

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7 pm
Via Google Meet**

Attendance

Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Parent, Churchill Public School; Ashley Malley, Parent, Redwood Acres Public School; Angelina Kasunich, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Kim Plexman, Parent, Algonquin Road Public School; Christina Zacerkowny, Parent, Walden Public School; Shari Diaz, Parent, Walden Public School; Sarah Timony, Parent, Walden Public School; Meredith Coulas, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) representative; Danielle Aubrey, Parent, Confederation Secondary School; Sean Sennanyana, Parent, Princess Anne Public School; Shannon Ketchabaw, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School; Sandra St. Martin, Parent, Markstay Public School; Shelley Tamura, Principal, Central Manitoulin Public School; Steff Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Anita Gibson, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Bob Clement, Chair, Rainbow District School Board; Lesley Fisher, Superintendent of Schools; Sheila James, Vice-Principal, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Espanola High School; Susan Cousineau, Principal, Redwood Acres Public School; Cori Pitre, Principal, S. Geiger Public School; Judy Noble, Superintendent; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

Regrets: Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School

Call to order 7 pm

1. Welcome from PIC Chair Natasha Delaney

Natasha Delaney welcomed everyone to the PIC Meeting.

2. Self Introduction of PIC Members

PIC members and guests introduced themselves.

**3. Presentations: School Climate Survey Results by Principal Cori Pitre
Student Census Consultation by Superintendent Judy Noble**

Principal Cori Pitre presented the results of the School Climate Survey administered in June 2021 during the remote learning period. Part of Ontario's Equity Action Plan, the survey provides valuable data about the system to glean a better understanding of who we serve and make data informed decisions. The survey, which was voluntary and anonymous, was completed by students in Grades 4 to 6 and Grades 7 to 12. Survey questions focused on demographics, perceptions of safety and well-being at school, and equity, inclusion and diversity. In presenting the most recent results, Principal Pitre highlighted some initiatives that have been implemented based on school climate survey data, including professional learning on March 11, 2022. Topics will include anti-semitism, allyship, anti-racism, unconscious bias, and dealing directly with language cards, to name a few.

Superintendent Judy Noble provided an overview of the draft Student Census that will be administered in September 2022 to parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 and students in Grades 9 to 12. After sharing background on the Ministry mandated Census, Superintendent Noble guided PIC members

through the proposed survey questions and invited them to provide input. While the Student Census will be voluntary, unlike the School Climate Survey, it will not be anonymous. Superintendent Noble stressed, however, that the identity-based data set will be used in aggregate form only along with student achievement data sets like credits earned and graduation rates. The goal is to gain a better understanding of how groups of students are doing on a system-wide basis in order to address any barriers or gaps to success. The data will be used to inform decision making when allocating resources. Superintendent Noble said schools will be asked to share the draft Student Census with their respective School Councils to seek input and build understanding. A high level of participation will ensure that the board has good baseline data. Respondents will be able to skip any questions they do not wish to answer.

4. Discussion based on presentation

PIC members asked questions throughout both presentations. They wanted to ensure that surveys are offered to all students through electronic and alternative formats. Some parents expressed surprise about the intrusive nature of the questions in the identity-based Student Census. Instead of dividing us by asking identity-based questions, why not focus on kindness and empathy? Others indicated that the Census will provide measurable data to highlight areas of need in order to allocate resources and seek additional support for students. PIC members provided input into the Census questions and responses.

5. Approval of Agenda

“That the agenda for the PIC meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 be approved.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Sheila James, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

“That the minutes of the PIC meeting held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 be approved.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Meredith Coulas, ETFO representative

Carried

7. Review of School Council PRO Grant Applications

An additional three Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant applications were received, reviewed and subsequently approved. A total of eight applications have been approved to date. The Board has received funding for a total of nine projects. One more project may be considered for the current school year.

“That the PRO grant projects for R.L. Beattie Public School, A.B. Ellis Public School and Chelmsford Valley District Composite School be approved.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Churchill Public School

Carried

R.L. Beattie Public School will assist families to support students in the French Immersion program.

A.B. Ellis Public School will focus on literacy through virtual guest speakers who are authors.

Chelmsford Valley District Composite School will create video clips to share with families.

8. Communications Report

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

Strategic Directions 2022-2027

Director of Education Bruce Bourget met 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. Meetings have also been held with the Ad Hoc Committee of Trustees.

A draft of Strategic Directions 2022-2027 will be presented to the Board on February 15, 2022. Board meetings are live streamed and archived. Links are posted on rainbowschools.ca prior to the start of the meeting.

Information Nights

Virtual secondary school information nights continue this month. Manitoulin Secondary School will post its presentation online on Thursday, February 10, 2022, followed by Lasalle Secondary School on Wednesday, February 16th and Confederation Secondary School on Thursday, February 17th. Presentations for all secondary schools can be accessed from school websites.

Presentations for Kindergarten are also available online on school websites. If you know families who have children ready to start school this fall, please invite them to register now.

Sweater Day

Rainbow District School Board is turning down the heat and inviting students and staff to wear a sweater on Thursday, February 10, 2022. Sweater Day raises awareness about renewable energy and encourages us to think about energy consumption and change our habits. Students will learn that even the smallest of gestures, like turning down the heat and wearing a sweater, can promote environmental sustainability.

Vaccination Clinics

More school-based vaccination clinics will be offered in the weeks to come. Only students whose parents have provided signed consent will be vaccinated at clinics during the school day.

Parents and the public will only have access to school based clinics when there is an exterior entrance to the gymnasium. No access to the rest of the school will be granted. When there is no separate entrance directly into the gymnasium, school clinics will not be open to the public or caregivers during the day. Public clinics at these locations will be open after school hours.

COVID Update

Parents/guardians will receive a letter on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 with updated guidance related to COVID-19. Please continue to use the COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care and follow the guidance.

9. School Announcements

Sara Kitlar-Pothier of Cyril Varney Public School highlighted a number of activities including a school-wide battleship game, Olympic Day, Sweater Day, winter carnival, Spirit Week and a mental health program delivered by a member of the Social Work team.

Shannon Ketchabaw of A.B. Ellis Public School said the school received a grant to support an outdoor classroom and held a fundraiser to build a Gaga Ball pit. She added that Grade 6 to 8 classes were reorganized as one teacher was reallocated to remote learning.

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School said students were invited to send in a recording to audition for the Arts Education Program. Students wore blue and white to promote Bell Let's Talk Day and also enjoyed Spirit Week. Students participated in a Canada-wide outreach project to bring awareness to murdered and missing Indigenous Women.

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School praised the school for its weekly newsletter which keeps everyone informed. The return to four periods per day in Semester 2 was well received. She also highlighted a number of school activities from Valentine's Day candy grams, to a study of the skeletal system and digested owl pellets in Biology, to Lockerby alumni completing college co-op placements, to blood work on mannequins in medical technology, to a study of the solar eclipse and to the resumption of more athletics.

Sheila James of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School shared that a new student who came from another board felt very welcome at CVDCS. The school continues to create a warm and welcoming learning environment for all.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School said another vaccination clinic was held at the school. The resource booklet for families is being well received. From pyjama day, to a Valentine's Day dance, funky socks and favourite hoodies, the school is creating a fun space for students. She said Jean Hanson Public School continues to go above and beyond to ensure student needs are met.

10. Adjournment

"That we do now adjourn."

Moved by: Sandra St. Martin, Markstay Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Via Google Meet

Topic: Outdoor Classrooms