

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 7 pm
Via Google Meet

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Allison Andlar, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Ashley Malley, Parent, Redwood Acres Public School; Cherie Daniels, Parent, Markstay Public School and Lasalle Secondary School; Jennifer Del Papa, Parent, C.R. Judd Public School; Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Stacy Paajanen, Parent, Walden Public School; Amanda Yaw, Parent, Redwood Acres Public School; Kerry Loken, Parent, Alexander Public School; Rebecca Coughlin, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Sara Pidgen, ETFO representative; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Espanola High School; Dan Koziar, Principal, Princess Anne Public School; Doreen Dewar, Board Chair; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee; Melanie Bertrand, Vice-Principal, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

Espanola Site:

N/A

Manitoulin Site:

Lauren Dewar, Parent, Central Manitoulin Public School; David Wiwchar, Principal, Central Manitoulin Public School; Jamie Mohamed, Principal, Manitoulin Secondary School; Dana Noble McCann, Vice-Principal, Manitoulin Secondary School; Christy Case, Principal, Little Current Public School

Call to Order: 7 pm

1. Welcome

Superintendent Judy Noble welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Self-Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held via Google Meet.

3. Recovery and Resilience Following a Pandemic

Presenter: Mary Jago, Mental Health Lead, Rainbow Schools

What is resilience? What does recovery look like? How can we take care of ourselves? Mary Jago talked about the importance of adapting to change and finding ways to move through challenges, emerging stronger from the experience. She said it's critical to build resiliency because it is rare for individuals to never be confronted with adversity or

challenging circumstances. Our thoughts, attitudes, beliefs and behaviours shape how we view the world. Factors that contribute to resiliency include positive self-regard, internal locus of evaluation (ie. I have ways to judge myself in relation to others), stress management strategies, concepts of freedom and responsibility (ie. how I view myself in the world), and psychological and environmental factors. Mary Jago outlined the difference between stress, which is a natural response to a demand, versus distress, which is a state of great suffering and pain. Strategies to manage stress include good nutrition, exercise, sleep, relaxation, positive affirmation and self-help groups. It's important to move your body, slow down and take a deep breath, make healthy lifestyle choices, express our feelings to others, avoid negative self-talk and experience joy.

4. Discussion based on presentation

PIC members had an opportunity to ask questions throughout the presentation. A parent asked if the Bounce Back program was available for secondary students. It is not. Another parent asked what she could bring back to her families. Mary Jago indicated there are mental health resources on the board website. The PowerPoint presentation will also be shared with School Council Chairs.

5. Approval of Agenda

"That the agenda for the meeting on December 1, 2020 be approved."

Moved by: Cherie Daniels, Markstay Public School / Lasalle Secondary School

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

Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

"That the minutes of the meetings held on May 12, 2020 and the AGM held on October 20, 2020 be approved."

Moved by: Cherie Daniels, Markstay Public School / Lasalle Secondary School

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

Carried

7. Election for Vacancies

Superintended Noble presented the parents who were elected to PIC at the AGM on October 20, 2020.

Tricia Hatfield, Cyril Varney Public School

Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary 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

She indicated that there were two positions to be filled. Stacy Paajanen and Melissa Gladu expressed an interest. After asking if any other parents were interested, the following motion was presented:

“That Stacy Paajanen of Walden Public School and Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School be elected members of PIC for 2020-2021.”

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

Seconded by: Cherie Daniels, Markstay Public School / Lasalle Secondary School
Carried

8. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Superintendent Judy Noble thanked Allison Andlar of R.L. Beattie Public School for serving as Chair of PIC and Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School for serving as Vice-Chair of PIC during the 2019-2020 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 2020-2021.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School
Carried

After reviewing the role of Vice-Chair and calling for nominations for Vice-Chair, there were two candidates – Stacy Paajanen and Cherie Daniels. After a vote, the following motion was presented:

“That Stacy Paajanen of Walden Public School be elected Vice-Chair of PIC for 2020-2021.”

Moved by: Allison Andler, R.L. Beattie Public School

Seconded by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School
Carried

There were no nominations for secretary.

Nicole Charette and Kristina Rivard Gobbo will share the role of Secretary of PIC for

2020-2021.

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

9. 2020-2021 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants

Rainbow District School Board has received \$9,083 in PRO grant funding to share with schools in the 2020-2021 school year to engage parents in their children's learning.

PIC considered two applications.

R.L. Beattie Public School

R.L. Beattie will offer a series of virtual interactive workshops related to gender and family diversity and sexual orientation (from an age-appropriate perspective). Experienced facilitators (Yasmin Owis, Ty Walkland and Joël Dickinson) will be invited to work with the school on developing and implementing appropriate content and context for parents of children in Grades K-6.

Walden Public School

Walden will provide education for students and parents on special education and well-being. In partnership with LDAS, the school will present virtual information sessions that will include an appreciation of different ways of learning, self-advocacy and positive messages about being unique, how to cope with change and confrontation/resolution, respect and friendship. There will also be a parent session to support the interpretation of the language presented in an IEP and how that IEP relates to their child's success. The school is working with partners to add topics such as ADHD, Mental Health and supports for Indigenous students.

After considering the applications, the following motions were subsequently presented:

"That the R.L. Beattie Public School PRO grant project be approved."

Moved by: Ashley Malley, Redwood Acres Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Carried

Note: Allison Andlar recused herself from voting.

"That the Walden Public School PRO grant project be approved."

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Ashley Malley, Redwood Acres Public School

Carried

The deadline for PRO Grant applications will be extended to December 18, 2020. Projects will be reviewed at the PIC meeting on January 5, 2021.

10. **Communications Report**

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

COVID-19 Advisory Section on rainbowschools.ca

Rainbow District School Board posts information on rainbowschools.ca when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 that involves a student or a staff member in a school setting. We also advise parents/guardians when there is a confirmed case in a child care setting in a school.

If individuals are identified as close contact of a case in a school setting, Public Health will contact them/their parent or guardian directly and provide direction. If Public Health advises that a class, cohort or a school should be closed for a period of time, parents/guardians, students and staff are notified immediately. Notice of any closures of classes, cohorts or schools is posted on the COVID-19 Advisory page. There is a link to the COVID-19 Advisory on all school websites.

Snow Days

On Snow Days this year, Rainbow District School Board will follow past practice. When transportation is cancelled due to inclement weather, schools remain open and staff is expected to report to work. Classes will continue for elementary remote learners. A letter was sent to parents/guardians on November 16, 2020. In person learners who go to school will receive instruction, consolidation and support. There will be no mixing of cohorts or combining of classes on snow days as we continue to follow all health and safety protocols. In secondary schools, students who attend in person and remotely will also receive instruction, consolidation and support. Again, there will be no mixing of cohorts or combining of classes.

Lockerby Composite School hosts Virtual Open House on December 2

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to visit Lockerby Composite School's Virtual Open House website launch on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 7 pm. The link will be available at lockerby.rainbowschools.ca. All students are invited to visit

the Open House website regardless of which elementary school they currently attend. The virtual presentation will be a combination of video and conversations with staff. Visitors to the website can sign up to speak one-to-one with administration or staff about programming or any other questions they may have.

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to take part in virtual information nights for all Rainbow secondary schools. To ensure safety for all, sessions will be live for families to join online or pre-recorded to access anytime on the school's website. More information will be posted on rainbowschools.ca.

Rainbow District School Board has produced a Guide for Students and Parents "Making the Transition – Finding your way from Grade 8 to Grade 9," with information about course codes, levels of study, timetables and tips. The guide can be accessed online at rainbowschools.ca. Hard copies are also available by emailing info@rainbowschools.ca. Rainbow District School Board is currently working with Eastlink Community TV to produce a Transition Evening on Finding Your Way from Grade 8 to Grade 9. Watch for details!

December 8:

Parent Presentation on Mental Health airs on Eastlink Community TV

Why do adults put their oxygen masks on before children on airplanes? How can we talk to children about the pandemic? What are ways to manage the anxiety we may be feeling? Can the pandemic be explained in terms of loss and grief? These are some of the questions the Rainbow District School Board's Mental Health Team will explore in "Life Interrupted: A Pathway Toward Resilience and Growth," which will air on Tuesday, December 8th, 2020 at 5 pm on Eastlink Community TV - channel 10 or 610.

The presentation will support parents/guardians whether children are learning in class or online. This presentation was delivered to parents/guardians via Google Meet earlier this fall and was well received. We thank Eastlink Community TV for making this presentation accessible to a broader audience. Participants will learn how to talk and listen to children as they navigate potential grief and loss that may be experienced during a pandemic. We extend a special thanks to our Mental Health Team who continue to engage families creatively with content that is relevant and timely."

11. School Announcements

Tricia Hatfield of Cyril Varney Public School says the school remains focused on literacy and numeracy. She added that this is a challenging year for fundraising and asked if others were experiencing this as well. She also said students were replacing gifts for teachers with donations for the food drive. Others said they were also encouraging this.

Bernadette Rémillard said Sudbury Secondary School has been very active on Facebook and via emails. She highlighted a few events, including the Virtual Information Night on January 13, 2021. North Star Awards were rolled out. She was very proud her daughter was nominated for North Star Student of the Week. She said students are listening to health and safety protocols and enjoying a positive experience. She sent kudos to Rainbow Schools for being fantastic during these unusual times.

Jennifer Del Papa of C. R. Judd Public School said they are being creative with fundraising events online. She said the school has been very clear about expectations to keep everyone safe and has been quick to share new messaging as the situation evolves.

Cherie Daniels of Markstay Public School said it can be challenging to get parents involved. The school plans to apply for a PRO grant to foster engagement.

Ashley Malley of Redwood Acres Public School said the school had a good turnout for its School Council meeting. Most parents wanted more information related to COVID-19. She added that the staff make Council fun as everyone works together.

Stacy Paajanen of Walden Public School outlined the many activities students have been participating in including Take Me Outside Day, Rock Your Mocs Day, Terry Fox Walk/Run and Superhero Day. The school is now focused on raising funds for the Food Bank, including replacing any possible gifts for teachers with donations in their names.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School said parents are providing input into the school's Dress Code and was looking for feedback. The school is currently producing Christmas ornaments on its laser cutter as a fundraiser. She noted that Northeastern experienced a confirmed case of COVID-19 but exposure was limited due to quick action. The school partnered with Cousin Vinny's on individually packaged meals.

Allison Andlar of R.L. Beattie Public School said they took the pulse of their school community and paused fundraising. This will be revisited in the new year. She said she is impressed with the use of the outdoor space at the school and the creative community engagement through nature walks, etc. She suggested weekly email updates to keep parents engaged in their school. She continues to participate in PIC Chair forums at the provincial level to glean new knowledge and talk about best practices. She will share more information with PIC at future meetings.

Allison Andlar asked if the Board could set up an email for the PIC Chair (ie. PICChair@rainbowschools.ca) Superintendent Noble will follow up.

12. Adjournment at 9 pm

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Moved by: Stacy Paajanen, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary school

Carried

Next meeting:

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7 pm

Via Google Meet

Topic: Financial Literacy

Official