

**Parent Involvement Committee  
Minutes  
Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 7 pm  
Board Office**

**Attendance:**

Jennifer Michaud, Walden Public School / Lively District Secondary School (PIC Chair); Victoria Hingst, Westmount Avenue Public School, (PIC Vice-Chair); Selena Lavigueur, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Tonya Marcotte, Queen Elizabeth Public School / Lansdowne Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School; Tyler Campbell, Trustee; Bob Clement, Trustee; Kim Boulanger, Vice-Principal, Lansdowne Public School; Kathy Dokis-Ranney, Senior Administrator, Program and Services; and Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

**Guests:** Cori Pitre, Vice-Principal, Webbwood Public School / S. Geiger Public School, Equity and Inclusive Education Committee; Sara Adams, Sudbury and District Health Unit; Carol Craig, Sudbury and District Health Unit; Janet Evans, Rainbow Routes Association

**Regrets:**

Kate Barber, Lansdowne Public School; Iva McNair, Gatchell School; Melissa Roney, R.L. Beattie Public School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Vice-Principal, Lockerby Composite School

Trustee Larry Killens and parents from Manitoulin Island were scheduled to participate in the meeting via videoconference. They were unable to connect due to a power outage.

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

2. **Welcome:** PIC Chair Jennifer Michaud  
PIC Chair Jennifer Michaud welcomed everyone.

3. **Self-Introductions**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

4. **Presentation – Helping Families Choose Active School Travel**

**Sara Adams / Carol Craig, School Health Promotion Team, Sudbury and District Health Unit  
Janet Evans, Sudbury Cycles Project Coordinator, Rainbow Routes**

There are many benefits to walking to school, including improved health, less vehicle emissions and social connectedness. Many factors need to be considered when developing a school travel plan, including the “built environment” (ie. how neighbourhoods are designed) and safety. The Sudbury and District Health Unit and Rainbow Routes have been working with Lansdowne Public School to develop a school travel plan. They reviewed the school travel planning process, including the set up phase, data gathering, action plans and travel plans. They stressed that stakeholders need to be engaged at all levels, including parents/guardians, the school and the municipality. The presentation is available on [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca).

## 5. Approval of the Agenda

*Motion: "That the agenda for the meeting on April 16, 2013 be approved, as presented."*

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Seconded by: Victoria Hingst, Westmount Avenue Public School

**Carried**

## 6. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on November 6, 2012 and January 8, 2013

*Motion: "That the minutes for the meetings on November 6, 2012 and January 8, 2013 be approved, as presented."*

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Seconded by: Tonya Marcotte, Queen Elizabeth Public School / Lansdowne Public School

**Carried**

## 7. Discussion based on the presentation

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about establishing safe and active routes to walk to school.

## 8. Equity and Inclusive Education Poster Consultation

Cori Pitre, a member of the Board's Equity and Inclusive Education Committee, presented a series of posters and invited parents to provide input. The posters, a follow up to the 'Dealing with Disrespectful Language' cards distributed last fall, are intended to build awareness and understanding. The posters focus on gender, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education, diversity and families, Gay Straight Alliances, poverty, faith and disabilities. Parents were supportive of the Board's ongoing efforts to promote equity and inclusive education.

## 9. Safe and Accepting Schools Act

Kathy Dokis-Ranney reviewed Bill 13, the Safe and Accepting Schools Act. Caring and respectful relationships are fundamental to creating ideal learning conditions. Building a positive school climate is a complex challenge. A whole school approach is essential, with prevention/early interventions and parents as valued partners. Bill 13 aligns with and builds on Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy. Kathy Dokis-Ranney reviewed what's new with Bill 13, including the need for bullying prevention/intervention plans, supports for students, professional learning to promote a positive school climate and considerations for expulsion.

Parents/guardians were invited to provide input for bullying prevention/intervention:

- Identify activities that would promote a positive school climate
- Identify community partnerships that might support schools in creating a positive school climate
- Identify what is important to ensure a positive school climate for school achievement for all students of the Board
- Provide feedback on the development of a bullying prevention and intervention plan (e.g. supports for students that have been bullied or for students who have bullied another student, prevention, awareness and education strategies for schools and for engaging parents, etc)
- Any other feedback/input

Kathy Dokis-Ranney followed up with an email to all PIC members inviting input by May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Bob Clement expressed his concern with anonymous blogs. He indicated that today's policies and procedures have to reflect how society has changed with the prevalence of social media and online bullying, which has resulted in teen suicides. He said it is wrong for bloggers to remain nameless and boards need to take a stand.

#### **10. Communications Report**

Nicole Charette invited PIC members to submit a Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Regional Grant application for the 2013-2014 school year.

*Motion:*

*"That a PRO Regional Grant application be submitted to support the production of math/numeracy tip sheets and videos for parents to support their children at home."*

Moved by: Selena Lavigueur, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School

Seconded by: Jennifer Michaud, Walden Public School / Lively District Secondary School

**Carried**

Nicole Charette provided a communications update, as follows:

A link to "Stepping Stones: A Resource on Youth Development" has been posted in the Parents Section of the Board website. Stepping Stones was released in June 2012. It integrates leading edge research on youth development with the perspectives of youth to create a map of the predictable stages of social, emotional, physical and cognitive development from age 12 to 25.

Resources on privacy and protecting your personal information have been added under Helpful Hints in the Parents section of the Board website. There are five tools to ensure children understand the impact that online technologies can have on their privacy and how they can make the most of their online experiences while keeping their personal information safe.

A free Internet Safety Workshop for Parents will be presented at Manitoulin Secondary School on Monday, May 6, 2013 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Internet Safety Expert Steve Chapelle will focus on user account security, Internet content control, social networking, file sharing and cyberbullying. A Parent's Handbook will be distributed to all workshop participants.

All Rainbow Schools will offer a Welcome to Kindergarten (WTK) orientation session for children who are starting Junior Kindergarten this fall as well as their parents/guardians. Parents who have not registered their children still have time to do so and can reserve their spot for WTK by calling the nearest Rainbow School. Registrations for September 2013 will also be accepted at the WTK sessions. Check the Board website for dates and times.

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

## 11. School Announcements

Carl A. Nesbitt Public School will host a Spring Fair on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Some schools are participating in the Ugliest School Yard Contest.

## 12. The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

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

Moved by: Selena Lavigueur, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School

### **Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at 7 pm**

**PIC Planning Meeting for 2013-2014 School Year**

**Board Office – Boardroom**