

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 7 pm
Via Google Meet

Attendance

Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Angelina Kasunich, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Shannon Ketchabaw, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Lasalle Secondary School; Meredith Coulas, ETFO rep; Nadia Berardelli, Principal, Jean Hanson Public School; Lisa Puddester, Vice-Principal, Northeastern Elementary School; Maureen McNamara, Principal of Student Success; Lesley Fisher, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

Regrets: Trustee Dena Morrison

Call to Order: 7 pm

1. Welcome

Superintendent Lesley Fisher welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Self-Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

3. De-streaming Grade 9

Presenter: Maureen McNamara, Principal of Student Success

Maureen McNamara provided an overview of de-streaming the Grade 9 curriculum which was fully implemented in September 2022. Over time, course and graduation data showed that students in the applied pathway were not succeeding to the same degree as students in the academic pathway. Research concluded that the public education system in Ontario needed to understand and engage all learners as soon as they enter high school, not channel them into different streams based on perceived levels of ability, which limits further studies and career options.

De-streaming Grade 9 respects diversity, promotes inclusive education, and works towards identifying and eliminating barriers in education that may limit the ability of all students to achieve their full potential. Grade 9 students take de-streamed English, Geography and French; de-streamed Math (which began in 2021-2022) and Science;

Open Physical Education; and two elective courses, with course options that vary by school.

According to research, education systems that maintain a cohort containing students of all abilities in Grade 9 tend to produce higher levels of student achievement across the whole student population. All students benefit when they learn together with students of varying abilities and interests. Ontario is the last province in Canada to implement de-streaming.

4. Discussion based on presentation

PIC members were invited to ask questions during and following the presentation. A parent asked if we had any data on the success of the de-streamed Grade 9 math course which was implemented in September 2021. The board has EQAO data for Semester 2 which shows that students achieved the highest success rate among Northern school boards. However, it is too soon to determine any trends. The 2022-2023 school year will provide baseline data with results for both Semester 1 and Semester 2.

Another parent expressed concerns about de-streaming on behalf of her School Council. More advanced students will not be challenged enough by course content that is tailored to all levels of ability. Superintendent Fisher and Principal McNamara said Rainbow Schools are implementing The Thinking Classroom model by Dr. Peter Liljedahl which focuses on collaborative problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication. Parents who have any concerns should follow up directly with teachers. They also indicated that the board is now offering a Bridge Math course for students who require more support with math.

5. Approval of Agenda

“That the agenda for the meeting on December 13, 2022 be approved.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Colleen Burns, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

“That the minutes of the meeting held on May 10, 2022 be approved.”

Moved by: Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Lasalle Secondary School

Seconded by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Carried

“That the minutes of the AGM held on October 18, 2022 be approved.”

Moved by: Colleen Burns, Lansdowne Public School
Seconded by: Lisa Puddester, Northeastern Elementary School
Carried

7. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Prior to the meeting, Superintendent Lesley Fisher invited members of the PIC Executive to indicate their interest in serving in a leadership role.
Deadline for nominations was Friday, December 9, 2022.

She indicated that Shannon Ketchabaw had expressed an interest in serving as Chair. After calling for any other nominations for Chair, the following motion was presented:

“That Shannon Ketchabaw be acclaimed Chair of PIC for 2022-2023.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School
Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School
Carried

Superintendent Fisher indicated that a parent had expressed an interest in the role of Vice-Chair, but was not in attendance at the meeting. According to the Terms of Reference for the Parent Involvement Committee, a parent must be present at the election for their name to be considered.

After calling for nominations for Vice-Chair, the following motion was presented:

“That Melissa Gladu be acclaimed Vice-Chair of PIC for 2022-2023.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School
Seconded by: Shannon Ketchabaw, A.B. Ellis Public School
Carried

After calling for nominations for Secretary, it was agreed that Nicole Charette would continue to serve as secretary of PIC for the 2022-2023 school year.

At this point, Shannon Ketchabaw chaired the meeting.

8. Communications Report

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

Festive Season

Our schools are, once again this year, collecting cash donations and non-perishable food items for the Edgar Burton Food Drive. The generosity of giving at this time of the year warms our hearts. A list of festive events in Rainbow Schools is available at rainbowschools.ca.

2021-2022 Annual Report

The Director of Education presented the Annual Report for the 2021-2022 School Year to the Board of Trustees at the regular meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. The report will be posted online and shared with parents/guardians. During his presentation to the Board, Director Bourget thanked parents/guardians for their ongoing support and talked about the important role parents play as partners in education. Parental involvement improves student achievement.

Kindergarten Information Nights

Do you know a child starting school this fall? Elementary schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island will host in-person Information Nights for families on Wednesday, January 11th at 5:30 pm for the English program, and Thursday, January 12th at 5:30 pm for schools offering English and French Immersion.

All parents/guardians and children are welcome.

Secondary Information Nights

Secondary schools have already begun hosting in-person Information Nights, including Lively District Secondary School, Confederation Secondary School and Lockerby Composite School.

In the new year...

Sudbury Secondary School will host an Info Night on January 11th at 7 pm.

Lo-Ellen Park will host an Info Night on January 12th at 7 pm.

CVDCS will host an Info Night on January 18th at 6 pm.

Visit rainbowschools.ca for a complete list of schools, dates and times.

For the Information Nights that have already taken place, there is still time to register.

Days of Significance

Rainbow District School Board continues to highlight and celebrate days of significance and events on its Facebook page to raise awareness and build understanding.

Winter Break

A friendly reminder that the winter break will soon be upon us.

This Friday, December 16th is the last day of school before the break.

Monday, January 2nd is a holiday.

Schools will reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023.

Enjoy the holidays.

We look forward to working with you and your children in the new year.

9. School Announcements

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School said English classes welcomed an Elder who shared stories and answered questions. Students celebrated 12 days of spirit. The Foods Class joined a local bake shop in making gingerbread cookies for the school's festive feast on December 15, 2022. There was also a bake sale to raise money for a field trip for the arts classes. Students collected warm clothing for individuals who are homeless. Little Skidoo was presented in the Sheridan Auditorium. Dance students performed on the CTV Lions Club Telethon. The swim team competed at a local meet. I'm Glad It's Christmas, a Hallmark movie made in Sudbury, includes scenes filmed at Sudbury Secondary School.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School said there are a lot of great things happening, including sports and feasts. She said it's great to see the energy with the return of in-person activities. New administrators have introduced new events. Thirty families went out into the community for one hour to canvass for the food drive, which was very successful. Parents will be serving during the Christmas Feast on December 14, 2022. She praised the school for maintaining long-held practices and introducing new traditions.

Colleen Burns of Lansdowne Public School says it feels like the school is getting back to normal. Students have been excited to participate in field trips. The Dare to Care program is being implemented in the primary and junior divisions. The intermediate program will be launched in January 2023. Students who are caught being kind are recognized. Students continue to participate in EcoSchools with a compost program, garden maintained by Sudbury Shared Harvest in the summer, and a Good On One Side (GOOS) initiative. She said the school is most appreciative of the community's support of its families and students through the Adopt-a-Family program, the donation of turkeys, and a giving tree. She thanked all partners. She added that Lansdowne contributed over 2,700 cans to the Edgar Burton Food Drive.

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School said there are many activities to celebrate. Parents are well informed through a weekly newsletter. The biggest achievement this fall was the return of door-to-door canvassing for the cancer drive

which raised an amazing \$27,000. She thanked all donors for their tremendous support. She also highlighted the holiday concert, curling team, food drive, sports, an upcoming masquerade party, and a successful Open House. She added that students are thinking about careers and applying to post-secondary programs.

Shannon Ketchabaw of A.B. Ellis Public School said the school participated in the Stuff the Bus Food Drive for the Espanola Food Bank in partnership with Veterans Bus Lines. The school held another successful Krispy Kreme fundraiser. Money was also raised to buy toys for local children with matching funds from the local Lions Club. She also highlighted sports, festive events, the school's Platinum EcoSchools certification, and its continued participation in the Terry Fox Run, raising \$6,307.50 this year.

Parents enquired about the Parents Reaching Out Grant applications. Superintendent Fisher indicated that applications will be reviewed at the January PIC meeting. Rainbow District School Board received \$24,000 to share amongst its schools. Maximum amount per project is \$2,000. A total of 12 applications were received by December 13, 2022.

Adjournment at 8:17 pm

"That the meeting be adjourned."

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Seconded by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Carried

Next meeting:

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 7 pm - Via Google Meet

Topic: Inclusion