

**Parent Involvement Committee
Minutes
Tuesday, January 9, 2018
Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury
with video link to
A.B. Ellis Public School**

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Ruth Ward, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Kate Barber, parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Richard Eberhardt, parent, Walden Public School; Denis Plouffe, parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Karry Strelezki, parent, Lively District Secondary School; Laurie Brownlee, parent, Lively District Secondary School; Sara Pidgen, ETFO representative; Kelly Lemieux, parent, Valley View Public School; Karla Allen, parent, Northeastern Elementary School/Lasalle Secondary School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Heather Downey, Vice-Principal, Lockerby Composite School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Barrydowne College; Shannon Boland, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Cheryl Ewin, parent, Valley View Public School; David Douglass, teacher, Monetville Public School; Sherri Conley, teacher, Princess Anne Public School; Daniel Koziar, Acting Principal, Monetville Public School; Kim Nadeau, Sudbury & District Health Unit; Tracey Oderkirk, Sudbury & District Health Unit

Espanola site:

Jennifer Tilston, parent, A.B. Ellis Public School; Edith Presseau, Vice-Principal, A.B. Ellis Public School

Manitoulin site:

N/A

**Richard Eberhardt chaired the meeting.
The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.**

1. Welcome

Richard Eberhardt welcomed everyone to the PIC meeting.

2. Self-Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

**3. Resiliency and Growth Mindset – Presentation by Kim Nadeau and Tracey Oderkirk,
Sudbury & District Health Unit**

Kim Nadeau and Tracey Oderkirk of the Sudbury & District Health Unit engaged PIC members in an exercise to illustrate the following - when you have a challenge, what do you do with that

challenge? They shared Carol Dweck's research on what motivates people and talked about the fixed mindset versus the growth mindset. The fixed mindset presupposes that intelligence, ability and skill are established at birth. The growth mindset, on the other hand, purports that if we work hard and persist, we can learn more all of the time. This has a huge impact on how children learn. If we can create an environment of growth mindset in children, they will lead a full life, cope with challenges and move on.

PIC members watched a video about the relationship between what we believe about how we learn and success. Working hard is an opportunity to learn and grow our intelligence. You can always improve with effort, good strategies and help. Key messages – set goals, push yourself to meet goals, challenge yourself to step outside of your comfort zone, it's OK to make mistakes, embrace change, learn the power of "I can't Yet".

The presenters shared resources for parents, including the following books - *Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream*, *Thanks for the Feedback: The Science and Art of Receiving Feedback Well*, *Mistakes That Worked: 40 Familiar Inventions & How They Came to Be*, *The Grit Guide for Teens: A Workbook to Help You Build Perseverance, Self-Control, and a Growth Mindset*, *Not Yet*, *The Thing Lou Couldn't Do*, and *Your Fantastic Elastic Brain: Stretch It, Shape It*. Remember the Zootopia song: *Try Everything!*

4. Approval of Agenda

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

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

Seconded by: Kelly Lemieux, Valley View Public School

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on November 15, 2017

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held on November 15, 2017 be approved, as amended."

Moved by: Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

Corrections to minutes: Karla Allen is a parent at Northeastern Elementary School and Lasalle Secondary School. She is no longer a parent at Carl A. Nesbitt Public School. Also, the School Council at Lasalle is considering the possibility of introducing an award.

6. Discussion based on presentation

Are all schools talking about growth mindset? Superintendent Judy Noble indicated that growth mindset is important for students who are deemed at risk or have low resilience. Teachers look at

what they are praising (ie. the effort and persistence), particularly in math. Many teachers have taken the Dr. Jo Boaler math course. Teachers have also introduced the Minds Up curriculum in Kindergarten. Information about Growth Mindset has been included in the *Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians* thanks to a Parents Reaching Out Regional Grant. Superintendent Noble talked about the importance of self-talk and reframing. She also talked about the “zone of proximal development” or the “just right time” for students to gain new knowledge so they don’t give up. The more you persevere, the more successful you will be. She encouraged parents to praise the effort. “I’m not good at that” versus “I will get better in time.”

7. Communications Report

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

The Embrace Diversity Series of Posters is now available online at rainbowschools.ca at the following link: <https://www.rainbowschools.ca/about-us/our-values/equity-inclusive-education/>

Rainbow Schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin will host information nights for Kindergarten registrations. All parents/guardians and children are invited to attend. Information Nights will take place from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 for the English Program and Thursday, January 18, 2018 for the French Immersion Program. Schools offering English and French Immersion will host one information night on Thursday, January 18, 2018. Visit rainbowschools.ca for a list of schools and programs offered or call your area Rainbow School. Kindergarten brochures were distributed.

Information Nights at Rainbow secondary schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island continue for Grade 8 students. All students are welcome to participate, regardless of which elementary school students currently attend. Visit rainbowschools.ca for a list of dates and times.

The Board has received a \$10,000 Regional Parents Reaching Out Grant for the Parent Involvement Committee to host “Parents as Partners: Learning Together.” Parents/guardians will have an opportunity to attend various sessions. They will gain awareness of education initiatives, dig deeper into timely topics, and learn strategies they can use at home to support their child’s progress in school. Parents/guardians were invited to share ideas on topics and speakers.

Motion: “That a sub-committee be formed to plan the 2018 Parents Reaching Out Conference. Volunteers included Karry Strelezki, Stacy Paajanen, Richard Eberhardt, Bernadette Rémillard, Cheryl Ewin, Nicole Charette, Judy Noble and Ruth Ward.”

Moved by: Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

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

Carried

Everyone is welcome to help organize the conference.

8. New Business – Proposal presented by Kate Barber of Sudbury Secondary School

Kate Barber introduced the idea of an “Opportunities Fund” where schools with more capacity for fundraising could assist schools with less capacity for fundraising. She asked if School Councils would be interested in being part of a solution to help schools with fewer resources. Parents shared fundraising ideas. Teachers indicated that schools quietly help other schools and provide support. Superintendent Noble indicated that fundraising plans are developed at the beginning of each school year and that philanthropy is alive and well in Rainbow Schools. These plans are school-based. The Board is very aware of demographics and, as a result, some schools do receive additional supports. The Equity Committee is also looking at how we can further support families living in poverty. There was a general consensus that this support not be mandated, but continue to occur “under the radar.”

9. School Announcements

Denis Plouffe of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School thanked the School Council members from Lively District Secondary School who attended a School Council meeting. CVDCS will host its information night on February 15, 2018.

Bernadette Rémillard indicated that the Christmas dinner and concert held at Lansdowne Public School were a success. She shared information about an Elizabeth Fry Peer Mediation course for Grade 7 and 8 students as well as a paint social for girls.

Karla Allen said Northeastern Elementary School hosted its second movie night. The Christmas Concert was a huge success. Grade 8 students are raising funds for a ski trip. The Lasalle Secondary School information night took place on November 23rd but there is still time to register. The Me to We Club hosted a bake sale and coffee house to support the food bank. Students are engaging other students to promote involvement. For instance, 12 days of Christmas.

Kelly Lemieux indicated that the Valley View Public School Christmas Feast was a success.

Sara Pidgen said the local consultation session hosted by EQAO was not well attended. Seven input sessions were held across Ontario to share ideas on pitfalls and improvements.

Kate Barber said a number of Rainbow Schools participated in the Bright Bites Healthy Kids Community Challenge to promote healthy eating and nutrition. R.H. Murray Public School won the bike that makes smoothies

Motion: “That we do now adjourn.”

Moved by: Denis Plouffe, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 7 pm

Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury

Topic: LD Empower Pilot Project