

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

February 5, 2018

Sarnia Education and Chatham Regional Education Centre (Via Video-Conference)

Present:

Jim Costello, Director of Education; Ruth Ann Dodman, Trustee;
Nancy Simon, Chatham Kent S.S.; Alexandra Smith, Great Lakes S.S.; Tracey Travis; John McGregor S.S.; Angie Baresich, Brooke Central; Kristen Schrie, High Park; Sharon Chapman, King George VI S; Melissa Hewitt, Queen Elizabeth II Sarnia; Anne Patterson, Thamesville Area; Annette Schleihauf, Zone Central; Lisa Tetrault, Chatham-Kent Public Health; Martina Jackson, Lambton Public Health; Sue Fraser

Guest: Liz Hudie, Chair of the Board

Regrets:

Karen Phipps, Alexander Mackenzie S.S. / Hanna Memorial; Kelly-Lynn Musico, Northern Collegiate; Jennifer Whiteye, Naahii Ridge; Lisa Russell, Tilbury Area

Welcome and Introductory Remarks – Alexandra Smith

- Alexandra welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Members introduced themselves to the Chair.

Business Arising from the Meeting of November 25, 2017

- Under the Board's contract with School Messenger (company purchased Synrevoice) the email function is included at no additional cost and is available now. Schools have been trained on how they can send emails to parents. Templates have been developed to assist schools in this area. In addition to phoning home, schools can use SchoolMessenger to email messages to parents. Information is pulled from the Trillium student data base.
- Construction timelines are on track for the new GLSS school to open for September 2018. Timelines for the bussing schedule to the new site will be the same as other schools. Key dates in the process were reviewed:
April-May: CLASS reviews student data and determines eligibility for student transportation.
Late May-Early June: Letters sent home with students by school to all students identified as eligible for student transportation
June-July: CLASS works to finalize the bus route details for the system
Mid July: CLASS mails letters directly to the homes of all JK-SK, Grade 9, and identified special needs students who are planned for transportation.
August 15th: Parents / Guardians / Students can access their transportation details on the Parent Portal: <https://www.schoolbusinfo.com/MYSchoolBusInfo>
Parents who have questions about eligibility can contact the Transportation Department.
Courtesy seats are approved at the end of September once eligible ridership is confirmed.

TELP Discussion

- Background information was shared regarding the implementation of TELP and the number of iPads that have been distributed throughout the system.
- The LKDSB is facing challenges due to increased costs and reduced Technology Enriched Learning Funding (TELF) to school boards. The Board is exploring options regarding the future of the TELP iPad program.
- The LKDSB is looking to gather input from parents and guardians to assist in the decision making process regarding the future of the TELP. The Board is conducting a TELP survey targeting parents and guardians of students in Grades 6-10 to obtain their input regarding the future of the TELP. Principals have been asked to communicate the survey to families of students in Grades 6-10 and to also share the link with school council representatives. Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JZKTXJS>. The survey will be live until February 22.

- Members of PIC were asked to obtain input from their school councils on the TELP options presented which included moving to a 2:1 model where a Board issued iPad would be shared between two students in a classroom; a BYOi model where students who have their own iPads could bring them to school; or a class set of iPads for students to share.
- A summary of the feedback provided to date was shared. Additional comments included: possible use of Chromebooks; varying levels of iPad use in secondary schools; concerns re increased screen time; use of Apple products vs. android devices; the importance of equity; the option of school councils fundraising to purchase additional iPads for student use; and the need for students to be educated re privacy and digital citizenship. The current 1:1 model addresses the issue of equity.
- Survey feedback will be shared with Heather Hughes.
- It was noted that older students often prefer laptops. By the end of Grade 10 it was felt that parents/students would purchase their device of choice based on the student's chosen career path.
- iPads provided under the Dresden and Wallaceburg pilot projects were kept by the students until they graduated high school. They were then handed back in and if in good condition were used for the program as spares and replacements.
- The goal of TELP is to increase engagement, support student success and promote innovative learning environments. Senior Administration will be reviewing parent feedback through the survey and will make a decision in the spring regarding the future TELP model. Information will be shared with PIC.

Director's Update – Jim Costello

Pupil Accommodation Update

- The Ministry of Education announced a \$27.4 million investment in the Lambton Kent District School Board to build a new Kindergarten to Grade 12 school in Forest and provide 24 new child care spaces. The K to 12 school will consolidate 1 secondary and 3 elementary schools in the Forest area. Support from the community and the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation was key. Moving forward, the LKDSB will be looking for an appropriate location for the new school site and will be working with the Ministry to acquire the property. The Ministry will also provide up to \$2 million in additional funding to purchase land for the new school.
- It was noted that other nearby schools are below capacity. The project proposal was based on the population of the four schools, therefore boundary adjustments cannot be considered at this time.
- The Ministry of Education also earmarked \$2.6 million to support a retrofit of the Full-Day Kindergarten space at Tecumseh Public School. This investment supports the consolidation of Tecumseh Public School and John N. Given Public School at the Tecumseh Public School site.
- The provincial government is also providing the LKDSB with \$1.6 million to provide 49 child care spaces at Indian Creek Road Public School through its Early Years Capital Program Funding. The Ministry is also funding \$264,000 for 10 child care spaces at Wheatley Area Public School.

Draft 2018-19 School Year Calendar

- The Ministry establishes a standard calendar with a minimum number of 194 instructional days, with a recommended start and end date to the school year and sets out where all statutory holidays, the Christmas break and March break are as defined in Reg. 304.
- As per the requirements of O. Reg. 304, the deadline for submission of regular school year calendars is May 1, 2018 while the deadline for the submission of modified school year calendar is March 1, 2018.
- The calendar is developed in consultation with the St. Clair Catholic DSB as the boards have common PA Days, exams days and share transportation services.
- The Board is not proposing a modified calendar. Proposed dates for the start and end of the school year, Christmas and March breaks, as well as PA days and secondary examination dates for the 2018-19 school year were reviewed.
- Comments were made regarding the scheduling of the April PA Day only 3 days after the Easter Break. The Director noted that there were previously 6 PA Days but now there are 7 and that some days are contractual. Feedback will be shared with Taf Lounsbury, Superintendent of Education.

Revised LKDSB School Council Policy and Regulations

- The introductory statement of the School Council policy was moved to the regulations.
- Revisions have been made to the regulations to reflect the election/selection process for School Council members and to add flexibility in the number of school council members. Other housekeeping changes have been made for clarification and incorporation of points from the Administrative Procedures.
- The administrative procedures were rescinded as a lot of the content was duplicated in the regulations. Content not already in the regulations was added.
- Review of all policies and regulations will be moving from 3-year cycle to 4-year cycle.

Purchasing School Spirit Wear

- As publicly funded organizations, school boards must adhere to the Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive.
- School Councils have raised concerns regarding the process and timelines involved when ordering school spirit wear as well as the impact that the BPS Directive has had on local businesses in the community.
- A letter was shared from the Cathcart Parent Association and School Council requesting that the Board consider broadening the interpretation of the BPS to allow principals greater flexibility to work with local business suppliers regarding the purchase of spirit/team wear and awards.
- This has been an ongoing concern among local service providers who have met with Board staff and presented their case to the Board.
- If funds are routed through the school board, schools must follow the purchase order process for any products that are covered on contract, regardless of value. (The P.O. process does not need to be followed if the product is NOT covered on contract and is less than \$1500.)

All spirit wear, awards and sports uniforms are on contract.

- LKDSB is part of the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace agreement. Examples were shared. The existing OEM agreement for spirit wear and awards will expire in early spring. As a result, we are reviewing our procurement strategy for these items. We are looking at a competitive process that will potentially engage more vendors.
- We are also reviewing our procurement policy and procedures which will include a review and change to purchasing limits. Items on contract must still adhere to contract. Under the Board's Purchasing Regulations, items under \$1500, providing the item is non-cumulative, is a non-tendered product or service (not on contract); only one quote is required. Three quotes (obtained by Purchasing) are required for products and services valued from \$1501 to \$10,000.

Parents Engaged in Education – Dream Big the School Council Event

- Parents Engaged in Education shared a save the date notice for the Dream Big School Council Event being held on Sunday, March 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Further information will be shared once received.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- Use of Central PIC funding for fall event – possible speakers etc.
- School council chairs networking event – arrange speaker for portion of meeting, followed by networking opportunity.
- Update on PIC Facebook page – currently not a lot of discussion on the site. To date 29 school council chairs have joined. Information re the Facebook Group was shared with principals in the fall to share with school council chairs. Names of school council chairs were shared with PIC administrators to accept those wishing to join the closed group. Work in progress.

Next Meeting – May 14, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. (Dinner at 5:45 p.m.) – Sarnia Education Centre.

Adjournment: 7:44 pm

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary