

## LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Minutes of the District School Council Chairs' Meeting

April 17, 2008

L.C.C.V.I.

**Present:**

Elementary Schools: A. A. Wright, Bright's Grove, Brooke Central, Cathcart, Colonel Cameron, Dawn-Euphemia, Devine Street, Dresden Area, H. W. Burgess, Hillcrest, John N. Given, Johnston Memorial, King George VI (Chatham), King George VI (Sarnia), Kinnwood Central, Lambton Centennial, Lansdowne, McNaughton Avenue, Queen Elizabeth II (Petrolia), Ridgetown Public, Ridgeview Moravian, Rosedale, Thamesville Area, Tilbury Area, Winston Churchill,

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

Regrets: Aberarder Central, Bosanquet Central, Bridgeview, Brigden, Confederation Central, D.A. Gordon, East Lambton, Errol Road, Errol Village, Grand Bend, Gregory Drive, Hanna Memorial, Harwich-Raleigh, High Park, Indian Creek Road, Lakeroad, London Road, Merlin Area, Mooretown Courtright, Queen Elizabeth II (Chatham), Queen Elizabeth II (Sarnia), Riverview Central, Sir John Moore, South Plympton/Wyoming, Tecumseh, Victor Lauriston, W. J. Baird, Wheatley Area, Zone Central, John McGregor S.S., Lambton-Kent Composite School, North Lambton S.S., St. Clair S.S., Wallaceburg District S. S.

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

Trustees: Scott McKinlay, Chair, Isabell Carter, Jim Townsend, Trustees

Administrative

Assistant/Recorder: Sue Fraser

Call to Order and Introductions

Gayle introduced Principal Phil Warner who has been at LCCVI since September 2007. Principal Warner welcomed School Council Chairs to L.C.C.V.I. and thanked attendees for coming. He introduced, Scott McKinlay, Chair of the Lambton Kent District School Board.

Welcome and Greetings from the Board

The Chair thanked School Council representatives for their time and commitment to attend the meeting and to serve on their respective school councils. He introduced Trustees Isabell Carter and Jim Townsend. The Chair stressed the importance of communication and partnerships. The district meetings allow Board Administration and Trustees to provide accurate information to School Council Chairs and also provide an opportunity to gather input on school related matters.

The Director indicated that one of the Board's key partnerships is with the local health units. As Director, she and the Director of the St. Clair Catholic D.S.B. meet regularly with the Medical Officers of Health and Health Unit representatives.

On April 16, 2008 the government passed legislation requiring that the food and beverages sold in schools must be free of trans fat. It is hoped that the removal of trans fat and increased daily physical activity will improve the health of Ontario students.

### Nutritional Guidelines

Director Stucke introduced Connie Mallet of the Lambton County Public Health Unit, Jennelle Getty of the Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit and Carrie Myers a parent at Gregory Drive School who presented information on a new resource "Nutrition Tools for Schools".

The presentation focused on the eating behaviour of students; the impact of eating habits on learning and health; nutrition and the "whole school" approach; and nutrition tools for schools. Data was shared on what students are eating. It is well documented that children who eat a nutritious breakfast daily are better prepared to participate in the day's learning activities than those who do not eat breakfast. The impact of poor eating on learning and health was noted. A healthy school nutrition environment exists when a school promotes healthy eating through words and actions and where students get the same message about food, nutrition and healthy eating in the classroom, in the school and in the home. An overview was provided on the "whole school" approach to creating a healthy school nutrition environment. "Nutrition Tools for Schools" is a toolkit created for elementary schools to create a healthy nutrition environment; however it was noted that the kit can be used in both elementary and secondary schools. The toolkit supports the School Nutrition Guidelines; outlines a four-step process and provides tools to make healthy eating and environments a reality; and is based on a "whole school" or comprehensive approach. The five main components of the toolkit were outlined. The tool kit is free of charge. Health unit representatives would be pleased to attend individual school council meetings to share information on the program. Schools interested in obtaining "Nutrition Tools for Schools" should contact:

Connie Mallette, Lambton County Public Health Unit at 519-344-2062 Ext. 2349 or  
Jennelle Getty, Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit at 519-352-7270 Ext. 2493.

Pamphlets and newsletters were also shared on "Healthy Happenings", Healthy Choices for School Fundraising; and "Make 'Special Food' Days 'Healthy Days' at your School!"

Parent Involvement Committee Co-Chairs thanked Connie and Carrie for their informative presentation.

### Parent Involvement Committee Update

Co-Chairs Judy Krall and Peggy Johnson introduced members of the Parent Involvement Committee.

Judy Krall outlined projects undertaken by PIC during the 2007-2008 school year. The main focus of the committee has been on improved communication. A strategic planning session was held on March 31 where members of the committee identified goals and strategies for the committee. A follow up meeting is scheduled on April 21. Each member of PIC has been assigned a "family of schools" with whom they will communicate with on a regular basis and serve as their liaison to PIC. PIC members recently sent a letter to school council chairs identifying themselves as the contact and personally inviting them to attend the April 17 School Council Chairs' meeting. Family of schools information is posted on the School Council and Parent Involvement web pages of the LKDSB site.

A flyer was sent out with the agenda package reminding school councils of the \$500 provincial grant allocated to each school and providing examples of how these funds can be spent to enhance schools councils and increase parent involvement.

Peggy Johnson reiterated that the data presented at Dr. Betty Boult's workshop in October showed that student achievement increases with parent involvement both at home and school.

This year there are three openings available on the Board's Parent Involvement Committee. Nominations are to be endorsed by the school council with the deadline for nominations being April 30. The input of new members will be welcome on the committee. It was stressed that we are all here for the children and want to make each school and the LKDSB the best they can be.

#### Budget Presentation

Peggy introduced Superintendent of Business, Ron Andruchow to present information on the 2008-09 Budget.

Superintendent Andruchow presented information on the 2008-09 Grants for Student Needs. A copy of the Ministry of Education fact sheet and the presentation was shared and will be sent out with the minutes.

The 2008-09 Grants for Student Needs have projected funding of \$18.76B, a 1.7% increase from the previous year. Per pupil funding will increase 3.1% to \$9,821 compared to 2007-2008. New investments will be made to the Special Education grant; the Program Enhancement grant; the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education grant; grants for ESL (English Second Language); Adult and Continuing Education; benefit and non-salary benchmarks, the Provincial School Board Administration and Governance grant; the School Operations grant; the Student Transportation grant; and the Community Use of Schools grant. The impact of these funding grants on the LKDSB was noted. Information is posted on the Ministry of Education and LKDSB websites on Community Use of Schools. Information was shared on funding to support school capital programs such as Good Places to Learn; Prohibitive to Repair; and enhancements to support primary class size reduction. The Board is to receive \$7M to consolidate Devine Street and Johnston Memorial Schools on the Johnston site. Accommodation Review Committee meetings are underway for Devine Street School.

Four year employment contracts are up for renewal this year. The 2008-09 GSN includes funding to increase elementary teacher preparation time by 10 minutes. Programs transferred to the GSN include the Safe School Supplement and the New Teacher Induction Program.

Fifteen year elementary and secondary enrolment projections for the district were shared. The total funding change for the LKDSB is a \$1.7M increase or less than 1%. Despite this change it was noted that the new investment funding must be spent in prescribed areas and that the Board will lose funding based on declining enrolment. The Board will therefore have to reduce the gap of \$2.3M to free up approximately \$4M to fund Ministry mandated programs.

Superintendent Andruchow advised that all Public Board meetings in April and May will address the budget and that the public is welcome to attend. The Board is required to pass a balanced budget by June 30, 2008.

In response to an inquiry, it was explained that the Board is a member of the CKLAG consortium that procures products and services for a number of public sector organizations in order to reduce costs (i.e. natural gas). The Board is also a member of a provincial school board consortium to reduce electricity costs. Last year the Ministry provided one time funding to boards to address increasing fuel costs. It was noted that the 2% increase to the transportation grants will not address the rising cost of fuel.

It was clarified that although the province is facilitating the negotiations process, negotiations are still carried out on a board by board basis.

Gayle Stucke thanked Superintendent Andruchow for his budget presentation.

#### Interactive Exercise

School council representatives took part in an interactive exercise where they were asked to pair off and share: what their school council did last year that was most successful or made them proudest; the biggest challenge or problem their council faced this year; and to explain the solution identified to overcome the obstacle.

#### Director's Update – Gayle Stucke

The Director spoke to the pride she takes in what is happening in our schools and across the district. Her pride in the Lambton Kent District School Board focuses on 3 Ps – People, Programs and Partnerships. Our 11 Trustees are committed to providing the best possible learning opportunity for each one of our 26,000 students. Policy decisions are made keeping in mind what is best for students. The work of administrators, teachers and all levels of support staff directly or indirectly champion the Board's goals of improving student achievement and providing a safe learning environment for all. We can be proud of not only the enrichment, athletic and academic achievements of our students but for their values and character that is evident in their daily activities. The work of parents in supporting their children was acknowledged.

The LKDSB offers quality programs across the district. "Pathways to Success" was introduced in 2006-2007. Copies of the Pathways to Success "Transition Guide for Grade 8 Students and Partners" were provided for information. The program values and promotes the four pathways of apprenticeship, college, university and work and outlines the steps to reach each destination. Best Start hubs are in place at Winston Churchill, W. J. Baird, Kinnwood Central, Riverview Central and one is being built at Brooke Central. Modified hubs are in place at other schools in the district. One of the Board's Special Education Coordinators was seconded to the Ministry for two years to participate on the Commission to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The Board has a number of alternative programs available to assist students who aren't successful in a regular classroom setting. Each school in the district is continuing to focus on literacy and numeracy.

The final "P" represents partnerships. The LKDSB is fortunate to have many community partnerships with local service clubs, businesses and industry as well as volunteer and parent partners. The adage "It takes an entire village to raise a child" holds true. It is a proven fact that students do better with parent involvement. School council chairs were urged to discuss how students are doing in reading and writing at their upcoming council meetings.

The Chair of the Board thanked school council representatives for their involvement.

Completion of Parent Survey

The goals outlined in the Board Improvement Plan focus on improved student achievement and safe learning environments. In order to determine if the Board is meeting the specified goals it is important to have accountability and measurable outcomes. Elementary and secondary parents in attendance were asked to complete a parent survey to assist in determining parent satisfaction with their child's school environment. A Board team of senior administrators and principals took part in a session where similar surveys were completed. The session was facilitated by an American institute where surveys are used and data is analyzed to develop board and school profiles. Surveys are administered to students, staff, parents and Board staff.

The Director thanked everyone for attending the School Council Chairs' meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Next Meeting - The date of the fall 2008 meeting will be confirmed.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary