

## **Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 2, 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 Pidgen, 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; Dan Koziar, Principal, Princess Anne Public School; Kerrie St. Jean, Trustee; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee; Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School, Allison Andlar, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Sherri Conley, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; and Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Public School

#### **Espanola Site:**

N/A

#### **Manitoulin Site:**

Denise Sheppard, Parent, Manitoulin Secondary 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: School Climate Survey Review by Superintendent Judy Noble**

Rainbow District School Board invited students in Grades 4 to 6 and Grades 7 to 12 to complete a School Climate Survey in the 2017-2018 school year. Responses were anonymous and results were presented in aggregate form. Superintendent Judy Noble shared the data with PIC members. A number of questions were asked about racial background, the adults students live with, first language, faith/religion/creed, gender identity, transportation, safety at school and in the community, bullying, sense of belonging, representations of diverse groups and learning about women, people of races, cultures, skin colour, Indigenous peoples, people of different religions/faiths/creeds, people with disabilities, people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, people who are transgender, different kinds of families and people with different income levels. Survey results will guide data informed decision making in equity and inclusive education and safe schools.

#### **4. Approval of the Agenda**

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

Moved by: Natasha Delaney

Seconded by: Melissa Gladu

**Carried**

#### **5. Approval of the Minutes of the PIC Meeting held on February 26, 2019**

*Motion: "That the minutes of the meeting held on February 26, 2019 be approved, as presented."*

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney

**Carried**

#### **6. Discussion based on the presentation**

PIC members asked questions throughout the School Climate Survey review. They were most concerned with ensuring that students have a sense of safety and well-being at school. They wanted to know how survey results were shared and will be used. Superintendent Noble indicated that school administrators and equity representatives received the data for their respective schools to share with staff and determine needs. The data will be used to develop school-based strategies to improve safety and well-being.

#### **7. Communications Report**

Nicole Charette delivered the communications report.

#### **PIC Parent Conference on Saturday, June 22, 2019**

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 Raise Resilient Children. The conference is free and childcare will be available on site.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Adèle Lafrance. Dr. Adèle Lafrance is an Associate Professor at Laurentian University, a clinical psychologist, and co-developer of Emotion-Focused Family Therapy. As co-director of Mental Health Foundations, Dr. Lafrance provides consultations and training for clinicians, school boards and mental health agencies worldwide. A passionate advocate, Dr. Adèle Lafrance supports parents/guardians and caregivers as they take care of their loved ones. Her address will inform, educate, inspire and empower. Parents will learn family-friendly tips and tools that will help with healing and recovery.

In addition to the keynote, parents will be able to attend two workshops:

FLIP IT! Transforming Challenging Behaviour (Kindergarten)

From LEGOs to iPhones (Grades 2 to 6)

Transitions: From Tween to Teen (Grades 7 and 8)

Whatever! (Grades 9 to 12)

Holistic Arts Based Program: An Introduction (For all ages)

Children and Grief (For all ages)

Lunch will be provided on site. Community partners have been invited to share information and resources at booths. Please register through EventBrite at the following link: <https://picconference2019.eventbrite.ca>

### **An easy way for parents to pay: School Cash Online**

April 15, 2019 is the launch date for School Cash Online, an easy way for parents to pay for field trips, yearbooks, hot lunches, spirit wear, athletic fees and more. School Cash Online is safe, simple, secure and saves time. 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. More information is posted on the Board's website at [rainbowschools.ca/schoolcashionline](http://rainbowschools.ca/schoolcashionline).

### **Science Fair**

A number of students in Grades 7 to 12 from Rainbow Schools will take part in the Sudbury Regional Science Fair being held in the Alumni Hall at Laurentian University on Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7, 2019. The students won the honour of competing at the regional level following the Rainbow District School Board annual Science Fair held at Lockerby Composite School on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Sudbury Regional Science Fair projects will be selected for the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Fredericton from May 15 to 17, 2019.

### **Joan Mantle Music Trust International Dinner and Silent Auction**

The International Dinner and Silent Auction in support of the Joan Mantle Music Trust will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2019. The evening will mark the 11th anniversary of the Trust, which has raised more than \$240,000 since its inception. The Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award will be presented to Heather Parker, the Co-ordinator of the Kiwanis Music Festival.

### **Wear Pink Day**

Rainbow Schools will wear pink on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 to mark the International Day of Pink, a day where communities unite against bullying, discrimination, homophobia and transphobia. Day of Pink is part of Rainbow District School Board's ongoing efforts to build community and promote inclusion.

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

Parents were reminded that 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).

Visit [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) to learn more about student and school news.

## **8. School Announcements**

Tricia Hatfield of Cyril Varney Public School focused on the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Pow Wow. She also talked about how the school is emphasizing vocabulary and fact fluency with the word of the day and word detectives. New words and acquired vocabulary will be featured on a bulletin board in the foyer.

ETFO rep Sara Pidgen, a teacher at R.L. Beattie Public School, said she appreciated Board Chair Doreen Dewar's comments related to provincial cutbacks in autism.

Allison Andlar of R.L. Beattie Public School said the school's Eco Club is regreening and composting in every classroom. The robotics club participated in the launch of the re-imagined fourth floor at Science North. Students will soon enjoy safety workshops. The Spring Fair will be held on May 9, 2019.

Dan Koziar, Principal of Princess Anne Public School, said students are looking forward to the Sudbury Regional Heritage Fair on May 9 and 10, 2019. He talked about the launch of School Cash Online indicating that it will streamline the purchase of school items, making it easier for students and for parents. Students wore blue on World Autism Day. The school remains focused on creating exceptional learners, including supports for transitions to secondary school.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School highlighted the success of World Autism Awareness Day, including the raising of the flag and autism acceptance week. She thanked Rainbow Schools for participating in events. She invited PIC members to the City Hall flag raising on April 5, Autism Ontario's AGM at Lockerby Composite School at 6:30 pm on April 11, and a dinner at the Caruso Club on April 24, 2019. She also highlighted activities at Jean Hanson Public School, including Family Wellness Night and swimming.

Bernadette Rémillard talked about events at Lansdowne Public School and Sudbury Secondary School. Lansdowne has an active recycling club and chess club and is hosting student-led conferences and fundraisers for books and awards. School Council is providing input on the Principal Profile. A Grade 8 trip is being planned. Parents are pleased that students are attending Rainbow secondary schools. A number of activities at Sudbury Secondary School were highlighted, including Kiwanis Festival performers, the Cancer Fundraising Gala, the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, visits by elementary schools, Arts Education auditions, the Student Senate Stand Up for Positivity Conference, as well as achievements in athletics and music.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School talked about the donation of a handmade quilt for autism awareness. She also said female students enjoyed a day in the trades at the Carpenters Union which opened their eyes to opportunities. The Principal Profile was completed at the School Council meeting. Grade 8 students will enjoy a Cortina Cruise on Lake Ramsey to celebrate their graduation along with teachers. She also highlighted Autism Awareness Week and Education Week activities.

Denise Sheppard of Manitoulin Secondary School indicated that the School Council was focused on transitions to college, university and the workforce for Grade 12 students.

Alumni and community representatives spoke to students and parents. Students competed in skilled trades and did well. The Robotics team competed in North Bay along with other Rainbow Schools. She said this was a big opportunity for students all over Ontario with the potential to earn scholarships to further studies. She also said parents are very excited that renovations to Manitoulin Secondary School have begun.

Stacy Paajanen of Lively District Secondary School highlighted student achievement in athletics, robotics and tech skills. Students are raising money for prom and the Headstrong Committee is hosting a tea in the community. There will be a yard sale at the school on May 5<sup>th</sup>, with proceeds going towards athletics. Parent workshops will be held this spring, with funds from a Parents Reaching Out grant. The focus will be on Google Classroom, My Blueprint, Time Management, Financial Challenges and information from the Greater Sudbury Police Service. She also applauded teacher Kyleen Gray for earning a 2019 Reading Award in the Ontario-wide category for her exemplary work in literacy.

Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Public School said students will participate in an Entrepreneur Charity Fair on May 2, 2019 to promote environmental sustainability. All funds collected will support a charity chosen by each group. Students have also partnered with a local business, which will match all donations. Students will present funds to a representative from each charity on Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

Shannon Boland of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School said the school's Parents Reaching Out grant will bring parents together to learn about wellness, including relationships, stress management, communications and self-care.

#### **9. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm`**

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

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

#### **Next Meeting:**

**May 14, 2019**

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

**Topic: Planning for the 2019-2020 School Year**