

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 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; Sheila James, Vice-Principal, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Kate Kearney, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Karen Lafleur, Parent, Westmount Avenue Public School; Ragini Vaddi, Parent, Princess Anne Public school; Nicole Sykes, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Churchill Public School; Jolene Benoit, Parent, Churchill Public School; Marisa Julian, Parent, R.H. Murray Public School; Colleen Burns, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Trustee Anita Gibson; Colleen McDonald, Principal of Special Education Programs and Services; Lesley Fisher, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

Regrets: Trustee Dena Morrison and Lisa Puddester, Vice-Principal, Northeastern Elementary 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 and their schools as they speak.

3. Inclusion

Presenter: Colleen McDonald,

Principal of Special Education Programs and Services

Rainbow District School Board believes in integration and inclusion to ensure that students have every opportunity to reach their full potential in their home school with their age appropriate peers. This is guided by what is in the best interest of each

student to ensure they have the level of support needed to develop both socially and academically. Inclusive education is reflected in the following Board priorities - Equity and Inclusive Education, Student Success and Achievement, Mental Health and Well-Being, and Literacy and Numeracy.

Principal McDonald indicated that full inclusion encompasses social and physical integration into activities that occur in school that are educational, recreational and social. The ideal is that all students with severe disabilities will be full members of their neighborhood schools, including having opportunities to learn in general education classes with instruction that has been developed to be inclusive of their needs.

Rainbow District School Board fosters a family-centered approach which builds trust, maintains open communication, enables and empowers students and families, and uses a collaborative problem-solving approach. Principal McDonald stressed that by working closely with families and listening carefully, educators may gain insights about what motivates the student, what skills need to be developed, and what does not work or is not appropriate for the student's cultural context.

Principal McDonald ended her presentation with an overview of ProjectSEARCH, a shining example of inclusion. Launched in September 2022, the program supports students who are leaving school to enter the workforce by providing placements to gain hands-on experience through a collaborative partnership between the school board, local business and a community agency that supports employability. Partners include Rainbow District School Board, Health Sciences North, the City of Greater Sudbury and March of Dimes Canada.

The presentation can be accessed online at:
<https://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/parent-involvement-committee/>

4. Discussion based on presentation

Chair Shannon Ketchabaw thanked Principal McDonald for the informative presentation and for stressing the importance of communications between the home and the school. She said the Board's family-centered approach builds positive relationships to provide a strong circle of support for students. She also acknowledged the value of ProjectSEARCH. Parents/guardians appreciated the presentation and did not have further questions.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School
Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

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

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Carried

7. Review of School Council PRO Grant Applications

PIC members were sent project applications to review in advance of the meeting and were invited to ask questions about specific projects.

Superintendent Lesley Fisher indicated that the Ministry of Education has allocated a total of \$24,000 to Rainbow District School Board to fund projects (maximum \$2,000) that engage parents/guardians in their child’s school. After reviewing grant criteria, she indicated that some budgets will need to be revised to ensure they remain within the funding limits. She also noted that schools receive a rebate on GST which enables budgets to go further. Superintendent Fisher indicated that, after taking this into account, there were sufficient funds to support all of the projects that were submitted. In approving the projects, she will revise budgets to ensure they meet funding requirements.

Motion:

“That the Parent Involvement Committee accept and approve all of the PRO grant project applications submitted, as amended to meet funding requirements.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Colleen Burns, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

Committee members praised schools for submitting engaging projects.

Lockerby Composite School will develop and enhance its presentation and information for incoming parents of Grade 9 students.

Queen Elizabeth II Public School will invite parents into the school to participate in a variety of learning activities presented by the students as experts.

Central Manitoulin Public School will host an Indigenous engagement evening with different learning/demonstration stations for Indigenous culture, teachings, crafts and foods.

Northeastern Elementary School will extend its front entrance area renovations into the foyer of the school creating an inclusive, accessible and welcoming space for students and families.

Chelmsford Valley District Composite School will invite families of students in Grades 7 to 12 to carousels on various topics, for example, Safe and Respectful Social Media Use, Human Trafficking, Drug Use and Abuse, LGBTQ2S+, Internet Safety, Defining Consent, Sexual Assault, Supporting Youth with a Learning Disability, Women in Trades, and Paint Social.

Chelmsford Valley District Elementary School will invite families to participate in a literacy evening to learn about the reading interventions at school and tools they can use at home.

Churchill Public School will offer a fun evening for parents and students to come together for a physical literacy night with a Zumba dance party.

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School will enhance the skill set of students and staff to build a healthier community and healthier relationships fostering a sense of safety and belonging to promote student achievement and well-being.

Little Current Public School will implement an Emotion Coaching Resource Program for parents and caregivers through an information session and resources.

Westmount Avenue Public School will organize a Jump Up Into Math Interactive Family Night, with games that build math concepts and movements that contribute to healthy active bodies, followed by a Math Lending Library.

Adamsdale Public School will host a Family Literacy Night and a Family Math Night, with games to support learning at home.

Espanola High School will foster student success through enhanced communications with parents/guardians by bringing parents into the school to engage in conversations and visiting First Nations communities to speak with families and share information with Indigenous partners.

Walden Public School will invite current and prospective families into the school to engage children/parents/guardians in their dynamic teaching and learning environment.

Lansdowne Public School will engage families in an evening of "What's Your Passion?" to learn what motivates and invigorates their children at school, including Ojibwe arts and language, chess, STEM challenges, mindfulness activities, art, environmental stewardship and more.

Lasalle Secondary School will offer information sessions to parents/guardians on mental health and well-being with guest speakers, community partners and resources to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

8. Communications Report

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

Kindergarten Information Nights

Kindergarten Information Nights were held on January 11 and 12, 2023 and we would like to thank families who joined us for these in-person events. It's always an exciting time to meet children who are starting school this fall. For those who were unable to attend, there is still time to register your child. Contact your area Rainbow School and staff will be happy to assist you.

Secondary Information Nights

Secondary schools have already begun hosting in-person Information Nights. We have a few coming up...

Chelmsford Valley District Composite School on January 18th at 6 pm

Lasalle Secondary School on February 15th at 6 pm

Manitoulin Secondary School on February 16th at 6:30 pm

And Espanola High School also on February 16th but at 7 pm

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

Registration information is available online at rainbowschools.ca

Environmental Challenge

Rainbow District School Board invites staff and students to go paperless tomorrow - Wednesday, January 18th. This initiative is part of the Environmental Committee's

ongoing efforts to encourage sustainable practices. In February, all schools will be challenged to reduce their electricity consumption.

Special Education Input

Parents/guardians of students with special needs in the Rainbow District School Board are invited to provide input into the Special Education Plan for 2023-2024. The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, March 3rd. The survey is available on the board's website.

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

9. School Announcements

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School said the Open House had a great turnout despite the weather, with parents and students enjoying performances and presentations. The school is presenting *Pirates of Penzance* in February. Students participate in spirit days weekly. A team took part in the first High School Business Case Competition at Cambrian College. Students captured top honours in wrestling and swimming. A Headstrong event is taking place to promote wellness.

Nicole Sykes of R.L. Beattie Public School was pleased with the excellent attendance at the Kindergarten Information Night. She indicated that students are participating in a variety of extracurricular activities from cross-country skiing to robotics. Some 40 students are engaged in robotics every Thursday after school thanks to a new partnership with teachers and parents from Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School. More than 100 students will be participating in the upcoming cross-country ski loppet.

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School praised administration and staff for compiling an informative weekly newsletter which celebrates student success and keeps everyone connected. She highlighted the school's recent win at the Cambrian College Business Case Study Competition. She also highlighted film awards, computer science AI and coding; Environmental Challenges; Ojibwe language class and cultural activities; sports; and the Open House. She invited everyone to lockerby.rainbowschools.ca to access the Virtual Open House website.

Nicole Sykes, who is a member of the Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School School Council, provided the LEP update on behalf of Kate Kearney. Students are having a good year with wonderful participation in a robust array of extracurricular activities. There is a

renewed energy in the school with involvement in teams and clubs to supplement the academic learning, including a winter concert and drama performance.

Jolene Benoit of Churchill Public School said students are loving the extracurricular activities and there is a lot of participation. She said the school is hosting activities to make all families feel welcome and comfortable in the newly expanded school which received students and families from Cyril Varney last fall. Student Parliament is organizing a winter carnival to take place in February. Students enjoyed a character development presentation from Q-Mack which focused on the traits of “all stars”. The Churchill renovations are complete, with a new library and music room. The Dare to Care anti-bullying program is progressing. She asked if the Roots of Empathy program may return. Superintendent Fisher said the nationally-run program had significant training requirements and little flexibility regarding student tasks. The Board’s focus for now is on the Dare to Care program currently being piloted.

Colleen Burns of Lansdowne Public School said the school is supporting Grade 8 students to transition to secondary school. Lansdowne organized a bus to take families to the Transition Evening at Cambrian College. Students had an opportunity to participate in shadow days in secondary schools and get assistance with course selections in myBlueprint. She highlighted a number of extracurricular activities for students through community partnerships and/or school support, including Sudbury5 tickets, weekly math club, peer mediation program, food rescue, gift cards, new lego club, friendship/wellness club, basketball, chess, Ojibwe, choir and more. She also acknowledged literacy support with the Haggerty program, tutors and Empower Reading groups.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School said the new Principal is very active and very involved with the school community and community partners. There was a Christmas Feast for the entire school, feeding 600 over three sittings with the help of staff and guest servers. A new curling team has fantastic turnout. There are lots of opportunities for students to join clubs and participate in activities. She is very enthused about the possibility of making the school foyer more welcoming to supplement the recent renovations on the school grounds and main entrance.

Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School said the Grade 7 and 8 students would be off to the Sault for a ski trip. Grade 9 to 12 students will be going to Barrie in February. She was most appreciative of fundraising by students and staff to support field trips. The K to 12 school has been welcoming volunteers. Sports and clubs are back and students are loving it. Terry’s Independent donated turkeys for the annual Christmas Feast. Hot chocolate has also been provided. The school is benefiting from

wonderful community support. The school Open House will be held January 18, 2023. Enrolment is on the rise. A school trip to Europe is planned for March 2025 which will be part of a History credit.

Shannon Ketchabaw of A.B. Ellis Public School said a Searchmount ski trip was coming up soon. Students are rehearsing for a musical theatre production that will be presented March 2nd. A career day was held and students dressed up as who they wanted to be. Espanola Lions Club donated \$2,000 for Christmas cheer. The winter concert was a success and the school enjoyed many holiday activities. She also highlighted the Kindergarten Information Night at A.B. Ellis and the Grade 9 Information Night at Espanola High School.

Adjournment at 8:25 pm

"That the meeting be adjourned."

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Colleen Burns, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

Next meeting:

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

Topic: Technology and Digital Citizenship