

**LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD**

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

October 2, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.

Sarnia Education Centre, Chatham Regional Education Centre and via Teams

Present:

John Howitt - Director of Education
Bonnie Gotelaer – Administrative Assistant
Nicholas Sitter – Bosanquet P.S. / N.L.S.S.
Karen Genoway – Errol Village P.S.
Nicole Hopper – Thamesville Area P.S.
Kaylin Pretty – Chatham Kent Public Health
Karen Slater - Sir John Moore P.S.

Kelley Robertson – Trustee
Jason Nantais – H.W. Burgess P.S.
Angie Baresich - Brooke Central P.S.
Victoria Pretty – Kinnwood Central P.S.
Stephanie Dries – Indian Creek Road P.S.
Heather Drouillard – W.J. Baird

Regrets:

Melissa Hewitt - Queen Elizabeth II Petrolia P.S./L.C.C.V.I.
Samantha Dillon – Lambton Public Health

Guests – Emily Dixon, Superintendent of Education

Welcome and Introductions – In the absence of a current Chair of the Parent Involvement Committee, Angie Baresich was acclaimed and welcomed all to the meeting. Introductions of each Committee member were made.

Inclusive Diversity and Human Rights

Superintendent of Education Emily Dixon presented the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice Team’s note on social justice. Superintendent Dixon noted social justice means everyone deserves equal rights and opportunities. She noted this is important in every learning space to ensure each student feels welcome and feels a sense of belonging in order to learn and that every student feels included in their schools and classroom. Superintendent Dixon noted that social justice aligns with the Lambton Kent District School Board’s Strategic Priorities and that educators are duty-holders being responsible to recognize and protect the human rights of students.

Superintendent Dixon remarked that all people are rights-holders. Rights-holders include members of groups that are protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code. She noted people may face discrimination based on age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed, disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, place of origin, race, receipt of public assistance (in housing only), record of offences (in employment only), sex and sexual orientation.

Superintendent Dixon explained duty-holders are all people and have a responsibility for respecting human rights. Duty-holders have the obligation to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the human rights of rights-holders. Duty-holders have the obligation to set up mechanisms for effective remedies and meet legal and other obligations relating to human rights issues. She explained public educators, duty-holders with a responsibility to recognize and protect the Ontario Human Rights of our students.

Superintendent Dixon noted that from 2019-2021 hate crimes in Ontario rose by 72% and explained that education is the greatest opportunity to address this by actively and intentionally working to end the scourges of hate and violence in education systems and communities and that the rise in hate has an impact and is severely detrimental to students’ mental health and well-being. She noted 2SLGBTQQIA+, Indigenous, Black and other racialized students are impacted by the hatred and racism and explained that educators and staff should also be able to teach in an environment devoid of racism, hatred, and discrimination.

Superintendent Dixon referenced Section 169.1.a(1) and Section 300.0.1 of the Ontario Education Act which is produced, maintained and amended by the Government.

Superintendent Dixon closed the presentation noting that the Lambton Kent District School Board is committed to Every Student, Every Day through a collection of resources, policies, procedures and pedagogies and noted that the EDIJ team supports students and staff.

Question: What is the process for parents/guardians to opt out of curriculum for subjects they do not wish their children to be present for?

Director Howitt Director Howitt responded that parents/guardians have the option to opt out of some but not all areas of curriculum and referred to the LKDSB Administrative Procedure *Exemption Procedure for Human Development and Sexual Health expectations of The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1–8, 2019.*

Business Arising from the meeting of May 15, 2023

Director Howitt noted that Microsoft Teams may be a bit more user friendly than in the past and a Parent Involvement Committee Team could be used to post Agendas, Minutes, general chat function and a sharing platform for collaboration. Director Howitt asked if there were volunteers to help work through the platform with Administrative Assistant Bonnie Gotelaer. Jason Nantais and Nicholas Sitter volunteered to work on this with Bonnie.

Director's Update

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation is September 30. There are resources shared with staff and students.

EQAO

The provincial results have not been released publicly and will share as soon as the Ministry of Education allows.

Forest Area Kindergarten – Grade 12

The Forest Area Kindergarten – Grade 12 school is progressing in Transition Committee meetings and in the School Naming Committee formed.

Student Achievement Plan

The Ministry of Education will provide a Student Achievement Plan with 11 indicators that will be completed and posted on the Board website.

Operational Plan

The LKDSB Operational Plan for 2023-2024 is being restructured in order to meet the Ministry requirements and will be presented to Trustees later this fall.

PIC Update

The 2022-2023 PIC Budget Summary was sent out with agenda package and will be posted on the Board website.

The 2023 - 2024 PIC Central Budget is \$8,500.00. Members are encouraged to think of ideas and bring forward for discussion.

PRO (Parent Reaching Out) Grant Guidelines

PRO Grant funding has been moved into the Grants for Students Needs (GSN). Schools are no longer required to apply for the Grant funding but can continue to plan activities that engage children's learning and community engagement. Each School Council is allotted \$500 and each school is allotted \$500 in PRO Grant funds. These funds can be used separately or can be combined to hold an event. Principals have been notified of the guidelines. School Councils are encouraged to share ideas with each other.

Future Meetings:

November 13, 2023, February 12, 2024, May 27, 2024. The November and February meetings will be held virtually, and the May meeting will be held in the Chatham Regional Education Centre and the Sarnia Education Centre joining via video conference.

Next Meeting

November 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. via Teams

Adjournment: 7:14 pm

Bonnie Gotelaer, Recording Secretary