

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7 pm
In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

Attendance

Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Erin Holloway, Parent, Copper Cliff Public School/Lockerby Composite School; Amy Hallman Gout, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Ellen Sears, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Julie Cuss, Parent, R.H. Murray Public School; Binita Bhatia, Parent, MacLeod Public School; Kylee McCormick, Parent, C.R. Judd Public School; Trustee Alex McCauley; Leslie Mantle, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Sarah Clarke, Mental Health Lead; and Coleen Eberlein, Elementary Principal representative

Regrets:

Laurie-Ann Leilkalns, Secondary Principal 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. Approval of Agenda

"That the agenda for the meeting on April 15, 2025 be approved."

There was no quorum to approve the agenda.

The meeting proceeded for information only.

4. Approval of Minutes

"That the minutes of the meeting held on February 25, 2025 be approved."

There was no quorum to approve the minutes.

The motion will be presented at the meeting on May 13, 2025.

5. Presentation: Mental Health (Part 2)

Superintendent Leslie Mantle provided an overview of discussions to date - PPM 128, the Board's new Code of Conduct, and the research from John Haidt's book *The Anxious Generation* about the effects of cell phone use among youth, and Mental Health, with the support of Sarah Clarke, the Rainbow District School Board's Mental Health Lead. The Ministry of Education established 11 requirements to support the mental health and well-being of students in Ontario. One of the requirements involves enhancing family/parent/guardian mental health literacy.

The purpose of this evening's meeting is to further discuss a Parent Involvement Committee project to help children reduce anxiety and build confidence by inviting students, with the support of parents/guardians, to do something they have never done before. When we support children in moving through their anxiety, we support them in avoiding avoidance.

The Thrive project is all about getting students to get out of their comfort zone and do something on their own. The more students do, the more they will be able to do as their confidence grows. Parents/guardians will also experience a sense of pride as students thrive. Even if things do not go as planned, the student will problem solve and become more resilient.

PIC members were challenged to build a Thrive initiative for Grades 4 to 8 to launch in Rainbow Schools at the start of the next school year. What activities do we want parents/guardians to consider to build independence? Committee members agreed that the activities need to be age appropriate, keeping accessibility, safety and students with special needs in mind.

It was suggested that students and parents/guardians build the list of activities together. It was also suggested that we not limit participation to Grades 4 to 8 given that some children are at different levels of development.

The School Council led initiative can be adapted to reflect the families of respective schools. It can be personalized and customized by schools. Every parent/guardian will have their own comfort level.

It was also suggested that teachers mirror the Thrive philosophy at school by having students take on more responsibility. Feedback overall was positive as parents/guardians saw benefits for children and caregivers, fostering deeper connections.

A Thrive graphic presented for the initiative was well received. Some parents asked that the graphic be Thrive Together. Revised artwork will be shared at the May meeting.

Questions were also raised about the roll out of the initiative. A suggestion was made that it be incorporated into a school event sponsored by a Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant.

6. Communications Report

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

As you know, math is a priority in Rainbow Schools. Math is important for many reasons. It promotes critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and creativity. From budgeting to baking, to the trades and technology, math is essential in all aspects of our lives. A solid foundation in math also opens doors to a wide range of careers.

Resources are available to help your child develop their math skills at home. TVO Mathify offers FREE Online Math Tutoring with Ontario Certified Teachers. Students in Grades 4 to 12 can take advantage of free online help with math. Tutors are available Monday to Friday from 9 am to 9 pm and Sundays from 3 pm to 9 pm.

The website features an interactive whiteboard, full two-way audio chat rooms, is accessible through a phone, tablet or computer, has image upload capabilities and much more. Visit tinyurl.com/tvomathifyregistration to get started.

This spring, students in Grade 3, 6 and 9 will write the EQAO assessments. You may be interested in an EQAO Math Webinar for Parents and Guardians on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 12 pm. This will be an opportunity for you to see examples of math questions on EQAO assessments. EQAO staff will share insights to help you support your child in math. Register now: tinyurl.com/eqaomathwebinar

Grade 7 and 8 students in Rainbow Schools will participate in the Math, Science and Technology Olympics on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at Science North in Sudbury. A team of dedicated teachers from Rainbow District School Board have prepared challenging questions and activities related to Science North exhibits and the curriculum. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony at 2:30 pm in the Vale Cavern. Parents/guardians and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Local performers will join music students and teachers from Rainbow Schools to celebrate the Joan Mantle Music Trust during a gala Community Concert and Silent Auction on Saturday, April 26, 2025. The concert will begin at 7 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium of Sudbury Secondary School. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. Doors will open at 6:15 pm for the Silent Auction which will be held throughout the evening. All proceeds will support music education in Rainbow Schools. The Concert will feature guest artists Northern Memphis Revival as well as showcase the talent of students and staff in Rainbow Schools. The Joan Mantle Music Trust

Community Award will be presented to Ralph McIntosh. This promises to be a fun night. To learn more, visit rainbowschools.ca.

Rainbow Schools will honour the planet Mother Earth Shkagamikwe for Earth Day on April 22, 2025. Earth Day is an annual event that celebrates environmental achievements and, more importantly, raises awareness about the need to protect natural resources for future generations. Schools will participate in an EcoSummit on Thursday, May 8, 2025.

And there will be many activities in Rainbow Schools during Education Week from May 5 to 9, 2025. A list will be posted on the board website.

Elementary Schools will host Kindergarten Orientation sessions in May.

Six young scientists from Rainbow Schools will represent our community at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Fredericton from May 31st to June 7th. They will be among hundreds of young scientists showcasing their works of discovery and innovation at the national level.

7. School Announcements

Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School said students had an excellent trip to Europe over the March break. Grade 7 and 8 students participated in Free to Be Me. The school's first Lego Robotics Team was recognized at the provincial level. Students are engaged in a variety of sports. The school will host a Fun Fair on June 10th. Special events were held to support the Grade 8 trip and autism awareness. Members of the Knitting Club will visit the Cancer Centre to donate blankets for patients.

Julie Cuss of R.H. Murray Public School said students released trout fry spawned in the school's micro hatchery into lake Panache. An Open House was held to learn more about the hatchery. The school will host a literacy event on June 5th. Students will attend the Tim Hortons Camp.

Kylee McCormick of C.R. Judd Public School highlighted student achievements in sports. Students participated in the Great Gulp. The school hosted a successful family reading event with its PRO grant. A local author attended along with Wahnapiatae First Nations. C.R. Judd is preparing for Kids Biz, an entrepreneur style fair. Classes participated in land based learning at Wahnapiatae First Nations. A talent show will be held June 10th.

Erin Holloway said Copper Cliff Public School students attended the Tim Hortons Camp. A Family Math Challenge was successful. Students participated in Free to Be Me. Lockerby Composite School hosted porketta bingo to raise funds for the graduation.

The format of the refreshed Science Technology Education Program (STEP) has been well received.

Binita Bhatia of MacLeod Public School focused on a number of school events from basketball to the chess club to MacLeod Idol, and a school play in May. A Fun Fair will be held on May 29th. She praised community involvement in the school noting that MacLeod hosts a taco lunch every month with support from a local grocer.

Amy Hallman Gout of Jean Hanson Public School said the School Council contributed to the Principal profile. The school celebrated Autism Awareness Day with a variety of activities. A Sensory Bin Night was well attended. The school will host a spring tea on May 9th. Students visit the Dome at Lasalle monthly. Students will participate in Destination Readiness on April 24th. Jean Hanson is looking ahead at year end trips and graduation.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School shared some highlights at Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, including Special Olympics and an upcoming pep rally for athletics. She provided an update on renovation plans at Northeastern, including the Life Skills class, cafeteria, a canteen, and new furniture in the foyer. The school participated in the Chess Tournament which was a huge success. She praised staff for finding a niche for every student to be part of their school community.

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 2025-2026 School Year to the PIC planning meeting in May.

Adjournment at 9 pm

Next meeting:

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 7 pm

In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

Topic: Brainstorming for 2025-2026 School Year