

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 7 pm
In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

Attendance

Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Bryanne de Casto Rocha, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School/Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Ashley Vickman, Parent, Walden Public School; Kelly McCauley, Principal, Walden Public School; Deanna Hardy, Parent, Charles C. McLean Public School; Kelly Rodriguez, OSSTF representative; Julie Cuss, Parent, R.H. Murray Public School; Trustee Alex McCauley; Coleen Eberlein, Elementary Principal representative; Lisa Puddester, Principal, Markstay Public School; Marina Goggins, teacher, Markstay Public School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Ashley Hurley, Parent, Alexander Public School; Erin Holloway, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Tracey Chapman, Principal, Little Current Public School; Sherri Toope, Vice-Principal, Little Current Public School; Stephanie Barnes, Parent, Little Current Public School; Melissa Harrison, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School/Espanola High School; Leslie Mantle, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

Call to Order: 7 pm

1. Welcome

Superintendent 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

Principal Tracey Chapman, Vice-Principal Sherri Toope and School Council Chair Stephanie Barnes provided an overview of the school's STEM Night held in May 2025. Activities included a Manitoulin Secondary School robotics demonstration, 3D printer design, longest paper chain challenge, LEGO room, escape room/lock boxes, music lab, science experiment and fun with Desmos. Participating families took home a STEM kit. Some of the workshops were presented by students, providing leadership

opportunities. The event enhanced the connection between staff, students and families, including many grandparents. Feedback was very positive.

Markstay Public School

Markstay Public School hosted a Family Game/Math Night and Dance Night at the end of the school year. Principal Lisa Puddester and teacher Marina Goggins said the event fostered a positive mindset towards school and the school community, celebrated the learning that had occurred, and welcomed parents/guardians into the school from its vast coverage area. Graduates returned to host some of the games. It was great to see families play games with staff. Some grandparents and neighbours also participated.

Walden Public School

Principal Kelly McCauley and School Council Chair Ashley Vickman shared details of the 2025 Carousel Night for parents/guardians, which included workshops on literacy, math, mental health and French Immersion. Parents registered in advance and, upon arrival, received a kit with resources for the three workshops they had selected. Parents had an opportunity to engage with Board staff while children participated in activities in the gym led by staff from Walden Public School and students from Lively District Secondary School. The workshops allowed for a deeper level of engagement regarding what parents can do at home to support their child's learning.

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 2, 2025 be approved."

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Erin Holloway, Lockerby Composite School

Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

"That the minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2025 be approved."

Moved by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Steffany Bourque, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Carried

“That the minutes of the AGM held on October 14, 2025 be approved.”

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Erin Holloway, Lockerby Composite School

Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes of May 13, 2025

Parents asked if they have to be the School Council Chair to be considered for PIC or if they can be the representative on behalf of the School Council.

Education Act Reg 612/00

School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees

Section 34 (1) - Parent members shall be appointed or elected to a parent involvement committee in accordance with the by-laws of the committee.

PIC - Terms of Reference (p.5)

Parent/Guardian members will be elected at the Annual General Meeting from the School Council members within the Rainbow District School Board. If at any time a PIC member no longer holds a position on a local School Council, they will no longer be eligible for membership on the Parent Involvement Committee.

Therefore, parents/guardians on School Councils are eligible to represent their respective schools on the Parent Involvement Committee. They do not have to be the Chair of their School Council to put their names forward for consideration.

The PIC Terms of Reference have been updated.

These have been reviewed by the Trustee and the Chair.

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

As stated in the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Terms of Reference, the membership of the Parent Involvement Committee should reflect the diversity of the Rainbow District School Board and its community.

Ten Parent/Guardian members will be elected from the School Council representatives.

The composition of the membership includes:

Espanola, 1 representative

Manitoulin, 1 representative

Sudbury, 8 representatives

The following parents/guardians were acclaimed to the Parent Involvement Committee at the Annual General Meeting held on October 14, 2025 and constitute the voting members for the 2025-2026 school year.

Melissa Gladu	Northeastern Elementary School
Ashley Hurley	Alexander Public School
Ashley Vickman	Walden Public School
Natasha Delaney	Jean Hanson Public School
Erin Holloway	Lockerby Composite School
Kylee MacCormack	C.R. Judd Public School
Bryanne de Casto Rocha	Lansdowne Public School
Steffany Bourque	Chelmsford Valley District Composite School
Deanna Hardy	Charles C. McLean Public School (Manitoulin Representative)
Melissa Harrison	A.B. Ellis / Espanola High School (Espanola Representative)

Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Prior to the meeting, Superintendent Leslie Mantle invited the PIC members to indicate their interest in serving in a leadership role.

Superintendent Leslie Mantle indicated that Melissa Gladu had expressed an interest in continuing to serve as Chair and Steffany Bourque had expressed an interest in continuing to serve as Vice-Chair.

According to the Education Act, Regulation 612/00, Section 38(4), Melissa Gladu was not able to continue as Chair because she had completed two consecutive terms. Subsequently, she indicated an interest in serving as Vice-Chair and Steffany Bourque indicated an interest in serving as Chair.

After calling for any other nominations for Chair, the following motion was presented:

“That Steffany Bourque be acclaimed Chair of PIC for 2025-2026.”

Moved by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

After calling for nominations for Vice-Chair, the following motion was presented:

“That Melissa Gladu be acclaimed Vice-Chair of PIC for 2025-2026.”

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Erin Holloway, Lockerby Composite School

Carried

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

“That Nicole Charette continue as Secretary of PIC for 2025-2026.”

Moved by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

At this point, Steffany Bourque chaired the meeting.

8. Review of School Council PRO Grant applications

A total of 16 Parents Reaching Out Grant applications were received and reviewed for the 2025-2026 school year. These grants enable schools to work with School Councils

on projects that engage families in their children’s learning. The goal is to increase parent engagement. Sixteen projects met the PRO Grant criteria aligned to Board priorities. The total budget is \$23,000.

PIC Chair Steffany Bourque reviewed the applications that met the criteria and highlighted the Board priorities being addressed by the proposed projects.

Motion:

“That PRO Grant Applications for 2025-2026, in the total amount of \$23,000, be approved for the following schools:

- Adamsdale Public School*
- Manitoulin Secondary School*
- Walden Public School*
- Larchwood Public School*
- Chelmsford Valley District Composite School*
- Jean Hanson Public School*
- Queen Elizabeth II Public School*
- S.Geiger Public School*
- Lasalle Elementary School*
- R.L. Beattie Public School*
- Little Current Public School*
- C.R. Judd Public School*
- Assiginack Public School*
- Markstay Public School*
- Lasalle Secondary School*
- Lockerby Composite School*

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Erin Holloway, Lockerby Composite School

Carried

9. Communications Report

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

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to Information Nights at all Rainbow secondary schools from now until February. Upcoming Information Nights include:
Confederation Secondary School on Thursday, December 4th at 6 pm
Lasalle Secondary School also on December 4th at 6:30 pm, and
Sudbury Secondary School on Thursday, December 11th at 6 pm

A full list of schools, dates and times is available on the board website. For Information Nights that have already taken place, there is still time to register for the fall. French Immersion students can continue in the French Immersion Program at the secondary level.

This month, Rainbow District School Board invites staff and students to host a green gathering, a shared meal where there is just enough food for everyone with no waste and minimal garbage.

Secondary students from Rainbow Schools will test their business skills at the second annual Accounting Case Study Competition on Tuesday, December 9th. The event, hosted by Freelandt Caldwell Reilly LLP, will take place from 9 am to 1:30 pm at the Holiday Inn. For the competition, some 52 business-savvy students in Grades 10 to 12 from Rainbow Schools and Sudbury Catholic Schools will compete in teams of four to solve a real community business challenge for the Sudbury Theatre Centre.

As we embark on the festive season, staff and students are spreading excitement and kindness in a variety of ways. A list of festive events will be available on the board website.

In keeping with kindness, Rainbow District School Board will once again participate in the Edgar Burton Kids Helping Kids Food Drive. Staff and students will work together to collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations to assist area food banks.

Metro is bringing nutrition home for the holidays. Students at Lansdowne Public School and Princess Anne Public School will receive breakfast kits of non-perishable food items just before the winter break. The kits will be delivered the week of December 15, 2025.

Manitoulin Secondary School will host its annual awards night on Thursday, December 18th. Last year, close to \$70,000 in awards were presented to students. We commend the community of Manitoulin for its continued generosity and support.

Lasalle Secondary School will proudly present "A Christmas Carol". Public performances will take place on Wednesday, December 17th and Thursday, December 18th at 7:30 pm at the Lasalle Secondary School Black Box Theatre.

Looking ahead to the new year...
Kindergarten Information Nights will take place in mid-January.
English Program: Wednesday, January 14th at 5:30 pm

French Immersion: Thursday, January 15th at 5:30 pm

Schools offering English and French Immersion will host one Info Night on Thursday, January 15th. To enrol, children must be four years of age by the end of the calendar year.

Just a reminder that the Board website features resources for parents/guardians, including information from the Ministry of Education. We also post all news on the board website.

On behalf of the board, we wish all parents/guardians and students a safe and happy holiday. We look forward to working with families in the new year.

10. School Announcements

Julie Cuss said R.H. Murray Public School had applied for a Field of Dreams grant to renew their ball field. She also highlighted festive events, including the holiday feast and choir performance.

Melissa Harrison served on the School Council at A.B. Ellis Public School and has now joined the School Council at Espanola High School. She looks forward to supporting the older students through fundraising and engagement.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School said the new sensory friendly playground equipment has been well received. She said students also enjoy monthly visits to the Lancer Dome. And she highlighted festive events and dental screening.

Ashley Vickman of Walden Public School said the new playground is progressing and the school is working on more grant applications. Older students are teaching younger students values, developing leadership skills. The school is inviting families to donate items so they can be recycled as gifts. She also highlighted a clothing drive, winter concerts and project kindness initiatives, including donations to the Walden Food Bank.

Ashley Hurley of Alexander Public School highlighted a book fair, food drive and fundraising. She said Alexander was pleased to host the Think Trades Trailer launch. The school is organizing a fundraising campaign to modernize the school yard. More information about support and sponsorship will be shared in the new year.

Erin Holloway shared the result of Lockerby Composite School's cancer drive, with \$43,000 raised. She also highlighted dinners, assemblies, spirit days, a career fair, awards, and the Adopt-a-Family initiative.

Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School said the food drive was underway. She noted that the CVDCS Robotics team made up of students in

Grades 6, 7 and 8 is preparing for competition. The school is hosting sporting events, and holiday feasts and concerts. Fundraising is also underway.

Superintendent Mantle reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and topics.

January 27, 2026:	Attendance and Lates - What you can do at home
March 3, 2026:	Thrive/Thrive Together
April 21, 2026:	Safe and Caring Schools
May 19, 2026:	Planning for the 2026-2027 school year

Chair Bourque thanked all parents/guardians and staff for joining us and wished everyone a wonderful holiday season.

Adjournment at 9:06 pm

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Erin Holloway, Lockerby Composite School

Carried

Next meeting:

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7 pm

In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

Topic: Attendance and Lates - What you can do at home