

**LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD**

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
February 7, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.
via Teams**

Present:

John Howitt - Director of Education	Malinda Little – Trustee
Stacey Elson – Administrative Assistant	Jack Fletcher – Trustee
Marian McEwan – Chatham-Kent Public Health	Ashlee Brown - Lambton Public Health
Nicholas Sitter – Bosanquet P.S. / N.L.S.S.	Angie Baresich - Brooke Central P.S.
Karen Genoway – Errol Village P.S.	Alexandra Smith – G.L S.S.
Melinda Hazen - High Park P.S.	Stephanie Dries – Indian Creek Road P.S.
Jacqueline Dick - John McGregor S.S.	Sandra Ross – N.C.I.V.S.
Jennifer Whiteye - Naahii Ridge P.S.	
Melissa Hewitt - Queen Elizabeth II Petrolia P.S./L.C.C.V.I.	

Regrets: Tracey Machan – N.C. I.V.S., Glenda Johnston – Queen Elizabeth II P.S. – Chatham, Jessica Wood – Riverview Central P.S. / W.D.S.S., Karen Slater - Sir John Moore P.S., Nicole Hopper - Thamesville Area P.S.

Guests – Helen Lane - Superintendent of Education and Candice Fung, Inclusive Diversity Consultant K-12

Welcome and Introductions – PIC Co-Chair Melinda Hazen welcomed Trustee Little to our committee replacing Trustee Dodman.

Demographic Student Census presentation

Helen Lane – Superintendent of Education and Candice Fung – Inclusive Diversity Consultant K-12 presented on “Count Me In”, the voluntary demographic student census. Superintendent Lane explained that a couple years ago our Board applied for funding to support software and a consultant to assist with a Demographic census. Many other Boards are in the process of doing this and if they haven’t completed the survey yet, they will be required to. There has been a lot of preparation and we are ready to launch March 1.

Candice began by explaining that the Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) will launch the Count Me In LKDSB Student Census to collect information to better understand our students and school communities in support of equity, inclusion, student achievement and well-being. This initiative is part of the LKDSB's commitment within its Strategic Priority of “Inclusive Diversity: Championing anti-oppressive education.”

The LKDSB, as directed by the Ontario Ministry of Education, is conducting a voluntary and confidential student census to gather demographic information (such as race, ethnicity, language, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc.). Although this is voluntary and confidential it is not anonymous.

The LKDSB will be collecting data for the Count Me In LKDSB Student Census in accordance with the authority of the Education Act and the guidance of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), Anti-Racism Act, the Ontario Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism, and the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Candice indicated that the Ministry requires nine questions to be asked however we can add more. The questions can be found on the LKDSB [website](#). There is also a helpful FAQ section that answers many questions about the census.

Elementary students will complete the voluntary survey with their parents, while Secondary students will

complete during class.

A question was asked about sexual orientation and is this appropriate for elementary? Candice explained that many LGTBQ students face barriers and we looking to see if these students comfortable indicating this and learning from this to support them.

When students are asked what parent they live with, why is the parent section broken down to parent one and parent two? Why not a section for both? Candice explained that we have so many students that don't live with both parents. Students should select most of the time for parent one and parent two. It was expressed this may be confusing for students.

Candice will look at capturing a separate question about "who do you live with?" Teachers will be working with students supporting them to answer the survey however, they will not see results.

Once the final questions are confirmed, hopefully this week, there will be communication sent to schools and parents.

It was asked if responses "do not know, prefer not to answer, and don't understand" can we list first for every question? Although this is not a test or exam, some students will feel the stress of completing this. Many students will not know their parent's education. Can those three be the top three options? Candice will look into this.

Once data is collected who would use it and what do you do with it? Helen said we are working with a research company that will provide a report and summary that we will provide to the Board and community. Information is secure, only a couple people who have access to the raw data. At the end of the day, we want to understand who our students are.

If anyone has any questions or comments they can be sent from the Demographic Data Census page on the Board website.

Business Arising from the Meeting of November 8, 2021

There were no concerns raised from the minutes of November 8, 2021.

Director's Update

School reopening – Omicron surge

- We have returned to face-to-face learning, with a new option, short term remote learning. We had about 400 students participating in short term remote learning. This number continues to drop week to week. Our rate of student absence ranges between 12 – 23%. Today was the best rate since returning at 12.5%. Staff absence has been between 8-12%. We have been fortunate to not need to close any schools. We have deployed central staff to support. We have had two classes do recess throughout the pandemic so now when we put two grades together this is not mixing.
- Our students have started second semester, four periods, lunch looks different at various schools. Grades 9 and 10 students have not experienced a traditional timetable. Grade 11 have had a half a semester of a traditional timetable. Many have not used locker before and are learning how to transition between classes for the first time.
- We held in person FDK registration and learned that due to the pandemic many families and students have not be able to be inside the school. Many of the student body do not know the school layout and haven't attended an assembly.
- Extra-curricular – schools can start practicing this week and volleyball can start games this week. Basketball is considered as high contact and it cannot start yet. Hoping this will be changed as community basketball is progressing. We are very lucky that we ran almost all our winter season before switching to remote learning in January. With the cancellation of OFSSA and SWOSSA we are looking at extending the season for winter sports.

A question was asked regarding when parents would be re-admitted to the building to pick up a child or wait for a child? John explained that parents are allowed in if they are meeting with the Principal, as long as they follow the screener and wear a mask. The issue is parents meeting to gather, while they are waiting for their children. One is different than twenty-one. We are anxious to welcome families back to school.

It was asked if the little window of time before school starts where kids play on the playground will be starting up again? Right now, they get to school and go right into the building. John explained that we are looking at this, it's the lining up and gathering that is the concern.

Will it be a requirement to be double vaccinated to enter school? John said as of right now the vaccine passport is not required to enter but you have to be masked and complete the screener.

When sports return will spectators be able to attend? John indicated that there is a letter of instruction for both public health units that require participants, coaches and parents to demonstrate vaccination passports to attend. Right now, at the secondary level, we are looking at a soft start possibly allowing the drivers to attend. It is difficult to find people to verify vaccine passport.

For elementary schools, due to the small gym size, there isn't enough space to have spectators space out like in Secondary schools on the bleachers.

Will schools communicate when parents are allowed to watch? Yes, schools will be communicating when this is permitted. [Letter of instruction](#) is on both Public Health websites as well it is linked from the LKDSB covid page.

School Climate Survey update

- Lambton College is working on that data for us and they will need about eight weeks to complete. This information will be shared once we have it. We had a really strong turnout by families.

Ontario Secondary school Literacy Test (OSSLT) / Grade 9 EQAO

- OSSLT is a graduation requirement in Secondary, it was written this past fall. It will happen again in the spring.

When will students find out results? John said we do not receive data until end of the school year.

- Grade 9 Math EQAO is not a graduation requirement. This was to occur on the day we returned face to face in January. Our Board decided not to have students complete this at this time. We may offer an opportunity for them to write this voluntary semester two. Semester two Math should have the chance to write coming up semester two.
- De-streaming – the first semester has finished and the data is very positive. Superintendent Mancini met with teachers last week and the conversation was very positive. We are looking at destreaming other Grade 9 courses next year.

What is the timeline for destreaming in Grade 10? John said that the province hasn't announced anything yet.

School vaccination clinics

- There are times when statements at the political level do not always translate at the Board level. The Ministry indicated that consent forms would be sent home with students allowing them to be vaccinated at school without parents present. Dr. Ranade and Dr. Colby do not agree. They strongly feel that parents should be present and they welcome the whole family to attend. If you hear rumours that we are running clinics in our schools and are vaccinating students without parents present, this is not true.

Last week our inclement weather policy was put to the test with two snow days. A couple parents expressed concerns with attendance and being marked absent when their children were present online. One parent said that due to technical issues his child's teacher wasn't able to connect for half the class.

One parent expressed concern with students being told their course mark couldn't change if they didn't participate. Her child went to school on the exam instructional days, and the teacher didn't have anything prepared. John encouraged her to please follow up with Principal.

COVID case reporting

- There are comments in the community about reporting COVID data within our schools. Some Boards are reporting data based on parents calling in and voluntarily notifying the school of a positive case. With the lack of PCR testing being conducted, John feels reporting this would be misinformation and unclear data. When asked "how many cases are in our schools?" The answer is "it is everywhere." If you do the screener and have symptoms, please do what it tells you. Our behaviour should not depend on if our classmates have tested positive or not.

PRO Grant update

Stacey indicated that the committee approved all 14 applications that were submitted. They range from family focused wellness events, family nutrition, safe spaces, social media awareness, mental health awareness and a Skilled Trades Show. The events need to be completed and the funding report submitted before June 15.

PIC Virtual Speaker

Stacey is very happy to confirm that the virtual speaker we selected Yassmin Abdel-Magied is booked for April 28, 2022, 6:00 pm. Communication materials are being prepared for distribution after the March break. Stacey, Melissa and Melinda are scheduled to meet with Yassmin March 1 to review the presentation.

Next meeting – May 16, 2022, via Teams – will revisit when it approaches to see if we can get together.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

Marian wanted to thank the schools for their cooperation with the vaccination clinics. Percentages can be found on Chatham-Kent and Sarnia Lambton Public Health websites.

A question was brought up from a parent about the capitalization of Black Lives Matter organization and if this is an endorsement of the Black Lives Matter organization during Black History month?

John explained that the discussion involving Black Lives Matter is not about the organization, it is a focus on those who have been historically and systemically been marginalized and excluded. It aligns with our strategic priority to Champion anti-oppressive education. As part of Black History and African Heritage month, our Board is involved in a regional project called the Detroit River project. Our learning is very open to highlighting the Black Lives Matter and the local Black History in our own community including the Windsor Essex area Uncle Toms Cabin.

When can the 16-year old children get their third dose? Not sure when.

Adjournment: 7:50 pm

Stacey Elson, Recording Secretary