

**Parent Involvement Committee  
Minutes  
Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 7 pm  
Board Office, 69 Young Street, Sudbury  
with video link to  
Little Current Public School**

**Attendance**

**Sudbury site:**

Gord Santala, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Ruth Ward, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Madeleine Leach Jarrett, Student Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Michaela Bouffard, Student Senate; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Kate Barber, parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Natasha Delaney, parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Richard Eberhardt, parent, Walden Public School; Denis Plouffe, parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Karry Strelezki, parent, Lively District Secondary School; Sara Pidgen, ETFO representative; Stacy Paajanen, parent, Lively District Secondary School; Tyler Campbell, parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Kelly Lemieux, parent, Valley View Public School; Raye Addison, parent, Queen Elizabeth Public School; Karla Allen, parent, Northeastern Elementary School/Lasalle Secondary School; Patrick Hopkin, Vice-Principal, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Cori Pitre, Principal, S. Geiger Public School; Kathy Dokis, Principal, Indigenous Education; Kim Nadeau, Sudbury & District Health Unit; Cheryl Ewin, Information Services

**Manitoulin site:**

Alicia McGraw, parent, Little Current Public School; Christy Case, Principal, Little Current Public School; Heather Pennie, Vice-Principal, Little Current Public School

**Espanola site:**

N/A

**The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.**

**1. Welcome**

Superintendent Judy Noble welcomed everyone to the PIC meeting.

**2. Self-Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves.

**3. Embracing Equity – Presentation by Cori Pitre, Principal, S. Geiger Public School**

As the Rainbow District School Board's Lead on Equity and Inclusive Education, Principal Cori Pitre provided an overview of initiatives implemented to date. These include equity surveys (2011 and 2015), an online calendar, Embrace Diversity posters (English and French), Poverty

Committee, Free to Be Me Conference, equity reps in all schools, equity standing item on staff meeting agendas, and Dealing Directly with Language cards. Key messages: This is a safe space. Be who you are. We are here to support you. You have allies here. PIC members played “Equity 101”.

Principal Pitre reviewed Ontario’s Equity Education Action Plan released in August 2017. It includes four action areas – school and classroom practices; leadership, governance and human resources practices; data collection, integration and reporting; and organizational culture change. A parent fact sheet was distributed and parents were encouraged to provide input on what they would like to see happen going forward. Rainbow District School Board is creating a three-year implementation plan.

#### **4. Discussion based on presentation**

Parents spoke about poverty and stressed the importance of ensuring that all students feel a sense of belonging. We need to focus on building allies for the LGBTQ community. Students who have special needs need to be properly assessed so they can be at the same level as other students despite their disabilities. Schools need to continue to cultivate an environment that fosters acceptance. Concerns were expressed that awards ceremonies at the end of the school year focus on high academics. Students with disabilities should be acknowledged for their hard work as well. Students need to be recognized for their unique self. All students should be encouraged to apply for bursaries. Could PIC come up with a recognition award to honour students who have achieved their goals? It was recommended that parents raise their concerns at their respective School Councils to ensure that greater diversity is incorporated into awards ceremonies.

#### **5. Approval of Agenda**

*Motion: “That the agenda be approved, as presented.”*

Moved by: Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Seconded by: Karla Allen, Northeastern Elementary School/Lasalle Secondary School

**Carried**

#### **6. Approval of Minutes**

##### **Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on May 2, 2017**

*Motion: “That the minutes of the meeting held on May 2, 2017 be approved, as presented.”*

Moved by: Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Seconded by: Karry Strelzki, Lively District Secondary School

**Carried**

##### **Approval of the Minutes of the PIC AGM held on October 17, 2017**

*Motion: "That the minutes of the AGM held on October 17, 2017 be approved, as amended."*

Moved by: Richard Eberhardt, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Raye Addison, Queen Elizabeth Public School

**Carried**

## **Business arising from AGM:**

### **Election of additional members from Sudbury**

Superintendent Judy Noble explained that at the AGM, a slate of up to 10 candidates was approved for the PIC Executive.

According to the Terms of Reference, the composition of membership would include one representative from each of the Espanola and Manitoulin Island areas, and eight representatives from the Sudbury area.

This year, there were a total of nine nominees from Sudbury as well as one nominee from Espanola, and one nominee from Manitoulin.

The following candidates for the PIC Executive were acclaimed:

Tyler Campbell - R.L. Beattie Public School

Richard Eberhardt - Walden Public School

Bernadette Rémillard - Lansdowne Public School

Denis Plouffe - Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Kate Barber - Lansdowne Public School/Sudbury Secondary School

Raye Addison - Queen Elizabeth Public School

Jennifer Tilston - A.B. Ellis Public School (acclaimed for Espanola)

Alicia McGraw – Little Current Public School (acclaimed for Manitoulin)

The following candidates were removed from the ballot as they were not present for the election at the AGM in Sudbury:

Adam Pitre - Larchwood Public School

Natasha Delaney - Jean Hanson Public School

Karla Allen - Lasalle Secondary School

These candidates had an opportunity to be considered for election to the PIC Executive at the meeting on November 15, 2017.

*Motion: "That Karla Allen and Natasha Delaney of Sudbury be added to the PIC Executive."*

Moved by: Raye Addison, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Seconded by: Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

**Carried**

## **7. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary**

Superintendent Noble 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 can serve a two-year term and there must be a break for at least one year before being re-elected.

Superintendent Noble thanked Dahnja Schoengen for having served as Chair and Natasha Delaney for having served as Vice-Chair for the past school year. She called for nominations for the Chair.

*Motion: "That Raye Addison be acclaimed Chair."*

Moved by: Karla Allen, Northeastern Elementary School/Lasalle Secondary School

Seconded by: Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

**Carried**

Superintendent Noble called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

*Motion: "That Richard Eberhardt be acclaimed Vice-Chair."*

Moved by: Raye Addison, Queen Elizabeth Public School

Seconded by: Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

**Carried**

Superintendent Noble called for nominations for Secretary.

*Motion: "That Natasha Delaney be acclaimed Secretary."*

Moved by: Richard Eberhardt, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

**Carried**

**Raye Addison chaired the meeting at this point.**

## **8. School Announcements**

Student Trustee Madeleine Leach Jarrett of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School and Student Senate Member Kayla Bouffard of Chelmsford Valley District Secondary School attended the PIC meeting to talk to parents about the importance of student voice in decision-making. Two reps from every secondary school sit on the Student Senate. Students are selected through an application process. The Student Trustee is elected by the Student Senate. The Student Senate hosts a board-wide talent show and the Stand Up Speak Out Conference to promote leadership. The Student Senate is currently working on a research project.

Raye Addison indicated that a Parent Resource Centre has been established at Queen Elizabeth Public School.

Sara Pidgen, a member of the Poverty Sub-Committee, indicated that school staff can help families complete forms. Patrick Hopkin added that there is a list of community agencies and services that can assist families. A 211 service is also available.

Stacy Paajanen of Lively District Secondary School talked about the “fuelling our schools” fundraiser with Macs in Lively. She also highlighted the success of the Junior and Senior Boys Football Teams, which will be recognized at a post-season huddle on November 16, 2017 from 5 pm to 7 pm. Both the junior and senior football teams earned a spot in this year’s city championships. The senior team garnered gold for the second time in the past four years. She also highlighted Cookies with Santa on November 25, 2017.

Richard Eberhardt highlighted an outdoor sing-a-long at Walden Public School on December 14, 2017.

Karla Allen commended Lasalle Secondary School for its successful Finlandia Walk fundraiser held in September 2017. Funds raised will support outdoor walking and fitness activities at Finlandia Village. A trail system will be developed and built, engaging students, local businesses and volunteers. The School Council at Lasalle Secondary School is considering the possible presentation of an annual student award. Karla Allen noted that some awards recognize character. She also acknowledged the transition and growth occurring at Lasalle Secondary School with renovations and a new French Immersion school being added to the property.

Cheryl Ewin, a member of the Environmental Education Committee, said composting programs are being introduced in schools.

Denis Plouffe indicated that Chelmsford Valley District Composite School is working towards an EcoSchools certification. He highlighted plans for renovations for the JK to Grade 12 school. He also focused on school events, including an Indigenous garden, annual winter feast, and the Info Night in January 2018.

Natasha Delaney indicated that Jean Hanson Public School will host a mixed media art show. Children with sensitivities had an opportunity to visit with Sensitive Santas. Natasha Delaney is the new President of Autism Ontario. She shared information about upcoming events.

Nicole Charette shared information about the Truth and Reconciliation Implementation Plan Consultation Sessions. She also invited PIC members to the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Concert on November 29, 2017.

*Motion: “That we do now adjourn.”*

Moved by: Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7 pm**

**Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury**

**Topic: Resiliency and Growth Mindset**