

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, November 3, 2015
Board Office**

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Jessica Joy, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Tonya Marcotte, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Lansdowne Public School/Queen Elizabeth Public School; Karla Allen, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School/Lasalle Secondary School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Cheryl Ewin, Parent, Valley View Public School; Adam Pitre, Parent, Larchwood Public School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Jamie Roque, Parent, Redwood Acres Public School/Pinecrest Public School; Alison Bujold, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Tara Labranche-Brosseau, Parent, Queen Elizabeth Public School; Dahnja Schoengen, Parent, Levack Public School; Cheryl Button, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Gord Santala, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; David Douglass, Teacher, Algonquin Road Public School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Barrydowne College; Susan Cousineau, Principal, Redwood Acres Public School; Janelle Bast, Vice-Principal, Cyril Varney Public School; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

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

Regrets: Cynthia Loiselle-Seguin, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School

1. Call to Order: 7 pm

2. Welcome: Superintendent Judy Noble

Superintendent Judy Noble welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited PIC members to introduce themselves.

3. Presentation on the New Health and Physical Education Curriculum – Superintendent Lesleigh Dye and Superintendent Judy Noble

The Province of Ontario released an updated Health and Physical Education curriculum as well as resources for parents/guardians on February 23, 2015.

Superintendent Lesleigh Dye and Superintendent Judy Noble reviewed a number of key messages with parents. The optional examples, prompts and student responses in the curriculum illustrate the possible breadth and depth of the learning and are provided to assist teachers in program and lesson planning and to prepare teachers for the sort of dialogue or questions that might arise. The revised curriculum contains new material related to important issues such as healthy relationships, consent, mental health, online safety and the risks of sexting and is more inclusive of Ontario's diverse population. The revised curriculum promotes the healthy development – physical, social,

emotional and cognitive – of all students, and builds the skills and knowledge to lead and promote healthy, active lives now and in the future.

A number of resources were distributed at the meeting. These resources are available on the Board website at [rainbowschools.ca](http://www.rainbowschools.ca) in the “Parents” section at the following link:
<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/hpecurriculum.php>

If a parent has a concern about a lesson or activity, they should talk to the teacher or principal.

4. Discussion based on presentation

5. Presentation on the revised Student Accommodation policy and the revised Community Planning and Facilities Partnerships administrative procedure – Superintendent of Business Diane Cayen-Arnold

Rainbow District School Board is seeking input on two important documents that will guide accommodation reviews – the revised Student Accommodation policy and the revised Community Planning and Facilities Partnerships administrative procedure. Superintendent of Business Diane Cayen-Arnold reviewed both documents and answered questions.

The purpose of the Community Planning and Facilities Partnerships administrative procedure is to encourage school boards to reach out to community organizations to share planning information prior to commencing an accommodation review. The rationale is to optimize the use of public assets. Superintendent Cayen-Arnold indicated that the Ministry of Education is now making it mandatory that there be an annual meeting with community partners to discuss possible partnerships.

The majority of the language in the Student Accommodation policy comes directly from the Ministry of Education’s guideline issued in March 2015. Superintendent Cayen-Arnold reviewed Section 5 of the policy, which outlines the composition of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). What is different is that the Committee no longer has a municipal representative because there is now a comprehensive process to reach out to the broader community, including municipalities, through the Community Planning and Facilities Partnerships administrative procedure. She added that Superintendents and Principals act as a resource for the ARC.

The Role of the ARC (Section 6) and the School Information Profile (Section 7) were also reviewed. The ARC does not make recommendations to the Board. They are the conduit for information shared between the Board and the school communities. The ARC comments on the staff report and may provide other accommodation options with a supporting rationale. This is in accordance with the Ministry guideline. Also in accordance with the Ministry guideline, there is more information in the School Information Profile (SIP). The value to the community and the value to the economy, however, are now part of the comprehensive consultation process with community partners, which includes the municipalities.

Section 15, the modified accommodation review process, was also highlighted. An optional modified accommodation review process has been introduced, where the Board deems the accommodation review to be less complex. In this case, an ARC is not required and there is one public meeting instead of two. Even though the criteria for a modified accommodation review process are met, the Board may choose to use the standard accommodation review process.

6. Approval of Agenda

Motion: "That the agenda for the meeting of November 3, 2015 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Tonya Marcotte, Lansdowne Public School

Seconded by: Cheryl Ewin, Valley View Public School

Carried

7. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meetings

held on May 5, 2015 and October 20, 2015 (Annual General Meeting)

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held on May 5, 2015 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Lansdowne Public School/Queen Elizabeth Public School

Carried

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held on October 20, 2015 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Cheryl Ewin, Valley View Public School

Seconded by: Jessica Joy, R.L. Beattie Public School

Carried

8. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Superintendent Judy Noble reviewed the roles of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary in accordance with the Terms of Reference for PIC. Parents serve on PIC for one-year terms. The Chair can serve a two-year term and there must be a break for at least one year before being re-elected.

Judy Noble thanked Tonya Marcotte for having served as Chair for the past school year. She called for nominations for the Chair.

Motion: "That Jessica Joy be elected Chair."

Moved by: Adam Pitre, Larchwood Public School

Seconded by: Karla Allen, Northeastern Elementary School / Lasalle Secondary School

Carried

Judy Noble called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Motion: "That Bernadette Rémillard be elected Vice-Chair."

Moved by: Adam Pitre, Larchwood Public School

Seconded by: Tonya Marcotte, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

Judy Noble called for nominations for Secretary.

Motion: "That Cheryl Ewin be elected Secretary."

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Lansdowne Public School/Queen Elizabeth Public School

Seconded by: Adam Pitre, Larchwood Public School

Carried

Jessica Joy chaired the meeting at this point.

9. Review of Feedback from Strategic Planning session at the AGM

1. *What do you want for your children in schools, more specifically in your community?*
 - Increasing community partnerships with schools
 - Investigate how we can partner more often with organizations who offer programs such as Roots of Empathy
 - Maintain and increase the support for mental health for students, staff, and all members of the board. Increase awareness on how to access community support
 - Positive use of digital technology
2. *As a system and as a community, what can we do to support student achievement?*
 - Parents would like to see schools providing more options and better accommodation for students with learning disabilities
 - Investigating what keeps students engaged, and engaging parents as well
 - Improved access to facilities
 - Improving the search functions on the Rainbow District School Board website
 - Implementing Skype/Facetime parent-teacher meetings to reach more parents
3. *As a system and as a community, what can we do to support student well-being?*
 - See more schools offer the homework club so students can stay and have help with their homework
 - Would like to see schools sharing best practices with one and other
 - Encourage use of school space for community groups
 - Continue initiatives like SPARK
 - Form partnerships with agencies/community groups that focus on well-being and student success

4. *How can the community ensure that our educational environment remains vibrant and sustainable for students?*

- Would like to see schools connecting with seniors homes as there is enjoyment on both sides, and can provide extra support with literacy and numeracy practice
- Continue to build and upgrade 21st century classrooms
- Maintain buildings and school yards to demonstrate pride
- Ensure that we continue to foster community partnerships that are unique to each school community

5. *What further opportunities exist to close the gaps and increase equity to support all children and all students in reaching their full potential?*

- To see programs such as the breakfast program being offered to all students in all schools not just those from lower income families
- To see more equality when it comes to athletics and clubs. Ensure all schools are following the same rules and regulations when it comes to coaches and access to the school facilities. Consider looking at a partnership between Elementary and Secondary Schools to share facilities and coaching.
- Offer more Special Education support for French Immersion

10. School Announcements

David Douglass, Algonquin – The staff and students are pleased that extra-curricular activities are back and they will be reintroducing them slowly over the next few weeks.

Karla Allen, Northeastern – They are excited to see an increase in parent interest and attendance at the School Council Meetings.

Karla Allen, Lasalle – Lasalle will host an Information Night on November 12th that is open to all Grade 8 students. The students are working on the float that they have entered in the Santa Clause Parade. The Me to We Club has raised \$10,000 to help build a school in India.

Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Barrydowne College – The FNMI Centre and Cambrian College will be partnering to host a pow wow on March 11th, 2016.

Gord Santala, R.H. Murray – KGHM recently donated \$35,000 to the school to purchase a new play structure. The school has recently installed Buddy Benches in the playground.

Adam Pitre, Larchwood – The running team has had many new students join this year. On December 6th, they will be holding their Christmas Tea.

Denis Plouffe, CVDCS – The school has chosen persistence to be their theme for the school year, as they want to encourage students and parents to never give up. The school will be hosting seven tournaments before the end of January. They are in the process of planning a festive dinner for students.

Jessica Joy, R.L. Beattie – R.L. Beattie will host a craft sale on November 21st. They have been fundraising for a new play structure, which consists of small structures that are close to the ground.

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They are looking at garden beds that the students can plant and harvest in the fall. The daycare will tend the beds over the summer.

Dahnja Schoengen, Levack – Spirit days have been a great success at the school and they have been selling a lot of school spirit wear. They had to cancel the Harvest Feast, but are looking at holding a Christmas Tea.

Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth – Queen Elizabeth will host the GM and Crosstown Drive event in the spring. The students are enjoying SPARK again this year. The school hosted a spaghetti supper in conjunction with Better Beginnings.

Tonya Marcotte, Lansdowne – Lansdowne unveiled their Buddy Benches which were built and painted by the Grade 8 students. The Buddy Benches were featured on CTV News, CBC Radio and Northern Life. They have lots of clubs and teams this year.

Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson – Jean Hanson has used some donations to upgrade their outdoor equipment. The new equipment includes structures that are closer to the ground. They built a new vestibule for students in wheelchairs to use while waiting for transportation. They have repainted the interior of the school to make it more welcoming. They are in the process of designing a new school logo.

Jamie Roque, Redwood Acres – Redwood Acres school recently ‘hatched’ their new mascot Rocky the Redhawk. They recently held their first book fair of the year. The school has welcomed some new pets, including worms and a chinchilla.

Jamie Roque, Pinecrest – Pinecrest had a student place first in cross-country running at Laurentian University. They recently had their fall feast hosted by the School Council.

Lo-Ellen Park – Lo-Ellen Park has a new Principal this year. They have a big fundraiser coming up. The Amazing Race Wrestling Team will be at this fundraiser on November 8th. They will also be holding their annual craft sale on November 13th and 14th.

Dan Koziar, A.B. Ellis – A.B. Ellis recently held their Fall Feast and fed over 300 students. They will be holding a Little Caesars Fundraiser.

11. Communications Report

Nicole Charette delivered the communications report.

Innovative parent involvement projects are being implemented in Rainbow Schools thanks to funding provided by the Ministry of Education’s Parent Engagement Office. Eight Rainbow Schools will share a total of \$7,150 in Parents Reaching Out Grants to support School Council initiatives to further engage parents/guardians in their child’s learning.

In addition, the Board’s Parent Involvement Committee has received a regional grant to produce resources on Developing a Growth Mindset. Parents/guardians will gain a greater understanding of their child’s mindset and its importance in building perseverance, confidence and resiliency.

Parents/guardians will learn strategies they can use to support mindset development with mathematics homework.

Grade 9 students in Rainbow Schools will spend the day at work job shadowing a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 as part of the national Take Our Kids to Work program.

Services to mark Remembrance Day are listed on the Board website.

Parents/guardians and students in Grades 7 and 8 are invited to Making the Transition: Finding Your Way from 8 to 9 on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm in the Student Centre at Cambrian College.

12. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Motion: "That the meeting be adjourned."

Moved by: Tonya Marcotte, Landsdowne Public School

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

7 pm

Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

Topic: Poverty/Equity