

## **Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 7 pm  
Rainbow District School  
Centre for Education

### **Attendance**

#### **Sudbury site:**

Judy Kosmerly, Trustee; Sara Pidgen, ETFO representative; Allison Andlar, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Dan Koziar, Principal, Princess Anne Public School; Kerrie St. Jean, Trustee; Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Shelley DePaolis, Parent, Lasalle Secondary School; Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Sherri Conley, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Noreen McChesney, Parent, Lively District Secondary School; Lesley Fisher, Principal of Program; Melanie Bertrand, Vice-Principal, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Bridget Erwin, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Kelly Lemieux, Parent, Valley View Public School; Anita Gibson, Trustee; Leanne Whitehouse, Parent, Princess Anne Public School; Nina Denniston, Parent, Monetville Public School; Joni Roy; Parent, Assiginack Public School; Kim Nadeau, Public Health Sudbury & Districts; Doreen Dewar, Trustee; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

#### **Espanola Site:**

N/A

#### **Manitoulin Site:**

Denise Sheppard, Parent, Manitoulin Secondary School.

#### **Call to Order: 7 pm**

##### **1. Welcome**

Superintendent Judy Noble welcomed everyone to the meeting.

##### **2. Self-Introduction**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

##### **3. Indigenous Learning through the Blanket Exercise – Kathy Dokis**

Kathy Dokis welcomed guest presenters Cynthia Belfitt and Amy Commanda from Laurentian University. They facilitated the Blanket Exercise for the Parent Involvement Committee. Kathy Dokis indicated that the Blanket Exercise is a great learning tool for students and staff in Rainbow Schools. She indicated that it can be an emotional experience and, for this reason, supports are provided. The exercise takes participants through the history of Indigenous Peoples of Canada, including residential schools. Building knowledge is part of the Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan adopted by

Rainbow District School Board. Some 564 people in Rainbow Schools have participated in the Blanket Exercise.

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

Participants were invited to share their observations. The visual representation is powerful and was a dramatic way of imparting the broken promises that were made. Parents said they are grateful that students are getting to learn what they never saw and it made them want to be part of the healing process. Some said they felt shame at how people were treated. Despite the feeling of despair and sadness, many said they were hopeful if we can change directions and chart a new course. Kathy Dokis called the exercise a small step in the learning journey in Rainbow Schools. She appreciated the opportunity to share the activity at the Parent Involvement Committee meeting. She invited everyone to think about what they can do to make a difference. It was suggested that the blanket exercise be done with students in the Faculty of Education program at Laurentian University.

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

*“That the agenda for the meeting on December 4, 2018 be approved”*

Moved by: Shelley DePaolis, Lasalle Secondary School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

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

*“That the minutes of the meeting on May 15, 2018 and October 30, 2018 (AGM) be approved”*

Moved by: Shelley DePaolis, Lasalle Secondary School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

#### **Business arising from AGM:**

##### **Election of one additional member from Sudbury**

Superintendent Noble explained that nine parents were elected to PIC at the AGM. Three parents from the original slate of possible candidates were not in attendance.

Superintendent Noble asked if the parents were in attendance at the meeting on December 4, 2018. With none in attendance, she asked for nominations for other parents who may be interested in joining PIC. After asking the question three times, the following motion was presented:

*“That Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School be elected a member of PIC for 2018-2019.”*

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

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

Superintendent Judy Noble thanked Richard Eberhardt for serving as Acting Chair of PIC during the 2017-2018 school year.

After calling for nominations for Chair, the following motion was presented:

*“That Stacy Paajanen of Lively District Secondary School be elected Chair of PIC for 2018-2019.”*

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

After calling for nominations for Vice-Chair, the following motion was presented:

*“That Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School be elected Vice-Chair of PIC for 2018-2019.”*

Moved by: Shelley DePaolis, Lasalle Secondary School

Seconded by: Judy Kosmerly, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board

Carried

After calling for nominations for Secretary, the following motion was presented:

*“That Joni Roy of Assiginack Public School be elected Secretary of PIC for 2018-2019.”*

Moved by: Shelley DePaolis, Lasalle Secondary School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

## **8. School Announcements**

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School invited PIC members to visit the school's Facebook page for activities. The School Council attracted more parents/guardians this year. The school is planning a smaller version of its Blacklight Production. They are looking for fundraising ideas. The production may have a new name. Jean Hanson Public

School is also participating in the Food Drive. The new Principal and Vice-Principal are doing a terrific job. Rainbow District School Board is also doing a terrific job of taking care of students with special needs.

Allison Andlar of R.L. Beattie Public School said the school had a very successful craft fair. Some of the proceeds that were raised were donated to the Infant Food Bank.

Joni Roy of Assiginack Public School said the Grade 4 teacher was working on cursive skills to improve hand-writing.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School said the schools second School Council meeting would take place in early December. In the past, Northeastern contributed to the Food Drive. In recent years, staff and students have been performing Acts of Kindness which have been very well received. Every class adopts a group and/or charity. She cited some examples.

Shelley DePaolis of Lasalle Secondary School indicated that the school was hosting its first craft show on December 1, 2018. Proceeds will go to the breakfast club which is open to all students. The school is also contributing to the Fill a Crib campaign. She highlighted an upcoming basketball tournament with Police. She also talked about the partnership with Finlandia to raise funds for outdoor paths (\$8,500 in 2018) and memoirs for families.

Bernadette Rémillard of Lansdowne Public School said the school participated in Treaty Week. The Peer Mediation Program with Elizabeth Fry continues for Grade 7 and 8 students. A reading club is being launched with the use of reading dolls donated by a teacher. Students are participating in volleyball tournaments, field trips to the Sudbury Theatre Centre, the arts carousel at Sudbury Secondary School, Remembrance Day, and the Transition Evening. New parents/guardians have joined the School Council. The school is also participating in a number of fundraising initiatives. The School Council had an opportunity to learn about the Kids Have Stress Too Program to foster mental health and well-being.

Bernadette also provided an update on activities at Sudbury Secondary School, including the new Specialist High Skills Major on Health and Wellness. The school has hosted tournaments for elementary students. They also have a trip to Italy and Greece planned. Sudbury Secondary School will host its annual Christmas Feast on December 20<sup>th</sup>. An update on performances was also provided.

Tricia Hatfield of Cyril Varney Public School indicated that Grade 1 students participated in the Kids Have Stress Too Program. Funds were raised through the sale of cookie

dough. Students took part in Rock Your Mocs on November 15<sup>th</sup>. More parents/guardians are joining the School Council. The school is participating in a number of initiatives including EcoSchools, the Food Drive and the Fill a Crib campaign. Our Children Our Future and EarlyOn programs in the school are a success. Cyril Varney's next School Council meeting will be at the PIC meeting in February 2019.

Dan Koziar of Princess Anne Public School said the Food Drive has been a success to date, with 5,000 items collected and neighbourhood canvassing to come. The Remembrance Day Service included members of the legion. All students in the school will enjoy the Christmas Feast on December 19th thanks to generous donations.

Sara Pidgen of R.L. Beattie Public School talked about the Rocks of Kindness project with Jackie Balleny and its positive impact in Rainbow Schools.

Bridget Erwin of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School focused on a number of activities, including the food drive, basketball, the variety show, the Joan Mantle Music Trust concert and a Neo Kids fundraiser with the Laurentian Voyageurs.

Kelly Lemieux of Valley View Public School talked about a school fundraiser through the sale of meat pies, perogies and ham. She also talked about the food drive and the Christmas feast.

Sherri Conley of Northeastern Elementary School highlighted a movie night being hosted by the School Council.

Vice-Chair Natasha Delaney thanked members of PIC for their contribution.

## **9. Adjournment**

*"That the meeting be adjourned."*

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Lansdowne Public School

Seconded by: Joni Roy, Assiginack Public School

Carried

**The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.**

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019**

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

**Topic: EcoSchools**