

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

May 16, 2016

Sarnia Education Centre

Present:

Jim Costello, Director of Education; Ruth Ann Dodman, Trustee; Kelly-Lynn Musico, Northern Collegiate; Angie Baresich, Brooke Central; Karen Green Williams, Gregory Drive; Kristen Schrie, High Park; Alexandra Smith, P.E. McGibbon; Annette Schleihauf, Zone Central; Martina Jackson, Lambton Public Health

Regrets:

Shannon Sasseville, Trustee; Dan Chauvin, Chatham-Kent S.S.; Michelle Beimers, East Lambton; Sheila Rogerson, Errol Road; Melissa Hewitt, Queen Elizabeth II Sarnia; Jessica McCracken, Tilbury Area P.S.; Jenelle Arnew, Chatham-Kent Public Health

Welcome and Introductions – Jim Costello / Kelly-Lynn Musico

- Kelly-Lynn welcomed everyone to the last PIC meeting of the school year.
- She introduced Superintendent of Business, Brian McKay and members introduced themselves.

Budget Information Session – Brian McKay, Superintendent of Business

- Superintendent McKay provided an overview of the 2016/17 Grants for Student Needs (GSNs). (A copy of the presentation will be included with the minutes.)
- He explained the funding structure, noting that the GSNs support four key areas: funding for classrooms; specific education priorities; funding for schools; and funding for a locally managed system.
- The Ministry is reducing the level of additional supports to school boards through reductions in the following grants: Top-up Funding under the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant; Declining Enrolment Adjustment Grant, Geographic Circumstances Grant (rural designation) and the School Foundation Grant.
- As a result of changing demographics and declining enrolment, the Ministry of Education is forcing school boards to make better use of school space through consolidations and school closures.
- In response to the question as to whether boards can accept donations of time for school repairs; Superintendent McKay explained that the procurement of goods and services must follow BPS (Broader Public Sector) Guidelines. Procedures are in place for financial donations. Schools have also received funding through Trillium Grants and community members have donated items such as iPads etc.
- Enrolment projections for 2016-17 and birth rate history were reviewed. Enrolment continues to decline but at a decreasing rate. Student enrolments for 2016-17 are projected to decline by 178 in the elementary panel and 311 in the secondary panel for a total decline of 489 students.
- Funding for 5th year or “victory lap” students was clarified. The Board has not discouraged students from attending a 5th year; however beyond 32 credits boards are only funded at 50% or the Adult Education Grant rate. Jim noted that the Board has granted approximately 4,000 credits through Adult Education and each month about 8-10 adult students graduate from the LKDSB.
- The Ministry has transferred a large portion of EPO (Education Project Other) funding into the GSNs. The Board will continue to receive EPO funding for library staff, the MISA (Managing Information for Student Achievement) Initiative, Outdoor Education and Technology Enabled Learning and Teaching. TELT funding is used towards the LKDSB TELP program in addition to funding from the operating budget. The Minister of Education has asked boards to provide assessment data to prove that technology funding is improving student achievement results. Some concerns were shared around the use of technology outside of the school day and the impact this has on social engagement. It was suggested that a survey be developed for students, staff and parents to complete to gather feedback following the first year of TELP implementation.

- The Board's Revenue Forecast Summary by Grant Category was reviewed. The 2016-17 estimates as compared to 2015-16 Revised Estimates reflect an overall revenue reduction of \$5,069,749.

Business Arising from the Meeting of February 1, 2016

- The Mental Health Strategy questionnaire was sent to members of PIC.
- The Board's Mental Health Lead has talked with the Superintendent responsible for safe schools and some common language will be developed re lockdown drills to help reduce fear/anxiety among younger students.
- A modified calendar was approved for the 2016-17 school year and is posted on the Board website.
- Changes to the regulations and procedures on Volunteers and Volunteer Drivers were reviewed. Criteria were explained around requirements for Vulnerable Sector Criminal Background Checks every five years. An implementation plan is being developed for September and will be communicated to principals. Principals will communicate information to parents/volunteers.

Feedback from the May 2 & 3 Presentations – Dr. Jean Clinton

- The LKDSB Parent Involvement Committee partnered with the SCCDSB to offer two evening presentations on May 2 and 3 with Dr. Jean Clinton as the speaker. A half-day session for principals was also held on May 3.
- Feedback was very positive and attendance was good. (205 registered for the evening at St. Clair Secondary School in Sarnia and 151 registered at Ursuline College in Chatham.)
- In future it was recommended that more questions be added to the registration form to track demographic data and that an exit or comment sheet be provided to gather feedback.
- PIC members supported pursuing another joint event with the coterminous board.
Jim will talk to the SCCDSB Director regarding the possibility of another collaborative event in spring. (David Bouchard for possible speaker.)
- PRO Grant applications are due by May 29, 2016.

Report on the Regional PIC Symposium – Kelly Lynn Musico

- Kelly Lynn and Jessica attended the Regional PIC Symposium in London on April 16 at Ivey Spencer Leadership Hall. The Symposium provided a good networking opportunity.
- A summary of notes will be sent out with the minutes.
- Kelly-Lynn and Jessica spoke to other PIC representatives about setting up an email group and Facebook Page to enhance communication and parent engagement.
- Parent engagement opportunities need to continue at the secondary level. It was suggested that a Family BBQ/Meet the Teacher night be organized for the consolidated SCSS/SCITS community. AMSS held a spring showcase that was well attended.

Director's Update – Jim Costello

Pupil Accommodation Update

- An update was provided on the Sarnia South Secondary Schools Accommodation Review.
- On May 10, Trustees voted 9-2 in favour of the consolidation of St. Clair Secondary School (SCSS) and Sarnia Collegiate Institute and Technical School (SCITS) temporarily at the SCITS site effective September 2016 and permanently at the SCSS site effective September 2017 and to close the SCITS site as of July 1, 2017.
- The vote re the consolidation of South Plympton/Wyoming Public Schools will take place at the May 24 Board Meeting.
- It was noted that Kristin Schrie was on the Sarnia South Secondary ARC.
- As a result of the vote a Transition Committee is being struck to work with a Board facilitator to address the transition of students and staff in the new building. The Committee will be responsible for such things as school orientation/ transition, memorabilia, resources and equipment, special events (including graduation and awards), extra-curricular activities, mascot and logo. Subcommittees will be established as needed. The first priority will be the physical move. Kristin expressed interest in being on the Transition Committee.

- A more formal Naming Committee will also be established as per Board Regulation to select a name for the consolidated school based on set criteria. The Naming Committee will meet before June 30, 2016 in order to establish criteria for the new consolidated school name and a process to gather input from appropriate stakeholders. The Committee will be asked to report back to Board at the August 30, 2016 Board Meeting with this information. The Naming Committee will be asked to submit a final report containing a recommended name for the consolidated school to the Board for approval at the end of October 2016.
- Information was shared on the Ministry process to change a school name and identification number to ensure that start and end dates are entered. School name is important for graduation and issuing transcripts.
- A new school name will help set the tone going forward. Students from SCSS and SCITS have already participated in a joint art project.
- PIC members recommended investigating community partnerships (grant applications – i.e. renewable energy).
- Jim will speak to the Director of the SCCDSB regarding the transition process at St. Chris' and St. Pat's.
- Additional ARCS will be named in the Annual Pupil Accommodation Report.
- An overview was provided on Ontario Regulation 444 which outlines the process for the disposition of surplus sites.

PIC Planning for 2016-17

Membership

- Dan Chauvin will be staying on for a second year as PIC Co-Chair. Kelly-Lynn has completed her second year as PIC Co-Chair and a second Co-Chair will be elected at the first meeting in the fall.
- Parent and community members would like to stay on for another term in the event that other school council representatives do not express interest in joining PIC. Areas in need of representation will be reviewed.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- A parent member raised concern regarding the secondary health curriculum and the focus on weight/body image (calculation of body mass index). It was recommended that as a parent, the concerns should be discussed with the principal. The Ontario Curriculum can be accessed on the MOE website.
- Lambton Public Health has sent a letter to principals and school council chairs regarding school greening opportunities to get shade trees for school yards as part of the cancer prevention program.
- PIC members were not assigned a specific family of schools as there is significant overlap in Sarnia and Chatham. PIC members are welcome to communicate with feeder schools. **Karen and Martina volunteered to set up a LKDSB PIC Facebook account that could perhaps be linked to the PIC website. Sue will invite the Manager of IT to attend a fall PIC meeting.**
- Karen and Ruth Ann attended a Regional EQAO forum in Windsor a few years ago where participants were asked to provide input for the next 5 years. Recommendations were made by stakeholder groups to utilize language to reduce stress levels for students taking part in the assessments. The follow up session conflicted with the May 16 PIC meeting. Karen will try to get an update from EQAO on key items and will share this with the Committee.
- In response to a question regarding walk distance for secondary school students; the courtesy seat process was reviewed. The Transportation policy was approved by Trustees of both the LKDSB and the SCCDSB. Previously recommendations were made to investigate a reduced walk distance for FDK students; however changes were too costly and not sustainable.

Future Meeting Dates

- Monday, October 3, 2016 at the Chatham Regional Education Centre at 6:30 p.m.
- Remaining dates for 2016-17 will be set at the October meeting.
- Kelly-Lynn thanked PIC members for another good year.

Adjournment: 9:08 pm

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary