

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, February 16, 2016  
Board Office**

**Attendance**

**Sudbury site:**

Jessica Joy, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Queen Elizabeth II Public School and Lansdowne 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 II Public School; Andrea MacInnes, Parent, Larchwood Public School; Martin Lee, Parent, Alexander Public School; Jason Innis, Parent, Alexander Public School; Alison Bujold, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Tern Bate, Parent, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Kathy Dokis, Principal, Gord Ewin Centre of Education; Debbie Digby, Nurse, Sudbury & District Health Unit; Adam Pitre, Parent, Larchwood Public School; Cynthia Loiselle-Seguín, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Bob Clement, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Michele Henschel, Program Coordinator, Science and Technological Studies, Gord Ewin Centre for Education

**Espanola Site:** Dan Koziar, Vice-Principal, A.B. Ellis Public School; Jennifer Tilston, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School

**Regrets:** Melissa Depatie, Parent, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Karla Allen, Parent, Lasalle Secondary School / Northeastern Elementary School; Heather Downey, Vice-Principal, Sudbury Secondary School; Erum Aamir, Parent, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Tammy Bergeron, Parent, Levack Public School; Dahnja Schoengen, Parent, Levack Public School

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

2. **Welcome:** Chair Jessica Joy

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

3. **Presentations**

**Inquiring Minds, Kindergarten Inquiry in Rainbow Schools – Kathy Dokis**

The Full-Day Kindergarten program is designed to enable children to maximize their learning through free explorations, focused explorations, and guided inquiry-based learning opportunities. Inquiry is organic. It grows and changes and no two inquiries will be the same. The inquiry cycle includes provocation, exploration, investigation and communication. Provocation can be driven by the teacher or may emerge spontaneously from the children's interactions with materials, experiences or each other. In the exploration phase, students explore topics at their own pace.

How each student explores a concept can happen in very different ways. Student questions drive the investigation and teachers provide the materials and support. (For example, students may compare their own height to that of a friend or use materials such as blocks to measure their height.) In communication, new inquiries are often sparked by questions during circle time, and the cycle begins again as students learn from each other.

### **Kinder-architecture - An Example of Inquiry - Emily Caruso Parnell**

The Student Success Policy Branch and the Laurentian University School of Architecture conducted a Learning Pilot Project at Ernie Checkeris Public School. Students built three dimensional objects using cardboard and tape. Students were then taught how to draw three dimensional pictures using green peppers. They were taught to draw the pepper from different angles and views. The students then used the techniques they learned to draw scaled pictures of their models. In the final step of the project, students were given the same materials used by architects, and with the help of their teachers, built scale models of their designs. The entire project was documented on the school website. The students were excited to showcase their designs to their families and friends at an open house.

### **Presentation - Michele Henschel and Andrea MacInnes**

Andrea MacInnes, Grade 7 and 8 teacher at Larchwood Public School, has built a unique website that encourages students to talk. The same processes she uses can be implemented for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The process is the 5E Model. Students engage, explore, explain, extend and evaluate. Getting students curious begins with questions. To prove how curious humans are, parents were given different items - liquid filled glasses, fortune telling fish, and balls. Parents were then asked to share questions and wonderings about the items to the group. Questions ranged from what is the item made from, to can we take the item home with us. Andrea then explained how she takes the questions and sorts them into the following groups - research, create/build, ponder and experiment. This creates authentic learning. Students take the information and share or communicate it with their peers. They extend the knowledge, with new wonderings. They then handed out iPads with periscopes attached to them. Parents were invited to work together to investigate how different fibers react when they become wet. Parents realized that it doesn't take much to get kids talking.

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

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

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Seconded by: Tara Labranche-Brosseau, Queen Elizabeth and Lansdowne Public School

**Carried**

## **5. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

*Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held on January 5, 2016 be approved, as presented."*

Moved by: Tara Labranche-Brosseau, Queen Elizabeth and Lansdowne Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

**Carried**

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

Discussion was held during the presentations

## **7. Communications Report**

Another Professional Activity Day has been added to the 2015-2016 school year. There will be no school for elementary and secondary students on Friday, May 20, 2016. There are now three Professional Activity Days remaining - April 15th, May 20th and June 17th, 2016.

Some 130 elementary students from Rainbow Schools will hit the trails for a cross-country skiing race on Friday, February 26, 2016 at the Capreol Cross-Country Ski Club. Students from Grades 3 to 8 will compete in a series of 2.5 km races starting at 10:30 am. The final race is set to take place at noon. The awards ceremony will begin at 12:45 pm outside the ski chalet. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

The Lasalle Secondary School Music Department will host "An Evening of Festival Music" on Monday, February 29, 2016 at 7 pm in the school gym. All proceeds will go to the Joan Mantle Music Trust.

The musical Cats is currently being presented at Sudbury Secondary School.

Rainbow District School Board will host its Technological Skills Competition at Cambrian College on Wednesday, March 2, 2016. Secondary students will test their skills in events such as carpentry, welding, auto-CADD, cabinet making, and TV/video production.

Rainbow District School Board will host its seventh symposium aimed at creating and enhancing school-based supports for students who are lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual and questioning (LGTBQ) as well as students with friends and family members in these communities on Friday, March 4, 2016. The Dare to Stand Out Conference, being presented in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity, will take place at Chelmsford Valley District Composite School.

Grade 7 and 8 students from Rainbow Schools will participate in the Rainbow District School Board's annual Elementary Science Fair on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at Lockerby Composite School.

Dr. David Buley has been selected as this year's recipient of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award. The award will be presented at the International Dinner and Silent Auction in support of the Trust on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 6 pm at the ParkSide Older Adult Centre, 140 Durham Street, in Sudbury.

For more news, visit [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca)

## 8. School Announcements

Dan Koziar, A.B. Ellis - Local artist Pierre Sabourin will be in the school to teach students about colors, shapes and forms. The students built and raced cardboard boats at a competition in Sturgeon Falls.

Adam Pitre, Larchwood – The school recently held a successful fundraiser to help a former Larchwood student who is currently battling cancer. Their volleyball team just finished up a very successful season. Students will be attending Sudbury Secondary's presentation of the musical Cats.

Bernadette Rémillard, Lansdowne – The students raised \$7,800 towards new gym equipment, the playground and updated sports uniforms by holding a GM Test Drive event. Recent field trips have included Lake Laurentian Conservation Area and Sudbury Secondary's performance of Cats.

Tara Labranche-Brosseau, Queen Elizabeth – The school recently held a Literacy Day and invited community members, including Norm Blaseg, Sudbury Wolves hockey players, news anchors, and newspaper reporters, to read with students. Students were very excited to participate in a Question and Answer Session with astronaut Col. Chris Hadfield.

Levack – Students in Grades 5 to 8 will be attending the musical Cats at Sudbury Secondary. For the first time in 20 years, the school has new athletic wear and team uniforms. The older students will be hosting and running winter carnival games for the younger students. The older students will be rewarded with a school dance.

Alison Bujold, Lockerby Composite School - Second semester has just begun. They held an open house at the beginning of February.

Denis Plouffe, CVDCS - The trees that came down in the wind storm have been cleared away and there wasn't any damage done to the building. There are many upcoming events at the school, including sports tournaments, the Women of the Future Conference, and Purple Day. The school has decided to grow crops in the greenhouse and donate the harvest to the local food bank and area seniors' residence.

Jason Innis, Alexander Public School - 2016-17 JK numbers are good. There were 27 Kindergarten registrations at the information night. The school will be holding a winter carnival with a pancake breakfast, poutine truck, carriage rides and other fun activities aimed at promoting French culture.

Susan Cousineau, Redwood Acres - Students are participating in many different trips, including Laurentian Conservation, Sudbury Secondary's performance of Cats, and Dynamic Earth. The students are looking forward to their upcoming book fair. The school is currently collecting Canadian Tire money to be used to purchase door prizes for the Fun Fair, which is being held in May. Students can earn invitations to VIP lunches with the VP or Cupcakes with the Principal, every Friday.

Debbie Digby, Sudbury & District Health Unit - The SDHU wants to better understand our culture. They want to see positive education outcomes when they work with the schools, and be able to provide schools with extra resources to meet needs.

Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Barrydowne College - They are taking advantage of the resources offered by the SDHU. Staff members are receiving resiliency training at every staff meeting. The health unit is also offering healthy eating cooking classes to students. Students are responsible for preparing the food for the upcoming Dare To Stand Out Conference. (Friday is the last day to register). They have just launched their Facebook Page and hope to reach even more students. They currently have 90 students on track to graduate this year.

Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson - Preparations for the annual black light production are underway, and they are looking for donations of cardboard boxes. The school is accepting submissions for a new school logo. Construction of the new vestibule is now complete. They have as many as six students who are on track to graduate this year.

David Douglass, Algonquin Road Public School - The fish eggs in the science lab have hatched. They will be released in the next few weeks into one of the area lakes. The students participated in the provincial cardboard boat races in Sturgeon Falls.

Carl A. Nesbitt - The breakfast program lost many of its volunteers. They are focusing on getting it back up and running and are training Grade 7 and 8 students to help out with this important program.

Bob Clement, Trustee – Work is progressing on the revitalization of the Espanola High School site to accommodate two distinct schools – A.B. Ellis Public School (K to Grade 8) and Espanola High School (Grades 9 to 12). The Espanola High School renovations are complete. A.B. Ellis is set to move into their new facilities in the fall.

Jessica Joy, R.L. Beattie - The school will be holding a used book sale fundraiser. The Grade 7 and 8 students will be moving to Lo-Ellen Park in September 2016. There will be an information night on February 25, 2016 to help with the transition. With more than 80 new Kindergarten students registered for the fall, this is the only option. The students, in conjunction with the daycare, will be growing a vegetable garden. When they harvest the crops in the fall, the school will be donating the food to the local food bank.

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

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

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth II Public School

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016**

7 pm  
Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury  
Topic: Early Reading