

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

November 8, 2010

Chatham Regional Education Centre

Present: Jim Costello, Director of Education; Carmen McGregor, Chair; Jane Bryce, Vice-Chair; Nikki Chateauneuf, Colonel Cameron; Marian Redford, Gregory Drive; Shelley MacDonald, Harwich Raleigh; Kathy Gabriel, Lansdowne; Lianne McDowell, McNaughton; Tim Houle, North Lambton S.S.; Lynn LeFaive, Sarnia Collegiate Institute (SCITS); Sue Fraser, Administrative Assistant

Regrets: Kelly Steeves, King George (S)

Welcome and Introductions – Tim Houle

- Tim Houle welcomed everyone to meeting.
- Dan Chauvin was introduced as the new PIC representative from Chatham-Kent S.S., replacing Mike Lowther.

Business Arising from the Meeting of September 20, 2010

- The minutes of the September 20 meeting were approved.

Growing Success Presentation – Superintendent of Education, Joy Badder and Consultant Ben Hazzard

- Director Jim Costello introduced Joy Badder, Superintendent of Education – Elementary Student Achievement and Ben Hazzard, Intermediate Consultant and the Board's MISA (Managing Information for Student Achievement) Lead who gave a presentation on the Ministry's Growing Success New Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting Policy. **A copy of the presentation will be shared with PIC members.**
- The current version of the policy impacts students in Gr. 1-12 but does not include students in the Kindergarten program. The second version which is expected for 2011-2012 will include early years.
- A copy of the parent guide Supporting Your Child's Learning Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting was provided.
- There are six essential learning skills and work habits now emphasized through Grades 1 to 12 in all Ontario Report Cards: Responsibility, Organization; Independent Work; Collaboration; Initiative; and Self Regulation.
- Changes to the elementary reporting process and timelines were reviewed. The comment bank will no longer be used in the elementary panel. Report card comments will be more personalized for the student. Sample behaviours were provided.
- As this is the first year of the new reporting process, teachers will be developing a comfort level with the report.
- Elementary schools are encouraged to move to the student led conference versus the old interview process.
- The comment bank will continue to be used in the secondary panel this year; however will be phased out next year. There is no change to the reporting schedule for secondary schools however learning skills and work habits are now on the front page of the report. Secondary students will continue to receive marks.
- Reporting guidelines will be implemented into policy once feedback is obtained from the various stakeholder groups.

- Input was requested on report card comments which will assist with next steps and program planning. PIC members agreed the more detail provided in the report the better and that specific examples of behavior should be provided.
- The reporting framework was developed by the London Region Committee which Ben sat on and the framework has been adopted by the Ministry. The mantra being “can you have a conversation with the child about the comment?”
- Program staff is working with Secondary Curriculum Leaders around phasing out the comment bank for September 2011. There will be continued focus on the transition years - Gr. 7 to 10.
- Changes to the secondary reporting process were highlighted. An explanation was provided around the lower percentage limit for secondary students which will be set at the local board level. Additional secondary changes will include guidelines around academic dishonesty and strategies around late and missed assignments.
- Bert Phills, Superintendent of Education – Secondary Student Achievement and Ben Hazzard will be invited to attend a spring PIC meeting to provide additional details on changes to the secondary reporting process.
- **PIC members will dialogue at their School Council meetings and poll family of schools for input and bring back feedback on the reporting process to next meeting.**

Feedback from October 28 District School Council Chairs Meeting/Workshop

- The summary of the focus group discussions around Equity and Inclusive Education strategies was discussed.
- The evaluation forms from the October 28 School Council Chairs meeting were shared for information.
- Turnout at the meeting was great. PIC members supported continuing to hold the regular District School Council Chairs meeting in the fall with principals in attendance and having the workshop in the spring.
- **Sue will email the summary to principals to share with the School Council.**
- **Jim will speak to common themes and exemplary practices related to equity and inclusion at the November Principals’ Council meeting.**
- PIC supported the idea of a multi-cultural calendar localized by community.
- The School Council of NLSS is working to increase First Nation parent involvement.
- Discussion took place on the removal of offensive literature. In some instances these types of books could be used as a teachable moment. It was suggested that perhaps Janette Richmond could be invited to a future PIC meeting. **Jim will look into Board policy around the systematic removal of books that are inappropriate or offensive.**
- Other suggestions included expanding the concept of voluntary self-id to other cultures to improve instructional strategies.

April 14 School Council Workshop – Planning

- Annie Kidder of the People for Education has been booked as the guest speaker for the April 14 School Council Workshop.
- The event will be held at the Oaks Inn in Wallaceburg.
- Details will be further discussed at the January meeting.

Director’s Update – Jim Costello

- The Annual Pupil Accommodation Report and the French Immersion Program Review Interim Report will go to Board on November 9.
- The Board is still facing declining enrolment and the majority of funding is allocated on a per pupil basis.

- An update was provided on the status of the implementation of the Full Day Kindergarten program. This year the Board introduced 19 FDK classes. Next year another 7 classes will be phased in. The LKDSB is the process of naming another 27 classes for Year 3 implementation. By the end of Year 5, FDK will be in all schools.
- Low class sizes in French Immersion, class size caps and declining enrolment all impact pupil accommodation.
- It was clarified that the FI Program is optional for Boards and is not mandated by the Ministry. Class sizes and vacancy rates pose an equity issue.
- In the past the Board has closed Section 23 classrooms based on enrolment.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

Courtesy Seats

- Concern was raised regarding the process for the allocation of courtesy seats. It was clarified that as per the Transportation Policy courtesy seats cannot be assigned until enrolment and eligible ridership is confirmed.
- Transportation is handled through the CLASS consortium (Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services). Transportation policies are the same for both the LKDSB and the SCCDSB.
- This year a sub-committee has been established to review courtesy seat protocols. Vice-Chair Jane Bryce will sit on the committee.
- Over 1000 courtesy seats were assigned this year. Courtesy seats are only to be assigned if there is space on a bus and there is no additional cost to the Board. A great deal of time is spent by principals and administrators handling parent calls re courtesy seats. The Ministry of Education discourages courtesy seats.
- Transportation concerns should be directed to the Transportation Department.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on January 10, 2011 via video conference from the Sarnia and Chatham Education Centres beginning at 6:30.
- Tim thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Adjournment: 8:53 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary