

**Parent Involvement Committee Annual General Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 6 pm
Centre for Education
Ernie Checkeris Boardroom
(With option to Google Meet)**

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Norm Blaseg, Director of Education; Kathy Wachnuk, Superintendent of Schools; Emily Caruso Parnell, Principal Elementary Remote Learning; Mary Jago, Mental Health Lead; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Lesley Fisher, Principal of Program; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Laura Thomas, parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Christine Garrett, Parent, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Stacy Paajanen, Parent, Walden Public School; Alicia Marshall, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School/Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Karen Adamic, parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Nicole Boyle, parent, Lasalle Secondary School; Michèle Smethurst, Executive Assistant; Cindy Whitson, Executive Assistant; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Michael McKelvey, Information Services; David Kitching Information Services.

Google Meet:

Doreen Dewar, Chair, Rainbow District School Board; Margaret Stringer, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Melanie Bertrand, Vice-Principal, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Espanola High School; Jamie Mohamed, Principal, Manitoulin Secondary School; Daniel Koziar, Principal, Princess Anne Public School; Parents/Guardians and members of the school communities.

Call to order 6 pm

1. Welcome from Superintendent of Schools Judy Noble

Superintendent Judy Noble welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting.

She stated that over eighty parents had registered to join us, mostly online. A few parents who were physically distancing attended in person. Given the number of parents joining online, she asked everyone to mute their microphone throughout the AGM and the presentation that would follow.

Superintendent Noble reviewed the agenda for the evening and introduced members of the 2019-2020 PIC Executive. Superintendent Noble also introduced administrators, teachers and Trustees who participated in PIC. She acknowledged all of the parents who attended PIC meetings and thanked them for their interest and support.

The purpose of the Parent Involvement Committee is to give School Councils an opportunity to network, to share ideas, to provide input and to learn from Board and community guest speakers.

2. Greetings from Board Chair Doreen Dewar

Board Chair Doreen Dewar extended a warm welcome to parents, guardians, and staff who were joining the meeting in person and online. She delivered greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Chair Dewar thanked all PIC members for their contribution and commended Allison Andlar, Chair, and Angelina Kasunich, Vice-Chair, for their leadership. Chair Dewar extended a sincere thank you to parents/guardians involved in School Councils as well as the Parent Involvement Committee. She also acknowledged parents/guardians who have expressed an interest in PIC going forward and thanked them for answering the call to serve.

Chair Dewar said that parents and guardians can rest assured that we remain focused on our priorities; namely, student well-being and student achievement – with health and safety first and foremost while we resume teaching and learning against the backdrop of a global pandemic.

She told a story, citing why, scientifically, geese fly in a “V” formation. She explained that the flock adds 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. Supportive parents, caring educators and active community members, mirror this. When they all work together, students benefit and schools flourish. Chair Dewar concluded her remarks by thanking everyone for being part of Rainbow District School Board’s “V”.

3. Greetings from Director of Education Norm Blaseg

Director Blaseg welcomed everyone to the first Parent Involvement Committee meeting of the 2020-2021 school year. He began by acknowledging parents and guardians for their support in a school year unlike any other.

Director Blaseg stated that we were excited to reopen our schools and welcome students back to class, whether the students learn in person or online. Getting students into a routine is essential for their mental health, well-being, development and overall education and we have adapted to this new way of living and learning and we are making the most of the situation.

Director Blaseg thanked parents for screening their children daily before sending them to school, keeping them home when they are sick, reinforcing public health practices at home, and supporting our protocols. He added that he is proud of how students, families and staff have responded to the challenges of the pandemic and demonstrated a tremendous amount of resilience.

Director Blaseg thanked parents and guardians for choosing Rainbow Schools and for placing their continued confidence in our educators.

In closing, Director Blaseg acknowledged the important role that parents and guardians play in Rainbow Schools as partners in education and stated their contribution enhances the learning experience for all students in our collective care. Our trustees, school principals, vice-principals, teachers and support staff deeply appreciate their dedication to Rainbow Schools.

4. 2020-2021 Election of PIC Membership

Superintendent Judy Noble explained that at the AGM, a slate of up to 10 candidates is approved for the PIC Executive. According to the Terms of Reference for PIC, the membership includes one representative from each of the Espanola and Manitoulin Island areas, and eight representatives from the Sudbury area. This year, ***with no submission to represent Espanola, 7 representatives will be acclaimed from the Sudbury area and 1 from Manitoulin Island.***

Superintendent Noble presented the members of the PIC Executive as follows:

Tricia Hatfield, Cyril Varney Public School
Bernadette Remillard, Lansdowne Public School
Allison Andler, R.L. Beattie Public School
Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School
Jennifer Del Papa, C.R. Judd Public School
Cherie Daniels, Markstay Public School
Ashley Malley, Redwood Acres Public School
Denise Sheppard, Manitoulin Secondary School

Superintendent Noble introduced this year's non-parent PIC members:

Judy Kosmerly and Kerrie St. Jean (Trustees)
Judy Noble (Superintendent of Schools)
Nicole Charette (Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications)
Kristina Rivard Gobbo (Principal)
Dan Koziar (Principal)
Melanie Bertrand (Vice-Principal)
Sara Pidgen (Elementary Teacher)

5. Meeting dates for 2020-2021

Superintendent Judy Noble reviewed the schedule of PIC meetings for the remainder of the school year:

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 7 pm

Topic: Recovery & Resilience Following a Pandemic

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7 pm

Topic: Financial Literacy

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7 pm

Topic: Specialist High Skills Major - Red Seal

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7 pm

Topic: Safe Schools and Violence Threat Risk Assessment (Lockerby Composite School - Auditorium)

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7 pm

Topic: Planning Meeting for the 2021-2022 school year

Judy Noble thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Meeting. Participants were invited to stay for a presentation on ***Education in the ERA of COVID-19*** featuring David Groulx, Public Health Sudbury and Districts. The presentation was followed by a discussion moderated by Director of Education Norm Blaseg. The panel included David Groulx, Mary Jago, Mental Health Lead for Rainbow Schools, Emily Caruso Parnell, Principal of Elementary Remote Learning as well as Superintendents Judy Noble and Kathy Wachnuk.

Participants were invited to prepare questions for the panel discussion and submit them via email to info@rainbowschools.ca.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 - 7 pm

Rainbow District School Board Centre for Education

Via Google Meet

Topic: Recovery & Resilience Following a Pandemic