

## LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

Thursday, October 28, 2010  
L.C.C.V.I.

**Present:**

Elementary Schools: Bosanquet Central, Bridgeview, Bright's Grove, Brooke Central, Cathcart, Colonel Cameron, Confederation Central, D.A. Gordon, Dawn-Euphemia, Dresden Area, East Lambton, Errol Road, Errol Village, Grand Bend, Gregory Drive, Hanna Memorial, Harwich-Raleigh, High Park, Hillcrest, Indian Creek Road, John N. Given, King George VI (Chatham), King George VI (Sarnia), Kinnwood Central, Lakeroad, Lambton Centennial, Lansdowne, London Road, McNaughton Avenue, Merlin Area, P.E. McGibbon, Queen Elizabeth II (Chatham), Queen Elizabeth II (Petrolia), Queen Elizabeth II (Sarnia), Ridgetown Public, Ridgeview Moravian, Riverview Central, Rosedale, Sir John Moore, South Plympton/Wyoming, Thamesville Area, Tilbury Area, W. J. Baird, Wheatley Area, Zone Central

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

Regrets: A. A. Wright, Aberarder Central, Brigden, H. W. Burgess, Mooretown Courtright, Tecumseh, Victor Lauriston, Winston Churchill, Chatham-Kent S.S., Lambton-Kent Composite School, Ridgetown District H.S., St. Clair S.S., Tilbury District H.S.,

Staff: Jim Costello, Director of Education  
Dave Doey, Superintendent of Education  
Janette Richmond, Aboriginal Liaison

Trustees: Jane Bryce, Vice-Chair

Administrative  
Assistant/Recorder: Sue Fraser

#### Welcome and Greetings from the Board

Principal Phil Warner welcomed everyone to LCCVI and introduced Jane Bryce, Vice Chair of the Board.

Jane Bryce welcomed School Council Chairs and Principals to the meeting. She quoted Harry Potter – Chamber of Secrets – “It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities”.

She extended her appreciation to School Council Representatives on behalf of the Board of education for their contributions to the school for the benefit of students and their wonderful children.

Principal Warner noted that School Councils are a great sounding board for school administrators and PIC is a great resource for the Board and school councils. He introduced PIC Co-Chair Lynn LeFaive.

### Welcome / Update from PIC Co-Chair

Parent Involvement Committee Co-Chair Lynn LeFaive welcomed School Council Chairs to the meeting. Co-Chair, Tim Houle was unable to attend and sent regrets. Lynn reviewed the mandate of Parent Involvement Committee. PIC meets 5 times per year to review policies and to discuss areas of interest for school councils. Members occasionally attend Ministry sessions to receive information and provide input on initiatives focusing on increasing parent engagement. The more involved parents are; the better students do.

A total of 18 schools were approved for Parent Reaching Out Grants this year. This year the Ministry was going to provide an explanation to those schools that were not approved as to why applications were denied. This will assist schools in altering their project submissions next year. The purpose of the PRO grants is to increase parent involvement.

This year the scheduling of the district School Council events was flipped with the regular meeting being held in the October and the workshop in April. A dynamic speaker has been booked for an April 14 workshop. Further details will be provided closer to the date.

Lynn LeFaive introduced the other PIC members in attendance: Kelly Steeves (King George Sarnia); Kathy Gabriel (Lansdowne), Nikki Chateauneuf (Colonel Cameron), Shelley MacDonald (Harwich Raleigh) and Lianne McDowell (McNaughton Ave.).

She introduced Jim Costello, Director of Education for the Lambton Kent District School Board.

### Welcome and Director's Update

Jim Costello, Director of Education thanked everyone for attending the meeting. "It is a pleasure to be here and an honour to be your Director". "This is the first School Council meeting speaking as Director." Director Costello shared a brief bio outlining his experiences as an educator and his leadership background. Each position has offered an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.

Taking part in a school council parent representatives usually take on the role out of interest for their child or student. Views then widen significantly out of interest for the entire school community and the role broadens.

The LKDSB serves approximately 24,000 students and employees over 2300 staff.

He thanked School Council Representatives for their interest in education and thanked Principals and Vice-Principal Representatives for their time, energy and the dedicated service it takes to run a school. The work and commitment put forth for students is greatly appreciated.

A copy of the Board Policy on Equity and Inclusive Education was provided for information. Superintendent Dave Doey and Aboriginal Liaison Janette Richmond will speak to the documents and the initiatives in place to ensure equity and inclusion. Policies and Regulations are approved by the Board of Trustees and are deemed to be legislation. They are written by the Board's Executive Council as required and mandated by the Ministry of Education. All Board Policy and Regulations are posted on the Board's website: [www.lkdsb.net](http://www.lkdsb.net). They provide the rules that the Board and schools are to follow. The Equity and Inclusive Education Policy and Regulation were approved by the Board on September 28, 2010 based on Ministry direction. They articulate and formalize many of the practices already in place. They are in place to ensure fairness. The watchdogs for fairness in schools are the students. Principals are held accountable by students, parents and staff to ensure fairness. Students, parents and staff have all witnessed situations such as bullying that are not fair. School Councils also keep us fair.

The Special Education Advisory Committee is in place to ensure equity and fairness for students formally identifies as exceptional. Other Special Education supports are also in place to promote equity and fairness and to level the playing field for students. Fairness and equity are front and centre in the system. School administrators are proud of the initiatives in place.

The 8 areas focused on in the regulations were highlighted. The regulations stipulate the responsibilities of the Board and of the Principal.

Following the presentations, School Council Chairs and Principals will break out into groups to discuss practices in their schools that promote equity and inclusion and also to identify areas to improve on to make the school more equitable and inclusive.

Director Costello introduced Superintendent Dave Doey who developed the Equity and Inclusive Education documents.

### Equity and Inclusive Education (EIE) – Improving Outcomes for All Students

Superintendent Doey stressed that there were 3 key things to take away from the meeting: good outcomes for all kids and a shared value for all; the realization that how a child sees themselves in their learning and the experiences they are presented with (i.e. the books they read, the conversations they have) impacts their learning – if they are engaged in learning they will benefit more from it; equity and inclusive education is all about creating a safe, secure, supportive, respected, valued and celebrated space for every child and the unique individual they are.

A slide presentation was given which provided a definition of the terms, diversity, equity and inclusive education. Statistical data was shared on the shift in population from urban to rural areas and the ethnicity of residents and newcomers to our local communities.

The Equity and Inclusive Education Policy and Regulations are based on the legal framework of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; the Ontario Human Rights Code; and Ministry of Education Policy and Program Memorandum 119. PPM 199 essentially tells boards how to develop policy which determines actions which determines outcomes.

This past September the Board was required to develop a policy and regulation on Equity and Inclusive Education. Religious Accommodation Guidelines are in draft form and will be presented to Trustees. A series of meetings were held with stakeholders groups in the north and south to vet the draft policy and regulations. Information was also presented at PIC, SEAC and the Native Advisory Council (NAC).

Kids who feel connected to teachers and students do better academically.

The regulations refer to 8 areas of focus: Board policies, programs, guidelines and practices; shared and committed leadership; school-community relationships; inclusive curriculum and assessment practices; religious accommodation; school climate and the prevention of discrimination and harassment; professional learning; and accountability and transparency.

EIE is really a student achievement issue. Happier schools are safer schools. To date the most important step is how to translate EIE into the day to day experiences for every student in our care.

In addition to providing language support to students whose first language is not English, cultural supports need to be in place to assist the families in the transition process. Community supports are available to advocate and assist newcomers. EIE is designed to help us raise the questions to identify needs.

Superintendent Doey introduced Janette Richmond, the Board's newly appointed Aboriginal Liaison. Janette is from Walpole Island and has ties to Wallaceburg District S.S.

The Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework was introduced in 2007. It is the responsibility of educators to follow the Framework.

Janette spoke to the focus of her responsibilities as the Board's Aboriginal Liaison, noting that this was her first day in the role. She stressed that First Nations students will not care what you know; until they know you care. She indicated that First Nations students generally are especially good on deciding if emotion is fake or real and she stressed the importance of being sincere with students.

She reviewed the vision of the Framework. The three main goals are: a high level of student achievement; to reduce the gaps in student achievement; and a high level of public confidence. Framework performance measures were reviewed and activities to implement the Framework were shared.

The focus for 2010-11 will be on community engagement, professional development for resource teachers, data collection and evaluation, awareness, language fluidity and a mobile support system.

An opportunity for questions was provided.

School Council Chairs and Principals moved to their respective break-out groups to discuss examples of best practices around equity and inclusion within their schools and areas to improve on to make the school more equitable and inclusive.

The Director thanked Lynn LeFaive, Phil Warner, Sue Fraser, the custodial staff of L.C.C.V.I., School Council Chairs and Principals for their part in making the meeting a success.

Next Meeting – A district-wide School Council event will be sponsored by PIC on April 14. Further details to follow.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary