

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

May 9, 2011

Sarnia Education Centres

Present: Jim Costello, Director of Education; Jane Bryce, Vice-Chair;
Nikki Chateauneuf, Colonel Cameron;
Shelley MacDonald, Harwich Raleigh; Kathy Gabriel, Lansdowne;
Tim Houle, North Lambton S.S.; Lynn LeFaive, Sarnia Collegiate Institute

Regrets: Carmen McGregor, Chair; Dan Chauvin, C.K.S.S.; Marian Redford, Gregory Drive;
Kelly Steeves, King George VI (S); Lianne McDowell, McNaughton

Welcome and Introductions – Lynn LeFaive

- Lynn welcomed everyone to meeting.

Business Arising from the Meeting of February 7, 2011

- There was no business arising.

Assessment and Evaluation

- Superintendent Joy Badder and Consultant Ben Hazzard presented information on the four key areas of the Assessment and Evaluation component of the Growing Success Document. (A copy of the presentation will be included the minutes.)
- Program staff is in the process of writing a policy, regulations and procedures around Growing Success.
- Input from parents is required around the key areas: “R”, “I” and Below 50%; Academic Dishonesty; Late and Missed Assignments; and Report Card Comments.
- The code “R” represents achievement that falls below level 1 and is used in the evaluation and reporting of student achievement in Grades 1 to 8. Extensive remediation is needed since the required skills and knowledge of the subject have not been met.
- For Grades 1 to 6 and Gr. 7 to 10 the code “I” may be used in a mark book and/or on a student’s report card, including the final report cards, to indicate that insufficient evidence is available to determine a letter grade or percentage mark. For the report card, teachers will use their professional judgement to determine when the use of “I” is appropriate and in the best interest of the student. Secondary students would be candidates for credit recovery.
- The lowest percentage mark that a student should be able to receive on a report card in Gr. 9 to 12 is being discussed. Teachers would take into account a number of things i.e. the student’s self esteem, low attendance etc. Remedial measures and strategies would be planned to address the student’s learning needs and promote success in learning.
- Students receiving an “R” or “I” would not get a mark. Students on an IEP would not likely receive an “R” or “I” as accommodations would be in place.
- The Ministry is leaving decisions in these areas up to local boards.
- Students are expected to demonstrate academic honesty by relying on their own efforts and by doing work to the best of their ability. Consequences for academic dishonesty take into account grade level and age of the student.

- The process for evaluating late and missed assignments was outlined for students in Grades 1 to 6 and Grades 7 to 12. Teachers will use their professional judgement to determine consequences such as mark deduction and whether there will be an opportunity to rewrite. A list of strategies proposed by the Ministry should be in place to assist or prevent late or missed assignments. It was noted that the mark deduction for a missed or late assignment should not skew the final mark. The policy and regulations are written to ensure consistency across the district for all students in all pathways.
- Information was shared on report card comments. PIC members provided feedback around changes to report card comments under Growing Success.
- Implementation timelines were reviewed. The Board policy and regulations will go to Board by June 30 for implementation in September. Input was requested around timelines for completion of the parent feedback survey. Information on the assessment/report card survey will be sent to elementary schools to include in newsletters and will be posted on the website. It was felt that communication with secondary parents would be more challenging. It was suggested that Joy could present information to Board at the May 24 meeting and that information could be included in the News Release inviting parents to complete the survey by accessing the link [URL:http://tinyurl.com/AE-LKDSB](http://tinyurl.com/AE-LKDSB). Communication will be clear on the Board website. Jim will also speak to the survey at the May 18 Principals' Council meeting.
- Survey questions were reviewed. It was suggested that perhaps an overview could be provided at a future School Council Chairs meeting.

Budget Development 2011-12

- Superintendent of Business, Ron Andruchow presented an overview of the 2011-2012 Grants. (A copy of the presentation will be included with the minutes.)
- School boards are required to approve budgets by June 30.
- It was noted that most school board funding is much prescribed with the majority determined through the PDTs (Provincial Table Discussions) which includes salary and working conditions.
- Enrolment projections show a projected decline of 458 students in 2011-2012. Because much of our board's revenue from the education funding grants is determined by enrolment, boards with declining enrolment lose revenue. It was noted that the Ministry count dates for enrolment are October 31 and March 31. Typically we see a significant drop in secondary semester for secondary students. The elementary decline is expected to plateau.
- Ron explained the Community Use of Schools Initiative and funding for the CUS Outreach Coordinator. The position is shared with the coterminous board and operates through the CLASS consortium.

April 14 School Council Event with Annie Kidder - Feedback

- Positive feedback was shared on Annie Kidder's presentation.
- Parents found her 6 Tips very helpful. (A summary will be included with the minutes.) In addition to funding issues she spoke to the need to focus on what kind of students we want to see graduating.
- It is hoped that a similar session can be held annually.

Director's Update – Jim Costello

Suicide Prevention Workshop

- In light of the widely publicized student suicides this past year all secondary schools have had to deal with this traumatic issue.
- On April 14 staff of the LKDSB and the St. Clair Catholic DSB took part in a Suicide Prevention Workshop. A suicidologist from Windsor attended along with the local medical officer of health/health unit personnel. Round table discussion took place with staff, community representatives, trustees and student trustees. Following the workshop it was recommended that next steps include establishing a Youth Mental Health Committee between the two boards and to be proactive around the issue.

PRO Grants - Application for Regional PRO Grant

- The Board's Supervisor of Psychological Services is working with her counterpart at the SCCDSB around development of a Regional PRO Grant proposal focusing on mental health supports. Applications must be submitted to the Ministry by May 13.
- Regional PRO grants are available up to \$30,000. School boards, parent groups, non-profit organizations and post secondary institutions in Ontario can apply. Applicants are to involve parents in the planning of the project.
- PIC members were supportive of submitting a project proposal and felt that a portion of the funding could be used to provide training strategies for school staff and parents.

Funding to Engage Parents in Promoting a Positive School Climate

- The Ministry of Education provided school boards with one-time funding to engage parents in supporting a positive school climate. The LKDSB will receive an additional \$8,573. Under the agreement these funds are to be spent by August 31, 2011
- Options for the use of these funds were put forth taking into account the tight timelines.
- **PIC members supported allocating these funds along with any remaining central PIC funds to purchase resources that parents can access in schools that focus on equity, inclusion and anti-bullying strategies.**

Student Support Leadership Initiative (SSLI)

- Last year the LKDSB and SCCDSB were approached by the Ministry of Social Services re funding through the Student Support Leadership Initiative (SSLI). The Boards tossed a coin and the SCCDSB was able to use the \$20,000 for .5 release of a staff member to work with staff/schools around mental health. The Board's Supervisor of Psychological Services works closely with this individual. Another \$20,000 can be applied for by August 31. Funding could be used to purchase mental health resources, specifically the Suicide Prevention Program. This curriculum and training resource focuses on suicide prevention and mental health issues. The cost is \$8200 which would be split with the SCCDSB.
- PIC members expressed their support for the program.
- There is also money in the McGuinty budget for improving mental health in communities.
- The question was asked whether boards could lobby the Ministry of Education to introduce mental health issues/suicide into the curriculum earlier. It was noted that mental health tends to fall under the umbrella of Special Education which is not necessarily the case.
- The TVDSB and a teacher were recently named in a lawsuit for failing to act when a student disclosed in an essay that he was going to commit suicide.
- OPSBA is sponsoring the Summit on Child and Youth Mental Health on June 2 in Toronto. Jim and the Chair of the Board are attending along with the Director and Chair of the SCCDSB. Dr. Bruce Ferguson is one of the keynote speakers.

Future School Council Events

- It was suggested that these funding sources could be used to hire a guest speaker for another district-wide school council event (i.e. Barbara Coloroso, Dr. Bruce Ferguson).
- In future perhaps a carousel session could be organized with the Director and Superintendents to allow parents an opportunity for a Q/A session on areas of interest. Senior Administration portfolios would be shared in advance.

PIC Planning for Next Year

- Review of Terms of Reference/By-Laws to align with the amended Regulation 612 – School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees. PIC membership will be reviewed and advertisements for new members will be placed in school newsletters and on the website in September.
- It was recommended that more meetings be held via video conference as attendance at these meetings tends to be higher.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- PIC supported holding the first of the two district wide school council events on Thursday, October 20. **Sue will contact LCCVI and LKCS re availability.**
- Jim thanked PIC members for their commitment over the 2010-2011 school year.

Next Meeting

- Monday, September 12, 2011 – Chatham 6:30.

Adjournment: 9:43 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary