Manitoulin Secondary School**

**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; Leo Bisson, Lansdowne Public School; Lynsey Benoit, Adamsdale Public School

**School Council Members:**

Patsy Alatalo, Wanup Public School; Maria Korkiakoski, Wanup Public School; Gordon Este, Alexander Public School; Frances Van Boxel, Adamsdale Public School; Linda Tresidder, R. L. Beattie Public School; Megan Sproule-Jones, R.L. Beattie Public School; Patti Socransky, R.L. Beattie Public School; Marlene Thomas, R.L. Beattie Public School; Linda Koski, R.L. Beattie Public School; Tammy Vaudry, R. L. Beattie Public School; Trish Kitching, Gatchell School

**RDSB:**

Ada Della Penta, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Trustee Larry Killens (via video conference), Iva McNair, Gatchell School; Janelle Bast, Vice-Principal Ernie Checkeris Public School/Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Chris Bourré, Principal, Adamsdale Public School; Maria Bouwmeester, ETFO; Sharon Speir, Superintendent of Schools; Lynne Kulha, Principal, R.L. Beattie Public School; Paula Biondi, Vice-Principal, R.L. Beattie Public School; Pierrette Zuk, Principal, Wanup Public School

**Regrets:**

Ruth Ward, Trustee; Alex Linney, Markstay Public School

1. **Call to Order:** 7 pm

2. **Welcome:** Sharina Appanna, Chair

3. **Self Introductions**

Chair Appanna invited everyone to introduce themselves.

4. **Guest speaker: Mark Elliott**

**Landscape Architect**

**Topic: School Yard Rejuvenation**

*“Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will get you everywhere.” Einstein*

Mark Elliott invited those present to look at schoolyards in new and innovative ways, places where children can use their imagination to experience the wonders of the world. He presented the concept of “Natural Playgrounds” with a focus on creative play, constructive play, active play and experiential play.

**Natural Playgrounds** – social play, imaginary spaces formed with willow branches, shrubs for play forts and labyrinths, amphitheatre/stage areas, log houses, teepees, a diversity of spaces, abstract structures with poles.

**Creative Play (art and music in landscapes)** – chalk drawing surfaces, mural boards, pathways, cultural motifs, art installations, sets of drums and xylophones, mosaics, etc.

**Constructive Play (building)** – play logs, water features, sand blocks, use of recycled materials, cedar logs, log built structures from driftwood, etc.

**Active Play (running/climbing/jumping)** – play hills and mounds, winter sliding hills, rocks/walls for climbing, outdoor classroom areas, log stepping stones, old recycled tires, bike tracks, etc.

**Experiential Play (interactive/sensory)** – gardens, trees, plants, hands-on learning projects, buildings with grass roofs, greenhouse made out of recycled pop bottles, Northern forest/living lab; incorporate natural ecology into site, etc.

Mark Elliott shared the vision for the schoolyard at the new Walden Public School, Rainbow District School Board's second green school located in Lively, where the landscape is a metaphor for a "global village".

Parents asked questions about liability and maintenance. They wanted to ensure that any features incorporated into school grounds were safe for children. They also asked if some of the design elements that were presented could sustain our Northern winters. Parents talked about balancing risks for the rewards. One parent indicated that natural schoolyards encourage children to use their imagination and reduces incidents of bullying. The presentation will be posted on the Board's website.

## 5. Approval of Agenda

***Motion: That the agenda be approved as presented.***

**Moved by Leo Bisson. Seconded by Julie Beare. Carried.**

## 6. Approval of Minutes

***Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held on December 8, 2009 be approved.***

**Moved by Iva McNair. Seconded by Julie Beare. Carried.**

## 7. PRO Grants and Board News

Superintendent Ada Della Penta indicated that PRO grants for schools have been approved by the Ministry of Education and will soon be announced. Information will be shared with schools. In response to feedback, the PRO grant cycle will begin earlier in 2010.

The Minister of Education extended an invitation to the Parent Involvement Committee Chair and a member of the committee to participate in the first annual PIC Symposium in Toronto on April 16, 2010.

PICs across Ontario will be consulted on the development of a new PIC Guide.

Six Rainbow Schools will implement the new Early Learning Program in September 2010 – Churchill Public School, Lansdowne Public School, Princess Anne Public School, Queen Elizabeth Public School, Wembley Public School and A. B. Ellis Public School. Details are still being worked out regarding before and after school programs that will be offered as part of the expanded school day for 4 and 5-year-olds.

Schools have been invited to complete the template for the annual Principal/Vice-Principal profile in consultation with School Councils. The profiles must be submitted by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Admin Council reviews the profiles when considering appointments for leadership positions.

Superintendent Della Penta provided an update on the Accommodation Review for Sudbury South Area Schools, including 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. Dates of public meetings will be available online the week of January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010. School information profiles are currently being completed. For more information about the process and the membership of the committee, visit <http://www.rainbowschools.ca/boardroom/accommodation/overview.php>

#### **11. Communications Report**

Nicole Charette provided a communications update, including the following:

#### **Secondary School Open Houses/Info Sessions**

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](http://rainbowschools.ca). Copies are also available by emailing [info@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:info@rainbowschools.ca) or visiting area Rainbow secondary schools. For a complete list of Open House dates and times, visit [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca)

#### **Full Day Every Day Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten Registrations**

Rainbow Schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin are now accepting registrations for full day every day Kindergarten effective September 2010. Children will be immersed in a rich learning environment where their social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth will be nurtured through stimulating hands-on activities. Parents/guardians are invited to special Open Houses that will take place at area Rainbow Schools the week of February 1 to 5, 2010. Visit [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) for the complete schedule of dates and times. For enrolment in Junior Kindergarten, your child must be four years of age by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. For enrolment in Senior Kindergarten, your child must be five years of age by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. If registering your child for the first time, please bring his/her identification documents including

birth certificate, birth registry/baptismal certificate, Ontario Health Card and immunization record.

### **French Immersion/Core French Info Soirée February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm**

A French Immersion and Core French Info Soirée will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2010 from 6 pm to 7 pm at all Rainbow elementary schools offering French Immersion in the Greater Sudbury area: Alexander Public School at 39 St. Brendan Street in Sudbury, Chelmsford Public School at 121 Charlotte Street in Chelmsford, Ernie Checkeris Public School at 1570 Agincourt Avenue in Sudbury, Lansdowne Public School at 185 Lansdowne Street in Sudbury, Levack Public School at 100 High Street in Levack, Northeastern Elementary School at 45 Spruce Street in Garson, R.L. Beattie Public School at 102 Loach's Road in Sudbury, Valley View Public School at 1840 Valleyview Road in Val Caron, Walden Public School at 249 Sixth Avenue in Lively, and Westmount Avenue Public School at 511 Westmount Avenue in Sudbury. The Info Soirée will feature a dynamic workshop for children that will give parents an opportunity to see French instruction in action. Principals and teachers will be on site to answer any questions parents may have. To register, please call 705-523-3308, ext. 8217 or email [info@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:info@rainbowschools.ca).

### **News Resources to Help Children/Parents Learn French**

Rainbow District School Board unveiled two new resources for students and parents to support French Immersion and Core French in Rainbow Schools - a booklet called "La boîte à outils" and an accompanying interactive website. Funded by the Ministry of Education and the Government of Canada, the resources will help parents/guardians learn French along with their children. The booklet features 12 sections that are colour-coded for ease of reference. The interactive website is an online version of the booklet, with two important additions. The website features the pronunciation of more than 300 words and expressions, recorded at the Lions Community Heritage Sound Studio at Confederation Secondary School. It also has links to all of the websites that are highlighted in the booklet, including the dictionaries and word banks. The site can be accessed at [rainbowschools.ca](http://www.rainbowschools.ca) - [http://www.rainbowschools.ca/programs/French/Toolbox/FI\\_TOC.php](http://www.rainbowschools.ca/programs/French/Toolbox/FI_TOC.php)

### **New Guide: First Nation, Métis and Inuit Presence in Rainbow Schools**

The Rainbow District School Board has unveiled a new resource guide for staff entitled First Nation, Métis and Inuit Presence in Rainbow Schools. It's part of the Board's ongoing efforts to build bridges toward cultural understanding in keeping with the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework in Ontario. The guide highlights two very important objectives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education in Rainbow Schools – all students will have the opportunity to increase their knowledge and appreciation of contemporary and traditional First Nation, Métis and Inuit traditions, cultures and perspectives and First Nations, Métis and Inuit students need to learn in a setting that recognizes their needs, values, cultures, identity, and challenges to help them succeed. To access the guide, click here: <http://www.rainbowschools.ca/news/2010/11459.php>

### **Susan Hess on Children's Mental Health on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Gatchell School**

The Rainbow District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee will host a special guest speaker on Tuesday, February 9, 2010. The entire community is invited to hear Susan Hess, the mother of a daughter with serious mental health problems, share her story and the story of

other courageous children and their families who have let their names stand on a Quilt of Honour. The presentation will take place at 7 pm at Gatchell School. Susan Hess is past President of Parents for Children's Mental Health. After years of trying to find help for her daughter, she was able to access services and treatment at a children's mental health agency in Windsor, Ontario. Her daughter is now a high school graduate and award winning volunteer at a seniors' centre. Gatchell School is located at 31 Tuddenham Avenue in Sudbury. From downtown Sudbury, travel west on Lorne Street, turn right on Tuddenham Avenue and turn left at the stop sign at the top of the hill.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

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

**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](http://rainbowschools.ca) for news.

**12. School Announcements**

There were no school announcements.

Superintendent Ada Della Penta reminded parents about exams for secondary schools from January 22 to 28, 2010.

**13. Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.**

**Moved by Leo Bisson. Seconded by Julie Beare. Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 7 pm**

**Quilt of Honour, Children's Mental Health**

**Presenter: Susan Hess**

**Gatchell School, 31 Tuddenham Avenue, Sudbury**

**The entire community is welcome to attend.**