

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of Meeting of the Director of Education and Trustees with School Council Chairs

Wednesday, April 11, 2007
Wallaceburg District Secondary School

Present:

Elementary Schools: Bright's Grove, Brooke Central, Colonel Cameron, Dawn-Euphemia, Dresden Area, Errol Road, Gregory Drive, H. W. Burgess, John N. Given, Johnston Memorial, King George VI (Chatham), Lakeroad, McNaughton Avenue, Queen Elizabeth II (S), Ridgetown Public, Ridgeview Moravian, Riverview Central, Thamesville Area, Tilbury Area, Wheatley Area, Winston Churchill.

Secondary Schools: Alexander Mackenzie S.S., John McGregor S.S., Lambton Central C.V.I., North Lambton S.S., Northern Collegiate, Ridgetown District H.S., Sarnia Collegiate I. & T.S., Wallaceburg District S. S.

Regrets: Scott McKinlay, Vice-Chair, Randy Campbell, Isabell Carter, Ruth Ann Dodman, David Goldsmith, Elizabeth Hudie, Carmen McGregor, Paul Millman, Bruce Stonefish, Trustees
A. A. Wright, Aberarder Central, Bosanquet Central, Bridgeview, Brigden, Cathcart, Confederation Central, D.A. Gordon, Devine Street, East Lambton, Errol Village, Grand Bend, Hanna Memorial, Harwich-Raleigh, High Park, Hillcrest/Queen Elizabeth II, Indian Creek Road, King George VI (Sarnia), Kinnwood Central, Lambton Central Centennial, Lansdowne, London Road, Merlin Area, Mooretown Courtright, Queen Elizabeth II (Chatham), Rosedale, Sir John Moore, South Plympton/Wyoming, Tecumseh, Victor Lauriston, W. J. Baird, Zone Central, Blenheim District H.S., Chatham-Kent S.S., Lambton-Kent Composite School, St. Clair S.S., Tilbury District H.S.

Staff: Gayle Stucke, Director of Education
Ron Andruchow, Superintendent of Business

Trustees: Jane Bryce, Chair, Jim Townsend, Trustee

Administrative
Assistant/Recorder: Sue Fraser

Call to Order and Introductions

Principal Buchanan welcomed School Council Chairs to Wallaceburg District S.S. and thanked attendees for being part of their school council.

Roberta Buchanan introduced the Chair of the Board, Jane Bryce.

Welcome and Greetings

Chair Jane Bryce welcomed school council members. The Chair urged attendees to review the Board's publication "Learning Matters", an educational update unique to our district.

The logo of the Lambton Kent District School Board – "Student Achievement, Community Success" is the reason that Trustees serve on the Board. Chair Bryce, introduced Trustee Jim Townsend who represents the Corunna area.

Chair Bryce thanked school council chairs for their involvement in their school community and for being part of the Board team.

Roberta Buchanan introduced Jo-Anne Snow and Judy Krall, Co-chairs of the Parent Involvement Committee.

Parent Involvement Committee Update – Co-Chairs Jo-Anne Snow, Judy Krall

Jo-Anne Snow indicated that in its inaugural year, the Parent Involvement Committee will have met five times. A number of educational issues were discussed and best practices shared. Issues included Aboriginal Education, the International Student Project, School Council Funding and Parents Reaching Out Grants. At the November meeting, Don Cook of Rebound gave an informative presentation on "How to Drug Proof Your Kids". Committee members developed a formal Terms of Reference that outlined the purpose of the committee, membership, selection process, and responsibilities of members. It was noted that members of school councils do not have to be the chair of their council to be a member of the central Parent Involvement Committee.

School Council members were invited to take part in a networking opportunity through a Yahoo User Group. Individuals interested in participating in the networking group were asked to complete a consent form. Copies of the form were made available for school council chairs to take back to their schools.

Co-Chair Judy Krall reviewed the selection process of the committee and noted that members will be sought to represent both elementary and secondary schools, geographic areas and specialized programs. In 2006-2007 there were 10 school council members on the Parent Involvement Committee. In 2007-2008 the committee will expand to 12 members, allowing for two additional "members at large". **School Councils are asked to submit the names of nominees for the Parent Involvement Committee to the attention of Sue Fraser by April 30.**

The Parent Involvement Committee will host two workshops on "Drug Proofing Your Kids". The workshops will be presented by Don Cook on May 9 at McNaughton Avenue P.S. (connected to the Chatham Regional Education Centre) and on May 16 at the Sarnia Education Centre from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Board Rooms. **The Director will send a notice to Principals to share with their school councils regarding the workshops and reminding them to submit nominations for the Parent Involvement Committee.** The Parent Involvement Committee will cover the cost of the presentations.

Parent Involvement Committee members in attendance were introduced. Committee co-chairs thanked school council representatives for the work they have carried out this school year.

Roberta Buchanan introduced Superintendent of Business, Ron Andruchow.

Ron Andruchow gave a presentation outlining the Ministry grants for 2007-08 and the funding model improvements. A copy of the presentation was provided.

Education funding for the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) in 2007-2008 will be \$18.26B, an increase of \$781M (4.5%) from 2006-07. Per pupil funding in 2007-08 will rise to over \$9,400 an increase of \$460 (5.1%) per pupil in 2006-07.

The government will introduce three new grants/allocations: Program Enhancement Grant, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Supplement and the Support Schools Allocation. The Program Enhancement Grant is to support programs such as arts, music, physical education and outdoor education. Under the Program Enhancement Grant, funding is calculated on a per-school basis of \$7,500 per school which means the Board will receive \$495,000. It was noted that this year boards will have flexibility in deciding how to use the funding. A decision has not been made as to how these funds will be allocated.

The First Nations funding is broken down into three categories; to fund Native Language programs, to provide funding for Native Studies courses and an Aboriginal student amount. The Lambton Kent District School Board will receive \$317,088.

The Support Schools Allocation (previously Rural School Funding) is to provide ongoing and stable funding for small Ontario schools where elementary schools are separated by a distance of 30 km or more and secondary schools by 60 km or more. The LKDSB is not eligible to receive funding under this grant.

Under Special Education, additional funding is being provided to ensure the High Needs Amount funding remains stable for boards with declining enrolment and will increase for boards seeing growth. Changes to the Special Education funding formula are being studied but changes have yet to be announced.

A 2% increase will be applied to base funding for student transportation for increased busing costs as a result of fuel prices and other financial pressures. Boards in declining enrolment will not see a reduction in funding in 2006-07. Clarification was provided on the changes to transportation of students to French Immersion Schools. French Immersion is being phased out at Bosanquet Central School due to enrolment decline.

The Ministry will provide funding to increase the Primary Class Size Reduction Amount to \$745 per pupil to support the addition of new teachers. The Board will receive funding in the amount of \$1,230,150. School boards will be required to meet the requirement of at least 90% of primary classes having 20 or fewer students by the beginning of 2007-08. Boards can have up to 10% of primary classes up to a maximum of 23 students. In most cases space is available in schools. Renovations are underway at McNaughton Avenue and Cathcart Schools to address accommodation issues.

The government has increased funding to cover the 3% salary benchmarks for teaching and non-teaching staff in 2007-08; the addition of elementary specialist teachers; the increase in elementary teacher preparation time; and the addition of secondary Student Success teachers.

Funding for Stage 3 of the Good Places to Learn grant for school capital projects has yet to be announced. The Board hopes that funding will be provided to consolidate Devine Street P.S. and Johnston Memorial P.S. on the Johnston Memorial site.

For 2007-08 the Ministry will continue to support initiatives outside the GSN, including: Literacy and Numeracy, Student Success, Official Languages in Education, MISA, New Teacher Induction Program, Parent Engagement, Safe Schools, Aboriginal Education and others.

Information was provided on elementary and secondary enrolment trends, both locally and across the province. School board funding is based on enrolment. In 2007-08, the Lambton Kent District School Board is projecting an enrolment decline in both elementary and secondary schools.

Superintendent Andruchow invited school council representatives to provide input on the 2007-08 budget development through the interactive exercise in the next portion of the meeting.

Strategic Planning – Gayle Stucke

Background information was shared on the development of the Board's previous growth plan. Three years ago the Director conducted a series of interviews with individuals from various stakeholder groups as part of her Entry Plan. Data gathered was collated and used by the Board of Trustees and Senior Administration to develop the Board Growth Plan.

The Board Growth Plan focused on three goals; improving student achievement, maximizing the potential of all employees and promoting the Lambton Kent D.S.B. (or getting the good news out). At the end of each of the past three years, Board staff analyzes data collected to determine how we are doing in achieving the goals identified. As a Board we have moved slowly upward. The Board now needs to identify or re-confirm goals for the next three years. Trustees are elected for a term of four years which began in November 2006. Strategic planning sessions and focus group meetings are taking place with Trustees, Senior Administration and representatives from each stakeholder group.

The Director asked school council members to think back to identify changes they have seen in their schools over the past three year and how the Board/schools are different. Changes included smart boards, video surveillance systems, Best Start/daycare programs, introduction of the Delaware Language program, completion of major construction projects and an increase in respect by students and school tone.

School council representatives were divided in groups (Chatham and rural Chatham-Kent, City of Sarnia and rural Lambton) to provide input on what the Board's focus should be over the next three years.

Groups reconvened and each spokesperson for the group identified and spoke to their first, second and third priority.

Data gathered will be tallied and information will be shared with the strategic planning focus group on April 25. (Summary attached) Once information is gathered from all stakeholder groups, goals will be identified for the Board Growth Plan. The Board Growth Plan will be published and distributed. The Director urged members of the school community to the Board accountable as there are no excuses. “We work with the kids we’ve got.”

Bruce Ritchie, the School Council Chair of Northern Collegiate provided information on the Great FASD Ride Across Canada. The event is a rolling summer camp for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness. School council support is welcome.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Gayle Stucke invited any school council members interested in hearing an update on the mould issue in schools to stay following the meeting. The Board is struggling to counter a media campaign launched by provincial ETFO on mould. Background information on the mould concerns in schools was shared. A fact sheet “Health Risks of Mould” developed by the Community Health Services Department was shared. The Director asked for input from school council representatives on how to address the situation and stressed that no one is to blame but that we need to work together to fix the problem. Ideally all portables would be removed and replaced; however the Board cannot use classroom funding for facility upgrades. The Director advised that a large number of board staff and outside consultants are working hard to address the problem.

Next Meeting - The next meeting will take place in the fall at L.C.C.V.I. in Petrolia beginning at 7:00 p.m. The date will be confirmed.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary