

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, February 17, 2015
Board Office**

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Melissa Depatie, Parent, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Karla Allen, Parent, Lasalle Secondary School/ Northeastern Elementary School/ Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Vice-Principal, Lockerby Composite School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Queen Elizabeth 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, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Jennifer Michaud, Parent, Walden Public School/Lively District Secondary School; Bob Clement, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Tara Labranche-Brosseau, Parent, Queen Elizabeth Public School; Cynthia Loiselle-Seguin, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School/Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Selena Lavigueur, Parent, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School

Manitoulin Secondary School site:

Val Beaudin, Parent, Manitoulin Secondary School; Tina Tolsma, Parent, Manitoulin Secondary School; Stacey Torkopoulos, Parent, Manitoulin Secondary School; Laurie Zahnow, Principal, Manitoulin Secondary School

Regrets: Gord Santala, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School/Adamsdale Public School

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

2. **Welcome:** Chair Tonya Marcotte

Chair Tonya Marcotte welcomed everyone to the meeting, invited PIC members to introduce themselves, and introduced the guest speaker.

3. **Presentation on Growth Mindset**

by Superintendent Judy Noble and Curriculum Co-ordinator Cheryl Geoghegan

Each member was given a dot-to-dot drawing to complete. The drawings, of varying degrees of difficulty, were designed to illustrate how we respond when we are given a task that exceeds our abilities.

Superintendent Judy Noble said babies are born innately curious. About 95 per cent of Early Learning Kindergarten students are fully engaged. By Grade 9, this drops to 37 per cent. Approximately 17 per cent of students don't graduate. There are biological reasons why students become disengaged as they age, such as hormones and sleep patterns. The biggest factor, however, is mindset. Your mental attitude determines how you interpret and respond to situations.

At one time, it was thought that everyone was born with a certain level of intelligence. Recent brain research, however, has changed that perception. The theory today is that mindset matters. Your brain is a muscle that can grow and change. Every time a student works hard and perseveres to learn something new, his or her brain forms new connections. As a result, any student can achieve at the highest level.

To develop a growth mindset, students, teachers and parents need to understand three steps: Step 1 - Learn, Learn, Learn; Step 2 - Realize hard work is key; Step 3 - Face setbacks.

If we value and promote a strong work ethic, students will be more willing to persevere when tasks become more difficult. A collaborative inquiry determined that teachers need to praise mistakes and help students understand that their approach to problems matters. Teachers need to encourage students to attempt more challenging tasks, provide praise for the difficulty of the tasks chosen and provide ongoing feedback. Students need to believe that they have the ability to accomplish the task.

Members were invited to complete an exercise at home and record how they praised their children, to determine if the praise followed a growth mindset or fixed mindset. They were then encouraged to make an effort to shift to a growth mindset.

Parents were excited about the growth mindset concept in schools and asked how it was being implemented. Superintendent Noble explained that there is funding available for teachers to take the Dr. Jo Boaler online math course. It is also a topic at learning cycles for Grades 7 to 12.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: "That the agenda for the meeting of February 17th, 2015 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Cynthia Loiselle-Seguin, Cyril Varney Public School/ Carl A. Nesbitt Public School

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

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on January 6th, 2015

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting on January 6th, 2015 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

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

Carried

6. Discussion based on the presentation

During the presentation, members discussed how to reach parents to ensure they understand the growth mindset model. Various ideas were presented, including recording PIC meetings and having them available online for parents to access, using the PIC PRO Regional Grant to create growth mindset newsletters, and providing parents with other growth mindset resources.

Bernadette Rémillard asked what a parent can do if they have a student who is struggling, even when the student has a great teacher and tutor. Superintendent Noble suggested several strategies, such as documenting growth, praising things that encourage the student to keep trying, and sharing research on brain development with the student.

Karla Allen wanted to know if the brainology.com web address would be added to the website. Judy Noble advised that she would look into this.

Nicole Charette discussed creating a page within the Parent section of the Rainbow District School Board website for information on Growth Mindset and myBlueprint.

7. Communications Report

Nicole Charette delivered the communications report.

Rainbow District School Board's Executive Council is recommending that the magnet programs in Rainbow secondary schools be maintained with busing. Magnet programs include the Arts Education Program at Sudbury Secondary School, the Science Technology Education Program at Lockerby Composite School, the International Baccalaureate Program at Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School and the Integrated Technology Program at Lively District Secondary School.

The recommendations, presented at the Strategic Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, follow the findings of an in-depth review. The review, carried out through the lens of student achievement and well-being, included a third party analysis of student achievement data and transportation costs as well as information gathered from principals, School Council Chairs, students and teachers.

The report on magnet programs in the Rainbow District School Board and Executive Council's recommendations can be accessed on the Board's website. The public will have an opportunity to make presentations at the regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 as well as the Strategic Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. At this meeting, the Strategic Planning Committee may forward motions regarding the magnet programs to the Board for consideration. The motions will be considered at the Board meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

Rainbow District School Board will begin a feasibility study on the consolidation of educational support services. The study will be complete no later than January 2016. Educational support services are currently dispersed across a number of locations. For financial reasons, only current Board properties will be reviewed for the consolidation of educational support services.

Information Nights continue at Rainbow secondary schools, including Lively District Secondary School on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 6:30 pm and Manitoulin Secondary School on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 6:30 pm. Registrations continue for Early Learning - Kindergarten (ELK). ELK orientation sessions will be held this spring.

The Joan Mantle Music Trust Steering Committee will soon announce the 2015 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, March 28, 2015 at 6 pm at the ParkSide Older Adult Centre, 140 Durham Street, in Sudbury. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of new instruments in Rainbow Schools. For more information, visit rainbowschools.ca.

Rainbow Schools participated in Eat Local Day on Thursday, January 22, 2015 and Sweater Day on Friday, February 13, 2015 as Rainbow District School Board continues to focus on education for sustainable development. Students and staff will be invited to participate in Earth Hour in March.

System-wide events for students begin soon. Grade 7 and 8 students will participate in Rainbow District School Board's annual Elementary Science Fair on Friday, February 27, 2015. Up to 37 projects will be selected for the Sudbury Regional Science Fair being held at Laurentian University's Alumni Hall on March 28 and 29, 2015.

Rainbow District School Board will host its tenth annual Technological Skills Competition at Cambrian College on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. Over 120 secondary school students will test their skills in events such as carpentry, welding, fashion, TV/video editing, photography, auto-service technology, 2D character animation, cabinet making and small-powered equipment. Students will vie for an opportunity to compete in the provincial Skills Competition in Waterloo this May.

8. School Announcements

Kristina Rivard Gobbo announced the continued success of the Lockerby Blood Drive.

Ernie Checkeris Public School used PIC funds to host a Family Fun Dance before the Family Day weekend. Selena Lavigueur indicated that a spring fair is planned for May.

Principal Lesley Fisher discussed the launch of the Facebook pages for Ernie Checkeris Public School and Carl A. Nesbitt Public School. Lansdowne Public School and Redwood Acres Public School recently launched Facebook pages as well. There was a brief discussion about controls.

Cynthia Loiselle-Seguin said the staff at Cyril Varney Public School is producing mental math videos to illustrate to parents what the students are working on. These videos will be made available to PIC members for use in other schools.

Lansdowne Public School is creating a natural playground. Tonya Marcotte indicated that they are in the planning stages and looking for funding.

Bernadette Rémillard advised that Queen Elizabeth Public School students were going to the Tim Horton's camp for two nights to participate in the winter program.

9. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Motion: "That the meeting be adjourned."

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

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

7 pm

Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

Topic: Mental Health