

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 7 pm
In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

Attendance

Shannon Ketchabaw, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School; Alisha Basarabe, Parent, Algonquin Road Public School; Tiiija Luttrell, Parent, Larchwood Public School; Ashley Vickman, Parent, Walden Public School; Angelina Kasunich and Debbie Sokoloskie, Parents, Lockerby Composite School; Jennifer Dalton, Parent, Adamsdale Public School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Heidi Ferguson, Parent, Little Current Public School; Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Rebecca Coughlin, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Dale Wellings, Parent, Princess Anne Public School; Claire Eastman, Parent, MacLeod Public School; April McAllister, Parent, Central Manitoulin Public School; Dennis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Leslie Mantle, Senior Administrator of School Support Services; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Laurie-Ann Lielkans, Secondary Principal representative; Coleen Eberlein, Elementary Principal representative; Katrina Nadeau, Elementary Vice-Principal representative; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Lasalle Secondary School; Ryan Lafraniere, Principal, Lockerby Composite School; Heather Pennie, Principal, Little Current Public School; Robyn Best, Vice-Principal, Little Current Public School; and Allison Orford, Parent, Central Manitoulin Public School

Regrets: Sheila James, Secondary Vice-Principal representative; Meredith Coulas, Elementary Teacher representative; and Trustee Alex McCauley

Call to Order: 7 pm

1. Welcome

Senior Administrator Leslie Mantle welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Self-Introductions

Online and in person participants introduced themselves.

3. Presentations: Parents Reaching Out Grants - School Success Stories

Little Current Public School

Heather Pennie, Principal, and Robyn Best, Vice-Principal, said parents/guardians of Little Current Public School had an opportunity to learn about emotion coaching and gain strategies teachers use at school. Alison Orford shared the tools used at school to raise emotionally resilient children. Participants received a number of items to take home - an emotion coaching reference magnet, rainbow breathing visual, zones of regulation visual, circle of control visual, how I'm feeling visual and emotion scenario cards to prompt conversations. Community partners also donated items, like calming fidgets. A parent lending library was established. Parents/guardians received a 3 minute positivity journal.

Lockerby Composite School

Ryan Lafraniere, Principal of Lockerby Composite School, said their project supplemented the resources shared at the Board's transition evening. With engagement and support from the School Council, Lockerby created a handbook for students and parents/guardians with general information about secondary school and specific information about programs/opportunities at Lockerby Composite School. The handbook was distributed to Grade 9 students and their parents/guardians during a school visit in the spring. The handbook, which is updated annually, is also available online.

Central Manitoulin Public School

School Council Chair Allison Orford said students at Central Manitoulin Public School engaged in learning along with parents/guardians, including strawberry teachings, creating a box garden, learning lacrosse skills, medicine walk, macrame art session, year end barbecue and a "book tasting" event that was a huge success. The activities engaged the entire school community with a focus on truth and reconciliation, mental health and well-being, equity and inclusive education, environmental education and sustainability, and literacy and numeracy. The goal of the project was to create equitable and inclusive learning experiences at Central Manitoulin Public School.

Lasalle Secondary School

Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal of Lasalle Secondary School, said the school offered a series of three sessions focused on mental health and well-being. The book "What to Say to Kids When Nothing Seems to Work" by Adèle Lafrance provided the starting point to focus on growth mindset and resilience. Parents had an opportunity to dialogue with other parents. They received tools on how to validate how children are feeling and

replace “but” with “because” to open up the lines of communication. Parents/guardians received information on mental health supports, including websites and apps.

4. Discussion based on presentation

Parents/guardians were invited to ask questions at the end of each presentation. They appreciated the sharing of ideas for future PRO grant applications.

5. Approval of Agenda

“That the agenda for the meeting on December 12, 2023 be approved.”

Moved by: Steffany Bourque, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Seconded by: Rebecca Coughlin, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

“That the minutes of the meeting held on April 11, 2023 be approved.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Carried

“That the minutes of the meeting held on May 9, 2023 be approved.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Carried

“That the minutes of the AGM held on October 17, 2023 be approved.”

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Tiiija Luttrell, Larchwood Public School

Carried

7. Slate of Officers and Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Slate of Officers

Prior to the meeting, Senior Administrator Leslie Mantle invited parents/guardians who had expressed an interest in joining the PIC Executive to confirm their interest. She indicated that the PIC Executive required a representative from Espanola, a representative from Manitoulin Island, and two representatives from Sudbury.

Shannon Ketchabaw of A.B. Ellis Public School expressed an interest in representing the Espanola area. Heidi Ferguson of Little Current Public School expressed an interest in representing Manitoulin Island. Both confirmed their willingness to serve at the meeting.

The following motions were subsequently considered:

“That Shannon Ketchabaw of A.B. Ellis Public School be acclaimed to the PIC Executive as the Espanola representative for the 2023-2024 school year.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Rebecca Coughlin, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

“That Heidi Ferguson of Little Current Public School be acclaimed to the PIC Executive as the Manitoulin Island representative for the 2023-2024 school year.”

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Seconded by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Carried

Senior Administrator Leslie Mantle indicated that the following parents/guardians from Sudbury had expressed an interest in joining the PIC Executive - Jessica Newell-Tremblay from Copper Cliff Public School (who was not in attendance at the meeting), Angelina Kasunich/Debbie Sokolosky of Lockerby Composite School, Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; and Rebecca Coughlin of Lansdowne Public School.

There were two positions to be filled.

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.

Senior Administrator Leslie Mantle invited parents/guardians to say a few words about why they wished to join the PIC Executive. A vote was subsequently held. PIC Executive members were sent a Google Form to elect two candidates.

Following the election, the following motions were presented:

“That Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School be elected to the PIC Executive as a Sudbury representative for the 2023-2024 school year.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School

Carried

“That Rebecca Coughlin of Lansdowne Public School be elected to the PIC Executive as a Sudbury representative for the 2023-2024 school year.”

Moved by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Tiija Luttrell, Larchwood Public School

Carried

PIC Executive Members for 2023-2024:

Sara Ball and Alisha Basarabe - Algonquin Road Public School

Tiija Luttrell - Larchwood Public School

Ashley Vickman - Walden Public School

Jennifer Dalton - Adamsdale Public School

Natasha Delaney - Jean Hanson Public School

Melissa Gladu - Northeastern Elementary School

Shannon Ketchabaw - A.B. Ellis Public School

Heidi Ferguson - Little Current Public School

Steffany Bourque - Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Rebecca Coughlin - Lansdowne Public School

Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Prior to the meeting, Senior Administrator Leslie Mantle invited prospective members and the PIC Executive acclaimed at the AGM on October 17, 2023 to indicate their interest in serving in a leadership role. Deadline for nominations was Friday, December 8, 2023.

Senior Administrator Leslie Mantle indicated that Melissa Gladu had expressed an interest in serving as Chair. After calling for any other nominations for Chair, the following motion was presented:

“That Mellisa Gladu be acclaimed Chair of PIC for 2023-2024.”

Moved by: Tiija Luttrell, Larchwood Public School

Seconded by: Rebecca Coughlin, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

Senior Administrator Leslie Mantle indicated that Steffany Bourque had expressed an interest in serving as Vice-Chair. After calling for any other nominations for Vice-Chair, the following motion was presented:

“That Steffany Bourque be acclaimed Vice-Chair of PIC for 2023-2024.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

After calling for nominations for Secretary, the following motion was presented:

“That Nicole Charette continue as Secretary of PIC for 2023-2024.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Steffany Bourque, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Carried

At this point, Melissa Gladu chaired the meeting.

8. Review of School Council PRO Grant applications

A total of 20 Parents Reaching Out Grant applications were received for the 2023-2024 school year. The budget is \$22,500. The project submissions exceeded the budget by \$16,500. Prior to the meeting, Principals were contacted to determine if they would be willing and able to proceed with their projects with a reduced budget. Schools said yes. The goal of this approach was to maximize the distribution of limited dollars for the benefit of more schools. Even with the adjustments made in advance of the meeting, the PIC members had to make further reductions. This was achieved through collaboration and consensus. As a result, all schools that qualified will receive a grant. Projects were also reviewed by staff to ensure they responded to a board priority.

2023-2024 PRO grant recipients and board priorities:

Adamsdale Public School - Literacy and Numeracy

Larchwood Public School - Literacy and Numeracy

Queen Elizabeth Public School - Literacy and Numeracy

Jean Hanson Public School - Mental Health and Well-being

Central Manitoulin Public School - Mental Health and Well-being

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School - Mental Health and Well-being

Lockerby Composite School - Student Success and Achievement
Walden Public School - Literacy and Numeracy
Sudbury Secondary School - Equity and Inclusive Education
Little Current Public School - Literacy and Numeracy
C.R. Judd Public School - Literacy and Numeracy
Chelmsford Valley District Composite School - K to 6 - Literacy and Numeracy
Lasalle Secondary School - Equity and Inclusive Education
R.H. Murray Public School - Literacy and Numeracy
R.L. Beattie Public School - Mental Health and Well-being
Princess Anne Public School - Mental Health and Well-being
Assignack Public School - Mental Health and Well-being
Lively District Secondary School - Literacy and Numeracy
S. Geiger Public School - Literacy and Numeracy

“That the 2023-2024 Parents Reaching out grant applications be approved with the total budget of \$22,500.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Tiiija Luttrell, Larchwood Public School

Carried

PIC members expressed appreciation to schools for adjusting their budgets to enable greater parental engagement. Members suggested that schools share resources, where feasible, to maximize their grants.

9. Communications Report

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

Our educators have compiled a list of resources to support your child's learning at home. Learning Together is posted on the board website under the Parents section. <https://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/resources-for-parents/learning-at-home/>
We invite you to access these resources often to supplement what your child is learning at school. Parental involvement improves student achievement.

Festive events are currently underway in Rainbow Schools.
For a list of what's happening, please visit [rainbowschools.ca](https://www.rainbowschools.ca).

A new trailer is touring Rainbow Schools to introduce the trades to students in Grades 7 and 8. The trailer houses various tools including backpacks with drills, drivers, palm sanders, hammers, screwdrivers, pliers and measuring tapes which are used in class to

further student learning. The program is currently being piloted in Valley area schools with the intent to expand board-wide in the new year.

The Rainbow District School Board's 2022-2023 annual report will be posted on the board website next week. We invite you to peruse the report for a highlight of key activities that occurred in the last school year. The report also includes an overview of the Board's current budget.

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to Information Nights which continue in our secondary schools in the new year.

The following information nights will be held in January 2024 -

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School on Thursday, January 11th at 7 pm;

Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, Wednesday, January 17th at 6 pm; and

Lockerby Composite School on Thursday, January 18th at 7 pm.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend if you have a child going into Grade 9.

Elementary schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island will host Kindergarten Information Nights for families on Wednesday, January 17th at 5:30 pm for the English program, and Thursday, January 18th at 5:30 pm for French Immersion. Schools offering both English and French Immersion programs will host one information night on Thursday, January 18th at 5:30 pm.

All parents/guardians and children are welcome. If you know a child starting school this fall, please invite their parents/guardians to visit rainbowschools.ca.

The winter break will soon be upon us.

Schools will be closed from December 25th to January 5th.

Schools will reopen on Monday, January 8, 2024.

On behalf of the board, I would like to wish all parents/guardians and students a safe and happy holiday. This is a time to reflect, rejoice and re-energize.

We look forward to working with families in the new year.

10. School Announcements

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School said the school hosted an exciting maker event.

Ashley Vickman of Walden Public School praised the school's implementation of Dare to Care. She also highlighted the Kids Helping Kids food drive, the clothing drive, 10 days of kindness and the giving parade to deliver items to the Walden Food Bank.

Shannon Ketchabaw of A.B. Ellis Public School said the school partnered with Meals on Wheels for a successful fundraiser. She also highlighted festive events.

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School talked about an interactive career fair to visit schools. She invited other secondary schools to partner with them on this initiative.

Dale Wellings of Princess Anne Public School said Grade 8 students have begun fundraising for their year-end trip.

Jennifer Dalton of Adamsdale Public School said parent volunteers invited families to have Santa photos taken at the school. Families got photos of their children at a reasonable cost while the School Council raised funds for school initiatives.

Claire Eastman of MacLeod Public School said the school has begun planning for its fun fair next spring.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School said the school has received a generous donation from the Lions Club for cafeteria furniture. She said the School Council was very appreciative of the support which will enable the school to create a more welcoming space for students. It will also complement the lobby renovations completed last year.

Senior Administrator Leslie Mantle reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and topics. She thanked all parents/guardians and staff for joining us.

Adjournment at 9:11 pm

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Moved by: Jennifer Dalton, Adamsdale Public School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

Next meeting:

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 7 pm

In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

Topic: Social Media and Cyber Safety