

## **Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7 pm  
Rainbow District School Board  
Centre for Education

### **Attendance**

#### **Sudbury site:**

Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Stacy Paajanen, Parent, Lively District Secondary School; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Shannon Boland, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Sara Pidgeon, ETFO representative; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Kim Nadeau, Public Health Sudbury & Districts; David Wiwchar, Principal, Central Manitoulin Public School; Dan Koziar, Principal, Princess Anne Public School; Melanie Bertrand, Vice-Principal, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Kerrie St. Jean, Trustee; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee; Shelley Depaolis, Parent, Lasalle Secondary School; Mary Jago, Mental Health Lead; Kelly Lemieux, Parent, Valley View Public School; Susan Kett, Principal, Barrydowne College; Lorna Oshell, Teacher, R.H. Murray Public School; Jacinda McLean, Parent, R.H. Murray Public School; Cori Davy, Teacher, Central Manitoulin Public School; Julien Bergeron, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Catherine Norrie, Vice-Principal, Cyril Varney Public School; Jill Hocking, Teacher, Cyril Varney Public School; Mel Depatie, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Kelly Rodriguez, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; and Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School.

#### **Espanola Site:**

N/A

#### **Manitoulin Site:**

Joni Roy, Parent, Assiginack Public School

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

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

Chair Stacy Paajanen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

##### **2. Self-introductions**

PIC members introduced themselves

##### **3. Presentation on EcoSchools, Principal David Wiwchar**

Principal Wiwchar along with fellow EcoSchool Gold Certified students from Central Manitoulin Public School shared their experience and innovative eco-friendly living

activities that have helped their school maintain an EcoSchool Gold Certification and successfully reduce their ecological impact. Highlighted activities included the partnership with Manitoulin Streams to raise and release salmon and also the school's garden with produce shared with the local foodbank. Currently, there are 20 schools in the Rainbow District School Board that have accepted the EchoSchool Certification challenge. The Eco Team from R.H. Murray Public School also shared their initiatives, including monthly challenges, compost program, annual yard clean up, harvesting of produce, and the school's no mow zone.

#### **4. Presentation on the Mental Health Strategic Plan, Mental Health Lead Mary Jago**

Mary Jago shared the Rainbow District School Board's Mental Health Strategic Plan and highlighted the milestone successes that will continue to benefit the well-being of school communities. One in five children experience a significant mental health concern. Half of all lifelong cases of mental illness begin by age 14. Mary Jago outlined a number of school initiatives, including implementation of the Kids Have Stress Too Program in Grades 1 to 6. School board staff members are also participating in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

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

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

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard

Seconded by: Shelley Depaolis

**Carried**

#### **6. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on December 4, 2018**

*Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held on December 4, 2018 be approved, as presented."*

Moved by: Natasha Delaney

Seconded by: Shelley Depaolis

**Carried**

#### **7. Discussion based on presentations**

More schools are encouraged to achieve EcoSchool Certification and it was suggested Central Manitoulin produce a video that would inspire more participation.

PIC members commended the presentation on Mental Health and will promote the strategy.

#### **8. Conference Update**

Stacy Paajanen provided an update on the PIC conference. The Rainbow District School Board Parent Involvement Committee has received a Parents Reaching Out Regional Grant to host a conference for parents by parents with a focus on mental health. The conference will take place on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at Lockerby

Composite School in Sudbury. The theme is Empowering Parents to Empower their Children.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Adele Lafrance. Dr. Adele Lafrance is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Laurentian University. She is a clinical psychologist and co-developer of Emotion-Focused Family Therapy (EFFT). As founding co-director of Mental Health Foundations, Dr. Lafrance provides consultation and training for clinicians, school boards and mental health agencies worldwide. She has published extensively in the field of clinical psychology and currently supports the research base for emotion-focused interventions in mental health and school settings. Dr. Lafrance also makes many practical resources for parents, caregivers and other adult influencers available on her website.

In addition to the keynote, parents will be able to attend two workshops with a focus on developmental stages: Early Years K to Grade 1; Children Grade 2 to 6; Young Adolescents Grade 7 and 8; and Adolescents Grade 9 to 12. Workshops will be offered from 11:15 am to noon and 1:15 pm to 2 pm.

Lunch will be provided on site. There will also be childcare to enable as many parents/guardians as possible to attend. Community partners have been invited to share information and resources at booths. For instance, Public Health Sudbury & Districts will be on site to share information about the Bounce Back and Thrive parent resiliency training program.

## **9. Communications Report**

Nicole Charette delivered the communications report.

### **Parents Reaching Out Grants for 2018-2019**

Innovative parent involvement projects are being implemented in Rainbow Schools thanks to funding provided by the Ministry of Education's Parent Engagement Office. Ten Rainbow Schools will share a total of \$9,450 in Parents Reaching Out Grants to support School Council initiatives to further engage parents/guardians in their child's learning. In addition, the Board has received a \$10,000 Regional Parents Reaching Out Grant for the Parent Involvement Committee to host a conference for parents by parents with a focus on mental health.

### **A new way for parents to pay: School Cash Online**

Rainbow District School Board is introducing a new way for parents to pay for field trips, yearbooks, hot lunches, spirit wear, agendas, athletic fees and more. It's called School Cash Online. School Cash Online is safe, simple, secure and saves time. Your child will no longer be required to bring money to school. You will be able to pay for school items anywhere, anytime. School Cash Online will be introduced in 11 elementary schools and all secondary schools this spring. A letter will be sent home inviting parents/guardians to sign up for School Cash Online. By September 2019, all schools

will have School Cash Online. Parents/guardians who do not have access to a computer, tablet or phone at home, at work or in the community, will be able to access School Cash Online from school. More information is posted on the Board's website at [rainbowschools.ca/schoolcashionline](http://rainbowschools.ca/schoolcashionline).

### **Jack Talks**

Jack Talks are being presented in Rainbow secondary schools until February 28, 2019. Guest speakers from Jack.org will use the power of their personal stories to inspire and educate students about mental health, including signs of distress and resources for help.

### **Technological Skills Competition**

Rainbow District School Board will host its 14th annual Technological Skills Competition on Wednesday, February 27th, 2019. The event will take place at Cambrian College in Sudbury and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners Local 2486 in Azilda. More than 100 secondary school students will test their skills in events including carpentry, welding, TV/video editing, photography, auto-service technology, 2D and 3D character animation, electrical installations, cabinet making and small-powered equipment, prepared speech, auto computer aided design (CAD), mechanical CAD and coding. Students will vie for the opportunity to compete at the Skills Ontario Competition from Monday, May 6th to Wednesday, May 8th, 2019 in Toronto.

### **Digital Learning Day**

Thursday, February 28, 2019 is Digital Learning Day, an opportune time to highlight technology in Rainbow Schools from the tools to the teachings. Through technology, students are gaining global competencies including critical thinking and problem solving; innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship; self-directed learning; collaboration, communication and citizenship.

### **Invitation for Input - Special Education Survey**

Parents/guardians of students with special needs and exceptionalities in the Rainbow District School Board are invited to provide input into the 2019-2020 Special Education Plan. The survey is available online at [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca). The survey must be completed no later than Friday, March 1, 2019.

### **Science Fair**

Students in Grades 7 to 12 will participate in the Rainbow District School Board's Science Fair on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at Lockerby Composite School. The public is invited to view the projects in the gymnasium from 12 pm to 1:30 pm. The awards ceremony will take place in the auditorium at 1:30 pm. Judges will select up to 42 projects for the Sudbury Regional Science Fair at Laurentian University's Alumni Hall on April 6 and 7, 2019.

### **Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award**

Heather Parker, Co-ordinator of the Kiwanis Music Festival of Sudbury, is the 2019 recipient of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award. The award will be

presented at the International Dinner and Silent Auction in support of the Trust on Saturday, April 13, 2019. The evening will mark the 11th anniversary of the Joan Mantle Music Trust which has raised more than \$240,000 since its inception. Tickets for the International Dinner and Silence Auction in support of Trust are now on sale.

### **Parents as Career Coaches with Barbara Coloroso**

Cambrian College will host two Parents As Career Coaches sessions this spring - one on Manitoulin Island and one in Sudbury. This year's focus will be on Wellness, specifically around resilience and grit – helping your child through transitions such as moving from elementary to secondary school, to beyond. Barbara Coloroso is the guest speaker. There will be two sessions - Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at the Manitoulin Island Conference Centre from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm (100 people maximum) and Thursday, April 11, 2019, Student Life Centre, Cambrian College from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm (300 people maximum). Watch for details.

## **10. School Announcements**

Shelley Depaolis of Lasalle Secondary School talked about the recent renovations to Lasalle Secondary School and upcoming revitalization project. She indicated that students love the environment, including the cafeteria, library and lobby. Grade 7 and 8 students from Churchill Public School and Carl A. Nesbitt Public School will transfer to Lasalle Secondary School for September 1, 2020. A new French Immersion JK to Grade 6 school on the Lasalle Secondary School site is scheduled to open September 1, 2021, subject to Ministry of Education approval to proceed.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School highlighted school activities, including cross-country skiing and the Family Wellness Night made possible with a Wolves United grant. She indicated that Jean Hanson Public School has launched a Facebook page.

Stacy Paajanen of Lively District Secondary School highlighted school fundraisers for student excursions as well as sports successes and the Robo Hawks. She also highlighted the school's Parent Reaching Out Grant with a focus on teaching students about credit, Google classroom for parents, and mental health. Lively District Secondary School is spearheading a Prom Dress collection, which ties into the Specialist High Skills Major in the Environment by encourage recycling. The school also held its 26<sup>th</sup> annual SLED days to promote safe snowmobiling.

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School said the recently hosted 70s show was well received. Choreographer Allen Kaeja visited the school and showed students lifts and other dance moves that will be part of the Let's Dance production this spring. She outlined successes in music and sports and talked about the cancer fundraising gala on March 29<sup>th</sup>. She also said the Christmas Telethon hosted at the school was a huge success. At Lansdowne Public School, fundraising is helping students attend

events and parents engage in school activities. Students are participating in Lake Laurentian excursions, EcoSchools, recycling, composting, Voyageurs hockey, artists in the classroom, the PEERS program and Kids Have Stress Too.

Dan Koziar, Principal of Princess Anne Public School, focused on efforts to build resiliency and leadership. Students in Grades 4 to 8 attended a Laurentian Voyageurs game. Students in Grades 7 and 8 enjoyed a ski trip. The Kids Have Stress Too program at Princess Anne was featured on CTV News. A number of staff members were trained in Suicide ASSIST as part of ongoing efforts to foster mental health. Students are learning coding and robotics.

Melanie Bertrand, Vice-Principal of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, said the Information Night was a success. Teams are doing well in sports at all levels. Interest in robotics is growing and Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School students and staff had the privilege of contributing to the new THINK exhibit and MakerSpace on the fourth floor at Science North. The poetry club has spawned published authors. The Improv Team is competing provincially. Grade 8 students enjoyed French culture and outdoor activities in St. Donat.

Tricia Hatfield of Cyril Varney Public School indicated that School Council members from the school were at the PIC meeting. She highlighted a number of achievements at the school, including a successful Kindergarten Information Night, 100 days of school celebrations, student led conferences with parents, spirit nights with the Wolves and Sudbury Five, winter carnival, EcoSchools, etc. She also indicated that vocabulary development is progressing with a Word of the Day.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School said a school-wide initiative to focus on kindness has been a huge success. The school is also focusing on mindfulness. She indicated that Grade 8 students participated in a ski trip to St. Donat and some funds were refunded. She asked PIC members to share ideas on how these funds could be invested in the Grade 8 graduation to make students stay at school to celebrate. She also highlighted success at public speaking and talked about the school's PRO grant.

ETFO rep Sara Pidgen, a teacher at R.L. Beattie Public School, focused on field trips and sports teams. She also indicated that any leftover pasta and pizza is frozen and shared with other schools.

#### **11. The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.**

*Motion: "That the meeting be adjourned."*

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

#### **Next Meeting:**

**April 2, 2019**

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

**Topic: School Climate Survey Review**