

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7 pm
Via Google Meet

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Allison Andlar, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Jennifer Del Papa, Parent, C.R. Judd Public School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Dan Koziar, Principal, Princess Anne Public School; Melanie Bertrand, Vice-Principal, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Sara Pidgen, ETFO representative; Rebecca Coughlin, Parent, Lansdowne Public School, Angelina Kasunich, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Kerry Loken, parent, Alexander Public School; Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Parent, Churchill Public School; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Heather Gaffney, Principal of Student Success; Jody Jakubo, Specialist High Skills Major/Co-operative Education Coordinator; Lesley Fisher, Principal of Program; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Doreen Dewar, Board Chair; David Kitching, Information Services.

Manitoulin Site:

Nicole Abotossaway, Parent, Little Current 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. Specialist High Skills Major - Red Seal Presentation

Presenters: Heather Gaffney - Principal of Student Success

Jody Jakubo - Specialist High Skills Major/Co-operative Education Coordinator

In this overview of the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) - Red Seal Pathway for Grades 11 and 12, presenters provided a snapshot of the SHSM pathway, current program offerings, Board and Ministry enrolment data, the requirements for achieving a

Red Seal, and the outcomes for students. As an example, the Construction SHSM was highlighted, showing the associated courses, sector-specific training, mandatory and optional certifications, experiential learning opportunities and the Co-operative Education component. Statistics showed a higher graduation rate and credit achievement rate for college and workplace students who complete the SHSM program.

4. Discussion based on presentation

PIC members had an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation. Parents talked about the SHSM programs their children were registered in throughout the high schools, and the benefits of so many transferable skills. Parents suggested that students who graduated with the SHSM Red Seal share their post-secondary experiences with students considering the SHSM pathway. Trustee Kosmerly wondered what the most popular SHSM was in Rainbow Schools. The presenters responded that the most popular was the Health and Wellness SHSM, which aligns with provincial data. Parents asked how information about SHSM was shared with students, and what the requirements were. SHSM leads and guidance counsellors play an important role in ensuring students receive information about the programs. All students have to do is indicate their interest in My Blueprint, or tell their guidance counselor they are interested in order to begin planning. Allison Andlar indicated that she was part of a provincial discussion about how to increase enrolment in trades programs. The presenters explained that there is expansion funding available for SHSM programs that are related to the trades. Information will be shared with Grade 7 and 8 students as they plan their secondary pathways.

5. Approval of Agenda

That the agenda for the meeting on February 23, 2021 be approved.

Moved by: Jennifer Del Papa, C.R. Judd Public School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

That the minutes of the meeting held January 5th, 2021 be approved.

Moved by: Jennifer Del Papa, C.R. Judd Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Carried

7. Review and Selection of 2020-21 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants

Three more PRO Grant proposals were presented.

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School will host a Mental Wellness event for parents, highlighting resiliency, community resources and well-being. This will be a virtual event, hosted by a panel of community members. Participants will have a choice of sessions to participate in, via Zoom presentations. To support this initiative, positive messaging will be added to high traffic areas in the school.

C.R. Judd Public School

C.R. Judd Public School will offer cross-cultural awareness training which will give parents, students and teachers enhanced knowledge and skills to further support the understanding of cultures other than their own. The training will foster collaborative and productive interactions and relationships. This project will further support the Truth and Reconciliation Commitment to Action Plan in Rainbow Schools.

Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Chelmsford Valley District Composite School will create school signs that will be changed every two weeks from March until the end of the year. The signs will be displayed on the highway in front of the school. They will include positive messages that pull the community together and create a sense of hope and belonging. They will include images of their own students and help to connect parents to the school during a time when they can't join us on the other side of the doors due to the pandemic.

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

That the Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School PRO Project be approved.

Moved by: Jennifer Del Papa, C.R. Judd Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

That the Chelmsford Valley District Composite School PRO Project be approved.

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

That the C.R. Judd Public School PRO Project be approved.

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Allison Andlar indicated that the approval of these projects fulfills the allotment of Parents Reaching Out Grants for the 2020-2021 school year.

8. Communications Report

Judy Noble provided the Communications Report on behalf of Nicole Charette who was called away due to COVID-19.

Based on the current forecast for COVID-19, a decision has been made to plan virtual graduations for both Grade 8 and Grade 12 students in June 2021. A letter was sent to parents/guardians on February 19, 2021.

The March Break (March 15 to 19, 2021) has been postponed.

An April Break has been scheduled from April 12-16, 2021.

The PA Day scheduled for April 19, 2021 has been cancelled.

The PA Day will occur on March 19, 2021.

A joint letter from the local Medical Officer of Health and Directors of Education was sent to parents/guardians on February 23, 2021 and posted on rainbowschools.ca. Superintendent Noble urged parents/guardians to read the letter carefully as it outlines updated symptom screening tool and isolation requirements in light of the variants of concern which are highly contagious.

Kevin Cameron was originally scheduled to speak about Violent Threat Risk Assessment at the April PIC Meeting. Due to the delay in the March Break, the presentation has been rescheduled to June 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

The next PIC meeting will be held on May 11, 2021 to plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Parents will have an opportunity to suggest topics for presentations.

9. School Announcements

Dan Koziar of Princess Anne Public School highlighted a number of great things happening from students making Valentine's Day cards for the residents at Finlandia Village, to a school wide BINGO, to staff and students finding new and interesting ways to celebrate holidays, achievements, and school life in a COVID-friendly way.

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School indicated that a student in the Civics Class participated in a round table discussion with Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, Virtual Arts auditions will be held on February 26, 2021, students in the Construction Technology Class built outdoor benches for the Walden Fitness Trails, and Sudbury Secondary School's virtual open house was held on February 13, 2021.

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School said the Kids Caring for Kids Cancer Drive was impacted by COVID-19. As a result, the school has held different activities to fundraise, such as selling masks. Lockerby publishes a weekly newsletter where news, accomplishments and events are highlighted. Future students will have an opportunity to engage in a personalized session to plan their Viking experience next year.

Jennifer Del Papa of C.R. Judd Public School said the character trait in January focused on honesty. A number of other events occurred, including spirit days, letters to troops for Valentine's Day, Public Health presentations about health and safety during COVID-19, Bell Let's Talk Day, Science North virtual workshops, and successful fundraising via Delta Bingo and the sale of pizza kits.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School said Wellness Wednesdays were made possible thanks to a grant from the Sudbury Wolves and United Way. These virtual evening sessions focused on yoga, Indigenous music, mindfulness, visual communication tools and other activities. Prizes were awarded to participants. Wellness Wednesdays were well received and greatly appreciated. Jean Hanson Public School thanks the Sudbury Wolves and United Way for their support.

Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School said the school created community food boxes for families in need for Valentine's Day.

Allison Andlar of R.L. Beattie Public School indicated that although the Kindergarten Information Night was virtual, it generated high interest and registrations for the upcoming school year. The outdoor classroom is still being used, despite the snow. Grade 6 students had the opportunity to explore virtual information nights as they plan next steps. R.L. Beattie's Kindness Ninjas continue to challenge the school community to do good things.

Melanie Bertrand of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School said COVID-19 has presented new opportunities to do things differently. For example, instead of arranging candy-grams on Valentine's Day, the Student Council covered every homeroom door with hearts so that each student could see their name on a Valentine when they entered class. One of the Grade 10 history classes learned about WWI trenches by digging snow trenches then writing letters home from the perspective of a soldier from the trenches. Student Council partnered with Lockerby Composite School to support St. Andrew's collection of warm sweaters for the homeless. The Hot Potato Initiative raised money for the Samaritan Centre through participation in the Coldest Night of the Year walk. Lo-Ellen Park's virtual open house was held on February 17, 2021. The link is available on the school website which can be accessed at rainbowschools.ca. For more

events, visit the school's weekly newsletter on the school website and social media channels.

Chair Dewar commented that she is forever grateful for the efforts of staff and parents/guardians who support schools.

Adjournment at 8:10 pm

That the meeting be adjourned.

Moved by: Melanie Bertrand, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School

Seconded by: Judy Noble, Centre for Education

Carried

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7 pm

Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury

Via Google Meet

Topic: Planning Meeting for the 2021-2022 school year