

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

December 2, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

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

Present:

John Howitt, Director of Education; Ruth Ann Dodman, Trustee; Sue Fraser, Recorder;
Jamie Tinney Rea, Bright's Grove; Tracy Pound, Errol Village; Melinda Hazen, High Park;
Sharon Chapman, King George VI Sarnia; Jennifer Whiteye, Naahii Ridge;
Melissa Hewitt, Queen Elizabeth II Sarnia; Karen Slater, Sir John Moore;
Nancy Simon, Chatham-Kent S.S.; Alexandra Smith, Great Lakes S.S.;
Jacqueline Dick, John McGregor S.S.; Tracey Machan, Northern Collegiate;
Marian McEwan, Chatham-Kent Public Health; Martina Jackson, Lambton Public Health

Regrets:

Angie Baresich, Brooke Central; Nicole Hopper, Thamesville Area; Annette Schliehauf, Zone Central

Welcome and Introductions – Director of Education John Howitt / PIC Co-Chair Tracey Machan

- Tracey Machan welcomed everyone to the Parent Involvement Committee meeting.
- Director Howitt introduced guest presenters, Ben Hazzard, Superintendent of Education, Katie Colameco, Mental Health Lead and Mark Houghton, System Coordinator, Safe Schools.

School Climate Survey Results – Katie Colameco / Mark Houghton

- Katie Colameco thanked PIC members for their support and for completing the 2019 School Climate Survey.
- Nancy Simon represented parents on the Climate Survey Working Group that developed the revised surveys.
- The Lambton Kent District School Board conducted four School Climate Surveys from April 1-12, 2019 to gather input from students in Grades 4-6, Grades 7-8, Grades 9-12 and from parents/guardians and staff . The surveys included a variety of questions on topics such as eating and sleeping habits, well-being and bullying. The surveys were developed with input from students, parents/guardians; school and Board administration, including Mental Health, Safe Schools and Indigenous Education representatives, and Chatham-Kent Public Health and Lambton Public Health. Data was gathered to help with planning programs and decision-making related to supporting safe and inclusive school environments. (Climate Survey summaries are attached for each of the four surveys.)
- The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit compiled and analyzed the data from each of the surveys.
- Areas we want schools to focus on include students and adults feeling welcome, having a sense of belonging, and the impact that caring adults can have on learning.
- Each school has a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) which includes principals, teachers and education workers. Each MDT is reviewing individual school results to develop plans to support students and promote positive school climates.
- Katie is visiting schools to speak with administrators about their results and how she can support them moving forward. She will also meet with students as deemed appropriate. It is important for the student voice to be heard. Schools are gathering student feedback through focus groups, classroom activities and student council on how best to reach students who may not come forward.
- It was noted that schools receive individual student data, but this information is not shared publicly as there is potential for students to be identified.
- All school boards are mandated by the Ministry of Education to conduct School Climate Surveys; however; surveys can be customized to meet local needs. The LKDSB and five other boards partnered to develop and incorporate questions from the Healthy Living Module.

2020-2021 School Year Calendar – Ben Hazzard, Superintendent of Education

- An update was shared on the online Kindergarten registration process introduced this year. Over 700 families accessed the online registration. A survey was sent out on December 2 to JK families to obtain feedback on what worked well, what can be improved and how they heard about the LKDSB online process. The survey contained open ended questions to obtain feedback on actionable items. The survey was sent out to families via school messenger. A mobile version of the form was sent out mid-afternoon and the Board has already received over 100 responses.
- The letter regarding development of the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar was sent out with the agenda package. Superintendent Hazzard reviewed slides that outlined the proposed calendar.
- Consultation has taken place with the coterminous board and feedback is being obtained from the unions and PIC.
The 2020-2021 calendar provides 194 school days between September 3, 2020 and June 30, 2021. The school year calendar must include a minimum of 194 school days of which up to 7 days can be designated by the Board as professional activity days and the remaining school days must be instructional days.
- 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 December and March Breaks are as defined in Reg. 304. The Board is not requesting to modify the standard calendar provided by the Ministry of Education.
- This year there are 10 weeks between the last day of school and Labour Day. Typically, there are only 8 weeks. In order to reach 194 instructional days, the 2020-2021 school year is proposed to begin on Thursday, September 3, 2020 and end on Friday, June 30, 2021. The first day of class for students will be Tuesday, September 8. Proposed PA days were reviewed. It is recommended that two of the PA Days will be held on the Thursday and Friday prior to Labour Day. This will impact staff but not students. Input from PIC last year was heard and a PA day is being proposed on the Friday prior to the Thanksgiving weekend. PA days are also proposed for Friday, November 20, 2020, Wednesday, February 3, 2021 to align with the semester turnaround in secondary schools, and Friday, June 4, 2021. The last day of school for students will be June 29, with a PA Day on June 30. The December and March Break dates were shared along with statutory holidays and exam dates.
- It was noted that the late end date will have an impact on scheduling graduation ceremonies.
- The question was raised as to whether the 2 PA Days need to be held on the Thursday and Friday prior to Labour Day. Superintendent Hazzard clarified that if the days are not consecutive on these days there would be EI implications for 10-month non-teaching staff.
- Community agencies will have access to the calendar once it is approved in order to schedule PA Day activities and camps for students.
- The proposed calendar will go to Board for approval in March. The deadline date for submission to the Ministry is May 1, 2020.

Business Arising from the Meeting of October 27, 2019

- The agenda captured all items.

2019-2020 Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant – Application Process

- The draft PRO Grant Application, Parent Feedback Survey template and School Report Back template were sent out with the agenda package. The documents align with the requirements set out in the Ministry memorandum and transfer payment agreement.
- Changes put forth by the sub-committee were incorporated into the documents.
- Suggestion to add to the survey “Did you attend the event with your child/student?”
- Concerns were shared that the application stipulates no “fun fairs”. In the past schools have called the events fun fairs to attract parents even though there were math games and other curriculum activities. It was felt that the term fun fair referenced parent barbeques etc. It was agreed that if the event activities fit the criteria outlined in the guidelines, the title of the event could include fun and/or fair.
- Schools will advertise or promote their events.
- The application will be updated to add under focus area “supporting student well-being (health, bullying prevention, resiliency); and location of the event (when and where was the event held?).

- Activities will need to be held prior to June 1, 2020 in order to meet the timeline of June 15, 2020 for completion of the School Report Back form. Board Finance staff are then required to submit a larger Board Report in July.
- The deadline date for school PRO Grant applications will be by noon on January 31, 2020. The PIC Sub-Committee will meet on February 3 at 4:30 p.m. to review applications prior to the regular PIC meeting on February 10, 2020.
- The goal will be to approve all school project applications that meet the criteria. Any funds remaining could be used for a larger parent event.

Director's Update – John Howitt

Entry Plan

- Director Howitt thanked PIC members who sent in feedback for his Entry Plan. Comments will be incorporated into the final report that will be shared with PIC.

Labour and Negotiations

- An update was shared on labour and the status of negotiations. Director Howitt explained the central and local bargaining processes for the three unions – CUPE, ETFO and OSSTF. Provincial representatives of the three unions meet at the central table with the Trustee Association and the government to address large items such as class sizes and benefits. Central bargaining takes place prior to local bargaining for each union.
- At this point a central provincial agreement has been reached with CUPE and local negotiations are taking place. Within the LKDSB, CUPE represents all education workers except for teachers and non-union staff. In some boards OSSTF and ETFO represent education workers such as Educational Assistants and Early Childhood Educators.
- OSSTF represents secondary teachers of the Board. They are in a legal strike position at the central table. Local negotiations have not started.
- ETFO represents elementary teachers of the Board. They are in a legal strike position and are now in a partial withdrawal of service. They have not moved to a full withdrawal. Partial withdrawal has a minimal impact on students and parents and is more focused on attending meetings and Ministry initiatives.
- OSSTF continues to meet; however, if a settlement is not reached at the central table, secondary schools in the province will hold a full one-day strike on Wednesday, December 5. This will not impact Gr. 7 and 8 students attending Gr. 7-12 schools or other elementary programs operating in the secondary schools. If a settlement has not been reached by 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening, a notice will be sent out to secondary parents to confirm the closure of schools on Wednesday. Communication updates will continue to be shared. School messaging will direct parents to the Board website.

Board Organization Meeting

- The annual Board Organization Meeting is on Tuesday, December 3. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be appointed, and Trustees will be selected for Committees of the Board.

PIC Facebook Page – Alexandra Smith

- Input was sought on whether to continue with the PIC Facebook Group. If a decision is made to continue additional PIC members are needed to monitor and update the site.
- The PIC Facebook account was set up as a closed group vs. an open page. The intent was for school council representatives from each school to join the group, however this has not been the case. The group is small, and engagement has been limited.
- Options discussed included a refresh of the PIC Facebook Group to get a member from each school council to join or to open the group up to the public. Concerns were shared that an open public site opens the possibility of individual complaints and inappropriate comments being posted.
- Martina and Melinda volunteered to assist with the PIC Facebook account. A volunteer would be needed from a Chatham-Kent representative.
- **Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.**

- Other options for the sharing and exchanging information could be a School Council Google Hangout where the Board maintains the list of school council chairs or School Messenger.
- PIC members thanked Alexandra for her work to date monitoring and updating the PIC Facebook Group.
- A suggestion was made to look at connecting with families/school councils through the Family of Schools.

Report on People for Education Annual Conference – Public Education in a Changing World – Alexandra Smith and Melinda Hazen

- Alexandra and Melinda attended the People for Education conference on November 2. Keynote speaker Stephen Lewis addressed the need to *Listen to Children's Voice*.
- Information was shared on the break-out sessions they attended which included: The Pros and Cons of eLearning; Tokenism – making students feel like they have a voice but not following up; the YPI Student Led Program in Hamilton; Schools as Centres of Mental Health and Wellness, Coping with Stress; Resiliency; and Building Bridges.
- A conference summary will be shared with the minutes.

Event Planning for 2019-2020

- David Chilton will be speaking to students and staff on May 13 at Lambton College. **PIC supported looking into a parent event on the evening of May 12 or 13 with David Chilton.**
- The application deadline is approaching for Tomorrows Greener Schools Today – tree planting. Principals of schools who have not yet participated can contact Martina Jackson for information.
- Marian McEwan emailed PIC members to share information from Life Coach, Dr. Karen Gordon. Marian will investigate Dr. Gordon's availability and cost as a possible speaker for a parent event.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- There was no new business.

Next Meeting

- **February 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via video conference.**
- **The PRO Grant Sub-Committee will meet on February 3, 2020 at 4:30 to review applications. Sue will send out a meeting request.**

Adjournment: 8: 33 pm

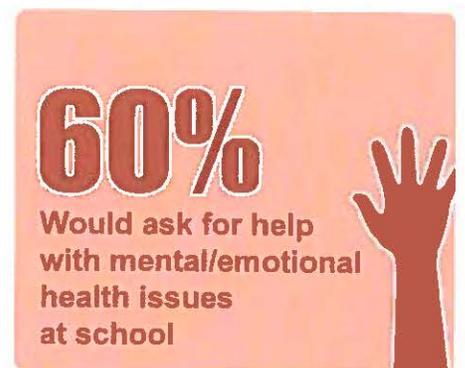
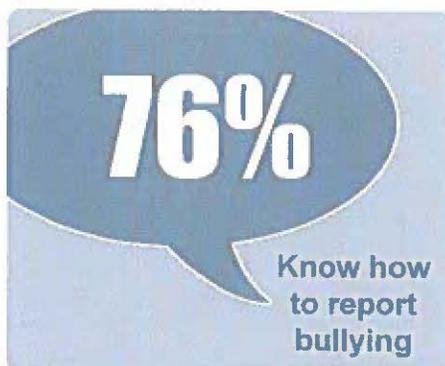
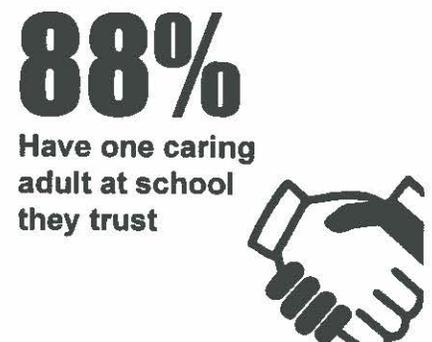
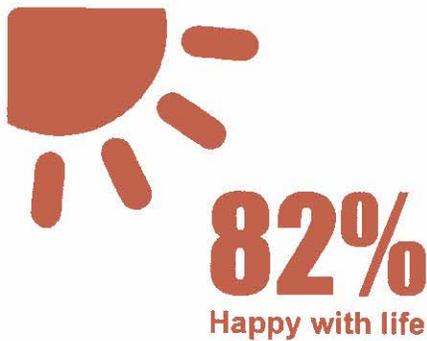
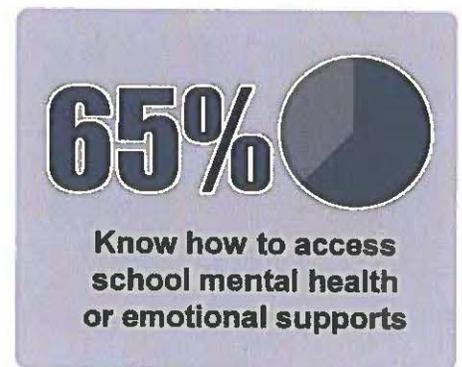
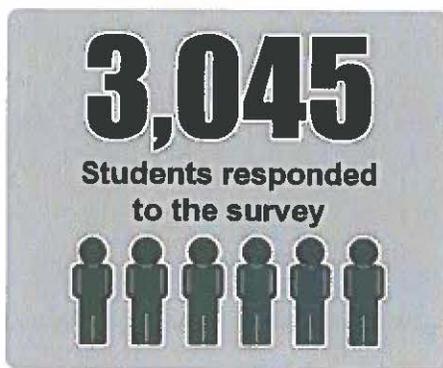
Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary

EVERY VOICE COUNTS

School Climate Survey Grade 4-6 Results

The Lambton Kent District School Board conducted a School Climate Survey April 1-12, 2019 to gather input from students in Grades 4-12, parents/guardians and staff to help with planning programs and decision-making related to supporting safe and inclusive school environments.

The following is an overview of the results for Grades 4-6. Contact your school for more detailed information.

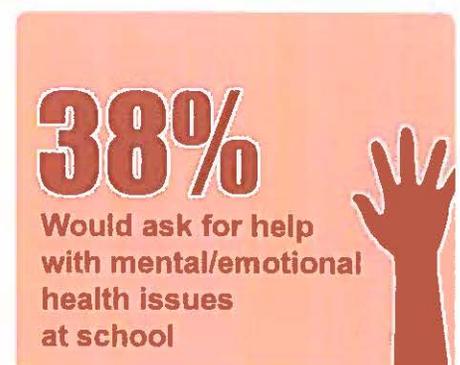
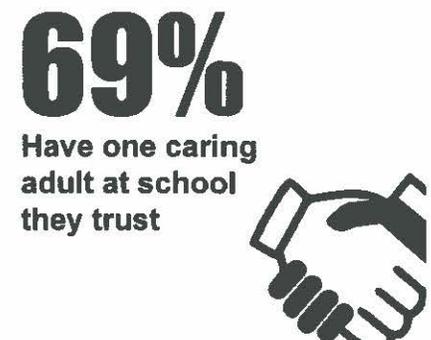
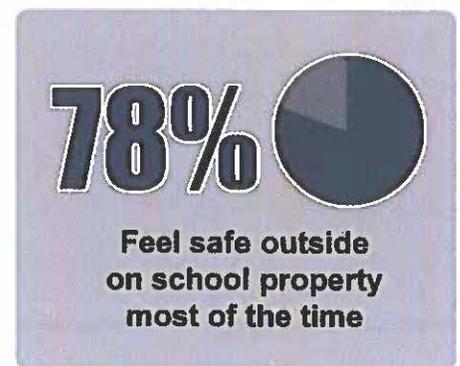


