

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

Tuesday, October 17, 2006

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

Present:

Elementary Schools: Aberarder Central, Bosanquet Central, Bridgeview, Brigden, Bright's Grove, Brooke Central, Colonel Cameron, Confederation Central, D.A. Gordon, Dawn-Euphemia, Devine Street, Dresden Area, East Lambton, Errol Road, Errol Village, Grand Bend, H. W. Burgess, Hanna Memorial, Harwich-Raleigh, High Park, Hillcrest/Queen Elizabeth II, Indian Creek Road, John N. Given, Johnston Memorial, King George VI (Sarnia), Kinnwood Central, Lakeroad, Lambton Centennial, Lansdowne, London Road, McNaughton Avenue, Merlin Area, Mooretown Courtright, Queen Elizabeth II (S), Ridgetown Public, Ridgeview Moravian, Riverview Central, Sir John Moore, South Plympton/Wyoming, Thamesville Area, Tilbury Area, Wheatley Area

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

Regrets: Scott McKinlay, Vice-Chair, David Goldsmith, Carmen McGregor, Graham McIntyre, Paul Millman, Richard Whittington, Trustees A. A. Wright, Cathcart, Gregory Drive, King George VI (Chatham), Queen Elizabeth II (Chatham), Rosedale, Tecumseh, Victor Lauriston, W. J. Baird, Zone Central, Blenheim District H.S., John McGregor S.S., North Lambton S.S.

Staff: Gayle Stucke, Director of Education
Peter Robinson, Principal of Secondary Program
John Esplen, Program Consultant
Scott McKelvie, Vice-Principal – St. Clair S.S.
Carole Scott, Student Success Teacher – Northern Collegiate & V.S.
Scott Brennan, Grade 8 Teacher – High Park

Trustees: Jane Bryce, Chair, Isabell Carter, Elizabeth Hudie, Susie Jones, 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. Guests were invited to view the student artwork on display.

Bert Phills introduced the Chair of the Board, Jane Bryce.

The Chair thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting and thanked School Council Chairs for their efforts on behalf of the school.

The Lambton Kent District School Board believes that student success is enhanced through a team approach to learning by senior administration, principals, school staff and parents working together to create successful experiences for students.

The Board's logo Student Achievement √ Community Success is very important and reflects the Board's goals of improving student achievement. Celebrating positive outcomes will continue to build pathways to student success.

Chair Jane Bryce introduced Trustees and highlighted the areas in the district each represents.

Update from the Parent Involvement Committee – Co-Chair Judy Krall

The Parent Involvement Committee held its first organizational meeting on June 12 at which time Co-Chairs Jo-Anne Snow from John N. Given and Judy Krall from Alexander Mackenzie S.S. were elected.

Committee members include Peggy Johnson, Winston Churchill; Ron MacDougall, Lambton Central Collegiate Vocational Institute; Tracey Machon, King George VI (S); Dave Macko, Ridgeview Moravian; Marie Marcy Smids, Rosedale; Steve McNamara, Colonel Cameron; Tracy Perron, Northern Collegiate, Helene Puchnatyj, Tilbury District H.S. and the Director of Education, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board.

The second meeting of the Parent Involvement Committee took place on September 2 at the Chatham Regional Education Centre. The Director provided updates on Parent Involvement funding for 2005-2006 and current Board initiatives including the International Student Project and Aboriginal Education. Breakaway groups discussed best practices for school councils.

Judy Krall expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Parent Involvement Committee.

Director's Message – Gayle Stucke

School Council Chairs attending their first district meeting were acknowledged.

This year's school start up went very smoothly thanks to the strong leadership of staff and the cooperation of staff working together. A number of school renovation projects began over the summer and many are still underway. Openings for Best Start wraparound sites are being held.

The Director indicated that we are all here for the purpose of doing the best we can for all students.

A PowerPoint presentation "6 Special Kids" featuring the Director's grandchildren was shared. The students in the presentation are representative of the students in our district. The key message was that we are not prepared to lose any of our students. We need to work together to put supports in place for all students to enable them to reach their fullest potential and be the best they can be academically, emotionally and socially. Although the number one goal of the Board Growth Plan is to improve student achievement, we want students to be well rounded beyond core academics.

The Ministry of Education and the Board are working to provide supports for Aboriginal students. Soft data indicates that our First Nations students are not achieving to their potential. The Board has developed an Aboriginal Education Steering Committee to develop a self identification policy and identify methods to improve achievement of Aboriginal students. The Director and Trustee Susie Jones are working with the four First Nations and have outlined the plan for self identification. A pamphlet is being created that will be shared with Principals and School Councils outlining the goal of the self identification policy.

The Director provided an overview of the Board's International Student Project and shared highlights from the trip to Korea and China. Many Korean students have attended elementary schools in Chatham Kent and the Board hopes to expand this initiative to schools in Sarnia Lambton.

International students attending our schools provide a positive cultural experience for all involved. Plans are underway with a coordinator from Korea and a sponsor for the Sarnia Lambton area. Originally the coordinator hoped to send 400 students to the area. The Board will host approximately 100 students in schools who express an interest and have space available to accommodate the students. Hosting schools would receive financial support as the students pay a tuition fee to the Board.

Gayle Stucke introduced Vice-Principal Paul Wiersma and thanked him and Bert Phills for their assistance with the meeting.

Elementary and Secondary Principals, School Council Chairs and Trustees moved into breakaway sessions to discuss practices that have led to effective School Council Meetings and initiatives that have increased the involvement of parents in student learning. Principal representatives facilitated discussions and School Council Chair representatives recorded the practices identified. A summary of best practices and initiatives will be included with the minutes of the meeting.

Peter Robinson, Secondary Principal of Program identified the four pillars of Student Success as Literacy and Numeracy, Pathways, Caring Community and Culture. The Pathways program targets students in Grades 7 to 12. Peter Robinson introduced the Pathways Team of John Esplen, Program Consultant; Carole Scott, Co-op and Student Success Teacher at Northern Collegiate; Scott McKelvie, Vice-Principal of St. Clair Secondary School and Scott Brennan, Grade 8 Teacher at High Park.

The Pathways to Success "Step 4 Step" program and presentation was developed by the Pathways Program Steering Committee. Pathways team members presented information on the program which is an innovative and multi-dimensional initiative designed to supplement the process for career education planning and course selection. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be included with the minutes of the meeting to share with school councils.

The four destinations of the program are apprenticeship, college, university and work. Program Pathways are based on student interest, skill sets and knowledge; consists of a combination of courses and supports; builds on real-work applications and experiences; and leads to a particular destination. The Step 4 Step program promotes and values all destinations equally; allows students to examine their skills and interests; allows students to explore future career opportunities that match their skills and interests; assists students in selecting appropriate courses; and assists students in building a viable secondary school education program that will lead to their chosen destination.

A number of resources have been developed to communicate the Pathways to Success Program. Student Planners assist students with their course selection and are a work in progress.

The website step4step.ca is the hub of the program which values and promotes all four destinations and outlines the steps to reach the destinations.

The goal of Pathways to Success is to encourage students, parents and teachers to value all destinations equally; allow students to discover their own skills and interests; encourage students to explore future career options that match their skills and interests; assist students as they select courses and build a viable secondary school education plan that will lead to their chosen destination. The plan involves re-culturing educational stakeholders; maintaining a communication plan; and providing a curriculum continuum for grades 7-12, along with the appropriate resources for each school.

A question and answer period was held following the presentation. Positive comments were shared. Questions were raised on how parents will be educated about the program. Schools will work with parents of students and the community to educate and share information about the Pathways to Success Program. Parents are reminded to dialogue with their children. Guidance staff directs students to the Pathways website. Principals and School Council Chairs were asked to take information back to their School Council.

Adjournment: 9:02 p.m.

Next Meeting - The next meeting will take place on April 11, 2007 at Wallaceburg District Secondary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary