

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

Thursday, April 20, 2006

Lambton Central Collegiate Vocation Institute (L.C.C.V.I.), Petrolia

Present:

Elementary Schools: Bosanquet Central, Bridgeview, Bright's Grove, Colonel Cameron, Dawn-Euphemia, Dresden Area, East Lambton, Errol Road, Errol Village, High Park, Hillcrest/Queen Elizabeth II, Indian Creek Road, John N. Given, Johnston Memorial, King George VI (Chatham), King George VI (Sarnia), Lambton Centennial, Lansdowne, Merlin Area, Mooretown Courtright, Queen Elizabeth II (S), Ridgeview Moravian, Riverview Central, Sir John Moore, Wheatley Area, Winston Churchill

Secondary Schools: Alexander Mackenzie S.S., Lambton Central C.V.I., Lambton-Kent Composite School, Northern Collegiate, Sarnia Collegiate I. & T.S., St. Clair S.S., Wallaceburg District S. S.

Regrets: Scott McKinlay, Vice-Chair, Isabell Carter, David Goldsmith, Elizabeth Hudie, Carmen McGregor, Richard Whittington, Trustees
A. A. Wright, Aberarder Central, Brigden, Brooke Central, Cathcart, Confederation Central, D. A. Gordon, Devine Street, Grand Bend, Gregory Drive, H. W. Burgess, Hanna Memorial, Harwich-Raleigh, Kinnwood Central, Lakeroad, London Road, McNaughton Ave., Queen Elizabeth II (Chatham), Ridgetown Public, Rosedale, South Plympton/Wyoming, Tecumseh, Thamesville Area, Tilbury Area, Victor Lauriston, W. J. Baird, Zone Central, Blenheim District H.S., Chatham-Kent S.S., John McGregor S.S., North Lambton S.S., Ridgetown District H.S., Tilbury District H.S.

Senior Administration: Gayle Stucke, Director of Education
Ron Andruchow, Superintendent of Business
Jim Costello, Superintendent of Education – Special Education

Trustees: Jane Bryce, Chair, Susie Jones, Graham McIntyre, Paul Millman, James Townsend

Administrative Assistant/Recorder: Sue Fraser

Call to Order and Introductions

Principal, Bert Phills, welcomed School Council Chairs to L.C.C.V.I. and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

A video presentation was shared highlighting the many opportunities offered at L.C.C.V.I.

Bert welcomed honoured guests and introduced Jane Bryce, Paul Millman, James Townsend, Graham McIntyre, Susie Jones, Jim Costello, Ron Andruchow and Director Gayle Stucke.

Welcome and Greetings from the Board

Chair Jane Bryce brought greetings on behalf of the Board and shared a quote “*Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. It comes into us at midnight very clean. It’s perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands and hopes we’ve learnt something from yesterday.*” The Chair expressed sincere appreciation to all in attendance for their commitment to public education, and dedication and pride in our system, our schools and most of all our students. School council representatives were encouraged to continue to find ways to celebrate student achievement and successes, and to continue to be involved as visionaries, ready to change the shape of the future. Trustees of the Lambton Kent District School Board are locally elected, for the good of the whole, governing today and holding in trust the interests for tomorrow.

Director’s Report

Gayle Stucke thanked School Council Chairs and Trustees for travelling to Petrolia for the meeting. The Director indicated that this is an exciting time in education with many new initiatives being introduced and positive things happening every day. The Ministry of Education is taking a positive stand on promoting public education through funding and emphasis on schools that have in the past been at risk. Former Education Minister Gerard Kennedy did a lot to promote public education in Ontario. Newly appointed Education Minister Sandra Pupatello is from the Windsor Essex area and will have an understanding of district issues.

The implementation of the Best Start program has been impacted by the change in Federal government. The national daycare program is no longer in existence. School boards are working with the local municipalities to move ahead with the implementation of Best Start programs approved through first year capital funding.

The Ministry has introduced the Parental Involvement Policy wherein \$500 in funding will be provided to individual school councils to assist with expenses incurred to operate school councils or to provide professional development opportunities for members of School Councils. The Ministry is looking at ways to engage parents. Each Board will establish a central Parental Involvement Committee to link with Trustees and Director of Education.

School Council representatives will be asked to complete a survey later in the meeting to obtain input and feedback on how we should grow as a district school board and to determine interest in being involved on a central committee.

The Director gave a presentation showing highlights of students across the district participating in health initiatives, art, music and drama presentations, assemblies with motivational speakers, robotics, engineering week activities, horticulture courses, field trips, fire and safety programs, fundraising and canvassing for charitable organizations and athletics. Two students from Wallaceburg District S.S. were selected to attend the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Awards ceremony in Vancouver. Community involvement, school involvement, as well as academic achievement were factors in determining the criteria in selecting the students. A student from SCITS recently won the Marion Drysdale Provincial OSSTFAward for her prose entry. OSSTF President Rhonda Kimberley Young and Minister of Education, Gerard Kennedy presented the award.

Director Stucke stressed that we can continue to move forward as a Board and improve student achievement by meeting challenges and sharing successes together.

School Council Chairs, Trustees and Principals in attendance were divided into two smaller groups to hear presentations given by members of the Board's Senior Administration Team. Superintendent of Business Ron Andruchow presented information on Ministry updates and the 2006-2007 Budget development. (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is included with the minutes of the meeting.)

Jim Costello, Superintendent of Education - Special Education gave a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the Special Education programs offered by the Lambton Kent District School Board and how these programs are funded by the Ministry of Education. Information was also provided on the mandate of the Special Education Advisory Committee. (A copy of the presentation is included with the minutes of the meeting.)

A question and answer period was held following each of the presentations.

Director Stucke provided an update on how the Board is working towards meeting the goals outlined in the 2004-2005/2005-2006 Board Growth Plan and the next steps. The goals will be reviewed and district input will be obtained from all stakeholders and employee groups. School Council Chairs were asked to complete a survey in order to obtain information for use during the development of the next Board Growth Plan. School representatives and Trustees were divided into groups to discuss and complete the School Council Chairs Survey. The four groups were divided by City of Sarnia, City of Chatham, rural Lambton and rural Chatham-Kent. Principal facilitators led the discussion groups. Survey data will be compiled and information will be reported back to school communities.

The Director of Education thanks everyone for attending the meeting and for the time taken to complete the survey.

Adjournment: 9:30 p.m.

Next Meeting - The next meeting will take place in the fall of 2006 with the date and location to be determined.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary