

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

June 16, 2008

Chatham Regional Education Centres

Present: Gayle Stucke, Director of Education; Scott McKinlay, Chair; Carmen McGregor, Vice-Chair; Judy Krall, Alexander Mackenzie S.S.; Steve McNamara, Colonel Cameron; Wende Badder, John McGregor S.S.; Joanne Snow, John N. Given; Lynn LeFaive, Johnston Memorial; Tammy St. Louis, Kinnwood Central; Tim Houle, North Lambton S.S.; Dave Macko, Ridgeview Moravian; Verna Ferencik, Tilbury District H.S.; Peggy Johnson, Winston Churchill

Regrets: Tracey Machon, King George (S); Heather Simpson, Ridgetown Public School

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

- Committee co-chairs welcomed everyone to the meeting. A special welcome was extended to new members Wende Badder, School Council Chair at John McGregor S.S. and Verna Ferencik, School Council Chair at Tilbury District H.S. Verna is also on the School Council Chair Executive at the Greater Essex DSB.
- PIC members introduced themselves and explained their involvement with their respective school councils and within the Board.
- Gayle Stucke provided background information on the formation of the Parent Involvement Committee and introduced charter members and those selected for the 2007-2008 Committee.

Review of 2007-2008 Activities

- The Parent Involvement Committee was involved in a number of activities and initiatives over the past school year. Members organized and attended the very successful October 18 Workshop with Dr. Betty Boulton.
- Two strategic planning meetings were held where the Terms of Reference were revised to outline the purpose of the Lambton Kent District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee. It was agreed that PIC does not require its own mission statement but will support the mission and belief statement of the Lambton Kent District School Board.
- It was suggested that a parent information binder be developed to provide resource material to support parent involvement; to reaffirm the importance of the home and school partnership; and to assist schools in the development of effective school councils. Verna Ferencik shared information on what is included in the binder developed at the Greater Essex DSB and outlined best practices at that Board to increase parent engagement. PIC members agreed a binder would serve as a great resource tool for school councils. **Development of a binder will be discussed at the fall meeting.**
- A second district-wide School Council Chair meeting was held at L.C.C.V.I. on April 17. The need to improve communication to increase attendance at district meetings was identified.
- Program staff attended meetings during the year to provide an overview of the elementary and secondary provincial reporting process.

- The Board's Manager of Information Technology attended the November meeting to discuss and hear input on improving the Board and school websites.
- Special Education and Alternative Education representatives presented an overview on the implementation of Bill 212 – Safe Schools legislation.
- On May 2, representatives from PIC attended the Media Violence Workshop held in London. Components of this workshop will be incorporated into the fall School Council Chairs' workshop.

Lambton Kent District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee

- A copy of the Terms of Reference for the Parent Involvement Committee was distributed to new members. The terms were revised this year to incorporate a purpose statement.
- Each PIC member is assigned a "family of schools" for communication purposes. **Sue will draft a revised list over the summer and bring back to the September meeting. Members were asked to e-mail Sue regarding school preferences.**
- Feedback was shared on the effectiveness of communicating with school council chairs within each area. PIC members experienced some difficulty making contact with school council representatives.
- Verna noted that a central executive school council committee has been in place for 10-12 years at the Greater Essex DSB. It was noted that the LKDSB Parent Involvement Committee was established as mandated by the Ministry to support parent engagement.
- The mandate of the committee is to open communication and provide a direct link between school board staff, trustees and parents, to focus on student achievement and to identify strategies to strengthen school councils and engage other parents in the school community. The LKDSB Parent Involvement Committee is still in its infancy. Members were cautioned not to move beyond the newly established mandate and to continue the focus on the short and long term goals identified at the strategic planning session.
- Comments were shared on increasing the number of school council chair meetings. The need to increase the time for networking opportunities at district wide meetings was noted. **Meeting topics and frequency of district wide School Council Chair meetings will be discussed further at the September meeting.**
- An overview was provided on the meeting format and agenda setting process. Agendas are set with the Director, and Co-Chairs with input from the committee. Personnel issues are not addressed at meetings.

PIC Funding – Use of Remaining 2007-2008 Funds

- An update was provided on the balance of 2007-2008 Central Parent Involvement Budget.
- Remaining funds will be used towards the cost of a fall district School Council Chairs' workshop. **Sue will confirm with the Ministry whether funds can be carried-forward similar to last year.**

Fall School Council Chairs' Meeting/Workshop

- The committee discussed organizing an interactive fall workshop for school council chairs and principals.
- It was suggested that carousel sessions be offered with a focus on Safe Schools, Tribes, Character Development and Media Violence. The workshop would be for 3 hours with each session running for 30 minutes allowing for an opportunity for interactive time. PIC members could deliver introductory remarks highlighting information on Parents Reaching Out and school based grants.

- It was recommended that a sub-committee be formed to look at workshop topics with a safe school/character development theme. **Peggy Johnston, Jo-Anne Snow, Tammy St. Louis and Verna Ferencik volunteered for the committee. Tim Houle will forward information on the Media Violence workshop to committee representatives. Gayle will contact Bert Phills and look at possible meeting dates with the sub-committee towards the end of summer.**
- **The School Council workshop will be held Thursday, October 23.**
- **The Parent Involvement Committee will meet on September 8 at the Sarnia Education Centre and on November 3 at the Chatham Regional Education Centre. Additional meeting dates will be determined in September.**

District Update

- The Board is continuing its focus on improving student achievement results and narrowing the gap among First Nations students and students from other cultural backgrounds. The Board's Native Advisory Committee was reformed more than a year ago. The draft policy and regulations *Aboriginal Voluntary Self Identification* will go to Board for approval on June 24. The documents outline the process to provide the opportunity for all Aboriginal students and/or their parents to voluntarily self identify as part of the school registration process. Data will be collected and used to provide supports and program enhancements to improve student learning. Walpole Island and Delaware First Nations have approved proceeding with the self-identification process; however Aamjiwnaang and Kettle and Stony Point are continuing discussions. The process will therefore not be implemented until further consultation has taken place. To date 26 community consultation meetings and presentations have taken place in Chatham, Ridgetown and Sarnia. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers and letters were sent home to parents. The self-id process is to reach out to off-reserve First Nation and Métis students. **Gayle will report back at the September meeting.**
- An update was provided on the status of provincial bargaining. Provincial discussions with all unions began 3 years ago. Working tables have been established to develop frameworks for each union and federation. In order to receive the 12% increase over four years, agreements must be in place by November 30. Provincial frameworks will establish parameters for bargaining. Local bargaining will still take place with respect to smaller contract items. Provincial framework agreements have not been agreed to by ETFO or OSSTF. ETFO has started a media campaign. The Lambton Kent DSB continues to have good relations with local teachers and federations. Negotiation updates are posted on the Board's website.

Selection of Chair(s)

- Historically co-chairs have been selected, with representatives from the north and south, which assists with transition planning.
- Judy Krall and Jo-Anne Snow were co-chairs in 2006-2007. Judy Krall and Peggy Johnston were selected for the 2007-2008 school year.
- **The Committee agreed to defer the selection of chair(s) until the start of the September 8 meeting.**

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- Board Chair, Scott McKinlay shared information about the Suicide Intervention Program being offered by students at Dunnville Secondary School. It was suggested that this topic could be considered for the October 23 workshop. Student and teacher representatives from the school are willing to visit the Board to make a presentation. The information package was shared with Wende Badder for review.
- It was suggested that findings of the parent survey administered at the April 17 Chairs' meeting be discussed at a future meeting.
- The Director thanked members for attending the meeting.

Adjournment: 9:10 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary