

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, April 5th, 2016
Board Office**

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Queen Elizabeth Public School and Lansdowne Public School; Cheryl Ewin, Parent, Valley View Public School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Susan Cousineau, Principal, Redwood Acres Public School; Judy Noble, Superintendent; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Tara Labranche-Brosseau, Parent, Queen Elizabeth Public School; Jason Innis, Parent, Alexander Public School; Chantal Belanger, Nurse, Sudbury & District Health Unit; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Colleen McDonald, Principal of Special Education Programs and Services, Gord Ewin Centre for Education; Lindsay Bennett, Teacher, Princess Anne Public School; Trish Kitching, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Karla Allen, Parent, Lasalle Secondary School / Northeastern Elementary School; Cynthia Loiselle-Seguin, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School / Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Tonya Marcotte, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Gord Santala, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Colin Granby, ERI Teacher, Rainbow District School Board

Espanola Site: Dan Koziar, Vice-Principal, A.B. Ellis Public School; Jennifer Tilston, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School; Bob Clement, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board

Regrets: Jessica Joy, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Heather Downey, Vice-Principal, Sudbury Secondary School; Erum Aamir, Parent, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Tammy Bergeron, Parent, Levack Public School; Dahnja Schoengen, Parent, Levack Public School; David Douglass, Teacher, Algonquin Road Public School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Barrydowne College; Andrea MacInnes, Parent, Larchwood Public School; Martin Lee, Parent, Alexander Public School; Alison Bujold, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Tern Bate, Parent, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Kathy Dokis, Principal, Gord Ewin Centre for Education; Adam Pitre, Parent, Larchwood Public School

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

2. **Welcome:** PIC Vice-Chair Bernadette Rémillard

PIC Vice-Chair Bernadette Rémillard chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. She invited PIC members to introduce themselves.

3. Presentation on Early Reading Intervention (ERI) by Colin Granby, Itinerant Teacher

The presentation explored how the early identification of reading ability is critical to boost children's confidence to acquire this essential skill. ERI is a 16 to 20 week program for Grade 1 students who require extra support. In order to participate in the program, students must have good home support, good attendance, and not exhibit behaviour concerns or been identified with an exceptionality.

Students are engaged in a daily 30-minute one-on-one lesson with the ERI teacher. During this time, students reread two or more familiar books, review high frequency words and write sentences, and explore a new book. Students also gain a number of reading strategies, from predicting the story through the pictures to using words that make sense. Success in ERI involves a team effort, with parents engaged throughout the program. Parents are invited to observe a lesson so they can continue to work with their children at home.

Although not every school or student has an opportunity to participate in the program, the ERI reading strategies are used in primary classrooms throughout the Board for the benefit of all.

There was a brief discussion on how to increase parent volunteers in the classroom to assist with reading. Superintendent Judy Noble indicated that community members are invited into schools to read with students. Schools also have reading buddies where older students read with younger students. There are also partnerships with seniors' homes.

One parent inquired about phonics. Phonics is an important part of reading strategies when students break words into sounds.

Presentation - Lexia Core 5 by Colleen McDonald, Principal of Special Education Programs and Services and Lindsay Bennett, Special Education Resource Teacher at Princess Anne PS

The presentation began with a short video of a student from Adamsdale Public School who describes his experience using the program, and how it has helped him with his reading. Lexia is a web-based reading tool available at school and at home.

In the Board, there are 1,700 registered users for Lexia Core 5 for younger students and Lexia Reading Strategies for older students. The program is designed to improve reading abilities and is most beneficial for students who require additional support.

Parents had the opportunity to explore Lexia on iPads. Lindsey Bennett talked about features the program offers to teachers. For instance, the teacher can receive an email alert when a student is experiencing difficulties with a specific lesson.

There was a brief discussion about fundraising and school budgets. Jason Innis, a parent at Alexander Public School, would like the Board to allocate more funds for technology. Superintendent Noble indicated that Principals have a school budget and that School Councils can

speak with their respective administrators to learn more about the allocation of funds from these budgets.

Natasha Delaney asked if Jean Hanson Public School would have enough iPads to accommodate non-verbal students. There will be a follow up with the Principal.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: "That the agenda be approved, as amended. The planning meeting is for the 2016-2017 school year."

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

Seconded by: Tonya Marcotte, Parent, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on February 16, 2016

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting on February 16, 2016 be approved, as amended. Cynthia Loiselle-Seguin was present. Tara Labranche-Brosseau is a parent at Queen Elizabeth Public School only. Bernadette Rémillard is a parent at Queen Elizabeth Public School and Lansdowne Public School."

Moved by: Tonya Marcotte, Parent, Lansdowne Public School

Seconded by: Karla Allen, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School and Lasalle Secondary School

Carried

6. Discussion based on the presentation

The discussion was held during the presentation.

7. Communications Report

April is Volunteer Month, an ideal time for Rainbow District School Board to recognize and thank School Council members for their contribution. Parent Involvement Committee Appreciation Certificates and School Council pins were sent to schools for presentation.

Staff and students in Rainbow Schools will wear pink on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 to mark Day of Pink, the International Day against bullying, discrimination, homophobia, transphobia and transmisogyny in schools and communities. It's part of Rainbow District School Board's ongoing efforts to build community and promote inclusion.

A number of students in Grades 7 to 12 from Rainbow Schools will participate in the Sudbury Regional Science Fair being held in the Alumni Hall at Laurentian University on Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10, 2016. Sudbury Regional Science Fair projects will be selected for the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Montreal, Quebec from May 15 to 20, 2016.

Rainbow District School Board's fifth International Dinner and Silent Auction in support of the Joan Mantle Music Trust will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 6 pm at the ParkSide Older Adult Centre, 140 Durham Street, in Sudbury. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of new musical instruments and equipment in Rainbow Schools. Dr. David Buley, this year's recipient of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award, will be honoured at the dinner for his contribution to music and education.

This Month's Environmental Challenge is Lights Out for Earth Day on April 22, 2016. Lights will be turned off in Rainbow Schools. Staff and students will take advantage of natural light and learn how their actions prevent climate change.

Innovative projects are being implemented in Rainbow Schools thanks to funding provided by the Ministry of Education's Student Voice program. Ten Rainbow Schools will share a total of \$14,500 in SpeakUp Project grants to support the Ministry's renewed vision of Achieving Excellence. Student Voice funds projects that help promote important initiatives such as healthy schools, student success, and equity and inclusive education.

Rainbow District School Board's community based secondary schools will share a total of \$300,000 to transform traditional classrooms into 21st century learning environments. The investment was approved at the regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, March 22, 2016. Confederation Secondary School, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, Espanola High School, Lasalle Secondary School, Lively District Secondary School and Manitoulin Secondary School will receive \$50,000 in the current school year. Each school has developed an implementation plan that responds to their respective school community. 21st century classrooms engage students in learning activities that build 21st century skills, including creativity, communication, collaboration, critical thinking and citizenship. Picture classrooms with green screens, whiteboards, robotics, smart TVs, laptops, iPads, and 3D printers where students are challenged to imagine and create.

Grade 7 and 8 students from R.L. Beattie Public School are moving to Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School effective September 2016. The move was approved at the regular meeting of Rainbow District School Board on Tuesday, March 22, 2016. Despite three recent additions, there is not enough space to accommodate all students at R.L. Beattie in the coming school year. More importantly, students will benefit from enhanced educational opportunities in the secondary school environment. Grade 7 and 8 students will have a distinct and separate wing at Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School. Renovations, which will begin this spring, include a new gym.

Sudbury Secondary School will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Arts Education Program with an Alumni Reunion the long weekend in May. Current and former students and staff will come together on Saturday, May 21, 2016 and Sunday, May 22, 2016 to relive the history and evolution of the program, the first of its kind in Northern Ontario. Community members and patrons of the

arts who have participated in and contributed to the advancement of Arts Education at Sudbury Secondary School are invited to join the celebration.

Parents asked if Grade 7 and 8 students are moving into all secondary schools. It is a model that may be considered as part of future accommodation plans.

8. School Announcements

Cynthia Loiselle-Seguin indicated that Cyril Varney Public School has been focusing on its breakfast program. Due to a decrease in parent volunteers, the school has begun to rely on Grade 7 and 8 students to run the program. This is challenging because it is dependent on the arrival of buses. Cyril Varney has become a 21st Century school without parents having to raise funds.

Karla Allen indicated that Lasalle Secondary School has received \$50,000 of additional support for 21st century learning and new pathways.

Trustee Gord Santala recommended the play #thewatertower which looks at the issue of cyberbullying. The audience can engage with police officers at the end of the play.

Cynthia Loiselle-Seguin of Cyril Varney Public School asked why parents were not notified that students had been given rscloud email accounts and access to Google hangouts. Superintendent Noble indicated that staff training is ongoing and discussed the role of the Red Green Committee. She will relay the concerns and look at a communications strategy.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School indicated that the Black Light Production is scheduled for the first week of May. School performances are sold out. She added that 21 local schools and businesses participated in the Raise the Flag Campaign on Monday, April 4, 2016. The local Autism Ontario office is moving on May 1st to 1191 Lansing Avenue in Sudbury.

Cheryl Ewin of Valley View Public School talked about the April 21st Fun Fair and how it has been made accessible to all students. She also indicated that Confederation Secondary School will be hosting a 50th reunion in 2017.

Trish Kitching of Jean Hanson Public School announced that the Silver Birch String Quartet will be hosting a sensory friendly concert. The event will include an instrument petting zone and a musical therapist. For more information, visit birchstringquartet.com.

Dennis Plouffe of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School thanked everyone who helped out with the recent Dare to Stand Out conference. In May, the school will host its annual plant sale with proceeds going towards bursaries and scholarships. CVDCS has partnered with Belanger Lincoln Ford to hold a BBQ and test drive fundraiser.

Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School, said the school has used fundraising dollars to purchase 25 additional Chromebooks and a docking cart. The goal is to continue to expand the 21st Century learning program at the school. The Crosstown test drive event is scheduled for May.

Tara Labranche-Brossau indicated that the school will host a summer food drive to collect donations for the food bank and promote community.

Tonya Marcotte of Lansdowne Public School indicated that the FNMI club is organizing a wellness day. Students have been organizing all aspects of the event, including pricing out activities, inviting speakers, and working with the Sudbury & District Health Unit. The school is planning for a Pow Wow in June. There will be workshops in the morning followed by the ceremony in the afternoon.

Dan Koziar of A.B. Ellis Public School reported that the recently held pasta dinner fundraiser was a success. A group of students will be travelling to London, Ontario to participate in the Future Builders Conference. Students on this trip will have the opportunity to tour the Toyota Plant.

Trustee Bob Clement informed PIC members that he would be participating in a mental health symposium.

9. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Motion: "That the meeting be adjourned."

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

7 pm

Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury

Topic: Planning meeting for the 2016-2017 school year