

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7 pm
In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

Attendance

Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Tiija Luttrell, Parent, Larchwood Public School; Shannon Ketchabaw, Parent, A.B. Ellis 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; Rebecca Coughlin, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Paula Bourdon, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Jessica Newell Tremblay, Parent, Copper Cliff Public School; Trustee Alex McCauley; Leslie Mantle, Senior Administrator of School Support Services; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Coleen Eberlein, Elementary Principal representative; Katrina Nadeau, Elementary Vice-Principal representative; Sheila James, Secondary Vice-Principal representative; Meredith Coulas, Elementary Teacher representative; and Melanie Bertrand, Principal of Student Success, Rainbow District School Board

Regrets:

Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Heidi Ferguson, Parent, Little Current Public School; Sara Ball and Alisha Basarabe, Parents, Algonquin Road Public School; and Laurie-Ann Lielkans, Secondary Principal representative

Call to Order: 7 pm

1. Welcome

Chair Melissa Gladu welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Self-Introductions

Online and in person participants introduced themselves.

3. Presentation: Literacy and the Language Curriculum **Melanie Bertrand, Principal of Student Success**

For the presentation, Principal Bertrand defined literacy as the ability to engage with language to construct meaning in a variety of contexts. It involves reading, writing, speaking, and listening, as well as transferring these skills to increasingly complex areas of study, such as science or social studies. She indicated that first we learn to read and then we read to learn.

In June 2023, the Ministry of Education released curriculum revisions for Language, Grades 1-8, and Grade 9 English (destreamed). Changes include an emphasis on foundation skills, improved alignment from Grades 1 to 9, and the addition of a strand dedicated to transferable skills. These include critical thinking and problem solving; innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship; self-directed learning; collaboration; communication; global citizenship and sustainability; and digital literacy.

As students transition from Kindergarten to the primary and junior grades, the focus is on comprehensive language instruction. In order to build proficiency, students engage in meaningful reading and writing activities, and productive discussion. They also receive direct instruction on foundational skills, such as grammar, spelling and vocabulary.

Principal Bertrand reviewed the tools, strategies, and resources used to support students, including targeted interventions. She also outlined how Rainbow District School Board is building teaching capacity in reading and writing instruction through model classrooms, literacy coaches, consultants, and teacher professional learning.

Parents/guardians can support their child's learning at home by talking about learning with their child; encouraging reading; reading together; visiting the library; sharing texts and talking about the content; encouraging writing through journaling or writing to others; making connections between classroom learning and everyday life; talking about current events; and discussing/evaluating what's on social media.

<https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/parents>

Resources to help parents/guardians understand their child's learning.

<https://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/resources-for-parents/learning-at-home/>

Resources parents/guardians can use to support their children at home.

<https://www.reallygreatreading.com/scarboroughs-reading-rope>

Dr. Hollis Scarborough's Reading Rope describes the interconnectedness of the skills students need to become proficient readers.

4. Approval of Agenda

“That the agenda for the meeting on February 27, 2024 be approved.”

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

“That the minutes of the meeting held on January 30, 2024 be approved.”

Moved by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Jennifer Dalton, Adamsdale Public School

Carried

6. Communications Report

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

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 is Pink Shirt Day in Canada which builds on our Wear Pink Day held at the beginning of each school year. It's an opportune time to reflect on the importance of fostering warm and welcoming school environments all year long. We appreciate the support of our parents/guardians as we promote kindness and inclusion. Thank you for serving as role models for all children.

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. Next month, schools will explore Canada Water Week - a national celebration of water that coincides with World Water Day on March 22nd.

On February 28th, approximately 150 students from Grades 9 to 12 in Rainbow Schools will test their skills in a variety of trades during the board's 17th annual Technological Skills Competition. New this year is an elementary component that will see 160 students from Grades 7 and 8 competing in five categories. Competitions will take place at Cambrian College and the Carpenter's Union training hall in Azilda.

A reminder that Friday, March 1st is the deadline for parents/guardians of students with exceptionalities to provide input into the 2024-2025 Special Education Plan.

A link to the survey is available on the board's website.

Sudbury Secondary School will present Artbeat, a celebration of visual and performing arts, on Monday, March 4th from 4 pm to 7 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium. Artbeat will

bring together students, staff, alumni and local artists for an evening of art exhibitions, interactive activities, live musical and dance performances as well as food and vendors. The event is free/pay what you can at the door. Everyone is welcome.

Students from Grades 7 to 12 will showcase their knowledge of scientific principles during the board's Science Fair on Tuesday, March 5th at Lockerby Composite School. Judges will select some 30 projects to compete at the Sudbury Regional Science Fair on April 6th and 7th at Laurentian University.

The mid-winter break begins on Friday, March 8th. There will be no school for students from March 8th to and including March 15th.

Rainbow District School Board is hosting a Career Fair on Saturday, April 6th, 2024. The event will take place at Lockerby Composite School from 9 am to 3 pm.

The April 19th Professional Activity Day has been rescheduled to Monday, April 8, 2024.

The change will ensure there is no school for students on Monday, April 8, 2024, the day of the solar eclipse. Schools sent letters to parents/guardians on February 16th, 2024. There is also information under news on the board website. Friday, April 19, 2024 will be a regular school day.

The School Year Calendar for 2024-2025 will be released this week. Please check the board website at rainbowschools.ca for more information.

7. School Announcements

Ashley Vickman of Walden Public School highlighted a Roots of Empathy program in the Grade 5/6 class, art gallery visits, and a teacher book club.

Jennifer Dalton of Adamsdale Public School said a multi-year fundraising plan is being developed to upgrade the playground.

Tijja Luttrell of Larchwood Public School said a numeracy event was being presented on February 29, 2024 with funds from the Parents Reaching Out Grant.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School said the school was hosting sporting tournaments. Grade 7 and 8 students were skiing in Collingwood.

Paula Bourdon of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School said students in the theatre program would soon be presenting Little Women.

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School said funds are being raised for technology upgrades and the school is seeking community sponsors to provide bursaries for students. Lockerby is also increasing engagement on the School Council.

Katrina Nadeau of Redwood Acres Public School said a Fun Fair was being organized.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School said fun events are being presented to bring students and parents/guardians together, including a dance night and bowling.

Rebecca Coughlin of Lansdowne Public School said parent volunteers hosted two hot lunch days which were well received by students. A recent Dare to Care assembly focused on acceptance. Students caught being kind are recognized during school announcements. The ISP class had a candy-gram campaign on Valentine's Day. Students are participating in Swim to Survive and visits to the Lancer Dome and Science North. Students also participated in floor hockey and basketball tournaments. Grade 8 students are taking part in the Tech Skills Competition. Parents have been invited to participate in math afternoons in classrooms.

Chair Melissa Gladu reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and topics. She thanked all parents/guardians and staff for joining us.

Adjournment at 8:25 pm

"That the meeting be adjourned."

Moved by: Tiija Luttrell, Larchwood Public School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

Next meeting:

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7 pm

In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

Topic: Math Supports