

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 7pm
Rainbow District School Board Office
69 Young Street, Sudbury, Ontario**

Attendance:

PIC Executive:

Chair Sharina Appanna, Vice-Chair Mona Aelick

RDSB:

Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning;
Ruth Ward, Trustee; Dr. Sharon Speir, Superintendent of Schools

PIC Members:

Cynthia Seguin, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Julie Beare, Lively District Secondary School; Leo Bisson, Churchill Public School

Regrets:

Pablo Gil Alfau, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Megan Sproule-Jones, R.L. Beattie Public School; Laura Whalen, community rep; Robert Beaudin, Manitoulin Secondary School; and Carol Woodliffe, Long Lake Public School

1. Call to Order: 7 pm

2. Welcome: Sharina Appanna, Chair

3. Self Introductions

Chair Appanna invited all in attendance to introduce themselves.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion: That the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by Mona Aelick. Seconded by Julie Beare. Carried.

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held on March 10, 2009 be approved.

Moved by Mona Aelick. Seconded by Cynthia Seguin. Carried.

6. Brainstorming for 2009-2010 – Possible Guest Speakers for Meetings

Committee members were invited to provide input on speakers. It was suggested that the Annual General Meeting be more interactive, giving those in attendance an opportunity to connect with each other. It was suggested that we remove the lecture style seating and go with a round table/carousel format to encourage dialogue. It was also suggested that we survey parents early in the year regarding “five things

that they are doing” or “questions/issues that they have” that may be addressed at the AGM.

Schedule of Meetings and Topics

(All meetings begin at 7 pm.)

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Volunteering 101

Presenter: Barb Nott, President, Volunteer Sudbury

Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

Note: NEW date of meeting.

September 8th conflicted with the Board's Policy and Finance Committee Meeting.

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Taking a Stand Against Bullying

Using a Social Inclusion Approach

Presenter: Lise Denis, Social Planning Council

Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Annual General Meeting/School Council Orientation Session

Lockerby Composite School, 1391 Ramsey View Court, Sudbury

Note: ice breaker, round table format, more engaging

outcome of PRO grants (5 minutes, 5 projects, 5 tips)

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Meet and Greet and Accommodation Review Process

Presenter: Diane Cayen-Arnold, Superintendent of Business

Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

School Yard Rejuvenation

Presenter: Mark Elliott, Landscape Architect

Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Addictions

Presenter: TBC

Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

Tuesday, March 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, April 13, 2010

School Council Appreciation Evening

Lockerby Composite School, 1391 Ramsey View Court, Sudbury

Note: Review format

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

School Council Appreciation Evening

Little Current Public School, 18 Draper Street, Little Current

Note: Review format

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Working meeting to establish PIC schedule for 2010-2011

Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

7. Board News

Dr. Sharon Speir indicated that *Towards Tomorrow Together, the Strategic Board Improvement Plan for 2009-2010* was complete. “Education for Sustainable Development” will continue to be the focus for professional learning. The document outlines the strategies to achieve Board priorities. Smart Goals are currently being developed with a focus on raising the bar, closing the gap (including a focus on students with special needs, gender differences, and First Nation, Métis and Inuit students) and building confidence in public education.

Dr. Speir provided a summary of staffing levels. Declining enrolment means we will need fewer teachers in the elementary panel. Staffing is stable in the secondary panel.

Rainbow District School Board will assume responsibility for the Asquith-Garvey District School Area Board with one elementary/secondary school in Shining Tree (M.W. Moore Public School / M.W. Moore Secondary School) effective September 1st, 2009.

Principals and Vice-Principals have all been placed for the 2009-2010 school year, including transfers and appointments in the elementary and secondary panels.

Graduations have been underway, a rewarding time of the year.

The Board budget was approved on June 22, 2009.

The Province has announced new guidelines for trustees related to student achievement.

All teaching and non-teaching employee groups have new four-year collective agreements that expire in August 2012.

8. Communications Report

Nicole Charette provided a communications update, including the following:

Members of PIC were asked to review information related to parental involvement in the 2008-2009 Guide for Students and Parents and provide any changes. The Chair's contact info will be changed to Sharina Appanna. The schedule of meetings and topics will be updated.

The new school in Sudbury West will be called Walden Public School. It will open in the fall of 2009, becoming the Board's second green school. The school will offer English and French Immersion programs in JK to Grade 8 to students from George Vanier Public School and Jessie Hamilton Public School.

Lively District Secondary School students participated in an international Climate Change Videoconference in Toronto on June 9th, 2009, World Environmental Day.

Queen Elizabeth II Public School unveiled its "most beautiful" schoolyard on June 5th, 2009. The School Council played a significant role in the greening project as winners of the 2008 Ugliest Schoolyard Contest.

Espanola High School student Caroline Ehrhardt set a new Canadian Interscholastic Record in Triple Jump at the 2009 OFSAA Track and Field Championships in Toronto.

Rainbow District School Board held its 13th annual Northern Ontario Visions Project Tradeshow on June 4th. Students displayed innovative businesses, demonstrating their entrepreneurial spirit.

New playground equipment was unveiled at Algonquin Road Public School on June 3rd, 2009 thanks to the leadership of the School Council who raised funds for the project.

Visit rainbowschools.ca for news.

9. School Announcements

Attendees were invited to make announcements or commendations.

Cynthia Seguin tendered her resignation as a member of PIC. She is relocating to Australia next year with her family. PIC accepted her resignation, with regret, and wished her well.

Cynthia Seguin indicated that Ernie Checkeris Public School has an impressive new kitchen. The school received funding from Breakfast Clubs of Canada and Better Beginnings, Better Futures. The school will host a fall official opening of the facility.

Members shared info about “Sudburybrides.com” (Absolute Entertainment), provider of music for a Family Fun Night hosted by Ernie Checkeris. The focus was on “being active with children”. Everyone was dancing and singing. This successful event was funded by the \$500 PRO grant.

Julie Beare said the Grade 7 and 8 students at Lively District Secondary School had a very successful first year, calling it an ‘exciting year of transition’.

Ruth Ward shared good news about her daughter in the Arctic. She is doing research as a PhD student.

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

Moved by Mona Aelick. Seconded by Cynthia Seguin.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Board Office, 69 Young Street

Please note NEW meeting date.

(The original date conflicted with the Policy and Finance Committee meeting of the Board on September 8th, 2009).