

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 7 pm
Via Google Meet**

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Parent, Churchill Public School; Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Angelina Kasunich, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Meredith Coulas, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) representative; Danielle Aubry, Parent, Confederation Secondary School; Bridget Erwin, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Sean Sennanyana, Parent, Princess Anne Public School; Shannon Ketchabaw, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Lesley Fisher, Superintendent of Schools; Nadia Berardelli, Principal, Markstay Public School; Sheila James, Vice-Principal, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; and Mary Jago, Mental Health Lead, Rainbow District School Board.

Call to order 7 pm

1. Welcome from PIC Chair Natasha Delaney

Natasha Delaney welcomed everyone to the PIC Meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year!

2. Self Introduction of PIC Members

PIC members and guests introduced themselves.

3. Presentation: Mental Health Action Plan by Mental Health Lead Mary Jago

Mary Jago shared the results of the mental health survey completed in June 2021. Parents represented more than half of the respondents to the survey. She also presented an overview of the Board Action Plan for Mental Health and offered strategies for parents/guardians. The Mental Health Action Plan outlines four priorities - Build Mental Health Literacy and Capacity; Implement Evidence-Informed Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Intervention Practices and Programming; Support for Specific Populations; and Partner with the Community. Mary Jago talked about programs being implemented in schools to support mental health and foster culturally responsive schools and trauma-informed classrooms.

Strategies for Parents included take care of yourself, so you can be your best to support your children; take time for the basics – choose foods that give you good energy, establish a sleep routine that leaves you feeling refreshed, and enjoy some fresh air and exercise; pay attention to your own stress levels and notice when you are starting to feel overwhelmed; take a few deep, slow breaths when you start to feel anxious or upset; try just listening to your thoughts, and practice noticing them without judging or denying them; be compassionate with yourself, you are doing the best you can. Mary Jago also talked about signs for noticing mental health concerns,

how to talk to children about mental health, what to do if a child is struggling with mental health, and when to reach out for additional help.

4. Discussion based on presentation

PIC members were invited to ask questions throughout the presentation. A parent expressed concern about children with special needs learning remotely and indicated that ISP classrooms should be open during the remote learning period. It was noted that this will be discussed at the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting being held on January 5, 2022. At this time, only students with the most significant needs in the Board are learning in person. Remote learning was mandated by the Province in order to limit contacts given the fast spreading Omicron variant. Another parent renewed a suggestion that schools have an anonymous system for reporting students in distress and the need for wellness checks.

5. Approval of Agenda

“That the agenda for the PIC meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 be approved.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School
Seconded by: Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Churchill Public School
Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

“That the minutes of the PIC meeting held on Tuesday, December 14, 2022 be approved.”

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School
Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Carried

7. Review of School Council PRO Grant Applications received to date

Five Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant applications were received, reviewed, and subsequently approved.

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School will focus on diversity, equality and inclusion, building the skill set of those who surround the students and the students to best build a healthier community.

“That the Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School PRO grant project be approved.”

Moved by: Danielle Aubrey, Confederation Secondary School
Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School
Carried

Lockerby Composite School will enhance its virtual presentation / information session / school literature for parents/guardians of incoming Grade 9 students.

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

Moved by: Meredith Coulas, ETFO representative
Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School
Carried

Little Current Public School will provide home-based stress kits for caregivers and students, with age-appropriate directions developed by Physical and Health Education Canada.

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

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School
Seconded by: Sheila James, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School
Carried

Lasalle Secondary School will produce a high quality video highlighting the important partnership between parents/guardians and their children’s school experience.

“That the Lasalle Secondary School PRO grant project be approved.”

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School
Seconded by: Danielle Aubrey, Confederation Secondary School
Carried

Espanola High School will provide tips, useful tools and coping strategies to foster mental health and well-being.

“That the Espanola High School PRO grant project be approved.”

Moved by: Meredith Coulas, ETFO representative
Seconded by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School
Carried

The Board has received funding for up to nine projects.

“That the deadline to apply for a Parents Reaching Out Grant for the 2021-2022 school year be extended until February 4, 2022.”

Moved by: Sheila James, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School
Seconded by: Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Churchill Public School
Carried

Applications will be reviewed at the PIC Meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

8. Communications Report

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

In-person learners move to remote learning

A letter was sent to parents/guardians on Monday, January 3, 2022 following the Premier's announcement that a return to in-person learning will be delayed in light of the surge of COVID-19 due to the fast spreading Omicron variant. In-person learners will move to remote learning effective Wednesday, January 5, 2022 until at least Monday, January 17, 2022, subject to public health trends and operational considerations.

Rainbow Schools reached out to in-person learners to complete a survey to determine who requires technology to learn from home. Instruction will begin on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 for all students. The letter is posted on the board website.

2020-2021 Annual Report

Rainbow District School Board's Annual Report for the 2020-2021 school year is now available online at www.rainbowschools.ca. School Boards are required to produce an Annual Report in accordance with The Education Act. The Annual Report provides an overview of key activities undertaken by Rainbow District School Board to address its strategic priorities during the 2020-2021 school year. It also offers an overview of the current Board budget.

"The stories in this Annual Report provide a snapshot of a school year unlike any other," said Director of Education Bruce Bourget. "Our educators and support staff demonstrated tremendous resilience as did our students and families who were called upon to adjust to changes throughout the school year."

Strategic Directions 2022-2027

Director of Education Bruce Bourget has been meeting with stakeholders over the past few months to gather input for the Board's five-year strategic plan which defines its vision, mission, values and priorities.

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 prior to the start of each meeting.

Information Nights

A reminder that secondary school information nights will be virtual and can be accessed from school websites. Visit Rainbow Schools for dates and times.

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 for details.

9. School Announcements

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School highlighted festive events including the holiday feast. Sudbury Secondary School's virtual Open House will take place on January 13, 2022. Teachers performed a skit during the Christmas Concert which was well received. She also acknowledged a local company for adopting a family.

Sheila James of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School said the school sponsored 48 families for Christmas. They received turkeys and Metro gift cards. She also expressed appreciation to Rainbow District School Board staff for adopting a family of newcomers.

Meredith Coulas, the ETFO representative, said teachers were hard at work preparing for remote learning which begins on January 5, 2022.

Sara Kitlar-Pothier of Cyril Varney Public School highlighted a number of successful festive events including the canned food drive, turkey giveaways and spirit days. She indicated that future Chargers are welcome to register for Kindergarten at Churchill Public School during the Virtual Information Night on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Shannon Ketchabaw of A.B. Ellis Public School said food donations supported the Espanola Food Bank. The school also hosted a PJ Day and each class had an act of kindness tree.

Bridget Erwin of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School highlighted the school's Edgar Burton Food Drive campaign. She also indicated that the Grade 9 French Immersion students were teaming up with the Kindness Ninjas in Kindergarten at R.L. Beattie Public School. She added that International Baccalaureate (IB) students are featured in the Board's Annual Report for their creativity, activity and service projects.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School said the school developed a brochure highlighting agencies, giving families access to information at their fingertips. The brochure is posted on the Jean Hanson Public School website and Facebook page.

Superintendent Lesley Fisher provided an update on total donations to the Edgar Burton Food Drive. Rainbow Schools contributed 245,171 food items to local food banks in December 2021.

10. Adjournment

"That we do now adjourn."

Moved by: Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Churchill Public School

Seconded by: Sheila James, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Via Google Meet

Topic: School Climate Survey Results/Census Survey Consultation