EVERY VOICE COUNTS

School Climate Survey Grade 7-8 Results

The Lambton Kent District School Board conducted a School Climate Survey April 1-12, 2019 to gather input from students in Grades 4-12, parents/guardians and staff to help with planning programs and decision-making related to supporting safe and inclusive school environments.

The following is an overview of the results for Grades 7-8. Contact your school for more detailed information.

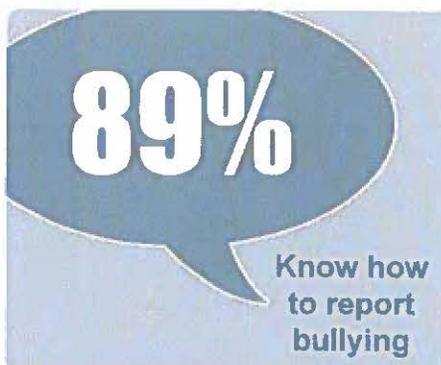
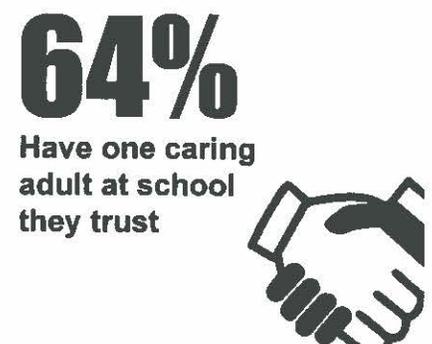
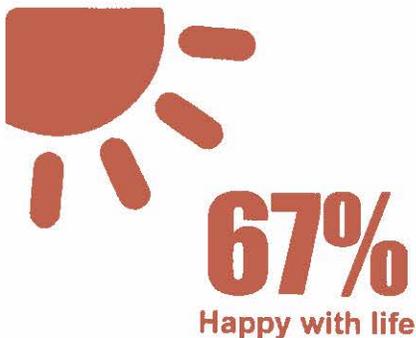


EVERY VOICE COUNTS

School Climate Survey Grade 9-12 Results

The Lambton Kent District School Board conducted a School Climate Survey April 1-12, 2019 to gather input from students in Grades 4-12, parents/guardians and staff to help with planning programs and decision-making related to supporting safe and inclusive school environments.

The following is an overview of the results for Grades 9-12. Contact your school for more detailed information.



EVERY VOICE COUNTS

School Climate Survey Parent/Guardian Results

The Lambton Kent District School Board conducted a School Climate Survey April 1-12, 2019 to gather input from students in Grades 4-12, parents/guardians and staff to help with planning programs and decision-making related to supporting safe and inclusive school environments. The following information is an overview of the results for parents and guardians. Contact your school for more information.

TOTAL PARENT / GUARDIAN RESPONDENTS: 1,674

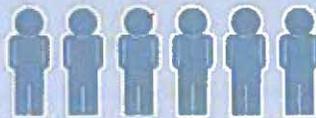


81%

Feel satisfied with the level of school communication

530

Parents/guardians of JK-Grade 3 students



31%



Feel there are barriers to their child's learning at school

418

Parents/guardians of Grade 4-6 students



86%

Feel they can contact the school with concerns

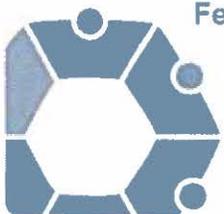
230

Parents/guardians of Grade 7-8 students



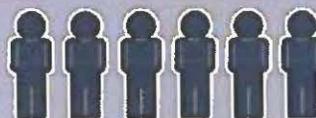
91%

Feel their child's school is welcoming



496

Parents/guardians of Grade 9-12 students



52%

Aware of school mental/emotional health supports at school

