

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7 pm
In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

Attendance

Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Ashley Vickman, Parent, Walden Public School; Angelina Kasunich, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Rebecca Coughlin, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Alisha Basarabe, Parent, Algonquin Road Public School; Yvette and Jean Yves Tessier, Parents, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Racheal Aryee, Parent, MacLeod Public School/Lo-Ellen Park Secondary 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; Susan Cousineau, Principal, C.R. Judd Public School; Laurie-Ann Lielkans, Secondary Principal representative, Lesley Fisher, Superintendent, and Dan Koziar, Principal of Programs (K to 6), Rainbow District School Board

Regrets:

Tiija Luttrell, Parent, Larchwood Public School; Shannon Ketchabaw, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School; Jennifer Dalton, Parent, Adamsdale Public School; Heidi Ferguson, Parent, Little Current Public School; Sheila James, Secondary Vice-Principal representative; Meredith Coulas, Elementary Teacher representative

Call to Order: 7 pm

1. Welcome

Chair Melissa Gladu welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Self-Introductions

In person and online participants introduced themselves.

3. Presentation: Supporting Students in Mathematics Dan Koziar, Principal of Program (K to 6)

Principal Dan Koziar indicated that the Board is working with teachers, students and families to ensure coherent and consistent approaches to math instruction in all of our

schools. From kindergarten to Grade 12, students have access to a variety of meaningful learning experiences that enhance their understanding of mathematics, and their ability to use math in real world situations.

The Ministry of Education has defined three priority actions for mathematics education. These include: ensuring fidelity of curriculum implementation and use of instruction and assessment practices with a proven track record of enhancing student achievement; engaging in ongoing learning to strengthen mathematics content knowledge for teaching; knowing the mathematics learner, and ensuring mathematical tasks, interventions and supports are relevant and responsive.

In order to address these priorities, and enhance outcomes for all learners, staff carefully consider and plan mathematics instruction to ensure that students are provided with meaningful, impactful instruction that addresses the need to develop foundational math skills while also having opportunities to use these skills in a variety of contexts to develop their ability to think and problem solve mathematically.

The Ministry of Education updated the elementary mathematics curriculum in 2020. With an updated focus on foundational math skills, as well as helping students to see themselves as confident math learners, the curriculum has six strands: Social-Emotional Learning, Number, Algebra, Data, Spatial Sense and Financial Literacy.

Dr. Peter Liljedahl's work on thinking classrooms is the focus for problem solving. The best practices outlined in this model start with demanding tasks that invite students into doing the thinking and reasoning.

A number of resources are available to support families and students as they engage in math learning. While strong instruction is provided daily at every school, the support of families is invaluable in not only building student proficiency in math, but also in helping them to see themselves as mathematicians and enjoy engaging in math learning.

Math games – math puzzles, or card and board games can show that math is fun. They also require trial and error thinking, enhance numeracy and logical thinking, and promote discussion.

Math at the grocery store – talk to your child about how to weigh items on a scale or how to estimate the total bill as you fill your cart.

Math with money – create a budget together or save to make a special purchase to help your child manage money. You could go shopping together and ask your child to estimate the amount of a purchase, calculate tax and check their change.

Math in the kitchen – bake, cook and prepare food with your child. There are many great math opportunities in the kitchen, such as measuring ingredients.

TVO provides a variety of resources to support math instruction. Developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, these resources are intended to strengthen and support student math learning.

TVO Learn offers lessons that parents can use to supplement learning at home. While developed for educators, they provide activities and resources that families can also use to support math at home.

TVO mPower is an online platform that houses a variety of math games. These games are organized by grade, theme and topic and are a great way to engage children in having fun with math. Parents can set up an account for free to access activities with their child.

TVO Mathify provides FREE online math help for Ontario students in Grades 4-12. Students can get one on one math tutoring at no cost through their digital device. Tutors are Ontario certified teachers and are available online Monday to Friday from 9 am to 9 pm, and Saturday to Sunday from 3 pm to 9 pm.

The EQAO website offers sample tests for the Primary, Junior and Grade 9 assessments. For elementary, these combine elements of both the literacy and numeracy sections. For grade nine, it is purely math focused. These can be a great resource to practice at home.

There are also a number of resources on the board website under the 'Parents' tab to support families to engage in learning at home.

4. Approval of Agenda

“That the agenda for the meeting on April 9, 2024 be approved.”

Moved by: Steffany Bourque, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

“That the minutes of the meeting held on February 27, 2024 be approved.”

Moved by: Rebecca Coughlin, Lansdowne Public School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

6. Communications Report

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

C.C. McLean, with 176 students, had an outpouring of support from the community for their Jump Day for **Jump Rope for Heart** on March 28th, 2024. They raised \$13,712 dollars for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Students from 13 Rainbow Schools will participate in the 4th annual **Elementary Chess Tournament** on Thursday, April 11, 2024. The full-day event will bring together some 240 students from Grades 1 to 8 to play chess at the Local 6500 Hospitality, Conference & Education Centre in Sudbury (formerly United Steelworkers Hall).

The **Environmental Education Committee**'s efforts to encourage sustainable practices continues during Earth Month and Earth Day (April 22, 2024). The Earth Day theme is Planet vs Plastics and promotes further phasing out of all single use plastics.

Rainbow District School Board will present **Embrace Diversity: Free to Be Me**, a symposium with workshops for students in Grades 9 to 12 on April 18th. The educational conference is the ongoing work of the Equity and Inclusive Education Committee which includes community partners.

Close to 180 Grade 7 and 8 students from 12 Rainbow Schools will compete at the **Math, Science and Technology Olympics** at Science North on Wednesday, April 24th. For the full-day event, a team of dedicated teachers have prepared challenging questions and activities related to Science North exhibits and the curriculum. An awards ceremony will take place at 2:30 pm in the Vale Cavern. Parents/guardians and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Destination Readiness will take place on Tuesday, April 30th, from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Local 6500 Hospitality, Conference & Education Centre on Brady Street. Destination Readiness is a special event that connects students with special education needs, their families, and teachers directly with community agencies that provide programming and support.

A number of students from Rainbow Schools will participate in the **Skills Ontario Competition** on May 6th and 7th in Toronto. They will be part of Team Sudbury along with Cambrian College. More than 2,400 students will compete provincially in 70 different events. Team Sudbury features more than 130 competitors and 54 coaches in 41 events. We have 26 elementary students attending and a number of secondary students.

The **Sudbury Regional Science Fair** was held at Laurentian University on April 6th and 7th. Seven projects from Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, including six elementary and one secondary, were the only projects selected to move on to the **Canada-Wide Science Fair** in Ottawa from May 25th to June 1st, 2024.

Rainbow Schools will celebrate **Education Week** from May 6 to 10, 2024. This year's theme for Education Week in Rainbow Schools will be Spotlight on Literacy and Numeracy. In the coming weeks, we will share a list of Education Week activities on the board website.

Lansdowne Public School will host an informal music concert for parents and family members on **Music Monday** May 6, from 2 to 3 pm. Watch for more on Music Monday.

7. School Announcements

Yvette Tessier of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School highlighted the ASD Grade 12 Co-op opportunity in the cafeteria and the warm beverage club.

Angelina Kasunich of Lockerby Composite School highlighted fundraising as well as the Sudbury Music Festival, Viking athletics, and university readiness. She said the school newsletter and Facebook page continue to be an excellent source of information.

Alisha Basarabe of Algonquin Road Public School said the school will host its Spring Fair on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

Ashley Vickman of Walden Public School said Walden earned a Certificate from the Ministry of Agriculture as one of the top 10 schools in Canada for selling fresh produce. With its PRO Grant, Walden will host a Pasta Dinner and Numeracy Night during Education Week. She also highlighted Welcome to Kindergarten Orientation, the Coding Club, Dare to Care, and the Spring Craft Show on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

Ashley Vickman asked about the Family Portal. Nicole Charette indicated that the Rainbow District School Board is piloting the Family Portal at an elementary school and a secondary school this spring. The Family Portal gives parents/guardians access to information about their child's education from Aspen, the school board's Student Information System. The purpose of the pilot is to obtain feedback on the print resources and videos that have been created to help parents/guardians navigate the website. Parents/guardians at the pilot schools will be invited to complete a survey in May. Once we complete the pilot, we will assess the feedback to determine next steps.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School said the school raised the flag for autism. She also highlighted a fundraiser and indicated preparations were underway for the graduation in June.

Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School indicated the school will host a Family Math Night on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. She also highlighted fundraising for a Grade 8 trip as well as a trip to Europe in March 2025, sports opportunities for students, and the Grade 8 graduation.

Rebecca Coughlin of Lansdowne Public School said the Math Games afternoon was well attended. Parents spent time with their children in classrooms. A Literacy Day will be held in May. Grade 8 students are preparing for graduation and visited Sudbury Secondary School as part of transition planning. She also highlighted French Immersion Day, fundraising, visits to the Lancer Dome, intramural sports, the Chess Tournament and Music Monday.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School said the school continues to foster a school community with picnics, feasts and other activities. She said it was nice to see board staff serve food at the spring feast. This creates a good connection with students and further enhances the family feel. She highlighted sports, the concert at Sudbury Secondary School to promote French music and culture, a spring picnic with reading for Education Week, and Grade 8 fundraising for a camping trip in June.

Chair Melissa Gladu reviewed the final meeting date and topic. She thanked all parents/guardians and staff for joining us and reminded them to bring their ideas for the 2024-2025 School Year to the PIC planning meeting in May.

Adjournment at 8:35 pm

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Carried

Next meeting:

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7 pm

In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

Topic: Brainstorming for 2024-2025 School Year