

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Board Office**

**Attendance**

**Sudbury site:**

Jessica Joy, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Queen Elizabeth Public School; Cheryl Ewin, Parent, Valley View Public School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; David Douglass, Teacher, Algonquin Road Public School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Barrydowne College; Susan Cousineau, Principal, Redwood Acres Public School; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Tara Labranche-Brosseau, Parent, Queen Elizabeth Public School and Lansdowne Public School; Heather Downey, Vice-Principal, Sudbury Secondary School; Erum Aamir, Parent, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Tammy Bergeron, Parent, Levack Public School; and Dahnja Schoengen, Parent, Levack Public School

**Manitoulin Site:** Nil

**Espanola Site:** Nil

**Regrets:** Melissa Depatie, Parent, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Cynthia Loiselle-Seguin, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Karla Allen, Parent, Lasalle Secondary School / Northeastern Elementary School; Adam Pitre, Parent, Larchwood Public School; Bob Clement, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Gord Santala, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Jennifer Tilston, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School

1. **Call to Order:** 7 pm

2. **Welcome:** PIC Chair Jessica Joy

PIC Chair Jessica Joy welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members to introduce themselves.

3. **Presentation on Poverty/Equity  
by Superintendent Judy Noble and Principal Kristina Rivard Gobbo**

Superintendent Judy Noble and Principal Kristina Rivard Gobbo delivered a presentation on “Reducing the Gaps Created by Poverty and Equity in Student Achievement and Well-being”. Current research on how poverty and equity impact student achievement and how the Rainbow Board is moving forward to make a difference for vulnerable students were discussed. A significant number of students live in poverty. Principal Rivard Gobbo explained that understanding the mindset and mind-frame of these students and their families is important to their success in school. She indicated that students may not be sent to school at the end of the month if there is not enough money for food, as families may fear that CAS will be contacted if students attend school without lunch and snacks. She added that having Barrydowne College on the Cambrian College campus has been a beneficial approach to changing the mindset of students who have grown up in poverty and believe that college is unattainable.

PIC members were asked to share why they thought many students do not graduate from high school. Teen pregnancy, hierarchy of needs, lower income, tentative home situations, and undiagnosed learning disabilities were some of the possibilities that members suggested.

The presenters indicated that often students who live in poverty face other issues that may lead to their being bullied and harassed. To help with this, Rainbow District School Board has created the Dealing Directly with Language card. Parents were given a copy of this tool developed to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment.

Superintendent Noble advised that students are successful when they see themselves reflected in their education. Teachers and administrators need to be intentional to reflect all backgrounds, all pathways, all talents and all strengths in their classrooms equally.

Superintendent Noble added that when students in middle and upper income families are provided with opportunities and structure (for example, piano lessons, hockey school, structured bed times, nutritious food), parents can have an influence in their children's IQ by up to 60 to 80%. Since lower income families don't have the financial resources to provide similar opportunities, parents can only influence IQ by 10%.

Rainbow District School Board is implementing strategies to reduce the gaps by building caring relationships, offering engaging learning activities, monitoring student feedback, creating a climate of growth mindset, and building cognitive skills and working memory.

Members were asked to discuss what PIC and School Councils can do to improve the likelihood that vulnerable students will graduate with a high school diploma. PIC members would like to see more schools providing homework clubs (which would allow students to access resources and help away from distractions, such as chores), greater access to resources such as the "Community Closet", having students begin working on volunteer hours in Grades 7 and 8; and consider having schools fundraise for each other, creating more equity amongst schools.

#### **4. Approval of the Agenda**

*Motion: "That the agenda be approved, as presented."*

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Seconded by: Heather Downey, Sudbury Secondary School

**Carried**

#### **5. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on November 3, 2015**

*Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting on November 3, 2015 be approved, as presented."*

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Seconded by: Susan Cousineau, Redwood Acres Public School

**Carried**

## **6. Discussion based on the presentation**

Reflected above.

## **7. Communications Report**

Nicole Charette delivered the communications report.

Rainbow District School Board's Annual Report for the 2014-2015 school year was mailed to School Council Chairs in December 2015. Copies are available online and at area schools. Copies of the Annual Report were distributed. The Annual Report provides an overview of the key activities undertaken by Rainbow District School Board to address its strategic priorities during the 2014-2015 school year. It also offers an overview of the current Board budget.

Greater Sudbury will experience its very own Oscar Pistorius proceedings when Grade 12 law students take part in the Mock Trial Competition on Monday, January 11, 2016. In this year's case, an aspiring Olympic curler is charged with second-degree murder when he shoots a gun through a bathroom door, believing that a burglar is inside. Instead, the curler's partner, who was in the bathroom, is killed. The Mock Trial Competition, well established within the Grade 12 Law curriculum, is part of the OBA/OJEN Competitive Mock Trials, a provincial program of the Ontario Bar Association and the Ontario Justice Education Network. The tournament is made possible with support from the Sudbury and District Law Association.

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to Information Nights at Rainbow secondary schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin. All students are welcome to participate, regardless of which elementary school students currently attend. Visit [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) for dates and times.

Rainbow Schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin will host information nights for Kindergarten registrations. All parents/guardians and children are invited to attend. Information Nights will take place from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 for the English Program and Thursday, January 21, 2016 for the French Immersion Program. Schools offering English and French Immersion will host one information night on Thursday, January 21, 2016. Visit [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) for a list of schools and programs offered or call your area Rainbow School. Copies of the 2016 Kindergarten brochure were distributed.

Rainbow District School Board is currently accepting nominations for the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award. The award honours Joan Mantle's positive impact on music and music education within Rainbow District School Board and the broader community. Individuals or organizations from the community served by the Board who have had a significant impact on music and/or music education at the elementary, secondary, postsecondary and/or community levels are eligible. The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 15, 2016. For more information, including a nomination form, visit [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) and click on "community". The award will be presented at the International Dinner in support of the Trust on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 6 pm at the ParkSide Centre in Sudbury.

Rainbow District School Board has developed a series of mental health pamphlets with a Parents Reaching Out Regional Grant. The pamphlets provide information for staff and parents/guardians on a variety of topics – anxiety, asperger’s syndrome, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum disorder, conduct disorder, depression, eating disorders, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, reactive attachment disorder and tourette syndrome. This series on mental health and well-being was a Rainbow District School Board Parent Involvement Committee project funded by the Ministry of Education Parent Engagement Office. Copies of the pamphlets were distributed at the meeting.

A revised 2016 Journal Printing desk calendar was distributed. Please note that the calendar shared at the PIC meeting on November 3, 2015 contained inaccurate dates.

Rainbow Schools more than surpassed their goal in this year’s Kids Helping Kids Food Drive, collecting some 308,306 cans. Congratulations to all schools for their tremendous efforts.

Superintendent Judy Noble reminded PIC members that the deadline to submit budget input and budget proposals for the 2016-2017 school year is February 5, 2016.

Rainbow District School Board joins with school boards across Ontario in extending a warm welcome to Syrian families who are arriving in our country and our community. A Welcome to Rainbow Committee has been formed to co-ordinate supports at the Board level. We are also working with Lifeline Sudbury, the umbrella group for the many organizations sponsoring Syrian families to our area. We are committed to building further cultural awareness and understanding for our newcomers to make the circle of care as big as possible.

## **8. School Announcements**

Susan Cousineau – Redwood Acres Public School

Redwood Acres will hold a Math Day with Disney’s Frozen theme. Students will be encouraged to dress up as their favourite character from the movie. They are inviting the entire family to come out and engage in math games. The school will hold “Rocks for Rinks” once again this year. The Sudbury curling club will set up curling simulations in the gym to allow students to learn and try the sport. Local artist Pierre Sabourin will host art workshops at the school next month.

Heather Downey – Sudbury Secondary School

The mainstage musical this year is Cats. Nearly the entire school community is involved in this production. EQAO Math testing is under way.

Denis Plouffe – Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

The school recently had two trees fall down. Once the fallen trees have been cleared, they will begin building a tee-pee in the clearing.

David Douglas – Algonquin Road Public School

This year, the school has a half-time dedicated science and tech teacher for students in Grades 1 to 8. In the science lab, the teacher has set up microscopes that allow students to observe fish eggs. The students have been able to see the heart beat and blood flow of the un-hatched fishes.

Jessica Joy – R.L. Beattie Public School

The school had a successful food drive and collected 5,400 non-perishable food items to donate to the food bank.

Tammy Bergeron – Levack Public School

Levack Public School had a very successful food drive. Students collected 1,500 items. They will be starting after-school programs and clubs soon. There was discussion about how challenging it is to find teachers to stay after school to run clubs because they don't live near the school. It was suggested that the School Council purchase liability insurance, which would allow them to run the clubs themselves. It was also noted that a long-time teacher at Levack Public School will be retiring this year.

Kristina Rivard Gobbo – Barrydowne College

As a way of saying thank you, the students at Barrydowne College have decided to make and serve lunch to more than 40 volunteers from local churches who support the school and students. The students will also be preparing the food for this year's Dare to Stand Out event.

Bernadette Lamirande - Queen Elizabeth Public School

Just before the winter break, Queen Elizabeth Public School held their annual Christmas Bazar. For the first time ever, this event was organized by parents. The school had the largest turn out ever for their Christmas Concert. The school is using its 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom and green screen to engage students. The students have been using the green screen to do everything from taking pictures with Santa to doing weather reports.

Tara Labranche-Brosseau – Lansdowne Public School

Lansdowne Public School held a Christmas supper for parents and students. Joe Fresh donated clothes and cooking tools. The students from Lansdowne are helping to prepare packages for Kindergarten.

## **9. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.**

*Motion: "That the meeting be adjourned."*

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

### **Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2016 - 7 pm**

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

**Topic: Inquiry in Science and Kindergarten**