

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 7 pm
Rainbow District School Board Office
69 Young Street, Sudbury, Ontario**

Attendance:

PIC Executive:

Chair Sharina Appanna

RDSB:

Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Ruth Ward, Trustee; Ada Della Penta, Superintendent of Schools; Maria Bouwmeester, ETFO; Linda Goulais, Sudbury Secondary School; Iva McNair, Gatchell School; Janelle Bast, Ernie Checkeris Public School/Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Chris Bourré, Adamsdale Public School

PIC Members:

Carol Woodliffe, Long Lake Public School; Julie Beare, Lively District Secondary School; Trish Kitching, Gatchell School; Leo Bisson, Churchill Public School; Megan Sproule-Jones, R.L. Beattie Public School

School Council Members:

Wendy Naneff, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Melissa Mekers, Lasalle Secondary School; Lynsey Benoit, Adamsdale 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: Lise Denis, Social Planning Council,
Taking a Stand Against Bullying Using a Social Inclusion Approach**

Lise Denis provided an overview of Peace Pushers, an initiative to get secondary school students meaningfully involved in addressing the issue of bullying by learning about the Kids Help Phone, by giving workshops to elementary school students and by creating awareness in their own schools.

This social inclusion project is teaching students how to learn to have an **open mind** by examining prejudices and how often they assume or judge others; understanding the power of words; learning to have an **open heart** by listening better and spending time getting to know different people; and developing **tolerance** and patience towards others when they see things differently.

Cory Bradshaw and Perry Willey of Confederation Secondary School shared their personal experiences and talked about how Peace Pushers is making a difference. Members of PIC asked questions and thanked the presenters.

Leo Bisson indicated that the Stand Up Against Bullying initiative will be going into its third year in 2011. He would like to see the program expanded in the future. Sharina Appanna commented on the success of Wear Pink Day and commended all schools for participating.

Superintendent Ada Della Penta said *Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy*, introduced in 2008, is being implemented in Rainbow Schools over the next four years.

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 September 15, 2009 be approved.

Moved by Carol Woodliffe. Seconded by Leo Bisson. Carried.

Note: The hand-outs from the Volunteering 101 presentation were attached to the minutes, for sharing with all School Council members.

7. H1N1 Communications to Parents/Guardians

Nicole Charette provided an update on H1N1. The Director of Education sent a letter to parents/guardians about the importance of hand washing and the placement of hand sanitizer in main offices and computer rooms. The Medical Officer of Health sent a letter to parents/guardians about reporting influenza-like illness to the school when students are absent. Schools are reporting absenteeism rates to the Health Unit daily in an effort to track and limit the spread of H1N1 in the community. To access updated information about H1N1, visit rainbowschools.ca

8. Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Annual General Meeting/School Council Orientation Session

Lockerby Composite School, 1391 Ramsey View Court, Sudbury

Ada Della Penta shared ideas for ice breakers provided by Vice-Principal Linda Goulais. Ice breakers will be used to engage parents at the AGM and encourage everyone to network. School Council members will be invited to mix and mingle. The seating will be arranged in a circle format in groups of eight. Suggestions: Make a word with letters; put topics in a jar, select a topic and share. Carol Woodliffe, Leo Bisson, Sharina Appanna and Megan Sproule-Jones will work on the ice breakers and the set-up for the AGM.

Superintendent Ada Della Penta sent a note to Principals requesting nominations for the PIC Executive early so all parents who are interested have an opportunity to put their names forward and be considered. She will send a reminder. The term for PIC Executive members runs from November to October annually.

The Committee decided that PIC orientation binders would not be distributed 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.

9. PRO Grants and Board News

Superintendent Della Penta reminded School Councils that the deadline for PRO Grants is quickly approaching. All applications for funding must be submitted to her office by October 13, 2009 so they can be forwarded to the Ministry of Education by October 17, 2009. Nicole Charette will apply for a PRO Regional Grant on behalf of PIC to support the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P).

Holocaust Survivor Eva Olsson's presentations were very well received. This was hosted by the Board's Safe and Caring Schools Committee in keeping with the curriculum document entitled "*Finding Common Ground, Character Development in Ontario Schools K to 12*". Eva Olsson delivered a powerful message of acceptance, equity and inclusiveness.

Work is continuing on the development of "system character traits". PIC was among the groups that provided input into the 10 character traits that should be adopted for the entire system (one a month).

Work is continuing on the implementation of *Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy*.

Superintendent Della Penta provided an update on mid-terms for secondary schools and parent/teacher interviews. The Professional Learning Day on November 27th, 2009 will focus on report cards at the elementary level and school improvement planning and equity at the secondary level.

10. Communications Report

Nicole Charette provided a communications update, including the following:

Grade 9 students in Rainbow Schools will spend the day at work job shadowing a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host on Wednesday, November 4th as part of the national Take Our Kids to Work program.

This year's recipients of new instruments from the Joan Mantle Music Trust will come together to perform a community concert on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. Featuring bands from Lockerby Composite School, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School and MacLeod Public School, the concert will take place at 7 pm at the McKellar Auditorium at Lockerby Composite School, 1391 Ramsey View Court, Sudbury. (Note: The concert was subsequently postponed.)

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. All students are welcome to participate along with their parents/guardians, regardless of which elementary school they currently attend. Rainbow District School Board will present *Making the Transition: Finding Your Way from 8 to 9* on Tuesday, November 17th, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm in the Student Centre at Cambrian College, 1400 Barrydowne Road. There will be free parking on site in Lot # 15 next to the Student Centre.

Henry Winkler will speak at Glad Tidings on Monday, October 19th.

Rainbow District School Board has developed a new resource for parents of students in French Immersion and Core French that will enable parents to learn French along with their child. To access this resource online, visit rainbowschools.ca and click on Homework Helper under Highlights. Watch for the "écouter" button to hear the pronunciation of French words and expressions. A copy of "La boîte à outils" will be distributed during upcoming parent/teacher interviews. This publication, and the online Homework Helper, were funded by the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Government of Canada to support students and parents as they learn French.

A Guide for Staff on First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education has been produced and will be distributed.

Visit rainbowschools.ca for news.

11. School Announcements

Lockerby Composite School's Kids Caring for Kids Cancer Drive is coming soon. (The drive took place on October 29th, raising an impressive \$32,000.)

12. Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

Moved by Leo Bisson. Seconded by Iva McNair. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Annual General Meeting and School Council Orientation Session

Lockerby Composite School, 1391 Ramsey View Court, Sudbury

With video link to Espanola High School and Manitoulin Secondary School