

## Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7 pm  
Via Google Meet

### Attendance

#### Sudbury:

Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Ashley Malley, Parent, Redwood Acres Public School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Angelina Kasunich, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Juan Wang, Parent, Princess Anne Public School; Kim Plexman, Parent, Algonquin Road Public School; Bridget Erwin, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Espanola High School; Dan Koziar, Principal of Program; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee; Anita Gibson, Trustee; Meredith Coulas, ETFO rep; Sheila James, Vice-Principal, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Nadia Berardelli, Principal, Markstay Public School; Bruce Bourget, Director of Education; Lesley Fisher, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

#### Espanola:

Shannon Ketchabaw, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School

#### Manitoulin:

N/A

Call to Order: 7 pm

### 1. Welcome

Superintendent Lesley Fisher 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. Strategic Directions 2022-2027

#### Presenter: Bruce Bourget, Director of Education

Director Bourget invited PIC members to complete the Strategic Directions survey, if they have not done so already. The link, which was shared with parents/guardians through School Councils earlier this fall, was posted in the chat section of the Google Meet for ease of access.

Director Bourget has been meeting with stakeholders over the past few months to gather input for the Board's five-year strategic plan. More than 20 presentations/conversations

have occurred and over 1,000 survey responses have been received to date as the Board seeks input to define its vision, mission, values, goals and priorities.

Director Bourget reviewed the questions guiding discussions and asked PIC members to consider them from their perspective and what's best for students. He thanked parents/guardians for their input, noting that it will help to determine the priorities that will guide decision-making going forward.

Director Bourget will be meeting with the Ad Hoc Committee of Trustees on Thursday, December 16, 2021. The Board's Strategic Planning Committee will receive an update on the consultations on January 11, 2022. A draft of Strategic Directions 2022-2027 will be presented to the Board on January 25, 2022. These meetings are live streamed. Links will be posted on [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) prior to the start of each meeting.

#### **4. Effective School Councils**

##### **Presenter: Dan Koziar, Principal of Program**

Principal Koziar provided an overview of some of the legislation and logistics of School Councils. He also highlighted some best practices to ensure equitable representation and opportunities for all families to participate.

Creating connections between schools, students and families is critical to ongoing, sustainable success and achievement. Allowing parents input into school decision-making and direction setting reinforces the importance of the partnership between home and school, and invites involvement and collaboration between the various stakeholders in the educational process.

Principal Koziar covered a number of topics - what is a School Council, how they are formed, membership, roles and responsibilities, encouraging input, removing barriers, effective meeting strategies, etc. He also shared resources, including the Ministry of Education document called [Schools Councils: A Guide for Members](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/guide.html) available at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/guide.html>

#### **5. Discussion based on presentation**

PIC members had an opportunity to ask questions throughout both presentations. PIC members asked if the presentation on Effective School Councils could be shared with School Council Chairs. The presentation was distributed to PIC members and School Council Chairs via email following the meeting.

#### **6. Approval of Agenda**

*"That the agenda for the meeting on December 14, 2021 be approved."*

Moved by: Ashley Malley, Redwood Acres Public School

Seconded by: Steffany Bourque, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Carried

## **7. Approval of Minutes**

*“That the minutes of the meetings held on May 11, 2021 and the AGM held on October 19, 2021 be approved.”*

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

## **8. PIC Executive for 2021-2022**

Superintendent Fisher presented the parents/guardians who were acclaimed to PIC at the AGM on October 19, 2021, as follows:

**Sara Kitlar-Pothier – Churchill Public School**

**Tricia Hatfield – Cyril Varney Public School**

**Natasha Delaney – Jean Hanson Public School**

**Noni Perritt – Lansdowne Public School**

**Denise Sheppard – Manitoulin Secondary School**

**Ashley Malley – Redwood Acres Public School**

**Bernadette Rémillard – Sudbury Secondary School**

**Amanda Fyke – Walden Public School**

**Erica Jenkins – Westmount Avenue Public School**

## **9. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary**

Superintendent Lesley Fisher thanked Allison Andlar of R.L. Beattie Public School for serving as Chair of PIC and Stacey Paajanen of Walden Public School for serving as Vice-Chair of PIC during the 2020-2021 school year.

After reviewing the role of the Chair and calling for nominations for Chair, the following motion was presented:

*“That Natasha Delaney be acclaimed Chair of PIC for 2021-2022.”*

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Ashley Malley, Redwood Acres Public School

Carried

After reviewing the role of Vice-Chair and calling for nominations for Vice-Chair, the following motion was presented:

*“That Bernadette Rémillard be acclaimed Vice-Chair of PIC for 2021-2022.”*

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Ashley Malley, Redwood Acres Public School

Carried

After reviewing the role of Secretary and calling for nominations for Secretary, the following motion was presented:

*“That Nicole Charette serve as Secretary of PIC for 2021-2022.”*

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Ashley Malley, Redwood Acres Public School

Carried

#### **10. 2021-2022 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants**

Schools can apply for \$2,000 in Parents Reaching Out Grants to engage parents in their children’s learning. PIC will consider applications at its meeting on January 4, 2022.

#### **11. Communications Report**

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

##### **Board Chair and Vice-Chair**

District School Board held its annual organizational meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. Trustee Bob Clement will serve as Chair of the Board. Trustee Linda Debassige will serve as Vice-Chair of the Board. Membership on Board standing committees was also approved.

##### **COVID-19 Advisory Section on [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca)**

Public Health Sudbury & Districts advises Rainbow District School Board when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 with an impact on a school. This information is posted on the Board’s website at [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) There is a link to the COVID-19 Advisory Section on all school websites.

##### **Secondary school information nights will be virtual.**

All information nights can be accessed from school websites.

Espanola High School, Lockerby Composite School, and Lively District Secondary School information nights have already taken place. Visit school websites for information.

Upcoming information nights:

Chelmsford Valley District Composite School - Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Sudbury Secondary School - Thursday, January 13, 2022

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School - Thursday, January 13, 2022

Manitoulin Secondary School - Thursday, February 10, 2022

Lasalle Secondary School - Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Confederation Secondary School - Thursday, February 17, 2022

### **Kindergarten Information Nights will also be virtual.**

Schools offering the English program will post a presentation on their school website on Tuesday, January 11th at 5:30 pm. Schools offering French Immersion will post theirs on Thursday, January 13th at 5:30 pm. Schools offering both English and French Immersion will post presentations on Thursday, January 13th. Visit [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) for details.

### **Climate Change Action Plan**

Rainbow District School Board is on track to have all of its schools EcoSchools Canada Certified by 2022, a commitment made when the Board declared a climate change emergency two years ago. The EcoSchools commitment is the cornerstone of the Climate Change Action Plan that was presented to the Board at its meeting on October 26, 2021. Monthly environmental challenges, which include an Indigenous component, have proven to be an effective way to broaden the scope of education and environmental action. The challenges also include an “Anishinaabe” perspective giving students the opportunity to experience and understand the customs and teachings to place an even greater value on the protection of our planet.

### **11. School Announcements**

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School said the neighbouring Gatchell Pool is now open for student access, with COVID protocols. Rapid Test Kits have been sent home. Vaccination clinics are taking place at the school. Jean Hanson produced a new pamphlet with school information and resources for parents and caregivers. Wellness Wednesdays are continuing. These sessions have proven to be very popular with families.

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School highlighted a number of school events, including participating in the local telethon, Spirit Week, turkey dinner, rock painting for relaxation, Virtual Open House on January 13, 2022, donations to the Value Vault, recorded Variety Show, etc.

Ashley Malley of Redwood Acres Public School said the school is in the midst of Spirit Month with festive events, including participating in the Edgar Burton Food Drive. She indicated that Redwood Acres has approximately 340 students with even more wanting to attend and asked if an expansion might be considered. She praised the school for managing the recent COVID outbreak well, adding that everyone is doing the best they can and kids need to be kids.

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School said the school provides great support to students as they look ahead to future career goals. The school’s Friday newsletter keeps parents/guardians well informed about school events and happenings. She indicated that students are doing well in sports locally, regionally and provincially and asked if games could be livestreamed for parents/guardians to enjoy. She also

highlighted school events including the Food Drive, World Fisheries Day, and the Kids Caring for Kids Cancer Drive.

Bridget Erwin of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School indicated that the Lo-Ellen Park School Council has met twice. This week was holiday spirit week. The Neo Kids Council at Lo-Ellen Park recently teamed up with Hot 93.5 for an in-school version of their pay-for-play fundraiser. Neo Kids Council is also selling tote bags and stickers to support NEO Kids. The Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School Open House will be held virtually on January 13, 2021.

Steff Bourque of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School said the school has participated in a shoe box drive for women, students in Grades 7/8 wrote letters to children at NEO Kids, and CVDCS has hosted a few great fundraisers for the school. She also indicated that two students fared well in a math competition. This is Spirit Week at CVDCS as students gear up for the winter break. Rapid Antigen Test kits have gone home for students to screen for COVID over the holidays.

## **12. Adjournment at 8:35 pm**

*"That the meeting be adjourned."*

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Carried

## **Next meeting:**

**Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 7 pm - Via Google Meet**

**Topic: School Mental Health Action Plan**