

# LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

May 14, 2007

Chatham

**Present:** Gayle Stucke, Director of Education; Jane Bryce, Chair of the Board; Scott McKinlay, Vice-Chair; Judy Krall, Alexander Mackenzie S.S.; Tracey Machan, King George (S); Tracy Perron, Northern Collegiate Institute & Vocational School; Steve McNamara, Colonel Cameron; Jo-Anne Snow, John N. Given; Dave Macko, Ridgeview Moravian; Peggy Johnson, Winston Churchill; Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Ron MacDougall, Lambton Central Collegiate and Vocational Institute; Marie Marcy Smids, Rosedale; Helene Puchnatyj, Tilbury District High School

### Welcome

- Gayle Stucke welcomed members to the Parent Involvement Committee meeting and thanked members for their contributions over the past year. The work of the Co-Chairs was acknowledged along with those members not returning in 2007-2008.

### Business Arising from the Meeting of February 5, 2007

- There was no additional business arising.

### Report from Provincial School Council Symposium

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual School Council Symposium was held on April 27 at the Ministry of Education Office in Toronto. Parent Involvement Committee members Judy Krall, Dave Macko and Steve McNamara attended the symposium along with Director of Education, Gayle Stucke and Principal Brad Holmes.
- Feedback was shared. Judy Krall provided a summary of discussion topics. Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne was the keynote speaker for the symposium. The mandate of the Ministry of Education is to expand the partnership between home and school and to provide supports to engage parents. Dr. Betty Boulton shared strategies to involve parents in their child's education. It was recommended that copies of Dr. Boulton's book "176 Ways to Involve Parents" be purchased using funds from the Parent Reaching Out grant.

### April 11 School Council Chairs' Meeting

- Low attendance at the April 11 School Council Chair's meeting was disappointing.
- The break-out sessions were positive. Input was gathered from School Council representatives for the Board Growth Plan.
- PIC members felt it would be beneficial to invite Dr. Boulton to conduct a workshop for School Council Chairs and Principals with a follow up exercise to be held by area of schools. It was suggested that the workshop could be held at a central location from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. **Gayle Stucke will contact Dr. Boulton.**
- The importance of Principals working with parents to improve student achievement was stressed.

### “Drug Proofing Your Kids” Workshops

- Don Cook of Rebound presented the “Drug Proofing Your Kids” workshop on May 9 at the Chatham Regional Office. Some parents expressed interest in taking training to facilitate sessions in the south.
- A second workshop is scheduled for May 16 at the Sarnia Education Centre.
- Future workshops will be communicated more effectively to the school community.

### Development of a Formal Dispute Resolution Policy

- The need to develop a formal dispute resolution policy was previously identified.
- A draft document “Parent Support – Communication Guidelines” was developed to foster effective communication with parents and school and Board staff. Input was shared and minor changes to the document were recommended.
- **The revised document will be presented at Executive Council and forwarded to members of the Parent Involvement Committee.**

### Selection of Replacement Members for 2007-2008

- The following members of PIC will not be returning in 2007-2008: Tracey Perron (Northern Collegiate), Ron McNamara (L.C.C.V.I.), Helen Puchnatyj (Tilbury District H.S. and Marie Marci Smids (Rosedale).
- Vacancies were identified based on elementary and secondary geographic areas and specialized programs. Principals were asked to speak to their School Council regarding nominations for the 2007-2008 Committee. The deadline to submit nominations was April 30, 2007.
- Nominees for the 2007-2008 Parent Involvement Committee were reviewed and selected. **Gayle will notify Principals of the successful applicants. Principals will be asked to pass this information on to their School Councils.**
- **A membership list of the 2007-2008 PIC will be included with the minutes.**
- It was suggested that the new committee develop a strategic plan to identify how to best move forward. It was suggested that the Parent Involvement Committee develop a mission and belief statement.

### Provincial Evaluation System for Students and Parent Involvement

- Concern was raised that secondary report cards are not parent friendly; specifically KICA Categories.
- It was stressed that parents need to understand the assessment in order to become engaged.
- **It was suggested that perhaps Program staff could be invited to a future meeting to provide an overview of the reporting process.**

### Professional Policies Regarding Teacher’s Code of Ethics Regarding Communication with Parents

- Questions were raised regarding requirements around confidentiality for teaching staff and whether there is a code of ethics regarding communication with parents.
- **A copy of the Ontario College of Teachers standards will be forwarded with the minutes.**

### Open Discussion/Questions

- Fundraising will be discussed at a future meeting. Schools should contact the Business Department to obtain a charitable organization number. **Annually in June School Councils are required to submit a written report to the Principal, and to the Board, outlining its goals, activities and achievements. If the School Council engages in fundraising activities, the annual report must include a report on those activities. The Principal is required to provide a report to each parent. Principals and School Councils will be reminded of reporting requirements.**
- Co-Chairs Judy Krall and Jo-Anne Snow thanked committee members for their contributions over the past year. A special thank you was extended to outgoing members of the Parent Involvement Committee.

### Future Meeting Dates

- The first meeting of the newly formed PIC will be held on June 18 at the Sarnia Education Centre beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: 9:08 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary