

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 7 pm
Rainbow District School Board
Centre for Education
408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Angelina Kasunich, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Allison Andlar, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Sara Pidgen, ETFO representative; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Espanola High School; Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Public School; Colleen McDonald, Principal of Special Education Programs and Services; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee; Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Kim Nadeau, Public Health Sudbury & Districts; Melanie Bertrand, Vice-Principal, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

Espanola Site:

N/A

Manitoulin Site:

N/A

Call to Order: 7 pm

1. Welcome

Superintendent Judy Noble welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Self-Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Superintendent Noble indicated that, due to work to rule, the December presentation on E-Learning and the Google Classroom has been replaced with the January presentation on Autism and Special Needs Supports. She thanked Colleen McDonald for accommodating the new date and welcomed her to the PIC meeting.

3. Autism and Special Needs Supports – Colleen McDonald, Principal of Special Education Programs and Services

Principal McDonald provided an overview of autism, a lifelong neurodevelopmental disorder that affects the way the brain works. Autism affects social skills and

communication skills. It is often characterized by restrictive and repetitive behaviour. Principal McDonald highlighted the possible signs of autism as well as unique abilities, including exceptional strengths. Every single individual with autism is uniquely different. Diagnoses can fall within a broad umbrella, hence the reference to Autism Spectrum Disorder or ASD. Principal McDonald shared information about diagnostic hubs and the Ontario Autism Program. She also highlighted services offered to students who have been diagnosed with autism in Rainbow Schools, including the Transitioned Aged Youth Protocol, supporting students as they transition from services in the child sector to the adult sector. Principal McDonald noted that transitions are very important for students with autism. She added that the family plays a critical role in helping educators determine what students need at a specific time. She highlighted special education processes and placements, with a focus on behaviour, communication and social skills. The goal is to determine where students require extra supports in order to build skills to be successful in their environment.

4. Discussion based on presentation

PIC members had an opportunity to ask questions throughout the presentation.

5. Approval of Agenda

“That the agenda for the meeting on December 3, 2019 be approved.”

Moved by: Natasha Dellaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Allison Andlar, R.L. Beattie Public School

Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

“That the minutes of the meeting on May 14, 2019 be approved.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Carried

“That the minutes of the meeting on October 29, 2019 (AGM) be approved”

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Allison Andlar, R.L. Beattie Public School

Carried

7. Business arising from AGM:

Elections for vacancies

Superintendent Noble explained that six parents were acclaimed to PIC at the AGM. One parent from the original slate of possible candidates was not in attendance at the AGM.

Another parent expressed an interest in joining PIC. Superintendent Noble 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 and Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Public School / Chelmsford Valley District Composite School be elected members of PIC for 2019-2020.”

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Carried

8. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Superintendent Judy Noble thanked Stacy Paajanen of Lively District Secondary School for serving as Chair of PIC and Natasha Delaney for serving as Vice-Chair of PIC during the 2018-2019 school year.

After reviewing the role of the Chair and calling for nominations for Chair, the following motion was presented:

“That Allison Andlar of R.L. Beattie Public School be elected Chair of PIC for 2019-2020.”

Moved by: Tricia Hatfield, Cyril Varney Public School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

After reviewing the role of Vice-Chair and calling for nominations for Vice-Chair, the following motion was presented:

“That Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School be elected Vice-Chair of PIC for 2019-2020.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Steffany Bourque, Chelmsford Public School

Carried

After reviewing the role of Secretary and calling for nominations for Secretary, the following motion was presented:

“That Nicole Charette and Kristina Rivard Gobbo share the role of Secretary of PIC for 2019-2020.”

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

At this point in the meeting, Allison Andlar assumed the role of Chair.

9. Review and Selection of Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants

Superintendent Judy Noble indicated that Rainbow District School Board has received \$9,177 in funding from the Ministry of Education for PRO grants to be completed in the 2019-2020 school year. Schools were invited to apply for funding, to a maximum of \$1,000 per project. Thirteen applications were submitted. All projects will receive funding to increase parent engagement.

Superintendent Judy Noble reviewed the list of projects with PIC, as follows:

Lansdowne Public School - Literacy and Numeracy Days for Families

Princess Anne Public School - Literacy and Numeracy Days for Families

Charles C. McLean Public School - 21C Workshops for Parents (GSuite, Lexia, Cybersafety)

Algonquin Road Public School - Improving Literacy at Home

Northeastern Elementary School - Evening Seminar Series - Improving Parent Involvement

Assignack Public School - Mental Health and Wellness Fair

Walden Public School - Family Math Night

Markstay Public School - Family Math Night

R.L. Beattie Public School - Gender and Family Diversity

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School - Online Safety - Screenagers

Valley View Public School - Family Fitness Night

Central Manitoulin Public School - Growth Mindset

Sudbury Secondary School - Parent Hub

After the projects were reviewed, the following motion was presented:

“That the Parents Reaching Out projects for 2019-2020 be approved, as presented.”

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Carried

PIC members were pleased that all projects will receive funding.

10. Communications Report

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

Rainbow District School Board’s secondary teachers and support staff represented by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation (OSSTF) will engage in a full withdrawal of services on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 in response to negotiations at the

provincial level.

All classes for Grades 9 to 12 will be cancelled for the day in Rainbow Schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island. This includes Barrydowne College, the N'Swakamok Native Alternative School, the Attendance Centre and the Adult Day School.

Extra-curricular activities, field trips, school events and Co-operative Education placements for secondary students will also be cancelled. Dual credits will continue at Cambrian College.

At the elementary level, Kindergarten to Grade 8 classes will proceed as scheduled. This includes programs for Grade 7 and 8 students at Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, Confederation Secondary School, Lively District Secondary School and Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School.

School office staff, however, will be participating in the full withdrawal of services.

Parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 are asked to notify their child's school of any absences. This is very important for the safe arrival program. Please call the school and ensure that you leave a message if your child will be away on that day.

Controlled access will remain in effect at elementary schools. Parents/guardians visiting the school can expect delays in entering the building. Contact numbers will be posted on the main door for assistance.

Please note that childcare services in Rainbow Schools will continue to operate as scheduled as well as community use of schools.

Rainbow District School Board thanks parents/guardians and students for their understanding.

Please note that updates will be posted on rainbowschools.ca.

Lockerby Composite School's information night has been rescheduled to Thursday, December 5, 2019.

Information has been posted on rainbowschools.ca regarding the Human Development

and Sexual Health component of the Health and Physical Education curriculum for Grades 1 to 8. This information is available in the Parents Section under “Resources for Parents”. It includes an overview of the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations by grade so parents can see what will be taught.

Educators will teach the Human Development and Sexual Health Education component of the curriculum to elementary students in the spring, allowing sufficient time to get to know students to ensure that we teach the curriculum in a developmentally and age-appropriate manner.

In accordance with Ministry Policy/Program Memorandum No. 162, elementary schools will send letters to families of students in Grades 1 to 8 at least 20 school days before human development and sexual health lessons take place. While parents may choose to exempt their children from human development and sexual health lessons, we hope this occurs only after careful consideration. We want all students to be part of discussions that build respect and understanding, discussions that help all students feel safe and valued.

This includes students learning about diversity and equity, including different kinds of families, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation or any of the other human rights protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

To help families feel comfortable with what students will learn, we encourage parents/guardians to talk with their child’s teacher and/or school Principal. Parents/guardians may choose to have their children in Grades 1 to 8 exempted from instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations on an individual basis. Exemptions are limited to instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations found in strand D of The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1-8, 2019.

