

**Parent Involvement Committee Annual General Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 5:30 pm  
Sudbury Secondary School Library  
with video link to  
Espanola High School**

**Attendance**

**Sudbury site:**

Doreen Dewar, Chair, Rainbow District School Board; Gord Santala, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Larry Killens, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Norm Blaseg, Director of Education; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Lesleigh Dye, Superintendent of Schools; Kathy Wachnuk, Superintendent of Schools; Michèle Smethurst, Executive Assistant; Nicole Charette, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning;

Kim Boulanger, Principal, Monetville Public School; Ron Hodgkinson, Principal, Cyril Varney Public School; Heather Downey, Vice-Principal, Sudbury Secondary School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Barrydowne College, Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Paula Biondi, Vice-Principal, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School/Ernie Checkeris Public School; Lee Anne Jolivet, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Melissa Depatie, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Patrick Hopkin, Vice-Principal, Lansdowne Public School; Jan-Marie Prato, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Lisa Piquette, Principal, Lansdowne Public School; Laura Killam, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Joanna Dobson, Parent, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School/Ernie Checkeris Public School; Karla Allen, Parent, Lasalle Secondary School/Northeastern Elementary School/Carl Nesbitt Public School; Tonya Marcotte, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Dahnja Schoengen, Parent, Levack Public School; Irene Koren, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Alison Bujold, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Clare Foladore, Parent, Walden Public School; Jennifer Graffi, Parent, MacLeod Public School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Elizabeth Mack, Vice-Principal, MacLeod Public School; Enza MacEachern, Vice-Principal, Chelmsford Public School; Sherry Conroy, Principal, Chelmsford Public School; Tim Rancourt, Parent, Chelmsford Public School; Kerrie St. Jean, Parent, Lively District Secondary School; Amber Siddiqui, Parent, Queen Elizabeth II Public School; Melissa Jewell, Parent, Queen Elizabeth II Public School; Craig Runciman, Principal, Lockerby Composite School; Chantal Lacroix, Principal, Valley View Public School; Kelly Lemieux, Parent, Valley View Public School; Jason Innis, Parent, Alexander Public School; Jamie Roque, Parent, Pinecrest Public School; Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School; Alison Bujold, Lockerby Composite School; Stacey Gilbeau, Sudbury & District Health Unit; Sara Pidgen ETFO Representative.

**Espanola site:**

Dan Koziar, Vice-Principal, A.B. Ellis Public School; Bob Clement, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Jennifer Tilston, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School.

**Call to order 5:40 pm**

**1. Welcome from Superintendent of Schools Judy Noble**

Superintendent Judy Noble welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting. Judy Noble reviewed the agenda for the evening and introduced members of the 2015-2016 PIC Executive. Superintendent Noble also introduced administrators, teachers and Trustees who participated in PIC. She also acknowledged all of the parents who attended PIC meetings and thanked them for their interest and support.

The purpose of the Parent Involvement Committee is to give School Councils an opportunity to network, to share ideas, to provide input and to learn from Board and community guest speakers.

## **2. Greetings from Board Chair Doreen Dewar**

Board Chair Doreen Dewar delivered greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees. She introduced fellow Trustees of the Board. Chair Dewar thanked all PIC members for their contribution and commended Jessica Joy for her leadership as Chair. She stated that someone once said that the membership of every organization is made up of four kinds of bones. There are the “wish bones” that spend their time wishing that someone else would do the work. Second, we have the “jaw bones” who do all the talking but little else. The third kind of bones are the “knuckle bones”. They knock everything that anyone else tries to do. And finally we have the “backbones”. They are the people that get under the load and do the work! She concluded her remarks by thanking everyone for being the “backbones” of education.

## **3. Greetings from Director of Education Norm Blaseg and Strategic Directions consultation**

Director Blaseg welcomed everyone to the first Parent Involvement Committee meeting of the 2016-2017 school year. At last year’s PIC AGM parents/guardians engaged in an important discussion. The responses that were received from the Parent Involvement Committee and School Councils were considered in the creation of a new Strategic Directions document for the Board and its schools. The Strategic Directions 2016-2020 document was provided to attendees.

Director Blaseg stated that we are proud of our successes and continue to set high expectations that will challenge students to dig deeper, expand their knowledge and make connections to the world around them.

In closing, he thanked PIC Chair Jessica Joy and members of the Parent Involvement Committee for their valuable input throughout the school year. He also thanked all parents who participate in School Councils and noted how fortunate Rainbow Schools are to have wonderful, supportive parents.

He finished by wishing School Councils a great school year.

## **4. 2016 - 2017 Capital and Accommodation Plan – Initial Staff Report - Dennis Bazinet, Superintendent of Business**

Superintendent Bazinet explained that the 2016-2017 Capital and Accommodation Plan – Initial Staff Report is about change and how it is financially driven or motivated. He stated that we cannot afford to maintain our system as it currently exists today. He added that change is a necessity; it is not an option.

For the past two budgets, the Board has needed to draw on its reserves to balance its operating budgets because the Ministry of Education has changed the way it calculates provincial grants. This change, combined with the ongoing, year over year decline in enrolment, has resulted in a significant reduction in our annual operating grants. Our current expenses are greatly exceeding our provincial grants. This cannot be allowed to continue and must be addressed.

One method to implement change is through the accommodation review process. Another is the annual budget process. Both will be needed to establish a new equilibrium point where our expenses equal our revenues.

The motions before Trustees on August 30, 2016 were motions to trigger or begin Modified Accommodation Reviews in several planning areas. The motions were not about specific outcomes.

Superintendent Bazinet delivered a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed 2016-2017 Capital and Accommodation Plan explaining it is an "Initial staff report" and signifies the beginning of the process.

After the presentation, Superintendent Bazinet invited attendees to ask questions.

Q: At the Accommodation Review Public Meeting last evening, it was asked why the Board does not take a stand for one School Board. Please address this. (Trustee Killens)

A: The Board has passed a motion, twice, that we are in favour of one board. (Director Blaseg)

Q: When Sudbury West schools were last under review, grade 7 and 8 students were not planned for at Walden Public School. How will you address the space issue? (School Council Chair - Walden Public School)

A: The on the ground capacity will allow for grades 7 and 8 students to be integrated in Walden Public School should this be the recommended option.

Q: Can the board provide a breakdown of costs to Chairs. Fundraising could be done to offset some of the expenses?

A: Information is in the School Information Profiles.

Q: How much consideration is given on how school closures will impact communities who use the schools?

A: The accommodation review looks at value to the student and value to the board with two guiding principals: All students will continue to have access to the best programming possible in quality school facilities and surplus space will be reduced. Value to the community, however, has been raised during public input.

Q: Projections show some parts of the city are aging, there is also a renewal of young families.

A: We try to look from a long-term perspective. We have more than 6000 excess spaces. We have spoken with the City about demographics. The reality is there are four boards so parents have a lot of choices. Our share of students can be low. We need to promote our schools so they remain viable.

Q: What about utilizing space where there are low populations. Has there been an opportunity to talk to other school boards about sharing facilities?

A: Superintendents of Business have discussed sharing space and continue to do so. The sharing of space would have to move up to a higher political level.

Q: Another, fifth school board may start up. (Trustee Killens)

A: Yes, a fifth school board may be introduced. Anishinaabe education will have an impact on us as we could lose many students from our First Nations with whom we have tuition agreements. This will be voted on in November.

Q: When selecting school sites, are you taking into consideration proximity as well as the green spaces each location offers? If students move to Churchill, there is a fear that play areas will be first to be cut (Parent of children at Cyril Varney where there is a lot of green space).

A: Site improvements are a component in the capital costs of school renewal or consolidation. What one site offers versus another cannot always be considered when looking at the whole picture of accommodation.

School Councils work to suggest play areas and green spaces. While budget is always a factor, site improvements can be accomplished through funding.

Q: Regarding moving Pinecrest grade 7 and 8 students to Confederation, changes needed to Confederation have not been mentioned. How will they be kept separate? Parents may move their kids to the Catholic board.

A. A decision to move the grade 7 and 8 students from Pinecrest into Confederation Secondary School will not be made until January. It is premature to make decisions, but we have plans if we should move in that direction. We have recently been through this process moving grade 7 and 8 students from R.L. Beattie to Lo-Ellen Park SS. We welcome feedback.

Superintendent Judy Noble invited everyone to attend the Public Meetings. More information, including dates, is available on the Board's website.

#### **5. 2016-2017 Election of PIC Membership**

Superintendent Judy Noble explained that at the AGM, a slate of up to 10 candidates is approved for PIC Executive. According to the Terms of Reference, the composition of membership would include one representative from each of the Espanola and Manitoulin Island areas, and 8 representatives from the Sudbury area. This year, there were a total of 13 nominees, and as a result, an election was held.

Judy Noble presented the slate of candidates for the PIC Executive, as follows:

**Denis Plouffe - Chelmsford Valley District Composite School**  
**Dahnja Schoengen - Levack Public School**  
**Deena Zmijowsky - Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School**  
**Jessica Joy - Walden Public School**  
**Tim Rancourt - Chelmsford Public School**  
**Amber Siddiqui - Queen Elizabeth Public School**  
**Jason Innis - Alexander Public School**  
**Alison Bujold - Lockerby Composite School**  
**Bernadette Rémillard - Lansdowne Public School**  
**Nathan Abourbih - MacLeod Public School**  
**Karla Allen - Northeastern Elementary School**  
**Lee Anne Jolivet - Cyril Varney Public School**  
**Jennifer Tilston - A.B. Ellis Public School**

Removed from the ballot as they were not present:

**Deena Zmijowsky - Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School**  
**Jessica Joy - Walden Public School**  
**Nathan Abourbih - MacLeod Public School**

Added to the ballot:

**Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School**  
**Jamie Roque, Pinecrest Public School**

Guests were given one ballot per school. All parent members from each school collaborated to select nine names from the ballot of revised list of 12 nominees. One nominee, Jennifer Tilston of Espanola, was acclaimed, as she was the only nominee from that area.

Each nominee was invited to speak.

Once nominees finished speaking, ballots were distributed. Dan Koziar collected the ballots at Espanola High School. Judy Noble explained that the ballots would be counted and elected PIC Executive members would be notified by email on Wednesday, October 19, 2016.

Superintendent Noble introduced this year's non-parent PIC members:

**Gord Santala and Bob Clement (Trustees)**

**Judy Noble (Superintendent of Schools)**

**Nicole Charette (Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications)**

**Kristina Rivard Gobbo (Principal)**

**Heather Downey (Vice-Principal)**

**Sara Pidgen (Elementary Teacher)**

**TBD (Secondary Teacher) – will be seeking secondary school teacher involvement**

The following members were elected to the 2015-2016 PIC Executive:

**Tonya Marcotte - Lansdowne Public School**

**Bernadette Rémillard - Queen Elizabeth Public School**

**Cheryl Ewin - Valley View Public School**

**Jennifer Tilston - A.B. Ellis Public School (Acclaimed - Espanola Area)**

**Adam Pitre - Larchwood Public School**

**Cynthia Loiselle-Seguín - Cyril Varney Public School**

**Karla Allen - Northeastern Elementary School**

**Melissa Depatie - Ernie Checkeris Public School**

**Jessica Joy – R.L. Beattie Public School**

**Mike Maciuk – Manitoulin Secondary School (Acclaimed – Manitoulin Island Area)**

#### **6. Meeting dates for 2016-2017**

Superintendent Judy Noble reviewed the schedule of PIC meetings for the remainder of the school year, as follows:

**Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

Topic: G Suite for Education (formerly GAFE)

**Tuesday, January 10, 2017**

Topic: Diversity

**Tuesday, February 28, 2017**

Topic: Mindfulness

**Tuesday, April 4, 2017**

Topic: 21C Classrooms

**Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

**Topic:** Planning Meeting for the 2017-2018 school year

Judy Noble thanked everyone for attending. Participants were invited to stay for the presentation on **Internet Safety, Digital Citizenship, Human Trafficking** with Sergeant Marc Guérin and Constable Hally Willmott of the Greater Sudbury Police Service.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

#### **Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, November 1, 2016 - 7 pm**

**Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury**

**Topic: G Suite for Education** (formerly known as GAFE – Google Apps for Education)