

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, May 2, 2017
Board Office**

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Bernadette Rémillard, Lansdowne Public School; Alison Bujold, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Deena Zmijowskyj, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Karla Allen, Parent, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School/Northeastern Elementary School/Lasalle Secondary School; Karry Strelzki, Parent, Lively District Secondary School; Stacey Paajanen, Parent, Lively District Secondary School; Kelly Lemieux, Parent, Valley View Public School; Julie Contini, Parent, MacLeod Public School; Luciano Contini, Parent, MacLeod Public School; Sara Pidgen, ETFO representative; Stacey Gilbeau, Health Promotion Team, Sudbury & District Health Unit; Gord Santala, Trustee; Norm Blaseg, Director of Education; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; and Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Barrydowne College.

Espanola Site:

Jennifer Tilston, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School; Dan Koziar, Vice-Principal, A.B. Ellis Public School

Manitoulin Site:

N/A

1. Call to Order: 7 pm

2. Welcome: Vice-Chair Natasha Delaney

PIC Chair Dahnja Schoengen sent her regrets. Vice-Chair Natasha Delaney welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited PIC members to introduce themselves.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: "That the agenda be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Karla Allen, Carl A. Nesbitt / Northeastern Elementary School / Lasalle Secondary

Seconded by: Deena Zmijowskyj, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School

Carried

4. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on April 4, 2017

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held on April 4, 2017 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Kelly Lemieux, Valley View Public School

Seconded by: Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Carried

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

School boards are required to produce a multi-year plan. Rainbow District School Board uses a three-year timeframe. The Board's Strategic Directions 2016-2020, which outlines the vision, mission, values and priorities, was created with stakeholder input. The document builds on the Ministry of Education's renewed vision for education - achieving excellence, ensuring equity, promoting well-being and enhancing public confidence – and provides the foundation for the Board Improvement Plan and School Improvement Plans.

School Improvement Plans have been focusing on working memory, which includes spaced practice to develop automaticity to recall information quickly, vocabulary development and comprehension, skills that impact learning in all subject areas.

Strategic Directions outlines five strategies under two priorities – Reaching minds and Touching hearts. Budgets are aligned with strategies to ensure all students realize their full potential within an environment of continuous growth. Rainbow Schools strive to achieve 100 per cent success in all areas and measures success through qualitative and quantitative data.

21st century competencies are embedded in the curriculum, including collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity, co-operation and citizenship. Parental engagement and support instills in students a belief that they can do well in school. The Homework Program, which was implemented two years ago, provides focused time for families to work together on reading, writing and math, and talk about what's happening in school.

Director Blaseg also talked about the capital planning process, including conversations with partners interested in leasing space in schools. He reviewed school consolidations and program changes approved in the 2016-2017 school year. Parents had an opportunity to ask questions. Director Blaseg thanked parents/guardians for their ongoing contribution to Rainbow Schools.

6. Brainstorming for 2017-2018

PIC members were invited to share their ideas, then vote on topics for meetings during the 2017-2018 school year.

The following schedule was approved:

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
Annual General Meeting of School Councils | 5:30 pm
Topic: Well-being | 7 pm

Wednesday, November 15, 2017
Topic: Embracing Equity | 7 pm

Tuesday, January 9, 2018
Topic: Resiliency and Growth Mindset | 7 pm

Tuesday, February 27, 2018
Topic: LD Pilot Project | 7 pm

Tuesday, April 3, 2018
Topic: Safe Internet Use | 7 pm

Tuesday, May 1, 2018
Planning meeting for the 2018-2019 school year | 7 pm

7. PRO Grant Application

PIC members discussed applying for a Parents Reaching Out Regional Grant for 2017-2018 to host a Saturday symposium for parents with a variety of speakers.

Motion: "That Rainbow District School Board apply for a PRO Regional Grant to host a conference of speakers for parents/guardians in 2017-2018."

Moved by: Deena Zmijowskyj, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School

Seconded by: Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Carried

Nicole Charette will submit the grant application on behalf of PIC by the deadline of May 25, 2017.

Suggested speakers included Dr. Jean Clinton, Dr. Gregory Wells, Dr. Sheila Bennett as well as a Student Panel. Bernadette Rémillard, Julie and Luciano Contini, Denis Plouffe, Sara Pidgen, Karry Strelezki and Stacey Paajanen expressed an interest in helping to organize the conference.

8. Communications Report

Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor of Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning, delivered the communications report.

Charles C. McLean Public School has won \$25,000 in new technology from Staples Canada as part of an annual contest that recognizes inspiring projects Canadian schools implement in support of the environment. They were one of 10 schools chosen from more than 700 applications submitted in the Staples Superpower your School Contest, organized in partnership with Earth Day Canada. Charles C. McLean Public School is raising chinook salmon for release into the North Channel of Lake Huron. A microhatchery was set up in the Grade 4/5 class last year in partnership with the Gore Bay Fish & Game Club.

Lively District Secondary School's robotics team, The RoboHawks, captured top honours in the regional FIRST Robotics Competition held in North Bay from April 6 to 8, 2017. FIRST stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology". Students build robots that compete in events.

All Rainbow Schools will offer Kindergarten orientation sessions in May 2017 for children starting school this fall as well as their parents/guardians. Parents who have not registered their children still have time to do so and can reserve their spot for Kindergarten orientation by calling their nearest Rainbow School. Registrations for September 2017 will also be accepted at the Kindergarten sessions. For a list of dates and times, visit rainbowschools.ca

Rainbow Schools will celebrate Education Week from May 1 to 5, 2017. This year's theme is Ontario150. A list of activities will be posted on rainbowschools.ca

The 20th Annual Sudbury Regional Heritage Fair will be held on Thursday, May 4th and Friday, May 5th, 2017 at Laurentian University in Sudbury. The community is invited to view projects in the Alumni Hall from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm on May 5th. Over 500 elementary students from Rainbow Schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island will attend the exhibition and heritage celebration. In addition to student projects, the event will feature displays, workshops and live performances by local singer Andy Lowe.

Grade 12 law students from seven local secondary schools will take part in the Sudbury Regional Mock Trial Competition at the Sudbury Courthouse on Friday, May 12, 2017.

Confederation Secondary School's Evolutionary Band will take to the stage for its 37th Annual Mother's Day Concert on Saturday, May 13, 2017. Rock Your Pretty Mama will begin at 7:30 pm in the gym at Confederation Secondary School, 1918 Main Street West in Val Caron. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. Listen to Rewind 103.9 for a chance to win tickets.

Three young scientists from Rainbow Schools will compete at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Regina, Saskatchewan from May 14 to 20, 2017. Their projects impressed the judges at the Sudbury Regional Science Fair, which earned them the honour of showcasing their findings among the best young scientists in the country. Congratulations to Nethra Wickramasinghe of MacLeod Public School; and Brendon Matusch and Megan Gran of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School.

Lasalle Secondary School's music department will host its annual Spring Concert on Monday, May 15, 2017. The concert will take place in the school gymnasium from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

Visit rainbowschools.ca to learn more.

9. School Announcements

Natasha Delaney – The Blacklight Show is now on at Jean Hanson Public School.

Denis Plouffe – Greenhouse sales have begun at Chelmsford Valley District Composite School. Proceeds go towards bursaries for students.

Alison Bujold – Lockerby Composite School and Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School are working on a joint venture to support mental health and well-being.

Bernadette Rémillard – Lansdowne Public School hosted a Wellness Day. A presentation by the Health Unit was well received.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Motion: "That the meeting be adjourned."

Moved by: Alison Bujold, Lockerby Composite School;

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Sudbury Secondary School Library

Topic: Annual General Meeting and Guest Speaker on Well-being