

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 27, 2018
Rainbow District School Board Centre for Education
408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Ruth Ward, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Mel Depatie, parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Stacey Paajanen, Parent, Lively District Secondary School; Karry Strelezki, Parent, Lively District Secondary School; Doreen Dewar, Chair, Rainbow District School Board; Shannon Boland, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Sara Pidgen, ETFO representative; Sherri Conley, teacher, Princess Anne Public School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Barrydowne College; Patrick Hopkin, Vice-Principal, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Cheryl Ewin, Parent, Valley View Public School; Kelly Lemieux, Parent, Valley View Public School; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; and Richard Eberhardt, parent, Walden Public School.

Espanola Site:

N/A

Manitoulin Site:

N/A

1. Call to Order: 7 pm

2. Welcome: Chair Richard Eberhardt welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited PIC members to introduce themselves.

3. Presentation:

LD Empower Pilot Project with Cathy Norrie, Vice-Principal, Cyril Varney Public School and Colleen McDonald, Principal of Special Education Programs and Services

Rainbow District School Board is in the second year of a three-year pilot project offering the Empower reading program to students who have a learning disability. The program was launched at Northeastern Elementary School and Cyril Varney Public School. In the 2017-2018 school year, it was expanded to Adamsdale Public School, Churchill Public School, Princess Anne Public School and Queen Elizabeth Public School. It is also being offered at Chelmsford Public School. The remedial reading program consists of five carefully sequenced decoding strategies – sounding out, rhyming, peeling off, vowel alert, and spy strategies. Students who participate in the program show significant improvements in reading as well as writing. The program will be expanding to other schools in the coming school year.

4. Approval of the Agenda

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

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Lansdowne Public School

Seconded by: Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on January 9, 2018

Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held on January 9, 2018 be approved, as presented."

Moved by: Kelly Lemieux, Parent, Valley View Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

6. Discussion based on presentation

Parents asked if the focus on literacy, through the Empower reading program, will be extended to math and science. There is no similar program for math or science, however, the literacy skills gained provide a strong foundation for learning in other subjects. Empower reading consists of several programs up to Grade 12. Rainbow District School Board is targeting younger children when they need more repetition. Chair Dewar shared that trustees were so impressed with the program they passed a motion to send a letter to the Ministry of Education to make the program available to more schools and students. The program is funded by the Ministry. Response from parents/guardians has been very positive. One parent at the PIC meeting called the program "a big confidence booster in all aspects of life."

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

The deadline to apply for the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants for the 2018-2019 School Year is June 5, 2018. PIC will consider ideas for a PRO Regional Grant at the next meeting.

Rainbow District School Board is now accepting online registrations for children starting school for the very first time. After completing the online registration form, there is one more important step. Parents/guardians must bring their child's documents to the school where they have registered.

The School Year Calendar for 2018-2019 has been approved by Rainbow District School Board and is scheduled for release this week.

The deadline to complete the Special Education Survey is March 2, 2018. The survey can be accessed online at rainbowschools.ca

The Rainbow District School Board Science Fair for Grades 7 to 12 will be held at Lockerby Composite School on March 8, 2018.

There will be a second Wear Pink Day on April 11, 2018.

Natasha Delaney indicated that there were anti-bullying t-shirts available at Walmart.

The Math, Science and Technology Olympics will be held at Science North on April 12, 2018.

A mindfulness presentation will be held on April 4, 2018 at 6:30 pm at Cambrian College.

The speaker for the PIC meeting on April 3, 2018 is not available.
Another speaker will be invited to make a presentation on this date.

Motion: "That the PIC meeting scheduled for May 1, 2018 be moved to May 15, 2018."

Moved by: Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School
Seconded by: Kelly Lemieux, Parent, Valley View Public School

The May meeting will be a brainstorming session for topics/presenters for PIC meetings in the 2018-2019 school year.

8. School Announcements

Richard Eberhardt provided an update on the first meeting of the Conference Organizing Committee. The committee is looking at the availability of speakers for the one-day conference on a Saturday this spring. The conference is being funded by a PRO Regional Grant.

LDAS and Cambrian College will present Barbara Coloroso in the Cambrian College Student Life Centre on April 16 at 6:30 pm.

ETFO will host Annie Kidder of People for Education in a public forum on funding on May 23, 2018.

Natasha Delaney talked about the raise the flag for autism event. She added that a World Autism Day Awareness and Dinner Celebration will take place at the Caruso Club on April 4, 2018.

Trustee Ruth Ward indicated that the Board was working hard to give students the best learning opportunities. The Board is committed to the success of every student.

Stacey Paaanen highlighted sports accomplishments at Lively District Secondary School in basketball and volleyball. The school presented its 25th annual S-Days on February 22 and 23, 2018. A comprehensive snowmobile safety program, S-Days focuses on students, snowmobiles, safety, security and survival. School Council held a Hawks Fest to raise money for jerseys. The Robo Hawks will participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition in Barrie.

Shannon Boland of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School said that a presentation slated for February 2018 will be rescheduled for April 2018. Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School will host an interactive workshop about the connection between emotions and learning. Guest speaker, Angie DeMarco of the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury, will discuss the association between a student's ability to self-regulate while learning in a structured educational environment. During the workshop, parents/guardians will explore new research focused on how a learning brain develops and reacts based on its experiences. Parents/guardians will also learn how to help their children correct or redirect disruptive moods and/or impulses at home and in the classroom.

Patrick Hopkin of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School highlighted accomplishments in basketball, wrestling and volleyball. Tryouts will kick off soon for football. The school is also organizing a health and wellness conference.

Kelly Lemieux of Valley View Public School outlined plans for a Fun Fair on April 26, 2018. She asked members for ideas on how to engage parents. It was suggested that School Council be specific regarding which tasks need to be done and that they highlight what money is going towards. Valley View Public School hosted an Olympic Week, with pancakes, sleigh rides, maple syrup in the snow and an outdoor day.

Bernadette Rémillard of Lansdowne Public School highlighted the success of a Peer Mediation program offered by Elizabeth Fry. She also talked about the art program for girls, basketball, fundraising for a Grade 8 trip to Canada's Wonderland, the winter carnival, heritage fair and the Sudbury Secondary School art caravan. Lansdowne will continue to focus on Aboriginal traditions, but is not hosting a Pow Wow this year. She also welcomed new Principal Dan Koziar to the school.

9. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Motion: "That the meeting be adjourned."

Moved by: Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Centre for Education 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury

Topic: To be announced