

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

October 6, 2014

Sarnia Education Centre

Present:

Jim Costello, Director of Education; Jack Fletcher, Trustee; Dave Macko, Trustee; Sue Fraser, Recorder Cherie Whitsitt, Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School; Gillian Hueniken, Chatham Kent Secondary School; Kelly-Lynn Musico, Northern Collegiate; Melissa Nix, Cathcart; Michelle Beimers, East Lambton; Sheila Rogerson, Errol Road; Karen Green Williams, Gregory Drive; Kristen Schrie, High Park; Khalid Saeed, John N. Given; Nancy Fisher, King George VI Chatham; Alexandra Smith, P.E. McGibbon; Melissa Hewitt, Queen Elizabeth II Sarnia; Nicole Older, Rosedale; Jessica McCracken, Tilbury Area; Annette Schleihauf, Zone Central; Rose Atkins, County of Lambton Health Unit

Regrets: Jenelle Arnew, Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit

Welcome and Introductions – Jim Costello

- Jim welcomed everyone to the first PIC meeting of the school year.
- Director Costello thanked members for their dedication and willingness to serve on the LKDSB Parent Involvement Committee (PIC).
- He outlined the format of PIC meetings, noting that the Committee typically meets 4-5 times per year. The first and last meetings of the year are held face to face, with the remainder of meetings held via video conference from the Sarnia and Chatham Education Centres. The first meeting of the year is held in Chatham and the final meeting is held in Sarnia.
- Members introduced themselves and a special welcome was extended to new members joining the Committee. Jessica McCracken indicated that she is an occasional teacher with the Board.

Purpose of PIC/By-Laws – Jim Costello

- Parent Involvement Committees are legislated by the Ministry of Education under Ontario Regulation 612/00. Under the Regulation, PICs are required to have by-laws in place that govern their affairs and allow individual PICs to establish operational procedures that reflect the needs of local communities.
- The LKDSB PIC By-Laws were distributed with the agenda package. The Director outlined the purpose of PIC as set out in the By-Laws. It was stressed that PIC is not a forum for parents to raise single school issues but rather to look at a system perspective or macro view and what is best for all school communities.
- PIC members were encouraged to network with school councils in their area.
- Terms of membership for parent members of the Committee are for one or two years. Terms are staggered so that parent positions become available each year. Candidates are to indicate whether they would like to serve on the Committee for a one or two year term.
- The role of the PIC Co-Chair was reviewed. Terms are also staggered so that one of the two positions is open at the beginning of each school year. Only a parent who is beginning a two-year term is eligible to stand for the position of Co-Chair.
- Nominations and the vote for the second Co-Chair position will be held at the end of the meeting.

Business Arising from the Meeting of May 26, 2014

- Members were asked to email Jim or Sue with input on the format of PIC meetings or with ideas for presentation topics. Typically PIC hosts two district school council/parent events, one in the fall and one in spring.
- Data from the Mental Health Student Survey will be presented at a future meeting as data is still being compiled.

Director's Update – Jim Costello
LKDSB Engagement Model

- The Board's Engagement Model was developed in consultation with staff, students and parents. The model originally focused on the six pillars of the School Effectiveness Framework; however has evolved to reflect Michael Fullan's 6 C's: Citizenship, Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration and Character Education. The 6 C's resonated with stakeholders in identifying the outcomes we want for our graduates. Copies of the LKDSB Engagement Model are posted in every school classroom and at the Board Offices.
- At the center of the model are the three key stakeholder groups based on the research of Doug Willms: Students, Staff and Parents/Community. Willms identifies three types of engagement: intellectual engagement, social engagement and (institutional) or organizational engagement which is reflected in the Board model. Encompassing the model is the Board Vision: Our Students – Shaping Our World and the Board Mission: Fostering Success for Every Student Every Day.
- The model was presented to all principals and vice-principals at the annual kick-off meeting. School administrators were asked to "get in front of the model and to get behind it". Principals should be presenting the model to their School Councils and addressing at staff meetings. PIC members were encouraged to speak to their principals regarding the engagement model and how it is being addressed at the school.
- Background information was shared on how the theme of engagement was selected for the model.

Technology Enriched Learning Plan (TELP)

- An overview of the evolution and implementation of the LKDSB Technology Enriched Learning Plan (TELP) was presented. (The TELP will be shared with the minutes.)
- The plan was developed based on recommendations from a technology audit conducted on the Board two years ago. The model aligns with our belief statement "We are committed to innovation and continuous improvement."
- Students live in a physical and digital world. It is our responsibility to educate students in both worlds.
- To date we have moved from 400 to 4800 iPads throughout the system. Through the LK Connect project all students in the Dresden and Wallaceburg family of schools in Grades 7, 8 and 9 were provided with iPads.
- A \$4M infrastructure upgrade was approved in the Budget - \$2M in 2014-15 and \$2M in 2015-16. The three year TELP sets out the designated funding and hardware acquisition in 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 for JK/SK, Grade 1 to 6, Grade 7, Grade 8, Grade 9, Grade 10, and Grade 11 and 12.
- Grade 7 will be the entry point where every student and teacher will have their own iPad. LKDSB is one of only three boards in the province providing iPads to individual students and is the only Board that allows students to take devices home. Rules are in place. The life expectancy for the devices is 3-4 years. The feeling is that by Gr. 10 students will have chosen one of the four pathways to success and parents can then look at purchasing the device best suited to their student's needs.
- Technology will be used as a tool to enhance instructional practice and promote higher order thinking. Staff training will be provided.
- Some concern was raised around equity. The feeling is that providing all students with the same device is addressing the issue of equity. Other devices will still be purchased to address the needs of students with special needs.
- It was clarified that the TELP is funded through a different budget area than the classroom supplies budget.
- A FAQ document will be developed and posted on the website.
- The question was asked whether there is anything in the curriculum to address internet safety. It was noted that the Board has filters in place to block inappropriate websites. It was suggested that perhaps this could be a future workshop topic. St. Clair S.S. is hosting an event in February on Social Networking Safety. This event will be open to other parents in the community.

PIC Budget Update – Sue Fraser

- The balance from the 2013-14 PIC Central Budget is \$5,364.40. The funding for 2014-15 for the central PIC is \$8,716.00. The total with last year's carry forward funding is \$14,080.40. There may also be some unspent school PRO funding that could get rolled into the central PIC account.
- A copy of the financial summary will be shared once finalized and will be posted on the website.
- Fourteen of our schools were approved for 2014-2015 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants. The total amount approved was \$13,940 for projects focusing on Mental Health; Student Success in Math; Equity and Inclusion; Technology; Building Partnerships and Social Network Safety.

Planning for Fall District School Council Event

- Possible workshop topics were proposed: iPad 101 for parents (with introduction of TELP – help parents be more informed to help students); Internet/social media safety; Raising Resilient Children (Sherry Campbell); Psychology of Bullying (Dr. Tracy Vaillancourt).
- PIC members supported hosting two events again this school year, in fall and spring.
- School Council parents would like an opportunity to network and brainstorm re best practices and challenges.
- PIC supported organizing "School Council Networking" sessions in both Sarnia and Chatham on Wednesday, November 12. Sessions will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Sue will contact staff at Northern Collegiate or AMSS and Chatham-Kent S.S. re booking the cafeteria space for the networking sessions. A sub-committee was formed to organize/facilitate the sessions: Karen Green Williams, Kelly-Lynn Musico, Gillian Hueniken, Melissa Nix and Jessica McCracken.
Feedback from the sessions could be shared with principals at the November 17 Principals' Council meeting.

Election of Second PIC Co-Chair for 2014-2015 and Terms of Membership

- New members expressed their intent to serve on PIC for a two-year term.
- Kelly-Lynn Musico and Melissa Hewitt put their names forward for the second position of PIC Co-Chair. Kelly-Lynn will assume the role of PIC Co-Chair for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. Karen Green Williams is beginning her second year as PIC Co-Chair.
- Jim thanked Melissa and Kelly-Lynn for putting their names forward.

Upcoming Events

- People for Education's Annual Conference is being held on Saturday, November 8 at the University of Toronto.
- The Ontario College of Teachers is hosting "Inspiring Public Confidence: from November 5-7 at the Toronto Marriott. Parent Involvement Committee Chairs are invited to attend this conference.
- **Sue will share forward the links for both conferences to members of PIC. Parent members were asked to notify Sue if they wish to attend either event.**

Future Meeting Dates

- The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 8 via video conference, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Additional meeting dates will be confirmed at the next meeting.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- It was noted that Wi-Fi upgrades are being completed over two years. Jim recently travelled to Korea as part of the International Education initiative. The entire country has free Wi-Fi.

Adjournment: 8:42 pm

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary