

**LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD**

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

February 6, 2023– 6:30 p.m.

Via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Director Howitt

Kelley Robertson - Trustee

Karen Genoway – Errol Village P.S. virtual

Alexandra Smith – G.L.S.S.

Melissa Hewitt - L.C.C.V.I.

Karen Slater - Sir John Moore P.S.

Bonnie Gotelaer – Administrative Assistant

Nicholas Sitter – Bosanquet P.S. / N.L.S.S.

Angie Baresich - Brooke Central P.S.

Melinda Hazen - High Park P.S.

Malinda Little - Trustee

Regrets: Jennifer Whiteye; Sandra Ross

Guest: Mary Mancini

Welcome and Introductions – Director Howitt / PIC Co-Chair Melinda Hazen

Melinda Hazen welcomed everyone to the Parent Involvement Committee meeting.

November 21, 2023 minutes approved.

Secondary Program Update

Superintendent Mancini noted most information has remained the same as last year. The academic and applied streams have been the traditional approach to learning and noted the applied course stream resulted in being viewed as less academically rigorous. The Ministry of Education has developed a plan to remove academic and applied course streams which is called destreaming, with revised curriculum in grade 9 that will meet the needs of all students. This support future education pathways options for students to succeed, thrive and reach their full potential. This current year a Grade 9 timetable will reflect destreamed math and science, academic english, geography and french or native language at the open level and three other open level courses including physical education and two electives.

The Ministry of Education announced a new destreamed english to be available September 2023 replacing the academic english for the 2023/2024 school year. Grade 10 courses will be offered at both academic and applied levels in english, math, science and french.

Teachers have adopted new curriculum and have participated in professional learning for the delivery of the curriculum. Students have continued to learn in a manner familiar to them. The data indicates positive progress. After one full year of math grade 9 destreamed, the pass rate is 93.3% compared to previous year with the overall average pass rate of 91.8%.

Does GLSS have data specific to their school specifically? Historical data is available showing the geography and french pass rates were comparable to academic to rates from prior years.

Superintendent Mancini indicated a report a year from now would be beneficial.

Superintendent Mancini explained secondary students have completed final evaluation dates, which for many students, was their first experience writing a final exam. A revised assessment and evaluation procedure has been implemented by teachers providing final evaluations worth up to 30% of the final mark. This approach to evaluation and assessments requires teachers to provide two final activities the students are to complete. This allows teachers to understand what students know and can do.

Reflections and comments included from a parent of a grade 12 student in academic math: The student completed two booklets prior to the exam and hasn't received a final mark to date. There was a concern with the volume of work in completing the activities.

Knowing the exam was worth less – did that lessen her anxiety? It lessened it knowing she was doing well in the booklets and felt it was good exam preparation.

2023-2024 School Year Calendar

Director Howitt presented the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar on behalf of Superintendent Ben Hazzard. The standard calendar presented by the Ministry of Education includes 194 days between September 5, 2023 and June 28, 2024. Seven days are designated Professional Activity days and the

remaining days will be instructional days and examination dates in the secondary panel . Winter Break begins December 25, 2023 to January 5, 2024. Professional Development Days September 15, 2023 October 6, 2023 as recommended by PIC to allow Thanksgiving to be an extended weekend for students, November 17, 2023, February 2, 2024 , April 26, 2024 June 7, 2024 and June 28, 2024. Exam dates January 26, 2024 - February 1, 2024 and June 21, 2024 -June 27, 2024. The Professional Development Day on September 15 enables reorganization of classrooms as necessary, Health and Safety Training and Professional development helping teachers in their planning.

Business Arising from the Meeting of October 24, 2022

The Parent Involvement Committee Team channel will have a shared calendar to have each school provide information being held at schools.

Director Howitt provided an overview on the use of the Teams channel. Bonnie to investigate with the help of IT difficulties members are having accessing the Team.

Director's Update

Black History Month

February is Black History and African Heritage month. Resources are available on the website and this year's focus is on Black Innovation.

Kindergarten Registration

Common nights in schools are scheduled in the kindergarten rooms and spaces for parents and students can see the actual space. There are multiple registration dates which provides more opportunities for families to visit classrooms. Families are welcome to come back to visit to feel more comfortable. Traditionally the best advertising for kindergarten is word of mouth and a reminder to community families that they can come any time to register. Paperwork can be done online prior to the registration evening to allow a more interactive visit.

Director's Annual Report

Director Howitt explained the Director's Annual Report is a requirement to be completed by the Director annually. He indicated the report highlights initiatives that are linked to the LKDSB Strategic Priorities and is available on the LKDSB website under Board Communications.

Director Howitt noted the Student Census although it provided good data and he explained the response rate was lower than hoped. He explained that parents helped students from kindergarten through to grade 8 to complete and that students from grade 9 to 12 completed themselves. Director Howitt noted the Staff Census had a high response rate.

Director Howitt indicated a survey will be sent for parents/guardians to indicate interest in virtual school programming.

Director Howitt thanked the committee for proceeding with the November 21, 2023 meeting. He explained he attended a parent meeting at Brooke Central School regarding the construction issue at that school.

How did transferring students go?

- The community and staff came together incredibly to complete the work. Bussing issues are working better now with new routes. The community wanted intermediate students to be available for the younger students/siblings. Based on community feedback, the grade 6,7 and 8 student placement was revised and moved to use the daycare space. Construction is progressing and the students will return in September if it is not ready in the spring.

Feeder schools for French Immersion attend in secondary at LCCVI. If the families prefer to attend at NCIVS would that be considered to be a French Immersion site?

- There is insufficient interest based on demand and there is insufficient space. Demand decreased at NLSS (a former French Immersion site) and is no longer there due to the lack of interest. Principal input is valuable in future planning for students.

EQAO scores seem to be decreasing and is there a plan in place with going forward?

- This year EQAO was a revised test that cannot be compared to tests in previous years due to the change in format. All students in the province wrote the same test. LKDSB scores indicate to be much lower success than is acceptable. Due to these low scores, there is an extensive plan in place and is indicated on the Operational Plan available the LKDBS website

Concern noted that students are encountering hurdles and the biggest impediment is confidence which can be a struggle to build up and can also decrease quickly.

- Director Howitt noted we all need to lift up that confidence in math. He noted a follow up would occur with administration to confirm the delivery of math.

PRO Grant Update

Bonnie Gotelaer shared PRO Grant information with administrators who are making plans at the school level at School Council meetings. There will be updates indicating how many schools have been spending money.

PIC Spring Event

Bonnie reached out to Ann Douglas who can provide different presentations with fees around \$895 per presentation. There is process of having presenters vetted and she falls within the parameters required. Dr. Robyne Defoe who has an organization of speakers has recommended a speaker whose fee is \$5000 for one hour.

Any other suggestions, please contact Bonnie.

Bonnie to send information regarding speakers and will gather feedback from the committee.

Other Business

The existing Facebook page will be closed down.

Karen Genoway has been hired by LKDSB.

Future Agenda Items

Student Census

Budget Presentation

Next Meeting

May 15, 2023

Sarnia Education Centre, Chatham Regional Education Centre or via Teams

Adjournment: 7:44 p.m.

Bonnie Gotelaer
Recording Secretary