

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7 pm
Via Google Meet

Attendance Sudbury site:

Allison Andlar, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Angelina Kasunich, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Dan Koziar, Principal, Princess Anne Public School; Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Parent, Churchill Public School; Rebecca Coughlin, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee; Anita Gibson, Trustee; Doreen Dewar, Board Chair; Kerry Lokan, Parent, Alexander Public School; Melanie Bertrand, Vice-Principal, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Espanola High School; Stephanie Leonard, Parent, Adamsdale Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Ashley Malley, Parent, Redwood Acres Public School; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Daniela Folino, Social Worker; and Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools

Espanola Site:
David Brutto, Social Worker

Manitoulin Site:
Nicole Abotossaway, Parent, Little Current Public School; and Julie Rochefort, Parent, Manitoulin Secondary 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. **Approval of Agenda**

“That the agenda for the meeting on May 11, 2021 be approved.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Julie Rochefort, Manitoulin Secondary School

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes

“That the minutes of the meeting held on February 23, 2021 be approved.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Sarah Kitlar-Pothier, Churchill Public School

Carried

5. Presentation: Mental Health Survey for Parents – K to 6 and 7 to 12 Social Workers Daniela Folino (Sudbury) and David Brutto (Espanola)

Parents will be invited to complete a Mental Health Survey to inform the Strategic Plan for Mental Health. The survey will be sent out within the week. Daniela Folino and David Brutto walked parents/guardians through the survey questions, including demographics. The survey will gauge what parents/guardians would like the Mental Health Team to focus on moving forward. Feedback will be presented in aggregate form only. All responses will be confidential. Parents/guardians can share information, concerns and trends to better serve students and families. All parents/guardians will be invited to complete the survey from K to 12. Only students in Grades 7 to 12 will complete the survey during class time.

6. Discussion based on presentation

PIC members asked a number of questions. Will data be collated by school to determine city versus rural trends? (School names are being excluded from the survey to ensure confidentiality.) Do we have a mechanism to anonymously report mental health concerns at schools, like a wellness check? (An anonymous app was piloted in the past but it did not get broad use. Students tend to speak to caring adults they know.) Will the survey identify aggravators of anxiety for students in COVID, like the current secondary school schedule with two courses in alternate weeks? (The schedule for secondary schools has been mandated to cohort students and limit the spread of COVID-19. General anxiety due to COVID will be captured in the survey results.) Are there funds for mental health? (Examples were provided of mental health supports in schools.)

It was stressed that the survey will focus on the provision of services rather than the way classes are structured and the Ministry guidance related to COVID-19. PIC Chair Allison Andlar, who is a member of the Mental Health Steering Committee and the Sub-Committee for the Mental Health Strategic Plan, indicated that the survey results do not flow to the Ministry for feedback on curriculum choices or structure. The survey is intended to inform the provision of mental health services in Rainbow Schools.

7. Brainstorming for 2021-2022

PIC members engaged in a dynamic discussion on possible topics for presentations for the 2021-2022 school year. A number of suggestions were presented. PIC members voted on the final topics that were selected.

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Annual General Meeting at 6 pm

Featured Speaker at 7 pm

Topic: Resilience

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7 pm

Topic: How to run a School Council

Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 7 pm

Topic: Mental Health Strategic Plan Update

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7 pm

Topic: Equity and Inclusion/Census/Survey Results

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Topic: Outdoor Classrooms

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7 pm

Topic: Planning for the 2022-2023 school year

9. Communications Report

Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor of Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning, provided an overview of the School Year Calendar for 2021-2022. The School Year Calendar is posted on the Board website at rainbowschools.ca

The expert who led the crisis response following the 1999 school shooting in Taber, Alberta – just eight days after the Columbine school shooting – will deliver a special presentation of Schools and Community Safety supported by Community Threat Assessment Protocol on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm. This not-to-be missed virtual event with Kevin J. Cameron is being hosted by the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Steering Committee. A Community Threat Assessment Protocol has been in place locally since 2011.

Kevin Cameron is a Board Certified Expert and a Diplomate for the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress. After being seconded by the Alberta Government to study the traumatic aftermath of the school shooting in Taber, Kevin Cameron developed the Traumatic Event Systems Model, Canada's first comprehensive, multidisciplinary VTRA training program, in concert with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Behavioural Sciences Unit.

10. School Announcements

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School focused on the school's art and tech week, Music Monday and changes to the Cancer Drive due to COVID-19.

Ashley Malley of Redwood Acres Public School praised all staff, admin and parents for being amazing in crazy times.

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School highlighted the school's many initiatives including an LU Art Competition, social media posts on pets and foods, award winners, Music Monday, and music department promotions. She also highlighted a mobile event with Better Beginnings Better Futures to distribute free bags of groceries.

Sara Kitlar-Pothier of Churchill Public School focused on school activities, including a dance flash mob, spirit days and success at an online math competition.

Dan Koziar of Princess Anne Public School talked about a virtual reading event, taking something typically done in the school and moving it online.

Kerry Lokan of Alexander Public School indicated that school fundraising will help support the outdoor classroom coming in the fall.

Kristina Rivard Gobbo of Espanola High School said students are taking part in a Specialist High Skills Major competition in the community.

Melanie Bertrand, Vice-Principal of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, highlighted mental health week and day seminars planned by the student leadership class. She also indicated that three students were participating in the Canada-Wide Science Fair and were recently introduced at the Board's Strategic Planning Committee.

Rebecca Coughlin of Lansdowne Public School said teachers are doing well, offering great opportunities to their students, such as a virtual presentation at the Ontario Science Centre. Students learned how to build a harvest garden. The school also hosted a spirit week.

Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School extended kudos to teachers for doing such a great job for kids. With PRO Grant funds, the school is producing banners with positive messages that have received good feedback.

Stephanie Leonard of Adamsdale Public School praised admin and staff for building strong connections online. She also highlighted Better Beginnings, Better Futures giveaways.

Tricia Hatfield of Cyril Varney Public School said the online school day can be very long. She praised admin and staff for adjusting and accommodating individual learning styles and needs. She hopes feedback regarding online learning will be reviewed.

Allison Andlar of R.L. Beattie Public School highlighted the little things that are making online learning manageable and keeping everyone going.

Allison Andlar thanked parents/guardians and staff for participating in PIC this year. Chair Doreen Dewar said “we appreciate your job as Chair”. She extended a special thank you to all School Council Chairs in Rainbow District School Board.

11. Adjournment

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Moved by: Tricia Hatfield, Cyril Varney Public School

Seconded by Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Churchill Public School

Carried

Next meeting:

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Annual General Meeting

Topic: Resilience