

Lambton Kent District School Board

Parent Involvement Committee

November 30, 2020—6:30 p.m.

Via Teams

Present:

John Howitt, Director of Education; Derek Robertson, Trustee; Bonnie Gotelaer, Recorder; Jamie Tinney Rea, Bright's Grove; Angie Baresich, Brooke Central; Tracy Pound, Errol Village; Melinda Hazen, High Park; Melissa Hewitt, Queen Elizabeth II Sarnia; Jennifer Whiteye, Naahii Ridge; Karen Slater, Sir John Moore; Annette Schliehauf, Zone Central; Nancy Simon, Chatham-Kent S.S.; Alexandra Smith, Great Lakes Secondary School; Jacqueline Dick, John McGregor S.S.; Tracey Machan, Northern Collegiate/Virtual Learning High School; Marian McEwan, Chatham-Kent Public Health; Martina Jackson, Lambton Public Health

Regrets: Nicole Hopper

Guest: Ben Hazzard, Superintendent of Education

Welcome and Introductions – Director of Education John Howitt / PIC Co-Chair Melissa Hewitt

- Melissa welcomed everyone to the Parent Involvement Committee and introduced Superintendent Hazzard.

2021-22 School Year Calendar – Ben Hazzard, Superintendent of Education

- Superintendent of Education Hazzard indicated his attendance at the meeting to share the school year calendar.
- Superintendent Hazzard noted a change in this school year's calendar for the PA Day will now be Friday, February 5, 2021 for both Elementary and Secondary.
- Superintendent Hazzard discussed Kindergarten Registration and welcoming the new students into our schools. Superintendent Hazzard indicated it would be different than years past and is working with Lambton and Chatham-Kent Public Health Units to complete a process for registration.
- Superintendent Hazzard described the changes from the previous practices to now having allotted 30 minute time slots for registration. Based on parent feedback, evening hours will be longer to 4:00-7:00 pm on Thursday, February 4 and 12:00-4:00 pm. Friday, February 5, 2021.
- Superintendent Hazzard spoke to the process of planning a school year calendar engaging in discussions with our local French board and our coterminous board. To accommodate the number of required teaching days between Labour Day and the end of June 2022 there will be a PA day on Thursday, September 2, 2021 and the final PA day on June 30, 2021.
- Proposed dates for PA days for the 2021-2022 school year are:
 - Thursday, September 2, 2021
 - Friday, October 8, 2021
 - Friday, November 1, 2021
 - Friday, February 4, 2022
 - Friday, April 29, 2022
 - Friday, June 10, 2022
 - Thursday, June 30, 2022

- Proposed examination dates for secondary students are:
January 28 – February 3, 2022
June 23 – June 29, 2022
- It was acknowledged that the Parent Involvement Committee had made a recommendation to have a 4 day weekend for students on the Thanksgiving when noting the PA day scheduled on Friday, October 8, 2021.
- Director Howitt and Superintendent Hazzard responded to questions and comments from PIC members.
 - Quadmester have had huge benefits in the Arts and Tech programs but mixed results in other academic areas.

Business Arising from the Meeting of October 19, 2020

- Feedback about the School Climate survey and a review of specific questions of the survey occurred in the spring. Questions and comments were welcomed from the committee with none noted at this point.
- The School Climate Survey will be scheduled after the March Break. Parent Involvement Committee members are invited to send any feedback or comments to Bonnie or Director Howitt.

Feedback - Dr. Karyn Gordon – November 17, 2020

- Tracey commented the event *Building Confidence* was well received and it held a lot of value. Attendance was greater than some of the previously held events and a number of families with secondary and post-secondary children sat together listening to the presentation.
- The Zoom event was very successful with the chat area continuous when the group was engaged in the conversation.

Director's Update

- Director Howitt discussed credit achievement success rates being very close to results in previous years. Students who had chose the virtual model but had not signed in have been identified and are being worked closely with to engage them in learning.
- 2020-2021 PRO Grants - \$13,713.90 (Process for Distribution of Funding)
 - The amount for the Parent Reaching Out Grant remains the same as last year with no carry over. We do have the same money that we had last year and last years didn't carry over and we either need to reapprove existing applications or go through the application process.
 - Some projects would not be relevant this year and Virtual Schools will be eligible for funding.
 - Requirements remain the same
 - **Bonnie and Director Howitt to work on deadline.**
- Virtual event ideas should be shared with the group.
- Some parents are struggling to find ways to enhance their child's learning in reading and mathematics. Superintendent Hazzard encouraged parents to reach out to the principal at their child's school as they are able to offer supports helpful to families. Community based programs may be a source of enhancement.
- **Melinda will bring back to the group any offerings from the college that may be available.**

- Thoughtexchange Follow Up
 - A Thoughtexchange was sent out to families with extremely positive, supportive and appreciative results. Questions included the format of the Quadmester. The Ministry of Education and Public Health guidelines during a pandemic dictated this model of Quadmester was necessary to accommodate the different courses and levels students required.
 - Teams and sports are on hold; some clubs are meeting virtually. Although other traditional practices involving group activities cannot occur, some schools have gotten creative in gathering food items for the charitable groups while following public health guidelines.
- The LKDSB website has an announcement for parents to apply to the Ontario Government for funding. With feedback from the committee, it is visible on the banner on the website and a message will be sent to families.
- Director Howitt shared the Lambton Kent District School Board was one of few school boards approved after an extensive application process to host International students. Students will arrive in February for the next quadmester.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- No suggestions at this time.

Next Meeting

- February 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Teams

Adjournment 7:20 pm