

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, April 12, 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; Shannon Ketchabaw, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Lesley Fisher, Superintendent of Schools; Sheila James, Vice-Principal, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Nadia Berardelli, Principal, Markstay Public School; Bridget Erwin, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Julie Kelly, Kindergarten Consultant, Rainbow District School Board; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

Regrets:

Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Espanola High School; Meredith Coulas, ETFO representative; Trustee Judy Kosmerly and Steff Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Call to order 7 pm

1. Welcome from PIC Chair Natasha Delaney

Natasha Delaney welcomed everyone to the PIC Meeting.

2. Introductions

The Chair invited new participants to introduce themselves.

3. Presentations: Outdoor Classrooms by Kindergarten Consultant Julie Kelly

Julie Kelly focused on the benefits of bringing children outdoors, how teachers support outdoor learning, authentic interactions, different perspectives of outdoor learning and what the research says. Children build relationships in the outdoors, with each other and the natural world. Educators build on those relationships both outdoors and inside the classroom. In the outdoors, children wonder, ask questions, inquire, explore, notice, name, research, seek and connect. They create, invent, imagine, discover, build, forage and move. This fosters love, empathy, compassion, communication, conversation, deeper thinking, mental health and well-being, and a desire to care for the land. Through adventure, children take risks. Adventure also fosters independence, creativity, imagination and self-regulation skills.

The presentation, which was shared with PIC members and posted on the board website, included links to Outdoor Learning in the Kindergarten Curriculum, Pilot Projects on Outdoor Play, the Children's Outdoor Charter of Ontario, the Junction Creek project funded by the Canada Healthy Community Initiative as well as numerous resources. Through dynamic visuals, Julie Kelly presented different perspectives on outdoor learning - question/inquiry/research, ecological, artistic, Indigenous, mindfulness and gross motor - with examples. The research confirms that outdoor learning, which invites children to use their natural curiosity to test theories through active engagement, builds a solid foundation for later learning. Playing together, being outdoors, learning from each other, having fun, and enjoying childhood itself enhances quality of life and provides memorable experiences. This has a positive impact on student achievement and well-being.

4. Discussion based on presentation

PIC members enjoyed the presentation and expressed positive feedback for outdoor learning. Parents said they look forward to sharing the presentation with their respective School Councils and thanked Julie Kelly for including links to learn more.

5. Approval of Agenda

“That the agenda for the PIC meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 be approved.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School
Seconded by: Ashley Malley, Redwood Acres Public School
Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

“That the minutes of the PIC meeting held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 be approved.”

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

7. Communications Report

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

Earth Day - April 22, 2022

This Month's Environmental Challenge focuses on Earth Day on Friday, April 22, 2022. Schools have been invited to invest in our planet "shkagamikwe". EcoSchools will host a special Earth Day live-streamed event with Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Executive Director of the David Suzuki Foundation on Thursday, April 21, 2022 for schools that sign up to complete a community clean-up this year. Schools have also received Indigenous Education resources for Earth Day.

Virtual Presentation with Kevin J. Cameron on April 26 at 6:30 pm

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 for the community on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. This not-to-be missed virtual event with Kevin J. Cameron, Executive Director of the North American Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response, is being hosted by the Violence Threat Risk Assessment Steering Committee.

The Violence Threat Risk Assessment Steering Committee brings community partners together to provide a collaborative response to a person of concern's threat making behaviours. The goal is to keep the community safe by intervening before a violent incident occurs.

A dynamic speaker, Kevin Cameron will build on the lessons learned from Frank DeAngelis, retired principal of Columbine High School, who was in Sudbury on Monday, April 11, 2022 to share his experience. Participants will gain insight into how a collaborative response to complex events, such as trauma or serious violence, better serves the overall community.

Parenting for Positive Mental Health focus of webinar on May 5th at 7 pm

Rainbow District School Board invites parents/guardians to join a webinar on Parenting for Positive Mental Health on Thursday, May 5, 2022 from 7 pm to 8 pm. Part of Children's Mental Health Week in Rainbow Schools, the webinar will be presented by Amanda Lamb, Director of the Centre for Family Initiatives at the Pine River Institute.

All caring adults are welcome to register at the following link: bit.ly/pineparentpresentation

With a focus on attunement, connection and setting limits, the webinar will help parents/guardians understand their children's behaviours and development in order to respond with intention and promote mental wellness and growth. Participants will gain an understanding of their parenting style and the challenges parents/guardians face when children push back.

Located near Shelburne, Ontario, Pine River Institute helps adolescents struggling with addictive behaviours and other mental health issues. As Director of the Centre for Family Initiatives, Amanda Lamb brings a deep commitment to the well-being of youth and their families through empathy, acceptance, compassion, positive communication and relationships. She hopes that by educating and supporting families early on, they can foster greater resilience and sustain their mental wellness through difficult times, including life transitions.

Education Week May 2 to 6, 2022

Rainbow Schools will celebrate Education Week from May 2 to 6, 2022. A list of activities will be posted on the board website - rainbowschools.ca

LDA Virtual Parent Conference

The Learning Disabilities Association will present a free virtual conference for parents on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. For information, please contact the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury.

8. School Announcements

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School said the School Council reviewed the identity based Census questions and provided input. Sudbury Secondary School held a yellow and blue day for Ukraine. A number of school activities were highlighted, including winter carnival, spirit week, dress drive for prom, a dance workshop and concert band virtual conductor. Transition students also published their own books.

Sara Kitlar-Pothier of Churchill Public School said an in-person Kindergarten Orientation/Registration session will take place on May 3, 2022 at 6 pm during Education Week. Grade 9 and 10 SHAL students at Lasalle Secondary School organized a play day for Churchill students. Students are participating in track and field. Students are enjoying a number of extra-curricular activities and are excited for the return to normalcy.

Shannon Ketchabaw of A.B. Ellis Public School said the school raised over \$1,000 in support of Ukraine. She also outlined the schedule of three online speakers being presented by the school with a Parents Reaching Out Grant, including "Growing Up Autistic and Being Okay" with local author Blake Priddle on April 21, "Reading Makes Kids Smart" with local author Paul Toffanelo on May 5, 2022 at 6:30 pm and an Ottawa author on June 15, 2022. The School Council also reviewed the Census questions and updated the principal profile.

Ashley Malley of Redwood Acres Public School commended Principal Mark Patterson and Director of Education Bruce Bourget for being on site to respond to an incident of graffiti that occurred over a weekend. Facilities staff worked into the night and early morning to clean up the graffiti before students arrived for

classes on Monday. A local contractor was also on site. She added that everyone is “just loving normal”, including a return to field trips.

Bridget Erwin of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School said the School Council updated the principal profile and provided input on the Census questions. The school hosted a NEO Kids fundraiser. Equity and inclusion is the focus of special presentations being supported by a Parents Reaching Out grant. The school is preparing for their Grade 12 graduation which will be held in person at Cambrian College.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School said the School Council also reviewed the Census questions and the principal profile. With the mask mandate now lifted, students are swimming again. A garden is being planted to provide extra food for lunches.

10. Adjournment

“That we do now adjourn.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Ashley Malley, Redwood Acres Public School

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Via Google Meet

Topic: Planning Meeting for the 2022-2023 School Year