

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

May 15, 2017

Sarnia Education Centre – Board Room

Present:

Jim Costello, Director of Education; Alexandra Smith, Great Lakes S.S. / P.E. McGibbon; Kelly-Lynn Musico, Northern Collegiate; Angie Baresich, Brooke Central; Karen Green Williams, Gregory Drive; Karen Phipps, Alexander Mackenzie S.S. / Hanna Memorial; Sharon Chapman, King George VI Sarnia; Melissa Hewitt, Queen Elizabeth II Sarnia; Annette Schleihauf, Zone Central; Lisa Tetrault; Chatham-Kent Public Health

Regrets:

Ruth Ann Dodman, Trustee; Shannon Sasseville, Trustee; Carina Best, Errol Road; Kristen Schrie, High Park; Heidi Cincelli, McNaughton Avenue; Jessica McCracken, Tilbury Area; Martina Jackson, Lambton Public Health

Welcome and Introductions – Jim Costello

- Jim welcomed everyone to the final PIC meeting of the school year and thanked everyone for attending.
- Nancy Simon, school council member from Chatham Kent Secondary School joined the meeting as an observer. She is interested in joining the Parent Involvement Committee.
- Jim introduced Superintendent of Business, Brian McKay who annually presents an overview of the upcoming school year budget.

Budget Information Session – Brian McKay, Superintendent of Business

- Superintendent McKay provided an overview of the 2017/18 Grants for Student Needs (GSNs), noting that all boards are funded using a similar model.
(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; funding for schools; funding for a locally managed system; and funding for specific education priorities to support the Ministry of Education's Vision of Achieving Excellence.
- Funding for classrooms is the largest portion of the budget, with the Pupil Foundation Grant providing approximately half of overall funding. While some of the grants must be spent on specific program areas, other areas of the budget allow for some flexibility for board program priorities. In total, boards are receiving approximately \$12,000 per pupil in all areas of the budget.
- From a historical context, education funding has increased overall for several years despite declining enrolment.
- Enrolment projections for 2017-18 and birth rate history were reviewed. Student enrolments for 2017-18 are projected to decline by 226 in the elementary panel and 203 in the secondary panel for a total decline of 429 students. This year enrolment was up by 193 students despite the projected decline. MOE funding is based on October 31 and March 31 count dates. In October revised estimates are submitted to adjust funding from the original enrolment projections. Another enrolment count is done in March. Enrolment typically drops in the secondary panel by 3-4% from first to second semester so the average daily enrolment is used for funding purposes.
- Key changes to the GSNs for 2017-18 were outlined. Changes include: Enhancements to Implement the 2017-19 Labour Agreements; Capital Investments; Indigenous Education Accountability Measures; School Foundation Grant Investments; Keeping Up with Costs (Transportation and Utilities); Education Program Other Investments (EPO – continue with Renewed Math Strategy); Ongoing Implementation of Other Changes and Next Steps in Transformation (Rural Education Engagement and Transportation Consultation).

- The Board's Revenue Forecast Summary by Grant Category was reviewed. The 2017-18 estimates as compared to 2016-17 Revised Estimates reflect an overall increase of \$18,732,922.
 - Approximately \$14M in grants was allocated by the Ministry for Capital Building Projects – renovations for the consolidation of South Plympton and Wyoming Schools and for Great Lakes Secondary School renovations as a result of the consolidation of the former SCITS and St. Clair Secondary Schools.
 - Community Use of School (CUS) cost recovery is a provincial discussion topic. The fee schedule and rental rates are posted on the LKDSB website. CLASS (partnership with the SCCDSB to reduce costs) oversees Community Use of Schools; Transportation, Child Care Services, and Energy and Environmental Services.
 - The First Nations per Pupil Amount is based on census data – approximately 6% of population. The self-identification process helps the Board to analyze student achievement levels and identify areas we can improve upon. Funding is enveloped to provide programs and supports for Indigenous Students. Separate funding is provided for Indigenous Studies Courses for Non-Native students. LKDSB is a leader in the province in this area.
 - Foundation grants are based on volume/numbers of schools. There is still a need for increased Special Education Funding.
 - Rural Education consultations are scheduled. Eventually Transportation consultation sessions will also be arranged by the Ministry. The Board will see reductions to Rural Funding based on new distance criteria – 10 kilometers between elementary schools and 20 kilometers between secondary schools.
 - The Ministry has increased Student Transportation funding by 2% however the LKDSB will only see an increase of 1.75%. The Board funds all transportation costs out of the transportation budget; however, no funding is allocated for late buses etc.
 - The Local Opportunities Grant (LOG) consists of a base amount and funding for Literacy and Numeracy, Student Success and a Local Priorities Fund.
- Clarification was provided on items covered through Per Pupil Funding, School Discretionary Funding and the types of items schools should be fundraising for. Smart board maintenance is not covered centrally – smart board replacement bulbs would come from school discretionary funds.
- Smart boards and other equipment are brought over in school consolidations. There is no central inventory of surplus equipment. Principals can contact their Area Superintendent or the Superintendent of Business regarding equipment needs.
- The SEA Claim (Special Equipment Amount) process was explained.
- PIC Members thanked Superintendent McKay for his informative budget presentation.

Business Arising from the Meeting of May February 6, 2017

- Twenty schools will pilot the KEV Cashless School program next year. The pilot has been delayed as staff are busy completing other projects. The earliest timeline for the pilot will be the end of January 2018. High participation rates are needed for pilot schools. Brian will announce to principals in August that the Business Department will be looking for schools to volunteer for the pilot. It was noted that at some schools, parents don't have chequing accounts or even bank accounts. KEV representatives will come in and provide direct support to schools to increase participation rates. KEV is looking at incorporating field trip consent and payment in one step.
- The new LKDSB website is dynamic however PIC members recommended a parent drop down menu to access information. **Sue will share concerns with the Website Design Committee and IT staff.**
- The closed PIC Facebook group is set up and ready to test with PIC members prior to full implementation in the fall with school council representatives. **Sue will email out instructions.** Members previously agreed to a closed group and inviting one or two members of each school council. (Will work on obtaining email lists of new SC Chairs in the fall once elections have taken place.)

Feedback on Staying Connected Well-Being Unplugged Sessions

- Attendance at both evenings was low but feedback by attendees was very positive (very good or excellent, great speakers, good information provided – take home messages, good forum).
- The Sessions were promoted via school newsletters and posters were displayed during Education Week. The events were also promoted on the Board website, under announcements and on Twitter and Facebook. **It was suggested that perhaps Synervoice could be used to share this type of information with parents. Synervoice is a call out system used for student attendance. Synervoice also has email capabilities; however, schools may not be using this feature. Jim will look into.**
- May tends to be a very busy time of year with spring sports starting. Another event was also being held at the Sarnia Library on the same evening. It was suggested that perhaps Adobe Connect might be an option to increase engagement, although many paid speakers will not allow live stream.
- It was suggested that in future perhaps a Parent/Teen/Pre-Teen event could be held focusing on mental health (stress and anxiety). Students could be given an opportunity to speak to issues.
- Win Harwood, a speaker from Greater-Essex was recommended. She covers a variety of topics including bullying, 3Ts of parenting and good citizenship online and off. She is willing to customize presentations and speaker fees are very reasonable. Win Harwood has done a lot of engagements through PRO Grants and data has shown better turnout in October or after school break periods. Childcare is also an issue.
- The Mental Health Leads of the LKDSB and the SCCDB are looking to partner to apply for a Regional Pro Grant. The proposal is to host two parent evenings, one north and one south in late October (25 and 26) for parents and caregivers. They are hoping to book physical literacy guru Dean Kriellaars from the University of Manitoba to share information about the necessary components of physical movement and the importance of it promoting mental health and overall well-being. PIC could assist with planning and promotion of these events if the grant proposal is approved. **Sue will share additional details provided by Ellie Fraser.**

Feedback on London Regional PIC Symposium

- Kelly-Lynn Musico and Karen Green Williams attended the one-day symposium held in London for the southwest region.
- The session provided a good opportunity for collaboration with other PIC members. Changes to PRO Grants were reviewed. This year the maximum grant is again \$1,000; however, 20% can be spent on refreshments and 10% on promotion (up 5%). The Ministry is supportive of events that will bring entire families into the school and proposals focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) or STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math).
- The Indigenous Education and Reconciliation component was very interesting.
- Speakers Meg Soper and Sami Jo Small were very engaging.
- Minister of Education, Mitzie Hunter spoke on the topic of well-being in schools and fostering healthy learning.
- The Director thanked Kelly-Lynn and Karen for representing LKDSB PIC at the Symposium.

Director's Update – Jim Costello

Pupil Accommodation

- This year the LKDSB completed two successful accommodation reviews. The recommendation approved by Trustees for the Forest Area Review is to build a new school and consolidate four schools into a K-12 school in Forest. Trustees were not supportive of the second recommendation to add onto the current Kinnwood site. The Board is lobbying the Ministry for funding for the new build as this option is supported by the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation and the Forest community.
- The Ministry is holding eight Rural Engagement Sessions around the province in small rural areas. A local session is being held on May 24 in Thedford. The afternoon session is for invited guests – school board staff from both LKDSB and SCCDSB, local elected officials, and Chief Bressette of Kettle and Stony Point. A town hall meeting is being held in the evening that is open to the public.

- The Board unanimously approved the consolidation of the John N. Given Public School Kindergarten to Grade 8 English Language Program at Tecumseh Public School for September 1, 2018; the relocation of the John N. Given Public School Grade 7 and 8 French Immersion Program to McNaughton Avenue Public School in September 1, 2017 and the closure of John N. Given Public School as of July 1, 2018. A request for \$5M has been submitted to the Ministry to remodel the FDK wing at Tecumseh.
- Administration will likely be recommending reviews for next year as well. The Pupil Accommodation Report will be filed earlier in the fall. The Board is using Thoughtexchange, an online engagement tool, to gather data from the community on various scenarios involving South Kent schools (options to possibly consolidate 4 secondary schools into one and consolidation of some elementary schools).

PIC Planning for 2017-2018 – Membership

- The following members will be stepping down next year – Kristen Schrie, Jessica McCracken, and Heidi Cincelli.
- **Sue will be reviewing areas in need of representation. Jim will then speak to principals in August to submit names of candidates endorsed by their school councils.**

Other / Future Business

- Territorial Acknowledgments – Regulation 298 s.4 of the Education Act sets out the legal expectations for Opening and Closing Exercises. The Board Administrative Procedures have been revised to state that opening and closing exercises may include acknowledgement of the site's (shared) Traditional Indigenous Territory. It was noted that Territorial Acknowledgements were read at both PIC parent evenings held last week.

Next Meeting

- Monday, October 2, 2017 at the Chatham Regional Education Centre at 6:30 p.m.
- Remaining dates for 2017-2018 will be set at the October meeting.

The Director thanked everyone for their work over the year. Members thanked Jim for sitting on the Parent Involvement Committee as in some Boards the Directors do not.

Adjournment: 8:31 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary