

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

February 23, 2009

Video Conference – Sarnia and Chatham Education Centres

Present: Gayle Stucke, Director of Education; Judy Krall, Alexander Mackenzie S.S.; Lynn LeFaive, Johnston Memorial; Tracey Machan, King George (S); Tammy St. Louis, Kinnwood Central; Heather Simpson, Ridgetown Public School; Dave Macko, Ridgeview Moravian; Peggy Johnson, Winston Churchill

Regrets: Scott McKinlay, Chair; Carmen McGregor, Vice-Chair; Wende Badder, John McGregor S.S.; Jo-Anne Snow, John N. Given/C.K.S.S.; Steve McNamara, Colonel Cameron; Tim Houle, North Lambton S.S.; Verna Ferencik, Tilbury District H.S.

Welcome – Tracey Machan

- Tracey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Business Arising

- There was no business arising.

2009/2010 PIC Committee – Recruiting New Members

- As per the current terms of reference 6 members will have served their 3 year term at the end of this year.
- It was suggested that one of the PIC Co-Chairs be permitted to continue beyond the 3-year term to allow for continuity and transition.
- Judy Krall advised that she will not be returning next year.
- Peggy nominated Tracey to continue in the position as co-chair with a new co-chair for 2009-2010 to keep the committee's momentum moving forward.
- The committee agreed there is a need for turnover to allow more parent involvement. To have 50% turnover would work well.
- Tammy indicated that she will not be staying on for another year.
- It was noted that the first year the Parent Involvement Committee was formed we did not have 12 members which allowed for 3 new members to join without other representatives leaving.
- **Members of PIC agreed to have a minimum of 50% of members stay on the committee to allow for continuity. If two co-chairs reach their 3-year term, the one with the minimum seniority as co-chair will be permitted to stay on for another year.**
- **Sue and Gayle will revise the wording of the terms of reference and send out the revised document.**
- In the instance that there are not sufficient new nominations, members will be permitted to remain on the committee.
- **Gayle will send a message to principals after Mach Break requesting nominations by school councils by the deadline of April 30. The message will include clarification that nominees are not automatically placed on the committee. Gayle will speak to the nomination process at the April 16 School Council Chairs Meeting.**

- PIC members will contact the school council chairs within their family of schools to personally invite them to attend the April 16 meeting and to encourage them to have their names put forth by their council for PIC.

2009-2010 School Year Calendar – Gayle Stucke

- A copy of the proposed 2009-2010 school year calendar was distributed. Gayle explained that under the Education Act boards are required to have a minimum of 194 instructional days and two PA Days. (The Board usually has four PA Days.) Up to 10 exam days can be scheduled with two of the PA Days used as turnaround days for secondary schools.
- This year Labour Day falls on September 7. Typically the first day of school would be September 8 however this does not allow for the required number of instructional days prior to June 30.
- Input has been obtained from other boards in the province regarding their calendars. The Board considered two options with the preferred option distributed. Some boards are looking at having 2 PA Days prior to Labour Day which would not impact students and parents; however this option allows for few professional development opportunities during the school year. The last day of school would be June 30 which is a Tuesday when normally the last day falls on a Friday. Some boards are reducing the Christmas break by 2 days.
- The calendar recommended by Senior Administration was developed in consultation with the St. Clair Catholic D.S.B., principals, and federations. This calendar has students starting school on Tuesday, September 1 prior to the Labour Day weekend which is one day earlier than the start date this year.
- Input was requested on starting the school year on September 1 with the last day of school on June 25. (June 28 would be a PA Day.) This allows for a 9-week summer holiday. It was noted that the majority of private sector companies and business are required to book their vacation schedules at the start of the calendar year. A later start date would result in a 10-week summer resulting in increased daycare costs for many parents. It was noted that many college and university students go back to school before Labour Day and therefore many activities come to an end.
- **Members of PIC supported the September 1 start date and stressed the need for the public to be informed of the early start date as soon as possible.**

Binder Project Update

- Deferred.

PIC Early Years Flyer

- **Tracey will forward Sue the draft flyer to committee members for review.**

Best Practices / Success Stories – Lynn LeFaive

- Lynn provided historical and background information on Devine Street and Johnston Memorial Schools and outlined the transition activities for students during the Devine/Johnston consolidation process.
- Timelines were reviewed for the establishment and recommendations of the Accommodation Review Committee. Information was shared on recommendations put forth by the Planning Committee.
- An open house will be held at Johnston Memorial School on Saturday, February 28. Funds raised at this event will be put towards the new school.

- Students have had opportunities to meet and participate in joint class trips. Open houses have been held at Devine St. The two school councils held a joint meeting. Following the March Break Johnston students will attend Devine Street School. The schools will operate separately within Devine for the remainder of this school year but will become fully integrated in September. There will be bus pick up points for Johnston students to be transported to Devine. The students are ready and parents have a common focus on what is best for the students.
- A committee has been formed to discuss renaming the new school.

2008-2009 PIC Funding – Gayle Stucke

- As discussed at the January meeting, a Suicide Prevention Workshop will be held on April 30 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Country View Golf Course. Two students from each secondary school along with a guidance counsellor have been invited to attend. Six students and two guidance counselors from Dunnville Secondary School will present the workshop. School representatives will be asked to take this information back to their school. Members of PIC and Trustees are invited to attend.
- Last year PIC donated approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500 towards the cost of purchasing books for the kindergarten registration package.
- **PIC supported donating up to \$1500 to pay for the Suicide Prevention Workshop as well as again providing similar funding for books for the kindergarten registration package.**

Director's Update

- Superintendent Warren Kennedy has been appointed to the position of Director of Education for the Greater Essex County District School Board.
- A posting will be issued on February 27 for a new Superintendent of Education. The Board is not aggressively recruiting externally for this position; however the posting will be sent to OPSBA and OPSOA. It is hoped that the new superintendent will be in place by mid April.
- The ETFO update from Minister Wynne was sent to members of PIC. Details of the provincial discussion table agreement reached with ETFO are posted on the Ministry's website. A synopsis is posted on the Board's website. The deadline for local boards to reach an agreement has been extended from March 31 to April 24. The next local ETFO negotiation meeting is scheduled for March 30. Mac Leitch is the Board's official negotiator. Gayle will participate and Superintendent Jim Costello will provide assistance in Warren Kennedy's place.

April 16 School Council Chairs Meeting

- An overview of the draft agenda was shared and input requested.
- Superintendent Ron Andruchow will give a brief presentation on the development of the 2009-2010 Budget. He will also provide an overview on school budgets focusing on areas controlled at the school level and the grants that school councils should have input.
- Elementary and Secondary Principal Representatives Sandra Perkins and Pam Bradshaw who have served on the central budget committees will present information on school budgets.
- Welcome greetings will be offered by the Director, Chair and PIC Co-chairs.

- Networking sessions will be held by PIC family groupings with PIC members facilitating discussions. Discussion will focus around 4 questions: How has your school council supported student achievement over the last year; What is an accomplishment you are most proud of this year; What is the biggest challenge or issue your school has faced this year; and What advice do you have for PIC as we move forward?
- There was support to have a presentation on how to successfully apply for a PRO grant. Judy Krall, Heather Simpson and Dave Macko will each give a ten minute presentation on their school's PRO project proposals and the report back process. A copy of their project proposal summary page will be included in the agenda package along with a summary of schools that were approved for funding this year.
- Peggy thanked Judy Krall for sharing her school project proposal. Winston Churchill will be carrying out a similar activity this year. New Kindergarten registrants/parents will also be invited to attend.
- It was agreed that break-out rooms will be assigned for PIC family groupings however based on numbers groups may want to opt for a more informal setting.
A list of PIC school area representation will be included with the agenda package. When inviting the school council chairs within their family of schools, PIC members will advise them of the networking sessions by area.

Networking / Challenges and Opportunities

- AMSS will be holding a May sale to raise money for Smart boards. The event will combine a craft sale, yard sale and plant sale.
- LCCVI will be holding a 125th anniversary celebration.
- Ridgeview Moravian is eager to have Tracey Machan attend their school council meeting as a guest speaker. She will speak to the change in culture and success of the school council at King George. Ridgeview Moravian is losing its Home and School committee. It was noted that the current Principal at Ridgeview Moravian was the former Principal at King George.
- Funds will be used to install a Smart board in the library at King George VI School in Sarnia. This year the school moved to the balanced day. Many parents are dissatisfied with the change. Tracey asked that any suggestions, feedback or resources be sent to her to share with parents.
- Kinnwood Central is on the balanced day. The snack program at the school provides access to a nutritional snack for every student during the first nutritional break. Two community organizations provide support for the program. Funding is available through the Student Nutrition Program. The Lambton Breakfast and Snack Program can provide information on how to get started and on how to apply for provincial funding through the Student Nutrition Program. Tammy will provide information on the snack program with members of PIC.
- Concern was shared regarding the age of student lunch room monitors especially in the event of an emergency situation. It was also noted that there is not sufficient time for students to eat during nutrition breaks. It was stressed that Ministry funding is needed for proper lunch room supervisors. Gayle indicated that some funding was provided this year in 4 or 5 schools for Elementary Supervision Support Workers. Additional funding is expected next year.

Future Meeting Dates

- April 16 – School Council Chairs – L.C.C.V.I. – 7:00 p.m.
- May 4 – Dinner Meeting – Rossini's in Chatham – 6:00 p.m.
- June 8 - Introductory Meeting – Sarnia Education Centre – 7:00 p.m.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- Binder project update. Verna will bring a sample.
- Follow up from the April 16 School Council Chairs Meeting.
- Peggy reported on the February 20 Governance Review Session she attended in London. Members of the Governance Review Committee obtained input from various stakeholder groups on how the role of trustee should be defined. The vast majority in attendance agreed that trustees should not be involved in daily operations of the Board but rather their role is to support student achievement, approve the budget and to ensure that senior administration is functioning to support improved student achievement. It was agreed that there should be a provincial code of conduct and that formal training and professional development should be offered to trustees. Parents were supportive of local boards having autonomy and control over local situations. The question was raised whether there should be another tool to measure school board standards in addition to EQAO provincial assessments such as a measure on safety. Minister Wynne will review feedback from all stakeholder groups. A final report will be posted on-line.
- Hamilton and Guelph are hosting regional PIC meetings. Dr. Betty Boult will present at the Hamilton session on April 17 and 18. The majority of PIC members were in attendance when Dr. Boult spoke to LKDSB School Councils. Peggy will forward information on the April 28 conference in Guelph for Sue to share with the group. It was recommended that we have representation at the Guelph session as it will focus on parents and communities as partners.

Next Meeting

- **The next meeting will be held on May 4 at Rossini's in Chatham at 6:00 p.m.**

Adjournment: 8:56 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary