

# LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

**September 14, 2009**  
**Sarnia Education Centre**

**Present:** Gayle Stucke, Director of Education; Carmen McGregor, Vice-Chair; Steve McNamara, Colonel Cameron; Marian Redford, Gregory Drive; Charlene Parks, Indian Creek; Lynn LeFaive, New Sarnia School; Tracey Machan, King George (S); Kathy Gabriel, Lansdowne; Heather Simpson, Ridgetown Public School; Verna Ferencik, Tilbury District H.S.

**Regrets:** Scott McKinlay, Chair; Wende Badder, John McGregor S.S.; Judy Krall, Lambton Central Collegiate V.I.; Tim Houle, North Lambton S.S.

### Welcome – Tracey Machan

- Tracey welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- The Director, Vice-Chair, PIC Co-Chair and Secretary met with new members prior to the meeting to review the Terms of Reference and discuss meeting protocols.
- Introductions were made.

### Selection of Co-Chair

- Judy Krall submitted Wende Badder's name for the position of Co-chair.
- Verna Ferencik put her name forward.
- The selection of Co-chair was deferred to the next meeting due to the number of members absent and the fact that Wende was not at the meeting to accept or decline the nomination.

### School Council Binder

- Sample binders were distributed for review and input.
- Two binders will be printed per school, one for the principal and one for the school council chair.
- The contents of the binder will also be posted under the School Council link on the Board website.
- The goal is to have the binders finalized for distribution at the October 24 Workshop.

### 2009-2010 Family of Schools

- The draft list of 2009-2010 family of schools was reviewed. Past members were assigned to their same schools as they have built a rapport with their family of schools.
- New members were assigned the remaining schools. Individual members can discuss changing some schools.
- **Members were asked to notify Sue of any changes by September 18.**
- **Tracey will share with new members the sample welcome letter developed last year.**

### October 24 Workshop

- Feedback from the April 2008 District School Council Chairs' meeting reinforced the desire for the opportunity for interactive sessions between school council chairs and members of PIC.
- It was agreed that evening meetings don't always allow sufficient time to cover agenda items as well as time for break-out discussion groups.
- Gayle contacted two guest speakers for the workshop; Gerry Townsend, former Manager of the London Regional Office of the Ministry of Education, now working in Toronto with responsibility for parent involvement at the provincial level and Ruth Mattingley, a former Superintendent with the Board who was seconded by the Ministry of Education to work for the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat (LNS). Ruth will present a workshop dedicated to how parents can support student achievement.
- The workshop will be held at A.A. Wright P.S. in Wallaceburg. Lunch will be provided.
- An invitation will be sent to principals and two parent representatives from each school (up to 200). If there is room due to some schools unable to send two representatives than additional parents will be permitted to attend.
- The tentative agenda was reviewed. The workshop will run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with refreshments available at 8:30 a.m. Gerry Townsend will address the group from 9:00 to 9:30 .m. Ruth Mattingley will conduct a workshop with half the group by families of schools with the other half participating in break-away group discussion. These groups would then alternate. An early lunch will be held. During the afternoon session Elementary Program staff will facilitate a carousel workshop for elementary schools that would model a Literacy Night. The session will offer practical ideas parents can take away. Secondary Program staff will run a simultaneous workshop that will outline the secondary reporting process and focus on how parents can be involved in secondary student learning. The workshop will end at approximately 2:30 p.m. Participants will be asked to complete an evaluation form at the end of the day.
- It was recommended that a sub-committee be formed to assist with planning. Verna, Lynn and Tracey volunteered. Gayle will arrange for Program staff to meet with the sub-committee on September 24 in Wallaceburg.
- It was suggested that perhaps draw prizes could be offered as an incentive.
- Invitations will be sent to schools by the end of the month.

### Director's Update

- An update was shared on proposed Bill 177. Boards have always had fiscal responsibilities; however the proposed Bill would hold School Board Chairs, Trustees and Directors accountable for student achievement. Last spring two members of PIC attended a Ministry consultation session on the role of Trustees and governance. Consultation took place with all stakeholder groups. The Ministry of Education would come in and assist schools boards not meeting student achievement criteria. Directors and Trustees have issues a provincial response as there is concern that the Bill will be seen as punitive. If boards were treated similar to OFIP schools Ministry assistance would be supportive. Further information on Bill 177 can be viewed on the Ministry of Education website.
- Re-registration of students took place over May, June and July to allow for voluntary self identification of students of Aboriginal ancestry. A letter and registration form was sent to all families. There was about 50% response.

New registrations and students entering Gr. 9 will be provided an opportunity to self identify. Self-identification will allow the Board to gather achievement data for Aboriginal students in order to implement differentiated instruction practices and strategies for staff to improve student success.

- Board staff continues to work in conjunction with the local health units and the St. Clair Catholic D.S.B. to communicate information to parents and staff regarding H1N1. School board directors and chairs took part in a teleconference with provincial Ministry of Education staff and the Chief Medical Officer of Health. An announcement is expected regarding the sequencing of vaccines. Vaccines should be available by the end of November. The first to be vaccinated will be health care workers, high risk individuals and children between 24 and 48 months. The Chief Medical Officer reiterated that there is no reason to close schools. Posters and brochures are being sent to schools to educate students and staff about H1N1 and precautions to be taken. The Ministry provided the Board with \$38,000 to purchase hand sanitizers. Sanitizer will be in every classroom that does not have a sink. Soap and water is still the best method for hand washing. Enhanced cleaning protocols have been implemented. The Board is to report to the local health units if we get to the 10% absenteeism mark. The key is awareness.
- The Lambton Kent and St. Clair Catholic District School Boards opted for an early school start date as opposed to students staying later in June. Neighbouring boards did not go with an early start date however other boards in the province did. Principals were instructed to assist students unable to attend school for the early start. Feedback was shared on comments within school communities.
- There has been a great deal of controversy around the naming of the new school in Sarnia. Johnston Memorial and Devine Street Schools are being consolidated into a new state of the art facility. A Trustee committee was formed to review the names considered. The majority of the vocal public wanted to retain the name Johnston Memorial School. The name approved by the Board was Russell Street Memorial School. Because of public outcry and petitions, at the last Board meeting a notice of motion passed to reconsider the name of the new school. It was a trustee decision to reconsider the motion which may or may not result in a different name.
- The 2009-2010 Central PIC Budget is \$8,840. Sue reviewed the 2008-2009 financial summary which will be posted on the website. It was suggested that a tab be included in the School Council Guide providing information on School Council funds and samples of approved Parents Reaching Out Grants.

#### Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- Secondary Program staff will be invited to a future meeting to speak to the secondary examination schedule.
- Community Use of Schools
- The sharing of success stories / best practices will continue to be a regular agenda item. Three new families were recruited for school council at the Lansdowne BBQ.
- Informal walk-throughs were held at Tilbury District H.S., S.C.I.T.S. and St. Clair S.S. where Gr. 9 students were invited to bring their parents to tour the school/ classroom and meet the their teachers.

- King George VI School in Sarnia did not hold class elections for student council but rather created a leadership program for all Gr. 7 and 8 students interested in participating. No one is excluded. Students are assigned tasks to help at the school. St. John Ambulance is offering training for lunch monitors for a nominal fee.
- At the regional workshop PIC Members purchased a book entitled "Creating Welcoming Schools". Lynn will pass on to other members.

#### Future Meeting Dates

- PIC meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. It was agreed that refreshments will not be provided.
- The district wide School Council Workshop will be held on Saturday, October 24 at A. A. Wright School in Wallaceburg from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- PIC meetings will be held on the following dates: November 9, 2009 at the Chatham Regional Education Centre; January 11, 2010 via video conference at the Sarnia and Chatham Education Centres; February 8, 2010 via video conference; March 22 via video conference and May 10 in Sarnia.
- There will be a District School Council Chairs' meeting on April 15 at L.C.C.V.I. in Petrolia.
- The Greater Essex County D.S.B. will hold a workshop on November 14. Annie Kidder from People for Education will be the guest speaker. Verna will forward information to Sue to share with members of PIC.
- People for Education will host a workshop on November 7.

#### Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on November 9 at the Chatham Regional Education Centre.

Adjournment: 8:09 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary