

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, February 28, 2017
Board Office**

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Jessica Joy, Parent, Walden Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Dahnja Schoengen, Parent, Levack Public School; Karla Allen, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School and Lasalle Secondary School; Trustee Bob Clement; Trustee Gord Santala; Amber Siddiqui, Parent, Queen Elizabeth II Public School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Jason Innis, Parent, Alexander Public School; Deena Zmijowskyj, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Karry Strelezki, Parent, Lively District Secondary School; Stacey Paajanen, Parent, Lively District Secondary School; Kelly Lemieux, Parent, Valley View Public School; Cori Pitre, Principal, Webbwood Public School and S. Geiger Public School; and Christine McInnes, Social Worker, Rainbow District School Board.

Manitoulin Site:

N/A

Espanola Site:

N/A

1. Call to Order: 7 pm

2. Welcome: Chair Dahnja Schoengen

PIC Chair Dahnja Schoengen welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited PIC members to introduce themselves.

She offered her support for the schools that have been affected by this year's Accommodation Review Process. She indicated that the ARC process has resulted in the most passionate community and parent involvement that we have seen in many years.

She encouraged PIC members to return to their parents and empower them to continue to stay engaged and voice their thoughts, opinions and concerns, to be better prepared for the next ARC.

Contact your MPP, City Councilors and the Ministry of Education to express concerns and help to engage the various levels of government in the hopes of easing the pressure on the School Board.

3. Presentation on Equity and Inclusive Education by Principal Cori Pitre on behalf of the Equity and Inclusive Education Committee

Cori Pitre reviewed the Board's commitment to equity and inclusive education in Strategic Directions 2016-2020, the Ontario Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy (2009); and the Ministry of Education's Achieving Excellence document. The Board's Equity and Inclusive Education Committee includes more than 40 members who meet four times annually. There are also a variety of working groups.

Surveys were administered in 2011 and 2015 to determine needs, implement initiatives and monitor progress. Principal Pitre talked about the importance of building awareness, being an ally and supporting everyone in our school communities to create welcoming and safe spaces.

Equity funds are being used in schools to support strategies. A number of system-wide strategies have also been implemented, including professional learning, Dealing Directly with Language cards, Embrace Diversity posters, and the Dare to Stand Out / Free to Be Me Conference. PIC members engaged in a game of LGBTQ 101 Jeopardy to test their knowledge and generate discussion.

4. Presentation on Mindfulness by Social Worker Christine McInnes

Social Worker Christine McInnes described mindfulness as being aware in the moment, while accepting emotions and thoughts without judgment. Practicing mindfulness can lead to a change in behaviour. Rainbow District School Board has six Social Workers who work with students to foster mental health and wellness.

Christine McInnes used jars, sand and balls to demonstrate how we decide what we fill our life with. When we are so preoccupied with small stuff, there is no room for the big (significant, important) stuff.

She also engaged PIC members in an exercise that used the five senses. What do you see? Note three things in the room. Now focus on what you hear, feel, taste and smell. Did you think about what was preoccupying your mind? When you are rooted in the past and can't get beyond something, using The Five Senses strategy helps to reframe and refocus.

Being aware of breathing is an important part of mindfulness. Breathe in through the nose, hold for a second, breathe out through the mouth. Head to toe relaxation technique also promotes mindfulness. PIC members expressed an interest in having Social Workers speak to School Councils.

5. Approval of the Agenda

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

Moved by: Karla Allen, Northeastern Elementary School,
Carl A. Nesbitt Public School and Lasalle Secondary School
Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School
Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on November 1, 2016

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held on November 1, 2016 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Kelly Lemieux, Valley View Public School

Seconded by: Amber Siddiqui, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Carried

7. Communications Report

PIC members received a copy of the Administrative Procedure on Digital Citizenship, which is also available on the Board website. Superintendent Noble reviewed the overall purpose and focused on the roles and responsibilities of parents/guardians. She said it's important for parents/guardians to access their children's passwords and to know what their children are doing online.

Superintendent Noble asked PIC members to bring the Administrative Procedure on Digital Citizenship back to their School Councils. PIC members expressed concerns about Google Hangouts. Students use Google Hangouts to share work and collaborate, an important skill in 21st Century teaching and learning. Superintendent Noble reminded parents/guardians that letters were sent home earlier in the school year re: how to obtain passwords.

Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor of Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning delivered the communications report.

Information was shared with parents/guardians about the new Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). Free tuition for college or university is available to eligible students. Family income must be under \$50,000. To learn more, visit ontario.ca/osap.

The School Year Calendar for 2017-2018 will be released on March 1, 2017. It will be posted on the Board website – rainbowschools.ca.

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2017-2018 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants, including grants for regional projects. The deadline for applications is May 25, 2017.

Lockerby Composite School was chosen among 1,000 schools worldwide to implement AP Capstone, an innovative Advanced Placement diploma program that allows students to develop skills for postsecondary success - research, collaboration and communication.

Students in Grades 7 to 12 will participate in the annual science fair on Tuesday, March 7th, 2017. Up to 37 projects will be selected to advance to the Sudbury Regional Science Fair at Laurentian University on April 8th and 9th, 2017.

Rainbow District School Board will host its twelfth annual Technological Skills Competition on Wednesday, March 8th, 2017 at Cambrian College. Secondary students will test their skills in events such as carpentry, welding, TV/video editing, photography, auto-service technology and cabinet making as they vie for the opportunity to compete in the provincial Skills Competition this May in Toronto.

On Thursday, March 30, 2017, all Grade 10 students in Ontario will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). The OSSLT is a graduation requirement administered by the

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). Grade 10 students who wrote the OSSLT last fall and were successful do not need to write again this spring.

Dr. Robert Hall has been selected as the 2017 recipient of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award for his contribution to music and education. The award will be presented at the International Dinner and Silent Auction in support of the Trust on Saturday, April 8, 2017.

8. School Announcements

Bernadette Rémillard, Lansdowne Public School – The winter carnival will feature snowshoeing and sleigh rides. Work is underway on the year-end Pow Wow. Grade 8 students are fundraising for their year-end trip.

Deena Zmijowskyj, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School – Students are participating in NOSSA Nordic Skiing, getting ready for the semi formal, and building a robot for the FIRST Robotics Competition. Grade 7 and 8 students have access to a new gym.

Karry Strelezki and Stacey Paajanen, Lively District Secondary School – Parents shared a number of good news stories from Lively District Secondary School, including comedy night, semi-formal, wingo bingo, S Day for snowmobile safety, Grade 7 and 8 ski excursion, results in wrestling and participation in the FIRST Robotics.

Jessica Joy, Walden Public School – Walden Public School launched a composting program. The curling team did well. Students are participating in a popcorn fundraiser. Students celebrated the 100th day of school.

Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School – CVDCS is launching the iT.E.C.H. certificate program, which focuses on innovation through technology, experiential learning, community involvement, and health and wellness. The school is trying to launch a football program. The school is divided into three corridors, which provides all kinds of opportunities for the new JK to Grade 12 school.

Amber Siddiqui, Queen Elizabeth II Public School – Students are benefiting from Chromebooks, using technology for problem solving. A Christmas bazaar raised funds for educational trips. Students participated in the canned food drive and took part in a number of sporting events, with success. Students benefited from a donation of supplies from Staples.

Jason Innis, Alexander Public School – The Christmas concert was well received. Funds from a raffle helped to purchase new chairs and tables for the gym. A carnival was held. Students made taffy, enjoyed horse rides and had a pancake breakfast. There was also a poutine truck on site. Alexander continues to welcome new students.

Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School – Preparations are underway for the Blacklight production. April 2, 2017 is World Autism Day. Autism Ontario (Sudbury Chapter) and Boston Pizza will be hosting a fundraiser and information night to celebrate from 5 pm to 8 pm.

Karla Allen, Northeastern, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School and Lasalle Secondary School – There has been an increase in parent involvement. Family Movie Nights have been successful as well as pizza days. Students are working on Heritage Fair projects. Senior FI students at Northeastern participated in a ski trip. Nesbitt students will be joining Churchill students in the Hike for Hospice fundraiser. Nesbitt collected the most cans for the food drive. The Lasalle Secondary School Info Night and Orange Crush day for feeder schools were successful. The school is focusing on an upcoming mental health day.

Kelly Lemieux, Valley View Public School – The school will host a Fun Fair on April 27, 2017. The Eco School Committee is working on an outdoor classroom. Valley View Public School is Rainbow District School Board's first green school.

Dahnja Schoengen, Levack Public School – Students participated in a canned food drive. A teacher slept outside as an incentive. The school is working on a battery recycling project as part of the Ontario Battery Challenge. Students are using old milk cartons to make ice blocks to build igloos. Students participated in gingerbread art and anograms. Maple syrup is being sold to raise funds.

9. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Motion: "That the meeting be adjourned."

Moved by: Deena Zmijowskyj, Lo-Ellen Park SS

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Board Office

Topic: 21st Century Classrooms