

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, November 4, 2014
Board Office**

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Selena Lavigueur, Parent, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Tonya Marcotte, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Queen Elizabeth Public School; Karla Allen, Parent, Lasalle Secondary School / Northeastern Elementary School / Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Cynthia Loiselle-Seguin, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School / Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School / Adamsdale Public School; Melissa Depatie, Parent, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Irene Koren, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Jennifer Graffi, Parent, MacLeod Public School; Cheryl Ewin, Parent, Valley View Public School / C.R. Judd Public School / Alexander Public School / Redwood Acres Public School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Lesley Fisher, Principal, Ernie Checkeris Public School / Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Judy Noble, Senior Administrator of Program and Services; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Vice-Principal, Lockerby Composite School

Regrets: Bob Clement, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Jennifer Michaud, Parent, Walden Public School and Lively District Secondary School

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

2. **Welcome:** Superintendent Judy Noble

Superintendent Judy Noble welcomed everyone to the meeting, invited PIC members to introduce themselves, and introduced the guest speakers.

3. **Presentation on Mental Math**

by Superintendent Lesleigh Dye and Elementary Program Consultant Kelly McCauley

Superintendent Lesleigh Dye and Consultant Kelly McCauley invited PIC members to be in the role of learners and engage in mental math. In an effort to have students think mentally, but have a visual representation of math, they showed parents tools to support children in their understanding, from rekenreks to snap cubes to ten frames, to columns and rows on chart paper, to open arrays. They demonstrated how students use what they know to solve something they may not know. PIC members received copies of the series of ten math tip sheets being distributed throughout the 2014-2015 school year. The tip sheets were produced with a PRO Regional Grant. Rainbow District School Board is supporting teachers in building further knowledge in math through the Dr. Jo Boaler online math course through Stanford University. Parents were invited to register for the course. Students in Grades 1 to 8 receive 70 minutes of math daily, including 10 minutes of mental math.

4. Discussion based on the presentation

Parents appreciated learning about what students are doing to develop number sense and numeration, and asked questions about traditional and modern methods of teaching/learning math. The goal is to teach for understanding and problem-solving, so students build fact fluency and can apply what they know to real life situations. Research supports building on math vocabulary so students understand the “why”. Superintendent Noble talked about EQAO results and how parents can access results online. The Board’s multi-year plan and student improvement plans have a strong math focus. Students are gaining confidence in math as they explore different ways of solving problems. The Homework Initiative introduced for ELK to Grade 6 includes a math component. Some schools are hosting math evenings with their PRO grants. PIC members expressed an interest in attending PRO events at other schools. Nicole Charette indicated that a news release would be issued with all events.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: “That the Agenda for the meeting of November 4, 2014 be approved, as presented.”

Moved by: Irene Koren, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Tonya Marcotte, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meetings held on May 6, 2014 and October 21, 2014 (AGM)

Motion: “That the minutes of the meeting on May 6, 2014 be approved, as presented.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Seconded by: Jennifer Graffi, MacLeod Public School

Carried

Motion: “That the minutes of the meeting on October 21, 2014 be approved, as presented.”

Moved by: Irene Koren, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Natasha, Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School/Adamsdale Public School

Carried

7. 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 is for a two-year term and there must be a break for at least one year before being re-elected.

Judy Noble thanked Jennifer Michaud for having served as Chair for the past two years. She called for nominations for the Chair.

Motion: “That Tonya Marcotte be elected Chair.”

Moved by: Irene Koren, Sudbury Secondary School

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

Carried

Judy Noble called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Motion: "That Natasha Delaney be elected Vice-Chair."

Moved by: Melissa Depatie, Ernie Checkeris Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Carried

Judy Noble called for nominations for Secretary.

Motion: "That Cheryl Ewin be elected Secretary."

Moved by: Irene Koren, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Melissa Depatie, Ernie Checkeris Public School

Carried

8. Communications Report

Nicole Charette delivered the communications report.

English public school trustees in Sudbury, Manitoulin and Espanola who were elected or acclaimed will be sworn in to serve a four-year term at the inaugural Board meeting on Monday, December 1, 2014 in Council Chambers at Tom Davies Square in Sudbury.

Rainbow District School Board has introduced a homework program for students in Grades 1 to 6. Parents/guardians are being invited to engage in 30 minutes of activities with their children four nights a week. The purpose of the homework program is to build skills in reading, writing and math through regular practice at home. Homework Program calendars are available in the parents section of the Board website.

Grade 9 students in Rainbow Schools will spend the day at work job shadowing a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 as part of the national Take Our Kids to Work program.

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 18, 2014 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm in the Student Centre at Cambrian College, 1400 Barrydowne Road. There will be free parking on site in Lot # 15 next to the Student Centre.

Innovative parent involvement projects are being implemented in Rainbow Schools thanks to funding provided by the Ministry of Education's Parent Engagement Office. Twelve Rainbow Schools will share a total of \$10,425 in Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants to support School Council initiatives to further engage parents/guardians in their child's learning. Rainbow District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee has also received funding to provide information to parents/guardians, students and staff about children's mental health.

Rainbow District School Board is seeking applications to fill positions on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for a period of four years, beginning January 2015. SEAC advises Rainbow District School Board on matters related to special education. The deadline for applications is Friday, December 5, 2014.

Superintendent Judy Noble informed parents about the following...

The Ministry of Education has created two resources for parents – *Building Parent Engagement* and *Building Healthy Relationships*. These resources are available on the Ministry website.

A representative from School Councils will be invited to complete a parent survey on the human development and sexual health component of the elementary and secondary Health and Physical Education curriculum. PIC Chair Tonya Marcotte will complete the survey on behalf of PIC.

The Canadian Federation of University Women, ETFO Rainbow Teacher Local and Sudbury Teachers Lions Club will present the film 'Sext Up Kids: How Kids Are Becoming Hypersexualized' in the Sheridan Auditorium at Sudbury Secondary School on November 17, 2014 at 7:30 pm. All parents/guardians are welcome.

9. School Announcements

Parents shared information about their school's PRO grants. A list of initiatives is posted on rainbowschools.ca under the "news" section.

Cheryl Ewin mentioned the "Celebrity Server" event at area restaurants with 10 per cent of the proceeds going to local schools.

MacLeod Public School is considering fundraising for the new schoolyard at their new green school. Parents were invited to provide input through a survey.

Colourful "buddy benches" at Lansdowne Public School and Queen Elizabeth Public School promote safe schools and foster friendship. Queen Elizabeth and Lansdowne are working together to further build community as students make the transition from Grade 6 to Grade 7.

Queen Elizabeth Public School has a new logo and continues to build school pride among students and parents/guardians.

Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, which has a greenhouse, will offer a horticultural course next semester.

Lockerby Composite School raised \$64,000 for the "Remembering Laura Cotesta, Kids Caring for Kids" Cancer Drive. The school has raised approximately \$700,000 for the Northern Cancer Research Foundation over the past 19 years.

Lockerby Composite School will host the Dare to Stand Out Conference, being presented in partnership with Jer's Vision, on Friday, November 21, 2014 from 9 am to 10 pm. The event will begin with a keynote address by Dr. Carys Massarella, followed by a variety of dynamic and engaging activities and workshops. It will close with a Gay-Straight Alliance High School Dance. Some workshop topics include the process of coming out, coping with bullies, healthy relationships and consent, how to challenge homophobic language and two-spirited people.

Parents reported more involvement in School Councils at Sudbury Secondary School and Carl A. Nesbitt Public School.

Carl A. Nesbitt Public School invites their students and families to attend Money Management for Kids presentations with Ruby Lougheed-Yawney, Senior Financial Advisor at Manulife Securities Incorporated in Sudbury. There will be a session for students in Grades 3 to 5 on Monday, November 17, 2014 and a session for students in Grades 6 to 8 on Monday, November 24, 2014. Both sessions will take place from 6 pm to 8 pm at Carl A. Nesbitt Public School.

A new breakfast program has been launched at Carl A. Nesbitt Public School.

Adamsdale Public School has a snack program and provides bowls of fruit in classrooms.

Parents said they were “big fans” of the SPARK fitness program offered prior to the literacy block.

Ernie Checkeris Public School has a new Principal and Vice-Principal. Parents will be surveyed for input, an opportunity to set direction and priorities while reflecting community needs. Many fundraising opportunities are being considered from the sale of cheese and magazines to bingos and fun fairs.

Gatchell School has been renamed Jean Hanson Public School. The school will host a blacklight theatre production once again this year. The date will be announced. The school also has a new outdoor play structure.

Natasha Delaney talked about the Raise the Flag awareness campaign for Autism Ontario. All schools are invited to participate.

Lasalle Secondary School invites Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians to attend an Information Night on Thursday, November 20, 2014. The evening will begin at 6:30 pm with a free pasta dinner in the school cafeteria, followed by an information session at 7 pm. Tours of the school will begin at 7:30 pm.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Motion: “That the meeting be adjourned.”

Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Lockerby Composite School

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

7 pm

Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

Topic: myBlueprint: Individual Pathways Plan