Students will not be exempted from instruction related to any other expectations in this curriculum or related to expectations in other curriculum subjects. Parents/guardians must review the curriculum expectations provided by grade. Parents/guardians must complete an Exemption Form for each child and submit the completed form to the Principal of the child’s school at least five days before the period of instruction.

A meeting with the Principal will be scheduled with parents/guardians to discuss options selected no later than five days before the start of the period of instruction.

This is the time of the year where secondary schools begin to host Information Nights.

For a complete schedule, please visit rainbowschools.ca

Rainbow District School Board's elementary schools will host Kindergarten Information Nights on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 for the English Program and Thursday, January 16, 2020 for the French Immersion Program. Schools offering English and French Immersion will host one information night on January 16, 2020.

There will be two concerts this month in support of the Joan Mantle Music Trust. Lasalle Secondary School will present "Music with a Slice" on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 6:30 pm in Lasalle Secondary School's cafeteria. The concert will showcase performances from students at Lasalle Secondary School, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School, Churchill Public School and Northeastern Elementary School. Sudbury Secondary School and Princess Anne Public School will join together to present "A Holi-Yay Extravaganza" in the Sheridan Auditorium on Friday, December 13, 2019 at 7 pm.

A list of Festive Events in Rainbow Schools will be posted online.

For more news, visit rainbowschools.ca

11. School Announcements

Tricia Hatfield of Cyril Varney Public School said the school participated in Treaty Recognition Week and Rock Your Mocs Day. Cyril Varney remains focused on math growth and literacy comprehension.

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School said the school sends an electronic newsletter to parents/guardians. The Cancer Drive was a tremendous success. The Student Council is very active. Tech and robotics remain an important focus. The School Council is considering more ways to get parents/guardians engaged.

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School applauded students and staff for the recent production of Alice in Wonderland. Sudbury Secondary School and Princess Anne Public School are joining together to present "A Holi-Yay Extravaganza" in support of the Joan Mantle Music Trust on Friday, December 13, 2019. Dance students travelled to the National Ballet of Canada in Toronto to see Giselle. Students also took part in a Halloween Dance, Headstrong Summit, Grade 9 Day at Camp Sudaca and many sports events.

Melanie Bertrand of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School highlighted Junior Awards, Remembrance Day, Craft Fair and a presentation by Holocaust survivor Eva Olsson which was a remarkable opportunity for students. She also provided an update on the

renovations currently underway at Lo-Ellen Park.

Allison Andlar of R.L. Beattie Public School focused on fundraising, including the food drive and TD Toy Drive. Students are learning more about the impact of their efforts at school assemblies. The school sends weekly email updates for parents/guardians. The school has a defibrillator. R.L. Beattie Public School students have become Kindness Ninjas, leaving “super cute stickies” on the lockers of students at Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School said they are trying to engage more parents/guardians on School Council. The school held a successful fall tea.

Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Public School said everyone is anticipating the move to Chelmsford Valley District Composite School in the fall of 2020. Joint activities are already taking place, including a meeting of both School Councils where members had an opportunity to tour CVDCS. Enrolment has increased, which is good news for growth. The Kids Choir performed at the Telethon and the mall. The Christmas feast and concert will be held with/at CVDCS.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School said the new principal has been very proactive. The lobby has been revamped. Northeastern is taking steps to move towards an EcoSchools certification, with the Eco Club meeting weekly with a lot of student and staff engagement. A new laser cutter is being installed. She was pleased that the school is receiving Parents Reaching Out funds in the current school year.

Kristina Rivard Gobbo of Espanola High School said a number of parents/guardians are on School Council. The Grade 9 Day and Information Night were successful. A new construction teacher is working with students to build doghouses for Pet Save. The OPP delivered human trafficking presentations. The school has a new Specialist High Skills Major in Hospitality and Tourism. More than 150 students in Grades 7 and 8 attended the Free to Be Me Conference in November.

12. Adjournment

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, January 7, 2020
Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury
Topic: E-Learning and the Google Classroom

Unofficial