

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, May 5th, 2015
Board Office**

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Tonya Marcotte, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Queen Elizabeth Public School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School / Adamsdale Public School; Cheryl Ewin, Parent, Valley View Public School / C.R. Judd Public School / Alexander Public School / Redwood Acres Public School; Lesley Fisher, Principal, Ernie Checkers Public School / Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Judy Noble, Senior Administrator of Program and Services; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Vice-Principal, Lockerby Composite School; Bob Clement, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Gord Santala, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board

Regrets: Karla Allen, Parent, Lasalle Secondary School / Northeastern Elementary School / Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Irene Koren, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Jennifer Michaud, Parent, Walden Public School and Lively District Secondary School; Melissa Despatie, Parent, Ernie Checkers Public School; Joanne Taillon, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Mitch Ross, Parent, Lockerby Composite School

1. Call to Order: 7 pm

2. Welcome: Chair Tonya Marcotte

Chair Tonya Marcotte welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited PIC members to introduce themselves.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: "That the Agenda for the meeting of May 5th, 2015 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

4. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on May 5th, 2015

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting on April 7th, 2015 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Lesley Fisher, Ernie Checkers and Carl Nesbitt Public School

Carried

5. Year in Review and Going Forward, by Director of Education Norm Blaseg

Director of Education Norm Blaseg spoke to members of PIC. He indicated that Rainbow District School Board is the largest school board in Northern Ontario with 35 elementary school buildings and 9 secondary school buildings in Sudbury, Espanola, Manitoulin and Shining Tree. The Board also offers educational programs at Barrydowne College (a re-engagement school at Cambrian

College), the N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre, the Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre, the Children's Treatment Centre, the Ruth MacMillan Centre, Frank Flowers School and Cecil Facer Secondary School.

Director Blaseg touched on a number of topics, including the Board's budget and EQAO results, within the context of the Ministry of Education's renewed vision for education which focuses on four pillars – achieving excellence, ensuring equity, promoting well-being and enhancing public confidence.

He indicated to PIC members that because students typically stay in the system, it is important to have as many students as possible enroll at the Kindergarten Information/Registration Nights and Orientation Nights. These registration numbers will impact enrolment for the next 14 years as students move from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

When reviewing EQAO results, he advised parents to look for patterns. A gradual increase, for instance, indicates that instruction is improving. He added that past EQAO results reflect that high pass rates in Grade 9 correlate to a high rate of graduation.

Director Blaseg also referred to the book "Visible Learning – Visible Teaching" by John Hattie whose researching findings show that the number one indicator of student success is student expectations. "If students expect to do well, then students will do well".

Director Blaseg indicated that parental involvement improves student achievement. As a result, Rainbow District School Board has implemented a new homework program for Grades 1 to 6 aimed at increasing success by developing automaticity in numeracy and literacy, and further engaging parents/guardians in the learning process.

Tonya Marcotte expressed concern that students affected by the labour disruption in secondary schools have gotten into the summer vacation mindset, that they are not studying on their own, and that they will be behind next year. Norm Blaseg indicated that the biggest challenge would be for students in Grade 12, especially those students whose grades were below 50 at mid-term. However, Rainbow District School Board is currently having discussions with Colleges and Universities to ensure the smoothest transition for students.

Norm Blaseg confirmed that every Grade 8 and 12 student will have a graduation ceremony. The only difference may be the location of the event. Tonya Marcotte offered to help in any way with the graduation ceremonies.

Tonya Marcotte inquired if students could begin earning volunteer hours in Grade 7 since some of the secondary schools have Grade 7 and 8 students in the same building. Currently, the criteria only include Grades 8 to 12, however, if enough requests were received, there could be the potential for this to be changed.

6. Brainstorming for 2015-2016

Tuesday, October 20, 2015
Annual General Meeting of School Councils
Topic: Resiliency

Tuesday, November 3, 2015
Topic: The New Health and Physical Education Curriculum

Tuesday, January 5, 2016
Topic: Poverty / Equity

Tuesday, February 16, 2016
Topic: Inquiry in Science and Kindergarten

Tuesday, April 5, 2016
Topic: Reading – Parent Early Reading Intervention Supports

Tuesday, May 3, 2016
Planning meeting for the 2016-2017 school year

7. Communications Report

No communications report was presented.

8. School Announcements

Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson PS – The Black Light performance is being held on May 5, 6, 7, and 8, 2015 at 10:30 am. Tickets are \$6. DVD copies of the performance and pictures will be available.

Bernadette Rémillard – Queen Elizabeth PS – Grades 4, 5 and 6 are once again holding their Mother's Day Tea.

Kristina Rivard Gobbo - Lockerby Composite School – The students are once again the second highest school in Canada for blood donations.

Tonya Marcotte – Lansdowne PS – The school met with the landscapers for the natural playground. The Core French and French Immersion students had the opportunity to bake lava cakes with Chef Suzanne. The event was presented entirely in French, and the students learned about the colonization of Québec, while learning to bake.

Cheryl Ewin– Valley View PS – During the months of May and June, Valley View has been holding Family Spark nights for the entire family.

9. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Motion: "That the meeting be adjourned."

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 (Annual General Meeting)

6 pm (library) and 7 pm (auditorium)

Sudbury Secondary School, 54 College Street

Topic: Resiliency