

Lambton Kent District School Board

Parent Involvement Committee

May 10, 2021—6:30 p.m.
via Microsoft Teams

Present:

John Howitt - Director of Education	Stacey Elson – Administrative Assistant
Jack Fletcher – Trustee	Jamie Tinney Rea - Bright's Grove P.S.
Angie Baresich - Brooke Central P.S.	Tracy Pound - Errol Village P.S.
Melinda Hazen - High Park P.S.	Melissa Hewitt - Queen Elizabeth II Sarnia P.S.
Karen Slater - Sir John Moore P.S.	Nancy Simon - Chatham-Kent S.S.
Alexandra Smith - Great Lakes S.S.	Jacqueline Dick - John McGregor S.S.
Tracey Machan - Northern Collegiate I.V.S./Virtual Learning High School	
Martina Jackson - Lambton Public Health	

Regrets: Ruth Ann Dodman – Trustee, Jennifer Whiteye - Naahii Ridge P.S, Nicole Hopper - Thamesville Area P.S, Annette Schliehauf - Zone Central P.S, Marian McEwan - Chatham-Kent Public Health.

Guests – Superintendent McKay and Superintendent Mancini

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

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

Superintendent McKay – 2021-2022 Budget Information Session

- Superintendent McKay spoke to the budget slide presentation that was shared with members of the Parent Involvement Committee.
- Superintendent McKay indicated that school boards have not received all budget information from the Ministry of Education.
- Funding is based on the ADE or average daily enrolment for the year. Board staff is projecting a total of 14,316 elementary students and 6822.50 secondary students for next year. This is a decline of approximately 350 students mostly due to those choosing to home school. Secondary enrolment numbers represent the average between first and second semester.
- Budget assumptions based on current communication from the Ministry.
 - Remote/Virtual learning will continue
 - Movement will be limited between models as impacts to staffing when significant movement occurs
 - PPE and additional cleaning supplies will be needed for school start up
 - Main structure for Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding will remain intact
 - Budget planning memo issued by Ministry on May 4, 2021.
- Superintendent McKay reviewed the Board's draft Revenue Table. Funding is provided in the form of operating grants, capital grants, COVID-19 funding supports and other revenue.
- Our Board will be using money from reserves and COVID-19 relief to balance the budget.

Director Howitt and Superintendent McKay answered questions.

With the added funding for things like HVAC will that support adding things like air conditioning to schools that don't have it?

Superintendent McKay indicated that all that funding is in the current school year. \$6.2M is being invested into our system now. Money needs to be used before December 31, 2021. We do have some schools that we are not able to put air conditioning in.

Superintendent Mancini discussed De-streaming and OSSLT

De-streaming of Grade 9 courses

- Superintendent Mancini spoke to the budget slide presentation that was shared with members of the Parent Involvement Committee.
- The Ministry of Education is committed to addressing systemic discrimination and helping to break down barriers for Indigenous, Black, and racialized students, students from low-income households, and students with disabilities and other students with special education needs so that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed, thrive, and reach their full potential. As part of this commitment, the Ministry is developing a plan to remove Academic and Applied courses (de-streaming) in Grade 9 and issue revised curriculum that meet the needs of all students and supports all future education pathway options.
- About halfway through Grade 8, students and their families start to consider Grade 9 course offerings and make course selections that are going to impact their future. One of the most frequently asked questions from parents is “Should my child take Academic and Applied courses?” Choosing Academic or Applied courses (a choice made when students are only 14 years old) can have significant implications on future pathways.
- Superintendent Mancini provided statistical data that supports the de-streaming process.
- Ontario is the only province in Canada that separates students into academic and applied courses in grade 9. Most provinces begin course selection in Grade 10.
- Starting September 2021, a de-streamed Math course will be implemented that builds on Grade 8 curriculum. The curriculum is not distributed yet.

Director Howitt and Superintendent Mancini answered questions about De-streaming

Will there still be a Math course option for students with Special needs?

Superintendent Mancini indicated that our Board will continue to be able to offer locally developed Math courses for Special needs students.

Director Howitt let the group know that the student senate have asked if students will be disadvantaged by de-streaming? He said statistics show that this will provide opportunity and student will still be able to take the pathway they choose and will have longer to make their selection.

OSSLT

- The Literacy graduation requirement for students graduating in 2020-2021 has been waived.
- The Literacy graduation requirement will be also be waived for students graduating in the 2021-2022 school year.
- The Ministry introduced an online OSSLT Field Test for students in Grade 10 and 11. This was only available for students that are face-to-face learning. With the move to remote learning and unknown timeline the LKDSB will note be participating in the Field Test.

- It will be restored for 2022-2023. For students in Grade 10 and 11, and non-graduating students, including those who are learning remotely, they are required to work towards the Literacy Graduation requirement.
- EQAO will administer two assessment opportunities as opposed to the traditional once a year. The test will be administered in the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.

Business Arising from the Meeting of February 8, 2021

- Minutes approved with no additions.
- PRO Grant ideas moving forward – the committee was provided with a list of events that have occurred at our schools in the past for ideas moving forward.
 - Co-chair Hewitt asked if PIC could be invited in the future to attend the presentations and if the ideas could be shared with all parent councils. Director Howitt indicated that he would like to share the ideas with school councils moving forward. We need to be careful about sharing out to other schools due to privacy etc.

Director's Update

2020-2021 – PRO Grant Rollout

- Many events have happened last week and this coming week. Director Howitt reminded the committee that the deadline to have the financial report submitted to Sheila Henry is June 15.

School Climate Survey

- This survey is conducted every two years. We are due to complete one this year however, it will be postponed due to remote learning going on right now.

End of Year Celebrations and Graduation

- Right now, it appears this will be a virtual event. If we are no longer in a stay at home order, we have permission from the Medical Officers of Health to do a drive by style celebration. It is highly unlikely that a traditional graduation ceremony will take place.

Stay at home order

- We have no insight if we are returning before the end of June. Director Howitt explained why our schools are still closed when our numbers are so low. He said it is related to ICU space and availability.
- Director Howitt clarified the misconception that schools cannot open until all staff are vaccinated. He indicated that while vaccine's are helpful, that PPE is our protective layer.

COVID-19 Protocols for 2021-2022 school year

- Elementary schools will continue to co-hort.
- Secondary schools can have a maximum of two classes that can occur at once. Boards are not required to run a week on and a week off. Our Board is looking at am class and pm class.
- There is discussion about extra-curricular activities and co-horts.

PIC Planning for 2021-2022

Membership

- Anyone that is not returning, please let Stacey know. Director Howitt is recommending due to COVID that anyone who would like to remain on the committee are welcome to and we will fill any vacancies. Nancy Simon – Chatham-Kent S.S. and Annette Schliehauf – Zone Central P.S. indicated they would not be returning.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

Director Howitt discussed how our Board currently has 390 Elementary and 350 Secondary students that have chosen to learn online in September 2021. Student were required to make their selection now due to staffing timelines and collective agreement deadlines.

There has been discussion in the media about the Ministry's plans for online learning options beyond the pandemic.

There are three types of online learning models that are being considered.

- Synchronous Remote Learning – similar to our current virtual school. Remote learning may be useful for students that cannot or prefer not to access a physical school environment outside of an emergency context (e.g. medically fragile students). As defined in PPM 164 classes taught at a distance to students when face-to-face learning is interrupted e.g. a snow day or an emergency. This style of learning would be intended for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students.
- Teacher Supported Online Learning – this is similar to our current e-learning model. Teacher-facilitated model of online learning with dedicated time in the student's timetable, where they can take a course (e.g. in the school library or computer lab). The courses are taught by a school board teacher using digital tools, such as the provincially licensed Virtual Learning Environment and online courses and resources developed with ministry funding. This style of learning is intended for Grade 9-12 students only.

However, it will change slightly because it may be controlled by TVO (Ministry online learning platform). TVO would notify the L.K.D.S.B. how many teachers are required to teach their e-learning courses. Students could be taking e-learning courses with teachers that are from other Boards. Students can take all their credits this way and can access our schools for support and Resources.

- Full Independent Online Learning – this is a fully independent model of online learning with little teacher support. Accessed by students who prefer to learn asynchronously with flexible hours. Delivered through TVO's Independent Learning Centre (ILC). Students of school boards can attend at no cost, and the board must pay a fee established by the TVO. Student can access our schools for support and Resources. This style of learning is intended for Grade 9-12 students only.

The L.K.D.S.B. has a really good e-learning model running right now and we have concerns about TVO taking over.

Celebration Stories – welcome good news stories to end the meeting on a bright note.

- Last year the Monday before March Break the Student Senate discussed a mental health project. They just finished these videos and they are on our website. The students felt it was important to hear their voice.

<https://www.ikdsb.net/Board/Community/MentalHealth/videos/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

Next meeting Monday, October 4, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm