

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 7 pm
Via Google Meet

Attendance

Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Angelina Kasunich, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Shannon Ketchabaw, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School; Jessica Newell Tremblay, Parent, Copper Cliff Public School; Meredith Coulas, ETFO rep; Sheila James, Vice-Principal, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Denis Plouffe, Community Member, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Churchill Public School; Jolene Benoit, Parent, Churchill Public School; Marisa Julian, Parent, R.H. Murray Public School; Misty-Lee Carlson and Derick Carlson, Parents, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School Elementary Program; Trustee Doreen Dewar; Katrina Nadeau, Vice-Principal, Redwood Acres Public School; Eric Bacon, Computers in Education Coordinator, Lesley Fisher, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

Regrets: Trustee Dena Morrison and Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Lasalle Secondary School

Call to Order: 7 pm

1. Welcome

Chair Shannon Ketchabaw welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Self-Introductions

The Chair invited participants to introduce themselves.

3. Technology and Digital Citizenship

Presenter: Eric Bacon, Computers in Education Coordinator

Eric Bacon, a member of the Board's 21C Committee, provided an overview of how applications are vetted for use in the classroom and protections for digital learning. 21st Century competencies include Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship; Learning to Learn/Self-Aware and Self-Directed Learning; Collaboration; Communication and Global Citizenship.

When deciding whether to use digital tools, educators consider the SAMR Model. This model describes the various stages at which technology is integrated into the classroom. Substitution is when students submit work electronically. Augmentation is when traditional pen and paper assignments are replaced with online tasks. Modification is when technology allows educators to redesign tasks in ways that aren't possible with pen and paper. Redefinition sees technology used for the creation of new learning tasks which were not previously available.

In 2020, the Education Computing Network of Ontario created a service for Vetting Applications based on Security and Privacy (VASP). If an application is pedagogically relevant and technologically compatible, the board will submit a request to have it reviewed. School boards receive risk reports, including a board report and an educator report. Ways to reduce risk are also recommended, as required. The Board maintains an online Product Catalogue with all of the digital tool reviews. With the new process for vetting applications centralized, we benefit from the requests made by school boards from across the province.

Parents/guardians are informed of apps their children could be using in the classroom through a Consent Form for the Use of Software. Resources are shared with students, including posters and videos, to help them understand what is expected from a good digital citizen and how to be safe online. There is also professional learning for staff. Education on digital citizenship and online security takes place throughout the school year.

The presentation can be accessed online at:

<https://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/parent-involvement-committee/>

4. Discussion based on presentation

Chair Shannon Ketchabaw thanked Eric Bacon and said parents appreciate what the Board is doing to keep students safe. She invited PIC members to ask questions. Parents said the presentation was very informative.

5. Approval of Agenda

"That the agenda for the meeting on February 28, 2023 be approved."

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Seconded by: Steffany Bourque, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

"That the minutes for the meeting on January 17, 2023 be approved."

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School
Seconded by: Jessica Newell Tremblay, Copper Cliff Public School
Carried

7. Communications Report

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

Dare to Care

A total of 12 Rainbow Schools are piloting the Dare to Care bullying prevention program in the 2022-2023 school year. With modules for students, professional learning for staff, and resources for parents/guardians, Dare to Care engages the entire school community to work towards a common goal – transforming the silent majority into the caring majority.

Students learn to understand the difference between a mean moment, normal conflict and bullying. They also learn a shared language around discrimination, racism and cyberbullying. In the older grades, students are introduced to the effects of bullying on mental health, sexual harassment and cyberbullying, and bullying and the law. Students gain skills to de-escalate situations and more effectively report incidents of bullying.

Environmental Challenge

This month, staff and students were challenged to use less electricity. This initiative is part of the Environmental Committee's ongoing efforts to encourage sustainable practices. In March, all schools will be challenged to grow an indoor garden.

Technological Skills Competition

On Wednesday, March 1st, approximately 100 students from Grades 9 to 12 in Rainbow Schools will test their skills in various trades - from carpentry to small-powered equipment to coding. Competitions will take place at Cambrian College and the Carpenter's Union training hall in Azilda. There is a greater emphasis on the trades given the high demand in all sectors.

Special Education Input

A reminder that Friday, March 3rd is the deadline for parents/guardians of students with exceptionalities to provide input into the 2023-2024 Special Education Plan. A link to the survey is available on the board's website.

Elementary Science Fair

The Rainbow District School Board Elementary Science Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Approximately 54 projects from students in Grade 7 and 8 will be featured at the fair, which takes place at Lockerby Composite School. The public is welcome to view the projects in the Lockerby gym from 12 pm to 1 pm. The awards ceremony will take place in the auditorium at 1:30 pm. Judges and community professionals with a science and/or engineering background will select 28 projects to compete at the Sudbury Regional Science Fair being held at Laurentian University's Alumni Hall on April 1 and 2, 2023.

Board Instructional Holiday

A board-wide instructional holiday will take place on Friday, March 10th. There will be no school for students.

Mid-Winter Break

A friendly reminder that schools are also closed for the Mid-Winter Break from March 13th to 17th.

Career Fair

Rainbow District School Board is hosting its first ever Career Fair on Saturday, April 1st, 2023. The event will take place at Lockerby Composite School from 9 am to 1 pm. Prospective candidates can participate in the Career Fair in two ways - submitting an application in advance to pre-book an interview or dropping off a résumé on site to possibly secure an interview the day of the fair. If you know anyone who may be interested in work with the Board, please share this information with them.

Community Concert

We are celebrating the return of music in Rainbow Schools on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Local performers will join music students, teachers and graduates of Rainbow Schools to mark the 15th Anniversary of the Joan Mantle Music Trust during a gala Community Concert. The concert will begin at 7 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium of Sudbury Secondary School. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students with proceeds going to music education in Rainbow Schools. Doors will open at 6 pm for a Silent Auction.

Reminder to Register

For those who were unable to attend Information Nights in Rainbow Schools, there is still time to register. Planning has begun for the fall so we encourage everyone to register as soon as possible.

For more information about what's happening in Rainbow Schools, please visit rainbowschools.ca.

9. School Announcements

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School said students in the Special High Skills Majors participated in a field trip to Science North and a concussion awareness presentation. She highlighted success in sports including curling, basketball, nordic skiing and wrestling where students captured gold at NOSSA. Let's Dance is taking place on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 7 pm. Sudbury Secondary School's Headstrong Committee received a \$2,000 donation from Desjardins. The Pirates of Penzance was a tremendous success. Elementary schools attended the performance which was also open to the public.

Jolene Benoit of Churchill Public School said the PRO grant will be used to host a Family Zumba Night during Education Week in early May. The library and music room are up and running and construction is now complete. The school celebrated Black History Month with a special presentation by alumnus Robert Esmie. He spoke about his determination to participate in the Olympics, including overcoming challenges.

Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School said JK to Grade 12 students participated in a talent show. Students enjoyed a ski trip to Mount St. Louis. CVDCS has hosted tournaments, including volleyball and floor hockey. Leadership students helped to organize the Levack Winter Carnival and are now hosting a carnival for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6. A Think Trades evening is being planned. She praised Principal Danielle Williamson for leading the school to renewal. CVDCS will welcome a new Principal on March 6th as Danielle Williamson assumes a system leadership role.

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School highlighted a number of success stories from the school newsletter, including learning in Indigenous architecture, a mural of Cree heritage, the Pow Wow at Cambrian College, DNA extraction in biology, lab work on microorganisms, even a science experiment on bubble gum. Grade 9 and 10 students participated in Lexia Rapid Assessments for reading and readiness. Graduates are looking forward to a Spring Equinox Ball on March 30th. From skiing to basketball, snowboarding, swimming and curling, students are keeping active. She invited everyone to lockerby.rainbowschools.ca to access the Virtual Open House website. Lockerby also has a "Viking for a Day" shadow program.

Marissa Julian of R.H. Murray Public School said the community has experienced significant growth in the last five years, resulting in an increase in enrolment. She is pleased that the Board is investing in the school. All space is being used to maximize student learning, including Ojibwe. Students are active with volleyball, x-country skiing, art club, choir practice and other activities. Robotics and coding resources were purchased with the Northern Rural School Grant. The school has partnered with Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation to plan a Pow Wow. Everyone is welcome.

Jessica Newell Tremblay of Copper Cliff Public School said the school is expanding with more community involvement and student engagement. She highlighted a Family Skate and the local arena as well as visits to the Lancer Dome. Grade 7 and 8 students went skiing at Adanac. Primary students made Valentine Cards for local seniors. They also built snow sculptures on the grounds of residences for seniors to enjoy. The entire school received Sudbury Five tickets for Family Day. Knitting and crocheting clubs are underway. New activities are being added to include as many students as possible.

Shannon Ketchabaw of A.B. Ellis Public School said students enjoyed a ski trip to Searchmont. A PJ and Pancake Day was held leading up to Family Day. The musical Peter Pandemonium is being presented on Thursday, March 2, 2023 in the afternoon for students and the evening for families. She highlighted a public speaking competition and basketball tournament. She added that Indigenous artist Michael Cywink and apprentice Gerry Ranger worked with students to produce a mural at the school. Each panel represents a Seven Grandfather Teaching - with an additional three panels added for Community, Resilience and Equity - the values adopted by the Board.

Trustee Doreen Dewar said she enjoyed hearing about the wonderful things happening in schools and thanked parents/guardians for their support.

Adjournment at 7:57 pm

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Seconded by: Jolene Benoit, Churchill Public School

Carried

Next meeting:

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7 pm - Via Google Meet

Topic: Student Census Data