

## LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

February 4, 2019

Sarnia Education Centre and Chatham Regional Education Centre  
Video Conference Rooms

#### **Present:**

Jim Costello, Director of Education, Ruth Ann Dodman, Trustee; Sue Fraser, Recorder;  
Nancy Simon, Chatham Kent S.S.; Alexandra Smith, Great Lakes S.S.; Tracey Travis;  
John McGregor S.S.; Angie Baresich, Brooke Central Tracy Pound, Cathcart; Kristen Schrie, High Park;  
Sharon Chapman, King George VI (S); Melissa Hewitt, Queen Elizabeth II Sarnia; Annette Schleihauf,  
Zone Central; Lisa Tetrault, Chatham-Kent Public Health, Donna Schmidtmeier, Lambton Public Health

#### **Regrets:**

Miranda Mitchell, Alexander Mackenzie S.S; Jamie Rea, Bright's Grove; Jennifer Whiteye, Naahii Ridge;  
Anne Patterson, Thamesville Area

#### Welcome – Alexandra Smith

- Co-Chair Alexandra Smith welcomed everyone to the Parent Involvement Committee meeting.
- Director Costello introduced Minogizhgdag, Indigenous Lead for the LKDSB.

#### LKDSB Truth and Reconciliation Overview – Minogizhgdag, Indigenous Lead

- Minogizhgdag explained that it is protocol in his culture to introduce yourself in your language and share where you came from. Boozhoo means hello and Miigwech is thank you.
- He explained that the Board has 12 secondary schools and 52 elementary schools. There is a total of 1364 First Nation, Metis and Inuit registered students, which constitutes 6% of the area's Indigenous population.
- He provided an overview of the Board's actions in response to the Truth and Reconciliation.
- The Board's Indigenous Education Team is comprised of the Superintendent of Education responsible for Indigenous Education, the Indigenous Lead, and two Indigenous Studies Special Project teachers, one secondary and one elementary. The team meets regularly and consults with representatives from the Board's four First Nations partners – Kettle and Stony Point, Aamjiwnaang, Bkejwanong and Delaware.
- The word Debwewin means heart and odehs the sounds that are made. The concept of how you speak and essence of you, and teachings come from the heart. The English context is truth or speaks from the heart. We need to first understand truth and reconciliation will follow.
- Members of the four First Nations, historians, academia, and Board staff developed wording for the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment that all are comfortable with. The Indigenous Nations in our district are known as Anishinaabeg and Lunaapeew. Territorial acknowledgements are to raise awareness of Indigenous presence and land rights and are read at the beginning of ceremonies, public events and Board meetings.
- Communities have similar aspirations to provide a shift to restore language and culture. This is not a small task as it took Canada 150 years to get to this point. We continue to take steps in order to address the Calls to Action; but this will take time. In order to implement language and cultural programming, professional development is provided to staff so that they can deliver program to all students and staff. Indigenous Studies courses have been developed based on resources from each of the First Nation communities. Walpole Island offers tours, workshops and events and piloted an Indigenous cultural event in the spring for over 120 students. The Board is looking at providing similar events in each First Nation community.
- Another big piece of the Truth and Reconciliation is acknowledgment and inclusion of the Metis and Inuit. We have reached out to the Metis Nation of Ontario and will work with the Thames Bluewater Chapter.
- The Indigenous Liaison Committee consists of representatives of First Nation partner communities (Aamjiwnaang, Delaware, Kettle and Stony Point and Walpole Island (Bkejwanong), Trustees and Board staff representatives.
- At the end of each year, schools with First Nations students host an Indigenous Youth Symposium. Select students from each school participate in planning for a symposium at their school. This allows them an opportunity to showcase or raise awareness of their culture. Board staff are exploring granting credits for students, to acknowledge their work in planning these events. Online accredited courses are being investigated for these students to plan and develop resources for the Board and to present to communities and peers at their schools.

- Self-Identification helps with funding and planning for Indigenous students. It is important that the number of Indigenous students in schools is reflected. Parents need to be informed of the self-identification process.
- LKDSB is the first board in the province to offer the NBE Course that is for all Grade 11 students to raise awareness and gain knowledge related to Indigenous history in Canada. The blanket exercise is also used to help increase understanding of Indigenous history.
- Every student benefits the more we can understand and embrace culture and learn from each other.
- Jim thanked Minogizhghad for his informative presentation. He noted that the mandatory Grade 11 NBE course is a substitution for Grade 11 compulsory English, and ensures that all students in the Board are exposed to First Nations culture.

#### 2019/2020 School Year Calendar / Update – Ben Hazzard, Superintendent of Education

- Alexandra introduced Superintendent of Education, Ben Hazzard.
- Superintendent Hazzard explained that he is the Superintendent of Elementary Program and Early Years. As such he works with the Elementary Indigenous Studies Special Project Teacher. His family of schools range from the 402 to Mooretown.
- A copy of the draft 2019-2020 School Year Calendar was sent out with the agenda. He noted that the draft calendar aligns with the Ministry of Education template for stat holidays and breaks and was not modified. The first day of school will be on September 3, 2019 and the final day of school will be June 26, 2020.
- In the process of developing the 2019-2020 SYC consultation takes place with the coterminous boards to ensure that there are 194 instructional days between September 3, 2019 and June 26, 2020. School boards can designate up to 7 PA Days during the school year. Boards have some flexibility scheduling PA Days. Last year PIC input was taken into consideration and the April PA Day was moved to later in the month, away from the long Easter weekend.
- It was noted that some boards align PA days with long weekends such as Thanksgiving or Family Day. Superintendent advised that the February PA Day is tied to the turnaround day in secondary schools. He will take the suggestion forward for consultation for the 2020/2021 calendar.
- The key focus in elementary curriculum is on fundamentals in math. Each school has been assigned a Math Coach for 2-6 weeks to assist with improving math instruction. Strategies to improve outcomes are posted on the website. Blog clips are available at LKelempo.blogspot.com. There are 93 instructional videos for teachers that can be accessed via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Families are accessing videos as well. A significant number of the videos have also been translated into French. Program staff are looking at how to introduce strategies at home (i.e. Math in a bag, like book in a bag, using a fun game format).
- The initial engagement with families is key. In the past parents registering their child for Kindergarten have spent up to 45 min. completing paperwork, often with a small child. This year the LKDSB has introduced an online pre-registration form for Kindergarten Registration. Once the form is submitted, parents then visit the school to verify and sign the form. The online form reduces the 45-minute process to approximately 5 or 10 minutes. LKDSB is the first board in the province to introduce this. Online registration is available for Kindergarten presently but once this pilot is complete, staff will look at expanding for all student registrations.

#### Business Arising from the Meeting of November 26, 2018

- Planning for the parent evenings is on the agenda.

#### Event Planning for 2018-2019

- At the last meeting the Committee supported hosting two parent evenings that focus on healthy families and helping students succeed. Committee members supported bringing in a guest speaker and then having break out or carousel sessions. One evening will be held in Sarnia and one in Chatham. Topics of interest will be offered for parents of both elementary and secondary aged students. PIC members emailed their suggested topics to Sue who shared the summary with the group.
- **The evening format will be a keynote speaker for 45 minutes; three 30-minute carousel sessions with parents selecting two of the three sessions.**
- **Parent evenings will be held on Wednesday, May 22 and Thursday, May 23. Sue will investigate locations with break out rooms.**
- Carousel topics will be: Vaping/Juuling; Resiliency; and Healthy Relationships/Social Media.
- Discussion took place regarding the option to provide child care.
- **Dana Kerford is a teacher and “friendship expert” and the founder of URSTRONG out of Alberta. Tracy will contact the organization regarding a representative in Ontario. Tracy will obtain pricing for the two evening presentations, May 22 and 23, starting at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. Speakers will be asked to talk about encouraging healthy relationships for all age groups. If this option is not available, Sue will reach out to the Board’s Mental Health Lead to assist with presenters.**

- Additional options put forth included Teen Talks; Chatham Kent Women's' Centre - Relations Emotions, Attitudes and Life; Rebound – Choices; St. Clair Child and Youth; and Caught in the Net – Restorative Justice.
- **Carousel Sessions – both local Health Units have presentations available on Vaping/Cannabis. The Heath Unit representatives will coordinate presentations.**
- **Alexandra will reach out to St. Clair Child and Youth in Sarnia and Chatham Kent Children's Services regarding a speaker on the topic of Resiliency. Health Units representatives are available to assist with Resiliency sessions as well.**
- **Updates on event planning will be shared via email.**

#### Video Productions

- At the last meeting a proposal was put forth to develop short video productions/vignettes that focus on current issues facing youth; and to invest money in creating content and sharing the videos with students and the school community. It was suggested that the videos be promoted and posted on the Board/school websites, LKDSB Facebook and YouTube. It was also suggested that perhaps students could work with health unit representatives and be featured in the promotion videos; with time invested going towards their community service hours.
- Sue followed up with the Board's Public Relations Officer and Superintendent of Education. Public Relations staff would need to start planning as soon as possible. It was recommended that we begin this initiative with two videos; one developed for Sarnia Lambton and one for Chatham-Kent.
- Secondary Program staff agreed that as health units are non-profit, student involvement outside of instructional time could be counted towards community service hours.
- **PIC members supported looking at developing the two short videos to align with and promote the parent evenings – "What does it mean to have a good friend". Parental consent would be required for student participation. Sue will follow up with the Board's Public Relations Officer. Health Unit representatives are available to assist. The goal will be to release the videos during Education Week prior to the May 22 and 23 parent events.**

#### Director's Update – Jim Costello

##### Update on Replacement of Director of Education

- Timelines for hiring a new Director of Education were reviewed. The Board hired a search firm, Promeus, to assist with the short-listing process. Interviews will be conducted on February 26. The new Director will be named by the end of March to begin the transition process.

#### Government Consultation on Improving Efficiencies

- The government is looking at how to save funds to address the \$15B deficit. The Ministry of Education is consulting with school boards and stakeholder groups in three areas: Grants for Student Needs (GSNs); Teacher Hiring Practices (Ontario Regulation 274/12); and Class Size Caps.
- The Director explained the current Reg. 274 which requires boards to hire based on seniority. Teaching candidates can presently apply for the Occasional Roaster and they must complete 20 days in a full year to apply for the LTO Lists. Once on the list they become eligible for permanent positions. Boards must hire from the top five most senior qualified candidates on the list. Boards want to hire based on the quality of the applicant vs. seniority only.
- The government is looking to achieve efficiencies. The media focus has been on class size caps. Parents want smaller class sizes. The government can save money if they increase class sizes even by one. Consultations close on February 22. **PIC members were invited to email their thoughts to the Director or Sue on achieving efficiencies, class sizes and hiring practices. Jim will formulate a response on behalf of administration.** Trustee Associations and Unions will also be submitting input.
- The GSNs are usually released the first week of April. Schools are preparing for next year with Grade 8 students completing their Option Sheets for Grade 9 and Kindergarten registration. Enrolment data will be mapped out against the GSNs to determine staffing levels.

#### TELP

- Last year PIC was involved in discussions and provided feedback into the future of TELP (Technology Enriched Learning Program). The Board has been purchasing 1600 plus iPads per year for students as well as for Gr. 7 teachers. We have about 16,000 iPads in the system. Last year the Board contributed \$1M to TELP with the reduction of the Ministry Technology Learning Fund. With funding reductions, the Board cannot allocate another \$1M this year which necessitates the need to redesign or discontinue the current TELP model.
- Last year staff and parents were surveyed, and a decision was made to continue with TELP for the 2018/2019 school year.
- Senior Administration has been deliberating TELP for next year, which would be the fourth and final year of the project. Options were reviewed which include allowing the phase out of TELP and not purchasing

devices for next year or collecting all the TELP iPads back in and redeploying as class sets based on teacher requests. Students would no longer be able to take the iPads home.

- Comments were shared. Chromebooks can be purchased at a lower price and they have a keyboard. Parents felt that TELP was more successful in elementary schools. It was noted that some teachers were more eager than others to use iPads in their classrooms. TELP did not have an impact on EQAO results. Schools will continue to receive funding to purchase technology as decided at the school level.
- **PIC members were invited to submit their feedback to Jim/Sue on the two options presented.** Option 1 would have TELP wind down after only 3 years so no new iPads would be purchased for incoming Gr. 7 students, but current students would continue to carry on using their devices until Gr. 10. Under Option 2 all TELP iPads would be brought back in to the Board office and then redeployed as classroom sets.
- Students would continue to receive iPads through Special Education SEA claims.
- Another option would be to keep all iPads at the elementary level. Secondary students often prefer laptops and BYOD option.

#### Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- Nancy Simon attended the three School Climate Survey Consultation meetings as the parent representative. The surveys are expected to be rolled out in April. She shared that the committee is hoping for a higher completion rate of the Parent Survey. She asked PIC members to stress the importance of the survey with their School Councils. Information packages will go out soon and the communication process will be enhanced.
- CKSS was approved for a Parent Reaching Out Grant. The school is hosting a presentation on Youth and Anxiety on February 5 beginning at 6:30. All are welcome to attend.
- A total of 18 schools were approved for 2018-19 PRO Grants in the amount of \$1,000 each.

#### Next Meeting

- May 13, 6:30 p.m. – Sarnia Education Centre – Board Room (Dinner at 5:45)

Adjournment: 8:33 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary