

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7 pm
Via Google Meet

Attendance

Sudbury site:

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; Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Stacy Paajanen, Parent, Walden Public School; Kerry Loken, Parent, Alexander Public School; Rebecca Coughlin, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Sara Pidgen, ETFO representative; Dan Koziar, Principal, Princess Anne Public School; Doreen Dewar, Board Chair; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee; Melanie Bertrand, Vice-Principal, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Andrea Therrien, Vice-Principal, Jean Hanson Public School; Angelina Kasunich, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Dawn Graham, Parent, Confederation Secondary School; Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Nav Mehta, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School and Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Lesley Fisher, Principal of Program; Danielle Gagnon, Elementary Math Consultant and Board Math Lead; 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 and Jennifer Hooper, Parent, Assiginack Public School

Call to Order: 7 pm

1. Welcome

Chair Allison Andlar 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. Ontario's New Math Curriculum, Financial Literacy Grades 1 to 8

Presenters: Lesley Fisher - Principal of Program

Danielle Gagnon - Elementary Math Consultant and Board Math Lead

In this overview of Ontario's New Math Curriculum (2020) for Grades 1 to 8, presenters provided an introduction to the new financial literacy strand. They reviewed key changes from the last update to the math curriculum in 2005 and the rationale. They also highlighted financial literacy expectations by grade with examples and talked about how parents/guardians can support financial literacy at home. The new financial literacy strand covers value for money, use of money, impact on personal finances, consumer awareness and civic awareness. Parents can support the curriculum at home when shopping, through dramatic play, by collecting coins, and through budgets and planning. The presenters shared examples. The financial literacy strand will give students skills to make informed financial decisions. It supports the four-year math strategy intended to improve student performance in math, help students solve everyday math problems and increase students' employability for the jobs of tomorrow.

The presentation is available on the board website at the following link:
<https://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/parent-involvement-committee/>

More information about the new math curriculum is available at the following link:
<https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/curriculum/elementary-mathematics>

4. Discussion based on presentation

PIC members had an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation. Parents talked about how to teach children the difference between needs and wants. Parents were encouraged to share their thinking out loud and bring out math in everyday conversations. The presenters indicated that there would be more resources for parents/guardians posted on the Ministry website in the future. They added that teachers are using Knowledgehook and Math Up to support lesson plans.

5. Approval of Agenda

"That the agenda for the meeting on January 5, 2021 be approved, as amended."

The minutes to be approved were from the meeting held on December 1, 2020, not December 4, 2020 as indicated on the original agenda.

Moved by: Stacy Paajanen, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

"That the minutes of the meeting held on December 1, 2020 be approved."

Moved by: Stacy Paajanen, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Carried

Allison Andler asked if the presentation on mental health had been shared.

Superintendent Noble will follow up to ensure that it is shared with School Council Chairs.

7. 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. Two applications were approved at the meeting held on December 1, 2020 – R.L. Beattie Public School and Walden Public School.

The deadline for PRO Grant applications was extended to December 18, 2020. Four more projects were reviewed at the PIC meeting on January 5, 2021.

Jean Hanson Public School

Jean Hanson Public School will build on its Family Wellness program that has been running for three years. There will be live virtual (Google Meet) sessions with students, families and staff to discuss mental health strategies and access resources to develop a collaborative approach to student wellness. Resources will include a variety of mental health supports, community agency information, family wellness activities (yoga, dance, stories) and communication support for students with special needs.

Lockerby Composite School

Lockerby Composite School will develop a virtual information session and High School for Parents Guide for parents of incoming Grade 9 students. The focus will be on engaging parents as partners in the Lockerby High School journey. The resources will help parents understand high school structure and procedures, and provide guidance on how parents/guardians can support the school.

Princess Anne Public School

Princess Anne Public School will develop take home math games and activities to encourage family engagement with math. The school will prepare a series of 2 to 5 minute videos on activities focused on a variety of skills appropriate for various grade levels. These will be shared via Facebook and SeeSaw. The videos will also include specific connections to the new Mathematics curriculum. Parents will have the opportunity to request material packages to engage in these activities at home with their children.

Markstay Public School

Markstay Public School will provide Growth Mindset Activity Kits. For JK to Grade 5, families will practise creativity, problem-solving, resilience, learning from mistakes, trying new things, goal-setting, overcoming challenges, managing

emotions, mindfulness and gratitude. Families will participate virtually in brain-building activities and games that will include movement, art, crafts, music, and breathing exercises. These activities engage multiple senses to accommodate different learning styles.

For Grades 6 to 8, the kits will contain reflective writing prompts, posters, activities, and coloring pages designed for ages 11 and up. Families can participate virtually by helping their tween discover that they can grow skills and develop talents, turn negative thoughts into positive and empowering ones, learn from mistakes, focus on solutions rather than problems, set goals to reach dreams, and be grateful for what they have.

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

“That the Jean Hanson Public School PRO grant project be approved.”

Moved by: Stacy Pajaanen, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Carried

“That the Lockerby Composite School PRO grant project be approved.”

Moved by: Ashley Malley, Redwood Acres Public School

Seconded by: Cherie Daniels, Markstay Public School

Carried

“That the Princess Anne Public School PRO grant project be approved.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Jennifer Hooper, Assiginack Public School

Carried

“That the Markstay Public School PRO grant project be approved.”

Moved by: Stacy Pajaanen, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Carried

There is a potential for three more PRO Grant projects in 2020-2021. Superintendent Noble will advise schools that the deadline for PRO Grant applications has been extended to Thursday, February 18, 2021. Applications will be considered at the PIC meeting on February 23, 2021.

8. Communications Report

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

January 12 & 14: Kindergarten Virtual Information Nights in Rainbow Schools

Rainbow Schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin will host Kindergarten Virtual Information Nights for students starting school this fall. All parents/guardians and their children are invited to join schools online. Presentations will be available on school websites at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 for the English Program and Thursday, January 14, 2021 for the French Immersion Program. Schools offering English and French Immersion will post their presentations on Thursday, January 14, 2021. Staff will be available by phone, email or Google Meet to answer questions. Parents were invited to be ambassadors for Rainbow Schools and share this information with any families who may have children ready to start school.

Tune in to Making the Transition – Finding your Way from Grade 8 to 9

Parents/guardians and students in Grades 7 and 8 are invited to tune in to a special presentation of “Making the Transition – Finding your way from Grade 8 to Grade 9”.

The presentation, which will explore the changes, choices and challenges students face as they enter high school, will air on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 5 pm and Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 5 pm. (It also aired on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 8 pm.)

The portion of the presentation that was produced by Rainbow District School Board – an overview of going from Grade 8 to 9 - will be available for viewing on rainbowschools.ca.

Rainbow District School Board has produced a Guide for Students and Parents called “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. Printed copies are available by emailing info@rainbowschools.ca. Please provide your mailing address. Copies of the guide will be distributed to Grade 8 students when in-person learning resumes.

Rainbow secondary schools host virtual Information Nights for Grade 8 students

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to log on to rainbowschools.ca to access virtual information nights for Rainbow secondary schools. Sessions will be live or pre-recorded and accessible on school websites. All students are welcome to participate, regardless of which elementary school they currently attend. Dates and times are posted on rainbowschools.ca.

2019-2020 Annual Report for Rainbow Schools now available online

Rainbow District School Board's Annual Report for the 2019-2020 school year is now available online at rainbowschools.ca.

The Annual Report provides an overview of key activities undertaken by Rainbow District School Board in the previous school year. It also offers an overview of the current Board budget.

As you know, the 2019-2020 school year began like any other but ended like no other. The annual report, therefore, offers an interesting perspective on teaching and learning in Rainbow Schools before and during the pandemic. We also included a timeline on school closures and reopenings to mark the moment in history.

Strategic Planning Meetings and Board Meetings

A reminder that Strategic Planning Committee Meetings and regular meetings of the Board are livestreamed from rainbowschools.ca. Board meeting videos are also archived on the board website.

COVID-19 Updates

We would like to thank parents/guardians for their ongoing support as we continue to follow public health protocols to limit the spread of COVID-19. Updates are posted on rainbowschools.ca.

9. School Announcements

Bernadette Rémillard said Sudbury Secondary School celebrated the festive season with a number of activities. The school also hosted a virtual commencement for 2020 graduates. A virtual information night will be held on January 13, 2021. The Canadian Federation of University Women adopted families at the school, which was very much appreciated. The vocal music class participated in a CBC Music Class Challenge.

Cherie Daniels of Markstay Public School said families enjoyed watching Christmas concerts online. They are also looking at fundraising.

Andrea Therrien provided an update on behalf of Jean Hanson Public School. The school produced a video to celebrate its graduates which was very much appreciated by parents/guardians. Wellness Wednesdays continued with success. The school also hosted a virtual Christmas concert.

Ashley Malley of Redwood Acres Public School said the school hosted a number of spirit days as well as school-wide bingos that students enjoyed. Redwood Acres raised \$2,000 for the Edgar Burton Food Drive. For reaching goals, the Vice-Principal will dye her hair pink. Enrolment at the school continues to increase, which is good news.

Stacy Paajanen of Walden Public School said the school produced an impressive Christmas video that featured students and staff in all grades.

Allison Andlar of R.L. Beattie Public School said the bust a move movement at R.L. Beattie has been successful. Classes celebrate theme weeks to promote school spirit. Incentives were provided for students to raise funds for the Food Bank. The total amount raised grew daily and the school made an impressive donation on behalf of its students, staff and parents/guardians.

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School said Lockerby hosted a successful virtual Open House in December that received positive feedback. Parents enjoyed participating in the 2020 virtual graduation ceremony. She indicated that the Google Meet platform has enabled more parents to participate in meetings.

12. Adjournment at 8:32 pm

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Dawn Graham, Confederation Secondary School

Carried

Next meeting:

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7 pm

Via Google Meet

Topic: Specialist High Skills Majors – Red Seal