

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

September 8, 2008
Sarnia Education Centres

Present: Gayle Stucke, Director of Education; Scott McKinlay, Chair;
Judy Krall, Alexander Mackenzie S.S.; Steve McNamara, Colonel Cameron;
Joanne Snow, John N. Given; Lynn LeFaive, Johnston Memorial;
Tracey Machan, King George (S); Tammy St. Louis, Kinnwood Central;
Tim Houle, North Lambton S.S.; Heather Simpson, Ridgetown Public School
Verna Ferencik, Tilbury District H.S.; Peggy Johnson, Winston Churchill

Regrets: Carmen McGregor, Vice-Chair; Wende Badder, John McGregor S.S.;
Dave Macko, Ridgeview Moravian

Welcome – Gayle Stucke/Judy Krall

- A special welcome was extended to Heather Simpson who was attending her first Parent Involvement Committee meeting.
- Judy welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members re-introduced themselves.
- Bert Phills attended as a guest to facilitate discussions around the October 23 Workshop.

Selection of Co-Chairs – Judy Krall/Gayle Stucke

- There was consensus that the committee functions very well with co-chairs from the north and south.
- Judy Krall nominated Tracey Machan from the north and Peggy Johnson to represent the south. Lynn LeFaive seconded the nominations. Tracey and Peggy accepted the nominations. **The Committee agreed that Tracey and Peggy will be the PIC Co-Chairs for the 2008-2009 school year.**
- Peggy Johnson thanked Judy Krall for her all work as co-chair over the past two years.

Where We Have Been / Where We Are Going – Gayle Stucke

- Committee members reflected on the past years accomplishments and reviewed goals for the coming year.
- There was consensus to continue with the “family of schools” concept to improve communications with school councils. It was agreed last year that each member of PIC would contact the School Council Chair for each of their assigned schools and offer to attend a School Council meeting.
- The Terms of Reference established last year will remain in force and will be revised as needed.
- The Parent Involvement Committee will host a district-wide workshop for School Council Chairs and Principals on October 23.
- The Committee will continue to work to improve communications to promote and increase parent involvement.
- PIC will continue to be ambassadors for public education and to promote the mission and vision of the Lambton Kent DSB.

- Feedback was shared on the purpose and effectiveness of PIC. Concerns were expressed that the Committee needs to improve communications with School Councils across the district. It was suggested that networking needs to take place between PIC and School Council Chairs without Board administration items dominating district meeting agendas. Members were cautioned about the potential outcome of open forum meetings and the need for meeting facilitators. The need to balance the sharing of information at School Council meetings was stressed with PIC members providing input on setting district meeting agendas. A workshop will be held on October 23 in place of the traditional fall School Council Chairs' meeting. It was previously agreed that an information binder would be developed to assist school councils/parents.
- Further discussion will take place on improving the effectiveness of PIC.
- **Sue will obtain School Council Chair contact information from Principals once elections have taken place. Contact information will be shared with members of PIC.**

Communications/Family of Schools – Sue Fraser

- The draft school contact list was reviewed and changes were recommended.
- **Sue will revise the list and e-mail to members for final approval.**

October 23 Workshop – Planning Committees – Bert Phills/Gayle Stucke

- The sub-committee met in August to begin planning for the October 23 workshop
- The workshop will be held at Country View Golf Course.
- As opposed to three breakout sessions, two carousel sessions will be held that will focus on Tribes/Character Education and Media Violence. Each session will be interactive and allow opportunity for networking. Concern was raised regarding the numbers in each breakout session.
- An outline of the draft agenda was provided. The Board is divided into four family of school areas for which Academic Superintendents are assigned responsibility. It was suggested that School Council representatives be divided by PIC school contacts in order to allow for introductions/networking opportunities. The entire group will be divided into two groups to attend the carousel sessions. It was agreed that assigned table seating would allow for some roundtable discussion.
- Name tags and folders will be provided at the registration table. Contact information will be requested on the sign-in sheet.
- It was suggested that timelines be moved up by 30 minutes to allow travel time for those working. The dinner will available at 4:30; however opening remarks will not begin until 5:30.
- Steve McNamara, Tracey Machan and Joanne Snow will be the official greeters; however all PIC members will assist.
- Gayle has informed the Principals of the Workshop. **Sue will issue a reminder advising that formal invitations will be sent to School Council Chairs c/o of the school.**
- The draft Workshop Evaluation form was reviewed and input provided. A box will be added to identify Principal or School Council representative.
- It was noted that some PIC members attended the Media Violence Workshop and are available to present at individual School Council meetings.

Binder Project – Judy Krall/Verna Ferencik

- Following the Dr. Betty Boulton workshop, it was suggested that a resource binder be developed for School Councils.
- Input was shared on the type of information to be included in the binder.

- It was suggested that a sub-committee be formed to identify and bring back sample items for the binder. **Judy Krall and Verna Ferencik will take a lead role with Tracey Machan, Lynn LeFaive and Tammy St. Louis also on the committee.**
- **An update will be provided at the November meeting**

Sharing of Best Practices – Gayle Stucke

- It was recommended that the sharing of best practices be a standing agenda item.
- Judy Krall began by sharing information about the parent workshop she organized at Alexander Mackenzie S.S. that ran parallel to Gr. 9 registration. Following opening remarks by the Principal and School Council Chair of the school, parents attended workshops on the anti-bullying program, cyber-bullying and school code of conduct. The code of conduct workshop consisted of three components: the Vice-Principal reviewed school policies related to late arrivals and truancy; Resource teachers spoke to parents about available programs and supports; and Student Services staff provided an overview on student progress reports. Afterwards students and parents came together for a barbeque.
- The cost of the event was covered through the school's Parents Reaching Out Grant.
- Information about the workshop was sent out with the Gr. 9 Orientation letter to parents. Also included was a letter of introduction from the School Council Chair which included School Council meeting dates for 2008-2009.
- Parents were very pleased with the workshop.
- **Dave Macko will be asked to share information on the open house held at Ridgeview Moravian at the next meeting.**

Director's Update – Gayle Stucke

- Gr. 3 and 6 EQAO results improved dramatically within the vast majority of schools. The work of staff and students was acknowledged. The effectiveness of smart boards has had a very positive impact on student learning. It was suggested that perhaps a smart board demonstration could be featured at a PIC or district School Council Chairs' meeting. The Chair stressed that EQAO results should not be compared by school but rather the assessments are used to identify areas where additional supports are needed.
- An update was provided on the status of negotiations. The province has set a deadline of November 30 for Boards to have signed agreements in place in order to receive full funding enhancements. Local meetings are scheduled with ETFO and OSSTF. Elementary teachers want parity with secondary teaching staff. ETFO issues are posted on their website. The LKDSB website will provide factual updates on negotiations. The Director of Education and Chair of the Board are the media contacts for the Board. It was noted that relations between the Board and the local Federations are good.
- A provincial framework agreement has been reached with CUPE.

Future Meeting Dates/Times – Gayle Stucke

- **The next meeting will be held on November 3 at the Chatham Regional Education Centre beginning at 6:15. Light refreshments will be available at 6:00 p.m.**
- **Proposed future meeting dates will be sent out with the minutes.**
- January/February meetings will be held via video conference in the event of inclement weather.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- Information on the Suicide Prevention Program developed by Dunnville S.S. was shared at the last meeting. Wendy Badder previewed material and felt the program was very worthwhile. Tim Houle will review the package and bring back to the next meeting. **The program will be discussed with the Student Board Liaison Committee along with the merit of offering a presentation for students/parents.**
- **The goals identified last year will be reviewed at the next meeting.** It was suggested that a portion of each meeting be set aside to work on goals.
- Verna invited interested PIC members to attend the November Parent Involvement Committee of the Greater Essex DSB.
- **PIC representation at out of area events will be a future agenda item.** Information was shared about a November 1 workshop hosted by the School Advocate. Information will be included in the September newsletter or can be found on their website www.school-advocate.ca. **PIC members who attended the Media Violence Workshop in May have been invited to attend a follow-up session. (Tim Houle, Peggy Johnson, Joanne Snow and Verna Ferencik for the GEDSB)**
- **Information on out of area workshops can be forwarded to Sue for distribution to the group.**

Adjournment: 9:10 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary