

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7 pm
Lockerby Composite School Auditorium
with video link to
Espanola High School and Manitoulin Secondary School**

Attendance:

Sudbury site:

PIC Chair Sharina Appanna; Trustee Tyler Campbell, Board Vice-Chair; Trustee Ruth Ward; Director of Education Jean Hanson; Superintendent Lesleigh Dye; Superintendent Norm Blaseg; Superintendent Ada Della Penta; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Chris Bourré, Adamsdale Public School; Jacques Mantha, Alexander Public School; Lona Dabous, Algonquin Road Public School; Michael Bellrose, C.R. Judd Public School; Janelle Bast, Ernie Checkeris Public School/Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Pam DeMarco, Chelmsford Public School; Dave Farrow, Churchill Public School; Dawn Chew, Copper Cliff Public School; Bob Deeth, Cyril Varney Public School; Iva McNair, Gatchell School; Chantal Lacroix, Lansdowne Public School; Susan Cousineau, Larchwood Public School; Stephen Winckel, Markstay Public School; Paula Mackey, Monetville Public School; Pablo Gil-Alfau, Princess Anne Public School; Jack Malette, R.H. Murray Public School; Paula Biondi, R.L. Beattie Public School; Colleen McDonald, Wembley Public School; Paul Dupont, Valley View Public School; Cathy Nursall, Valley View Public School; Pierrette Zuk, Wanup Public School; Leslie Mantle, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Judy Noble, Lively District Secondary School; David Bertrim, Lockerby Composite School; Craig Runciman, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Linda Goulais, Sudbury Secondary School; Lynsey Benoit, Adamsdale Public School; Gord Apolloni, Copper Cliff Public School; Trish Kitching, Gatchell School; Leo Bisson, Lansdowne Public School; Lori Bot, Long Lake Public School; Carol Woodliffe, Long Lake Public School; Alex Linnen, Markstay Public School; Nicole King, Northeastern Elementary School; Dave Wickenden, Princess Anne Public School; Megan Sproule-Jones, R.L. Beattie Public School; Jackie Locking, Valley View Public School; Bill Clarke, Walden Public School; Renee McCormick, Wembley Public School; Julie Beare, Lively District Secondary School; Bev Burmaster, Sudbury Secondary School

Espanola site:

Terry Moss, A.B. Ellis Public School, Kendra Mihell, S. Geiger Public School; Lynn MacDonell, Webbwood Public School; Marty Punkari, Espanola High School; Debbie Langlois, Espanola High School; Lisa Podlatis, A.B. Ellis Public School

Manitoulin site:

Trustee Grace Fox; Trustee Larry Killens; Jamie Mohamed, Little Current Public School; and Laurie Zahnow, Manitoulin Secondary School

1. Call to Order: 7 pm

2. Welcome: Sharina Appanna, Chair

Chair Appanna welcomed everyone and introduced PIC members.

3. Greetings from Board Vice-Chair Tyler Campbell

Sharina Appanna indicated that Board Chair Judy Hunda sends her regrets and extends her best wishes to all in attendance. Board Vice-Chair Tyler Campbell delivered greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees. He indicated that PIC continues to be a tremendous resource, giving parents a voice in education and a venue to learn from each other. He added that when schools work together with the home and the home works together with the school, we form a powerful partnership dedicated to maximizing student success. When parents are on site and on side, contributing their time, talent, energy and enthusiasm, and supporting what's happening at the school, it sends an important message to children. It tells them that you value education.

4. Greetings from Director of Education Jean Hanson

Director Hanson thanked Sharina Appanna for her leadership as Chair of PIC and thanked all parents for their contribution to Rainbow Schools. She noted that as the first teachers in the home, parents play a significant role in nurturing, mentoring, inspiring and encouraging. When the school and the home work together to nurture, mentor, inspire and encourage, we double the impact that we have on a young person's life and their ability to achieve success. Director Hanson focused on three timely topics – H1N1, the new Early Learning Strategy and the green school in Sudbury West. She also commended School Councils for applying for Parents Reaching Out Grants to further engage parents/guardians in their child's learning.

5. Meet and Greet Activities

Leo Bisson led the meet and greet activities which gave all those in attendance an opportunity to mix and mingle.

6. 2008-2009 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 11th, 2008, as Rainbow District School Board marked its first ever "**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. Every second Thursday of each new school year is now **Wear Pink Day** in Rainbow Schools.

Copies of the book "**176 Ways to Involve Parents**" **Practical Strategies for Partnering with Families** by Betty Boulton were sent to all schools. The books were purchased by PIC.

The Parent Involvement Committee received a **Parents Reaching Out Regional Grant** in 2007-2008 to produce a Transition Video, Guide and Poster. These resource materials were launched at the Transition Evening held last fall and will be used at this year's Transition Evening on Tuesday, November 17th from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at Cambrian College.

Members of the Parent Involvement Committee toured the **new Valley View Public School** last fall, the first green school in Northern Ontario and the first school for the Rainbow District School Board in 40 years. This school is a model for sustainable development, which we can all be very proud of.

A number of community groups are working together to launch a **Positive Parenting Program** to provide supports to parents, including Rainbow District School Board. Kate Barber made a presentation about this exciting project at the PIC AGM held last fall. PIC applied for a Parents

Reaching Out Regional Grant to support the Triple P project last year but did not receive funding. We renewed the application this year.

Also at our AGM last year, we welcomed the choir from George Vanier and Jessie Hamilton Public School who entertained us with their **“Go Green” song**.

At the January meeting of PIC, Jan Heppner in Special Education gave a presentation regarding initiatives being undertaken within the Rainbow District School Board to assist and enrich students with **Autism Spectrum Disorder**.

In February, Janet Gasparini made a presentation about **reducing the poverty level in Greater Sudbury**. She shared a number of hand-outs with parents and this material is available on the Board website.

In March, Superintendent Ada Della Penta and Vice-Principals Cathy Nursall and Linda Goulais provided an overview of character development and engaged PIC in a one-hour discussion as part of a series of consultations to determine the **top 10 character traits** that will provide the foundation for character development in Rainbow Schools.

In 2008-2009, 20 Rainbow Schools shared a total of \$18,000 in **Parents Reaching Out Grants** to support School Council initiatives to further engage parents in their child’s learning. Parents can find a complete list of the projects that were completed on the Board’s website.

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. Gerry Loughheed Jr. inspired us with his words of wisdom and wit at the PIC celebration in Sudbury. At the event in Espanola, we participated in some fun ice breakers. I would like to thank Trustee Ruth Ward for leading this part of the evening for our School Council members in Espanola and Manitoulin.

And, at our last meeting in June, we gathered **to plan the agenda of speakers** for the current school year. The speakers are highlighted in the 2009-2010 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. 2009-2010 Election Process

Superintendent Ada Della Penta indicated that the PIC Executive is comprised of 10 parents – eight from Sudbury, one from Espanola and one from Manitoulin.

She presented the slate of candidates, as follows:

Lynsey Benoit, Adamsdale Public School; Denise Sheppard, Central Manitoulin Public School; Gord Apolloni, Copper Cliff Public School; Leo Bisson, Lansdowne Public School; Carol Woodliffe, Long Lake Public School; Debbie Langlois, Espanola High School, Melissa Mekers, Lasalle Secondary School; Julie Beare, Lively District Secondary School; Sharina Appanna, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Bev Burmaster, Sudbury Secondary School.

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

**Moved by: Alex Linnen (Markstay) Seconded by: Trish Kitching (Gatchell)
Carried**

8. PIC Meetings in 2008-2009

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

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Diane Cayen-Arnold, Superintendent of Business
an overview of the Accommodation Review Process

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Landscape Architect Mark Elliott
School Yard Rejuvenation

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Roxane Zuck of the Iris Addiction Recovery for Women
Addictions

Please note: This speaker will present on March 9, 2010.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Susan Hess
Quilt of Honour – a Children’s Mental Health project
Please note: This speaker will present on February 9, 2010.

School Council Appreciation Evenings

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 in Sudbury

Tuesday, May 11, 2010 in Little Current

9. Questions from the floor

There were no questions from the floor.

10. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

**Diane Cayen-Arnold, Superintendent of Business
an overview of the Accommodation Review Process
Board Office, Board Room, 7 pm**