

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 7 pm
Rainbow District School Board
Board Office Boardroom**

Attendance:

Melissa Roney, R.L. Beattie Public School; Jennifer Michaud, Walden Public School; Linda Goulais, Vice-Principal, Confederation Secondary School; Janelle Bast, Vice-Principal, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School/Ernie Checkeris Public School; Tonya Marcotte, Queen Elizabeth Public School/Lansdowne Public School; Kate Barber, Lansdowne Public School; Trish Kitching, Gatchell School/Princess Anne Public School/Sudbury Secondary School; Sharon Speir, Superintendent, Rainbow District School Board; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning.

Regrets:

Krissie Vanier, A.B. Ellis Public School; Tina Walker, Confederation Secondary School; Terri Gervais, Espanola High School; Selena Lavigueur, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School; Iva McNair, Gatchell School; Sharina Appanna, community member.

1. Call to Order: 7 pm

2. Welcome and Self-Introductions: Superintendent Sharon Speir
Superintendent Sharon Speir welcomed everyone and invited members to introduce themselves.

3. Presentation by Superintendent Lesleigh Dye on Equity and Inclusive Education

Rainbow District School Board approved a new Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (Policy 3.15) as well as a new Religious/Spiritual Accommodation Policy (Policy 5.08) in November 2010. Equity and inclusive education is highlighted under the Promote Succession Planning Priority in Strategic Directions (2011-2015), which was approved by the Board on September 27, 2011. An Equity and Inclusive Education Committee was established two years ago to provide guidance on implementation. The committee includes community representatives, trustees, principals, vice-principals and teachers. Superintendent Dye provided an overview of key activities accomplished to date – guest speakers Chris D'Souza and Jeremy Dias; Gay Straight Alliance Symposiums; equity calendar; equity survey for all permanent staff; student survey; and resources for schools, including the book "Duck Rabbit" and the videos "Sticks and Stones" and "Hear Me Out". Superintendent Dye indicated that Jeremy Dias will visit more Rainbow Schools in February 2012.

Kate Barber and Sharon Speir attended a community workshop on strategies for including parents in schools and delivered a presentation. The workshop was part of the Learning Partnership's Family And Community Engagement Strategy (FACES). Three FACES projects are being piloted in the province, one in Sudbury. A local committee, made up of school boards and community agencies, is looking at how we reach out to families to engage them early. One of the strategies in the Parent Engagement Policy in Ontario Schools is to eliminate barriers so parents can participate and feel comfortable doing so. The presentation will be posted on the Board website. PIC members talked about ways of getting parents involved in school and school activities. Superintendent Speir

indicated that the Parent Involvement Committee can collect information and provide tips on strategies to engage parents.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion: "That the agenda for the PIC meeting on November 1, 2011 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Tonya Marcotte, Queen Elizabeth Public School/Lansdowne Public School
Seconded by: Trish Kitching, Gatchell School, Princess Anne PS/Sudbury Secondary School
Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion: "That the minutes of the PIC AGM held on October 13, 2011 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Tonya Marcotte, Queen Elizabeth Public School/Lansdowne Public School
Seconded by: Melissa Roney, R.L. Beattie Public School
Carried

Motion: "That the minutes of the PIC meeting held on June 7, 2011 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Tonya Marcotte, Queen Elizabeth Public School/Lansdowne Public School
Seconded by: Kate Barber, Lansdowne Public School
Carried

6. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Superintendent Sharon Speir 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. Superintendent Speir called for nominations for each position.

Motion: "That Kate Barber be elected Chair."

Moved by: Jennifer Michaud, Walden Public School
Seconded by: Tonya Marcotte, Queen Elizabeth Public School/Lansdowne Public School
Carried

Motion: "That Jennifer Michaud be elected Vice-Chair."

Moved by: Kate Barber, Lansdowne Public School
Seconded by: Melissa Roney, R.L. Beattie Public School
Carried

Motion: "That Melissa Roney be elected Secretary."

Moved by: Kate Barber, Lansdowne Public School
Seconded by: Jennifer Michaud, Walden Public School
Carried

Following the elections, Kate Barber chaired the meeting.

7. PIC Terms of Reference

Superintendent Sharon Speir provided copies of the Terms of Reference for PIC. She noted that parents are the voting members. Staff members attend to provide support. Committee members have the option of attending meetings in person or by phone.

Motion: "A quorum will be five parent PIC members present, either in person or by phone."

Moved by: Tonya Marcotte, Queen Elizabeth Public School/Lansdowne Public School

Seconded by: Jennifer Michaud, Walden Public School

Carried

Committee members were reminded of Section 5.4 of the PIC Terms of Reference:

5.4 Absentees

If an elected member does not attend three consecutive regular meetings, without a duly approved request for leave of absence, the position may be deemed to be vacant by the Committee.

All requests and notifications of alternates are to be submitted to the Chair of the Committee.

The committee asked that Principals be reminded to share PIC meeting dates and topics with School Councils.

Parents were invited to review the Terms of Reference and ask questions. The question was posed as to whether a community member might be added to the PIC membership. According to the Terms of Reference, a community member on PIC must be a member of a School Council.

8. Communications Report

Nicole Charette provided a communications report, as follows:

During the 2011-2012 school year, nine Rainbow Schools will share a total of \$8,210 in Parents Reaching Out Grants to support School Council initiatives to further engage parents/guardians in their child's learning. While each project varies from school to school, the initiatives have one thing in common - they are intended to enhance communications between the school and the home and help to create a welcoming environment for parents/guardians.

Rainbow District School Board officially opened an alternative secondary school at Cambrian College on October 21, 2011. Young adults, ages 16 to 20, who are currently not registered in a school and would like to return can enroll at Barrydowne College. Students can obtain credits towards their secondary school diploma in a non-traditional environment that offers small class sizes and individualized instruction.

Rainbow District School Board Director of Education Norm Blaseg presented French Immersion Program Review recommendations to Trustees at the regular Board meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2011. The report on the Executive Council's recommendations is available online at rainbowschools.ca. Members of the public had an opportunity to provide input into the recommendations at the Board meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2011. Executive Council will present its final recommendations to the Board on Tuesday, November 22, 2011.

Rainbow District School Board, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, has produced a dynamic new website of French as a Second Language (FSL) resources for parents and students across Ontario. The website was made possible through the financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage. The website - www.FSLHomeworkToolbox.ca - supports parents who have children in a French Immersion (FI) program and wish to assist them with homework in French. It is also a resource for FI students who require an accessible user-friendly reference tool to help with homework. Learners and educators in other FSL programs will also find it useful.

Grade 9 students in Rainbow Schools will spend the day at work job shadowing a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host on Wednesday, November 2nd as part of the national Take Our Kids to Work program.

Parents/guardians and students in Grades 7 and 8 are invited to an interactive information session designed to help students make key decisions in the transition from elementary school to secondary school. All students are welcome to participate along with their parents/guardians, regardless of which elementary school they currently attend.

Rainbow District School Board will present *Making the Transition: Finding Your Way from 8 to 9* on Tuesday, November 15th, 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.

Rainbow Schools will host a series of seminars on positive parenting at various schools in the community. The seminars are part of the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), which helps parents with small changes that can make a big difference. The three-part series will focus on the Power of Positive Parenting; Raising Confident, Competent Children; and Raising Resilient Children. For a complete list of Triple P seminars in Rainbow Schools for the 2011-2012 school year, please visit rainbowschools.ca and click on Triple P under Community.

9. The committee suggested that the list of resources developed by Ernie Checkeris Public School and Carl A. Nesbitt Public School be added to the Board website.

"The Capsule Family Gets Involved", a series of short original animated film vignettes with accompanying discussion guides designed to jumpstart parent engagement and home and school collaboration, will be added to the Board website at the following link:
<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/ParentInvolvement/Resources.php>

10. School announcements

Gatchell School will present ZUMBA as part of its PRO Grant on November 16, 2011.

At this time, there will be no Black Light Theatre production in 2012 because the Sudbury Secondary School auditorium is not available. Gatchell School continues to seek another suitable venue.

Queen Elizabeth Public School continues to host Family Nights focusing on math, literacy, healthy living and community supports. Attendance has increased over the past five years.

The Family Fun Night at Carl A. Nesbitt Public School on November 17, 2011 will feature films or board games.

As a Priority School for Community Use, Lansdowne Public School offers a number of activities for the community, including a Family Dance Party with Absolute Entertainment. Homemade pizza is served. There is also a Homework Club in the library for Grades 3 to 8.

Kate Barber was asked to serve as a PIC representative on the School Year Calendar Committee for the Rainbow District School Board. Kate Barber noted that Professional Learning Days are now taking place on Fridays and Mondays.

11. The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Motion: "That the meeting be adjourned."

Moved by Jennifer Michaud.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Board Office, Board Room, 7 pm

Welcome to Early Learning Kindergarten/

Family and Community Engagement Strategy