

# LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

**November 20, 2006**  
**Sarnia Education Centre**

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

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

### Welcome – Judy Krall

- Judy Krall chaired the meeting and welcomed members of the Parent Involvement Committee. Members re-introduced themselves for those previously not in attendance.
- Judy Krall introduced Don Cook of Rebound who was a former secondary principal with the Board. Don also chairs a group entitled “Closing the Gap” that operates at AMSS.

### “How to Drug Proof Your Kids” – Don Cook, Rebound

- Background information was shared regarding Rebound, a non-profit volunteer organization. Rebound started in 1984 and has been in existence for 22 years. Programs are in place to provide supports to students who have been in trouble with the law.
- The PASS Program (Positive Alternative to Student Suspension) has been in existence for 8-9 years. When a student is suspended from school, as opposed to spending free time at home, PASS provides the student with one-on-one support. Homework assignments are completed and some behaviour modification and social skills training is provided.
- “Safe Choices” is a program for students facing drug related problems.
- The SNAP program targets students ages 10 and 11 that have already had brushes with the law. The Attorney General’s office asked Rebound staff to set up this program to assist troubled youth.
- The organization responds to the needs of the community. Over the past 2.5 years a program that provides lessons in life choices has been offered one evening per week.
- Under the Youth Justice Circle program all court and police referrals are received. The program allows the victim to respond to what happened to them as a result of the incident or actions. Third party volunteers take part in the justice circles.
- “Step Teen” provides training and strategies for parenting. Networking takes place and best practices are shared.
- The “How to Drug Proof your Kids” program was purchased from an organization called “Focus on the Family” and permission has been obtained to use their resources. A local police officer devotes his full time attention to this worthwhile program. Police are aware of who in the community is using drugs and who is selling drugs. Drugs that are widely used in addition to marijuana include crystal meth, cocaine and prescription drugs.

- Rather than waiting for students to take part in the Safe Choices program, program volunteers work proactively to raise parent awareness and provide strategies on how to be aware if a child is using drugs and how to intervene. Volunteers are interested in partnering with the local school boards to share information regarding the program with parents.
- The program is held one night per week for six weeks. The six lessons are entitled “Drugs. Just how bad is it? ; Why kids take drugs; How to educate kids to make good choices; Prevention tools for parents; Learning to intervene and where to get help; and A parent’s guide to handling relapses.
- It is hoped that the program can expand to Chatham-Kent. Normally 25-50 people would take part in each program session.
- Optional resources are also available regarding what kids should know about drugs. Brochures were distributed for information.
- Information was shared on how the program is funded. When the Young Offender’s Act was passed in 1984 Rebound was founded to create alternate programs such as life skills training and anger management. Sarnia-Lambton raised money through donations and bingos etc. No funding had been provided until February of 2006 when two government ministries provided funding for Rebound programs. Through government grants Rebound offices are now in place in Petrolia and Forest. Rebound has been recognized in Canada as one of the top agencies for crisis intervention for youth and has been the recipient on more than one occasion of the Donor award. The organization now receives funding support from the United Way.
- School administrators in Chatham-Kent utilize Justice Circles.
- Members of the Parent Involvement Committee agreed that the program “How to Drug Proof Your Kids” definitely fits within the mandate of the committee. The program encompasses student success, parent involvement, character education and anti-bullying initiatives. **An information session will be provided at the April 11 School Council Chairs meeting in Wallaceburg.**
- Funding to run the program could be provided through school council or school budgets.
- As there is no youth bureau within the Chatham-Kent police services. Members from Chatham-Kent will attempt to establish a contact to operate the program in that area. Don Cook’s contact information will be shared with interested community members.

#### Business Arising from the Meeting of September 11, 2006

- Gayle and Jane previewed the videos shared at the last meeting entitled “War is not a Game” and “Beyond the Shadow”. These videos are available for preview should others be interested.
- Gayle spoke to Trustee Susie Jones who provided the name of a more factual video on residential schools. Leslee White-Eye of the Ministry of Education will provide copies for Board use.
- On October 20 a ceremony was held at Ridgeview Moravian School to celebrate the introduction of the Delaware Language program.

#### Parent Involvement Funding 2006-2007

- Sue provided an update on how 2005-06 Parent Involvement Funding was spent. Last year the board received funding of approximately \$19,000 to assist parents who may find involvement more challenging. These funds have not been spent to date and must be spent prior to December 31, 2006. Program staff is working on a parent literacy night theme.

- Each school will once again receive \$500 to be used at the discretion of their school council to improve parent involvement.
- This year the Ministry introduced an application-based grant program for school initiatives to assist parents who may find involvement more challenging. The deadline for school council project submissions is November 20, 2006.
- As Part of the Parents Reaching Out Grant regional and provincial funding is also available. The deadline to apply for this funding is December 15, 2006.
- Discussion took place on how 2006-07 funding could be used. It was noted that local literacy groups are available to visit schools and assist with the set up of parent newsletters. Funding could be used for future presentations by Rebound staff.
- The Ministry of Education's website outlines tips on how to get parents involved with school councils.
- Information was shared on the cost of promotional items for the board as discussed at the last meeting.
- **Sue will provide a summary of how the \$500 school allocation was spent last year.**
- **Further discussion will take place on the use of funding at the next meeting.**

#### Update from the Director – Gayle Stucke

- Photos were shared highlighting the Chair and Director's trip to Korea and China. Schools in Korea and China share the same goals as our Board. Students are taught respect, to be good citizens and to be contributing members of society.
- The International Student Project is expanding to Sarnia-Lambton. Interested schools with available space will host approximately 85 Korean students during the months of January and February. A consultant from Learning Visions has been contracted to coordinate home stays in the area. In Chatham-Kent home stays are arranged by local church groups. A further update will be provided once the students have arrived.
- All eight incumbents were re-elected to the Board of Trustees; some by acclamation. Two new trustees were elected in Chatham-Kent. Randy Campbell will represent South Chatham, Ridgetown and Blenheim. Ruth Ann Dodman will be one of the trustee representatives in Chatham. A trustee orientation session will be held on November 21 in Chatham. It was noted that the Native Trustee is appointed by a committee representing the four First Nations.
- Education Minister Kathleen Wynne visited Chatham on November 18. Parent members were encouraged by her dialogue and that the Minister wants to engage parents and improve communications. Approximately 50-60 people were in attendance. The Director expressed disappointment regarding a community members attack on the move to the two-tiered bussing system.

#### Character Education Symposium – Peggy Johnston, Chair Winston Churchill

- Copies were distributed of the discussion document provided at the Character Education Symposium.
- Peggy Johnston expressed her appreciation for the privilege of attending the symposium as a member of the Board team.
- The Ministry of Education is placing a high priority for school boards to engrain character education and respect into current programs and initiatives in place. The Ministry would like to see standardized delivery in schools and classrooms across the province.
- Justin Trudeau and Craig Kielburger were powerful keynote speakers.

- Boards were challenged to enhance current models and programs in place. The government is providing funding to school boards for resources to expand programs.
- A key paradigm to implement character education is to engage parents, provide bullying training and to continue to focus on student success.
- Examples of character education underway within the Lambton Kent D.S.B. include Tribes, Justice Circles and school fundraising for local charities.
- The majority of elementary schools and some secondary schools have been Tribes trained. **Gayle will confirm the number of schools that have been trained. It was suggested that an overview of Tribes could be a presentation topic at a future School Council Chairs' meeting.**
- Peggy purchased a copy of a book for her school entitled "Me to We" that includes a teacher resource guide. It was suggested that the \$500 in school funding could possibly be used to purchase resources for school libraries.

#### October 17, 2006 School Council Chairs' Meeting – Feedback

- Positive feedback was shared on the October 17 School Council Chairs' meeting.
- Parents were very excited about the Pathways to Success program.
- Break away groups are valuable in building relationships with other school council members. In future breakaway groups could be organized by feeder schools.

#### Terms of Reference/Constitution for the Parent Involvement Committee

- Thames Valley District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee's Bylaws were shared for information.
- Using Thames Valley's model Judy Krall drafted bylaws for the Lambton Kent D.S.B. Committee members thanked Judy for her work drafting the document.
- **Members were asked to review the document and provide input at the February meeting.**
- The February 5 meeting will be held via video conference.
- **Agenda items for the next meeting will include the discussion on the development of a formal dispute resolution process and input for the April School Council Chairs' meeting.**

#### Open Discussion/Questions

- The purpose of the Parent Involvement Committee is for parents to have a direct link with the Director and Trustees. Members were urged to ask questions regarding educational issues.
- The parent engagement proposal developed by Program staff will be shared with the PIC for input.

Judy Krall thanked members for attending.

Adjournment: 9:05 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary