

## **Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 11, 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; Meredith Coulas, ETFO rep; Sheila James, Vice-Principal, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Dennis Plouffe, Community Member, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Churchill Public School; Marisa Julian, Parent, R.H. Murray Public School; Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Nadia Berardelli, Principal, Jean Hanson Public School; Anthony Davis, Parent, Churchill Public School; Jolene Benoit, Parent, Churchill Public School; Kim Boulanger, Principal, Churchill Public School; Jason Smallboy, Parent, Churchill Public School; Trustee Judy Kosmerly; Trustee Doreen Dewar; Katrina Nadeau, Vice-Principal, Redwood Acres Public School; Brenda Carr, Principal, Valley View Public School; Jennifer Harvey, Principal, Lansdowne Public School; Lesley Fisher, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

### **Regrets:**

Trustee Dena Morrison and Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Call to Order: 7 pm

### **1. Welcome**

Chair Shannon Ketchabaw welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited participants to put their name and school in the chat box.

### **2. Dare to Care Anti-Bullying Program**

**Presenters: Principal Brenda Carr, Valley View Public School  
Principal Jennifer Harvey, Lansdowne Public School**

Valley View Public School and Lansdowne Public School joined together to pilot the Dare to Care Program in the 2022-2023 school year. They are among 12 schools piloting the bullying prevention program in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island.

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 about the importance of being kind, the difference between bullying and mean moments, tattling versus asking for help, and standing up for yourself and others.

Prevention and intervention strategies focus on social emotional learning with an emphasis on empathy. Through the program, all stakeholders – including administrators, teachers, support staff, parents/guardians and students – gain a deeper understanding of bullying, and, more importantly, develop tools to create a caring community. 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.

The program also helps parents/guardians become allies in supporting their children through resources and videos on a Parent Portal. Dare to Care carefully defines the word bullying and stresses the importance of having a common understanding of the definition. Parents learn what bullying looks like, including the difference between normal peer conflict and bullying. Tips and guidelines are provided for parents to help their children make positive choices both online with social media and other technology and in their daily face-to-face interactions. During webinars, parents learn six non-reactive life skills that can be reinforced at home so children feel more confident and competent in dealing with bullying situations.

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

### **3. Discussion based on presentation**

Chair Shannon Ketchabaw thanked the presenters and was pleased the program engages the whole school community, including parents. PIC members asked if the program will be introduced in all schools. Superintendent Fisher said the pilot will be evaluated and the program will be explored for all schools. She noted that feedback to date has been positive. Parents asked if the program will be implemented in secondary schools. Dare to Care was developed for a Kindergarten to Grade 8 audience. Rainbow District School Board is focusing on the elementary level to give younger students a foundation as they move forward to secondary school. It was noted that Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School hosted anti-racism workshops for students supported by a PRO Grant application.

#### **4. Approval of Agenda**

*“That the agenda for the meeting on April 11, 2023 be approved.”*

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Carried

#### **5. Approval of Minutes**

*“That the minutes for the meeting on February 28, 2023 be approved.”*

Moved by: Anthony David, Churchill Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Carried

#### **6. Communications Report**

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

##### **Environmental Challenge**

Environmental Challenges are continuing this month with Earth Day celebrations on April 22nd. All schools have been invited to protect our natural resources for future generations. This is the time of the year when schools are gardening, planting trees, engaging in community cleanups, learning in outdoor classrooms, making art for the school yard, going on nature hikes, and more. Students may even be encouraged to ride their bikes to school.

Here are some of the questions we are asking students to think about - What can you do in your daily living to keep our planet around for centuries? How big is your ecological footprint? What will be the negative consequences when our Earth heats up 1.5 degrees Celsius?

Of course, we continue to invite students to take what they learn at school and apply it at home and in the community. Through an Indigenous ‘Anishinaabe’ perspective, we can invest in our planet by taking the time to acknowledge the life-giving qualities of Mother Earth and spending our own personal time to connect with the land, water, and nature.

### **Board Science Fair**

Three projects from Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School captured top honours at the Sudbury Regional Science Fair. These projects were selected for the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Edmonton this May. Congratulations to all science fair participants.

### **Elementary Chess Tournament**

Students are honing their skills for a board-wide chess tournament on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Some 242 students from Grades 1 to 8 will play chess at the Local 6500 Hospitality, Conference & Education Centre in Sudbury (formerly United Steelworkers Hall). Students from 13 Rainbow Schools are participating in the event.

### **Free to Be Me**

Embrace Diversity: Free to Be Me will continue on April 27th for students in Grades 9 to 12. Staff members have reached out to the GSAs from Rainbow secondary schools to seek input on topics of interest to them. The program is currently being finalized.

### **Fight Against Cancer Gala**

Sudbury Secondary School will host its third Fight Against Cancer Gala on Friday, April 21, 2023 to raise funds for the Northern Cancer Centre through Angels in Pink. The gala, featuring dinner, entertainment and a silent auction, will be held in the lower hall at the Caruso Club, 385 Haig Street in Sudbury. Doors for the gala will open at 5:30 pm. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm with entertainment presented by Sudbury Secondary School students, alumni and community members. Dinner will be followed by music to dance the night away.

### **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 and Silent Auction. 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 6:15 pm for a Silent Auction. Tickets are now on sale. Visit [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) for details. We hope you can join us.

### **Loran Scholar**

Student Trustee Jocelyn Kuntsi is Rainbow District School Board's newest Loran Scholar. She is among 36 students from across Canada to earn a 2023 Loran Award, the largest undergraduate merit scholarship in Canada. It has a value of more than

\$100,000. The Loran Award is a comprehensive four year enrichment program, offering an annual living stipend, summer work experiences, mentorship, scholar gatherings, and a tuition waiver at one of 25 university partners. After graduating from Manitoulin Secondary School this June, Jocelyn Kuntsi plans to pursue studies in Engineering at McMaster University or the University of Waterloo.

### **School Year Calendar**

The calendar for the upcoming school year has been posted on the board website. The 2023-2024 school year for students will begin on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. Please note: The day after the Labour Day weekend – Tuesday, September 5, 2023 – is a professional activity day.

### **Professional Learning**

Friday, April 28th is a professional learning day. There will be no school for students.

### **Music Monday**

Music Monday will be held on Monday, May 1st. This will lead into Education Week.

For more information about what's happening in Rainbow Schools, please visit [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca).

## **7. School Announcements**

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School said media arts students captured all top prizes in their category at the Tech Skills Competition and the first place team will participate in Skills Ontario in Toronto. Students enjoyed their trip to Europe. She also highlighted the parent/teacher conference, wellness initiatives, a dance workshop, sports, music, and the school's Cancer Gala on April 21, 2023.

Jolene Benoit of Churchill Public School said the school hosted activities and welcomed guests to celebrate Black History Month as it continues to focus on equity and inclusion. An Earth Day assembly will be presented in April. The school will participate in National Indigenous Heritage Day in June. The school has received a Go Wild Grant for a pollinator garden. Players from the Sudbury Five will visit the school with a focus on goal setting. Churchill participated in Autism Awareness Month and organized other activities, including composting.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School said students have been very busy with athletics. She praised Dale Beausoleil and other teacher coaches for bringing out outstanding skills in students, adding that Northeastern hosts many tournaments. She

was pleased that the school received PRO Grant funds to help make the school entrance more welcoming. A new Chess Club is popular. A lot of great activities are taking place to raise awareness of autism.

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School highlighted items from the school newsletter which is well received and much appreciated by parents. She covered a number of areas from the PowWow at Cambrian, an adventure in Biology, success of school bands, real life learning in Accounting, growing bacteria in Science, success in sports, fundraisers and community partnerships such as student participation on the Police Chief Youth Advisory Council.

Marissa Julian of R.H. Murray Public School said students were excited to participate in the music festival with an inclusive choir that captured gold. The school will host a PowWow in June with three First Nations in the community represented.

Shannon Ketchabaw of A.B. Ellis Public School said the School Council was hosting a movie night on the eve of the April 28th professional learning day. She highlighted public speakers, the Scholastic Book Fair and basketball.

Sheila James of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School said the school hosted CVDCS Rocks the Spectrum in recognition of autism. The school's elementary choir will be performing at the Sudbury Music Festival and the Joan Mantle Music Trust 15th Anniversary Community Concert. The school will also host a concert along with Levack Public School on Music Monday. School knitters made 22 blankets for the Cancer Centre. Eco Flyers participated in a conference in Toronto. Their next campaign focuses on bike repair kits and helmets to encourage students to bike to school.

## **8. Adjournment at 8:11 pm**

*"That the meeting be adjourned."*

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Seconded by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Carried

## **Next meeting:**

**Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 7 pm - Via Google Meet**

**Topic: Planning for 2023-2024**