

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

September 10, 2007
Sarnia Education Centre

Present: Gayle Stucke, Director of Education; Scott McKinlay, Vice-Chair;
Judy Krall, Alexander Mackenzie S.S.; Joanne Snow, John N. Given;
Lynn LeFaive, Johnston Memorial; Tracey Machon, King George (S);
Tammy St. Louis, Kinnwood Central; Tim Houle, North Lambton S.S.;
Dave Macko, Ridgeview Moravian; Peggy Johnson, Winston Churchill;
Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Jane Bryce, Chair; Steve McNamara, Colonel Cameron;
Vicki Cofell, Harwich Raleigh; Deb DeBok, Thamesville Area

Guest: Joy Badder, Superintendent of Education

Welcome

- Co-Chair Peggy Johnson welcomed committee members to the meeting.
- Members introduced themselves.

October 18 Parent Engagement Workshop

- A draft of the invitation to School Council Chairs and school staff was distributed for input.
- Gayle Stucke informed Principals of the event at the August 27 Senior Leadership Annual Meeting. Principals were advised that they are expected to attend the workshop along with a school council/parent representative and a teacher representative from the school. Principals were asked to confirm attendees with Sue Fraser. Vice-Principals interested in attending were asked to notify Sue to have their names placed on a waiting list should space be available. Members of the Parent Involvement Committee will attend along with Superintendents of Education. Comments regarding the memo and invitation were shared. Wording changes were recommended
- Invitations will be sent to schools this week. Principals who have not responded will be contacted.
- It was suggested that PIC members wear name tags. Tags will also be available for attendees upon sign in.
- Co-Chairs Peggy Johnson and Judy Krall will introduce members of the Parent Involvement Committee.

Communication Between Parent Involvement Committee and Schools Councils

- One of the major goals of the Parent Involvement Committee is to improve communication between school and home and to increase parent engagement.
- A draft list of family of schools for PIC member representation was distributed for input.
Once finalized the list will be shared with Principals and School Councils.
- A list of committee members and their schools are currently posted on the Board website. Members did not support having their phone numbers and e-mail addresses posted on the Internet.

- **Gayle Stucke will e-mail Principals asking that the names and contact information of their School Council Chairs be submitted to Sue Fraser. Consent will be obtained to share contact information with PIC members and among other School Council Chairs only.**
- The Board's School Council and Parent Involvement link has been revised to be more user friendly for parents and community members. Additional input was invited.

Reporting on Student Achievement

- Gayle Stucke introduced Superintendent of Education, Joy Badder.
- Changes were made to the reporting process as the Ministry of Education has mandated that school boards report on curriculum expectations. The Ministry of Education's website can be accessed through the Lambton Kent District School Board's website where curriculum areas can be viewed.
- An overview of a sample Achievement Chart – Language, Grades 1-8 was provided. The various achievement categories were reviewed.
- Teachers are asked to report on strengths, weaknesses and steps to move to the next level. There is a standardized drop down comment bank to allow for standardization of reporting. Additional comments can be personalized for each student.
- Parents need to take advantage and contact teachers to schedule interviews to discuss student achievement and increase involvement.
- Report cards comment on specific expectations as opposed to general comments. Qualifiers are mandated. Achievement levels are reported for each strand in mathematics.
- Program staff has encouraged the development of rubrics for each subject area to identify what has to be done to achieve each level. Assessments need to be designed to measure higher order thinking. Assignments are geared to be open ended to allow students to expand their thinking skills.
- First term interviews are scheduled with all parents. Second term parent interviews are scheduled if requested or if there are concerns. Parents are given the opportunity to comment on student reports. Parent interviews would be a good discussion topic for School Council meetings.
- Feedback was shared on how the reporting and parent interview process could be improved.
- Joy will obtain sample report cards from neighbouring boards. It was noted that parents not understanding the reporting process creates a barrier to engagement. A parent guide to interpret student assessments is needed.
- Secondary reporting will be added to a future PIC agenda. Information could also be shared at a district wide School Council Chairs meeting. Gayle and Joy will urge Principals to explain student assessment to their School Councils and parents.

Director's Update

- An update was provided on the mould situation in schools. Through mediation, the Lambton Kent District School Board and ETFO came to a resolution to work together to address issues and that there would be not further disparaging remarks in the media. Both parties agreed to develop a plan to have all schools tested and reports compiled.
- In June the Ministry of the Environment mandates school boards and daycares to conduct testing for lead in drinking water. All testing was completed by the August 15 deadline. Tests were conducted on flushed and standing water. Only one school in the district, John N. Given, exceeded the maximum amount of lead in water. As a precautionary measure children under the age of 6 and pregnant women should not drink the water. To ensure safety, the Board closed off drinking fountains and bottled water was brought in.

In a recent article the London Free Press applauded the additional safety precautions taken by the Board. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent is investigating why lead levels exceed the maximum.

- A new Board Growth Plan will be distributed later this fall. Consultation has taken place with various stakeholders. The two main goals of the plan will be continued focus on improving student achievement and on safe learning environments. Once finalized and approved by the Board of Trustees, the three year plan will be shared with school communities and the public. Each June the Board will review what has been done to meet the goals and strategies outlined in the plan. Principals in consultation with staff and school councils should be developing school growth plans that reflect the goals of the Board Growth Plan.
- Local Medical Officers of Health and the Ministry of Education are recommending that schools boards offer female students in Grade 8 the opportunity to be immunized against HPV (Human Papilloma Virus). The virus, transmitted through sexual intercourse, can cause cervical cancer. An information letter and consent form will be sent home for parents to sign prior to students being immunized.
- The question was raised regarding how community events can be shared in school newsletters. Board policy does not permit advertising in school newsletters. Community events are often shared in the newsletters of rural schools at the Principals' discretion. Board staff tries to keep newsletters focused on education issues. It was suggested that this would be another topic of discussion for School Councils.
- Video surveillance is being piloted at North Lambton Secondary School and John McGregor Secondary School. Positive feedback has been received from staff and students at North Lambton regarding the video surveillance pilot. Last year the Ministry of Education provided funding to install surveillance cameras at the main entrance of elementary schools where the front door is not visible by from the main office.
- Principals set up supervision schedules to monitor bus duty.

Future Meeting Dates

- The Parent Involvement Committee will meet on November 12 at the Sarnia Education Centre; February 4 via video conference from the Sarnia and Chatham Education Centres; March 31 at the Chatham Education Centre. A dinner meeting will be held on May 12 in Sarnia. A tentative meeting will be held on June 16 in Chatham.
- The second District School Council Chair' meeting will be held on April 17 at L.C.C.V.I. in Petrolia beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- Secondary report cards.
- Parent Involvement Funding.
- Feedback on October 18 workshop with Dr. Betty Boult and next steps.
- Development of a mission statement and strategic plan.
- Improved communication.

Adjournment: 9:02 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary