

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, April 7th, 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; Irene Koren, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Cheryl Ewin, Parent, Valley View Public School / C.R. Judd Public School / Alexander Public School / Redwood Acres Public 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; Bob Clement, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Jennifer Michaud, Parent, Walden Public School and Lively District Secondary School; Melissa Depatie, Parent, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Gord Santala, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Joanne Taillon, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Mitch Ross, Parent, Lockerby Composite School

**Regrets:** Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Vice-Principal, Lockerby Composite School; Karla Allen, Parent, Lasalle Secondary School / Northeastern Elementary School / Carl A. Nesbitt Public 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. **Presentation - Pathways to Resilient Schools**

**Dr. Amber Perry, Chief Psychologist/Mental Health Lead, Rainbow District School Board  
Chantal Belanger and Christina Ashawasegei, Public Health Nurses,  
Sudbury & District Health Unit**

Dr. Amber Perry introduced the Rainbow District School Board three-year mental health strategic plan and identified the three tiers of the strategy: Universal – geared to all students; Targeted Intervention – geared to at risk students (introduces social workers); Very specialized – provides students with access to teleconferences with health care workers at the Hospital for Sick Kids.

Rainbow District School Board has partnered with the Sudbury & District Health Unit to implement the Universal tier of the mental health strategic plan. The goal of the plan is to promote resilience and to provide students with skills to thrive, not just survive. The presenters talked about the importance of “adult influencers” for students. The goal is to give students and adult influencers skills to navigate the banks of chaos and rigidity to the river of well-being.

Parents received a copy of the Adult Resiliency Framework produced by Dr. Wayne Hammond. It outlines what students need to be successful, including internal assets and external strengths.

Research indicates that students and teachers with a high degree of resiliency have an enhanced probability for positive mental health, professional success, positive character traits, positive inner values, and positive self and other awareness.

Dr. Hammond's Adult Resiliency Framework includes an assessment tool that will be customized for Rainbow District School Board and will measure how connected students are to their families and other adults in the school. This tool will allow the Board to establish a baseline for how resilient our school communities are. The Board will reassess the schools every two to three years to see how they have progressed. Dr. Amber Perry and staff in the Psychology Department will perform the assessments. The results will provide information at the student level, the school level, and Board wide. The student level will identify students that the Board should be concerned about.

The Public Health Nurses from the Sudbury & District Health Unit presented a short video entitled "40 Developmental Assets – Building Positive Relationships with Young People".

They indicated that when organizations come into schools and make presentations to students on risky behaviors, the presentations do not have the same impact or success as when the same information comes from an adult with whom the students have an authentic relationship.

Research indicates that if youth have at least three caring adults with whom they have an authentic relationship, they tend to be involved in less risky behavior and have overall better resilience. The mental health of teachers is just as important as that of the students. Teachers and students need to use their passion to re-focus when they are having a hard day. Discussing their passions openly can open up the dialogue between students and teachers, and create the authentic relationship.

Tonya Marcotte asked what happens when students go home to a place where parents or guardians don't have resilience. The response was that since students spend the majority of their day at school and have caring adults to look up to, this hope and optimism is enough to break the cycle. The Sudbury & District Health Unit works with the schools to help introduce the mental health strategic plan.

#### **4. Approval of the Agenda**

*Motion: "That the Agenda for the meeting of April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 be approved, as presented."*

Moved by: Irene Koren, Sudbury Secondary School

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

**Carried**

#### **5. Approval of the Minutes**

*Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 be approved, as presented."*

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

**Carried**

#### **6. Parents Reaching Out Grant for 2015-2016**

*"That the Parent Involvement Committee apply for a Parents Reaching Out Regional Grant for 2015-2016 to produce material related to the Growth Mindset."*

Moved by: Melissa Despatie, Ernie Checkeris Public School  
Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School  
**Carried**

## **7. Communications Report**

Nicole Charette delivered the communications report.

Magnet programs in Rainbow secondary schools are being maintained with transportation. At the regular Board meeting held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, trustees also approved that community schools continue to receive additional supports through consultation and direct input of staff and the school community with timelines for implementation. Executive Council will provide the Board with guidelines and timelines at their next meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2015. Schools with magnet programs will be required to review their mandates in keeping with their mission statement, set of core beliefs, student learning outcomes and admission requirements every five years. 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 Board thanks the many students, parents/guardians, School Council members and graduates who made presentations as part of the review process.

A Grade 12 student in the Science Technology Education Program (STEP) at Lockerby Composite School has earned a prestigious scholarship to pursue her post-secondary education. Alana Sorgini has received a \$60,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship as well as an entrance scholarship to study biomedical sciences at the University of Ottawa.

Staff and students in Rainbow Schools will wear pink on Wednesday, April 8th, 2015 to mark Day of Pink, the International Day against Bullying, Discrimination, Homophobia and Transphobia in schools and communities. It's part of Rainbow District School Board's ongoing efforts to build community and promote inclusion.

Rainbow Schools will celebrate Earth Day on April 22, 2015 with a number of activities. A list will be posted on rainbowschools.ca.

Parents/guardians are invited to hear renowned speaker Rick Lavoie talk about Social Skills for Student Success on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 7 pm at the Cambrian College Student Centre. Rick Lavoie has three degrees in special education, is an author of several books and has created various award winning films. He has delivered his message to more than 500,000 parents and professionals from around the world. This seminar will explore the relationship between learning differences and social incompetence and will identify the causes for specific social skill deficits. Everyone is welcome to this free presentation.

Rainbow Schools will offer Early Learning - Kindergarten (ELK) orientation sessions for children who are starting Kindergarten this fall as well as their parents/guardians. A schedule will be posted on the Board website. Parents who have not registered their children still have time to do so and can reserve their spot for ELK orientation by calling the nearest Rainbow School. Registrations for September 2015 will also be accepted at the ELK sessions.

Four young scientists from Rainbow Schools earned the privilege of competing at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Fredericton, New Brunswick from May 14 to 16, 2015.

April is Volunteer Month. Rainbow District School Board thanks parents/guardians for their contribution at the school level and system-wide level. Volunteer certificates and pins were provided to schools for presentation to School Council members.

## **8. School Announcements**

Parents asked how information gets distributed in split families. At the beginning of the school year, parents should talk to the Principal to facilitate the distribution of information to both parents.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School indicated that on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, some 550 schools province-wide raised the flag for World Autism Day. [www.raisetheflagforautism.com](http://www.raisetheflagforautism.com)

Natasha Delaney said preparations are underway for this year's Black Light performance at Jean Hanson Public School. She will share information with PIC when available.

Bernadette Rémillard of Queen Elizabeth Public School reported that students had a fantastic experience at the Tim Hortons Camp.

Lesley Fisher of Ernie Checkeris Public School indicated that the Laurentian Voyageur players came into the school to read with students. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School will host a workshop on assistive technology for students with learning disabilities.

Tonya Marcotte of Lansdowne Public School said work is set to begin this spring on the development of the school's natural playground.

Irene Koren of Sudbury Secondary School said the Arts Education students are working on Peter Pan, and Camp Rock is being performed at the beginning of May. Artist Charlie Rapsky was honored for the impressive mural that he created at the school along with students.

## **9. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.**

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

Moved by: Lesley Fisher, Principal, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

### **Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, May 5, 2015**

**7 pm**

**Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury**

**Topic: Planning Meeting for 2015-2016**