

## LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

February 6, 2017

Sarnia and Chatham Education Centre (Video Conference Rooms)

#### **Present:**

Jim Costello, Director of Education; Alexandra Smith, Great Lakes S.S. / P.E. McGibbon; Angie Baresich, Brooke Central; Carina Best, Errol Road; Karen Green Williams, Gregory Drive; Karen Phipps, Alexander Mackenzie S.S. / Hanna Memorial; Kristen Schrie, High Park; Sharon Chapman, King George VI Sarnia; Heidi Cincelli, McNaughton Avenue; Melissa Hewitt, Queen Elizabeth II Sarnia; Annette Schleihauf, Zone Central;

#### **Regrets:**

Ruth Ann Dodman, Trustee; Shannon Sasseville, Trustee; Kelly-Lynn Musico, Northern Collegiate; Jessica McCracken, Tilbury Area; Martina Jackson, Lambton Public Health; and Chatham-Kent Public Health Representative.

#### Welcome and Introductions – Carina Best

- Carina welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

#### Business Arising from the Meeting of December 5, 2016

- Heather set up a Gmail account to create a Facebook profile. Sue and Heather will work on setting up a closed Facebook Group – possibly not until the start of the new school year as many schools will have new school council chairs. They will work on setting up a list of school council members invited to join the group. Links to the Board's RUT were included in the minutes.

**Sue will talk to Heather about setting up a dry run of PIC members only in preparation for September start up.**

#### Update from Planning Sub-Committee on the Spring District Parent Event

- Karen shared an update from the Sub-Committee Planning Meeting. Ellie Fraser, the Board's Mental Health Lead is helping to plan the evening.
- The Sub-Committee supported the theme of "Staying Connected While Unplugged". The evening would kick off with a brief presentation and sharing data/statistics. Panel sessions would be offered with community representatives speaking on the need to unplug after school and ideas on how to stay connected with family, friends and community. An interactive component with panelists will be incorporated at the end of the evening. Panelists will be asked to speak to mental health, physical health, social/community health and overall well-being.
- Two evenings will be held – May 10 in the Board Room of the Sarnia Education Centre and May 11 in the Board Room of the Chatham Regional Education Centre. Local service providers will be on hand for parents to connect with following the panel sessions. Ellie Fraser is doing the leg work to identify panelists and service providers.
- Sticky notes will be provided for parents to write down questions and thoughts.
- PIC members were asked to provide input for a positive theme title for the evening.
- Alexandra to forward email to PIC members and Ellie re Sarnia Speaks (focus on anxiety and how students can help other students).
- The PIC Planning Sub-Committee is meeting again on March 1. An update will be shared with PIC members.
- PIC supported the proposal presented by the Planning Sub-Committee.

## Director's Update – Jim Costello

### Pupil Accommodation

- Two Accommodation Reviews are underway this year. Working meetings, community consultation meetings and staff meetings are held for each review.
- Under the Forest Area Accommodation Review, a recommendation is being made for the consolidation of Aberarder Central School, Bosanquet Central School, Kinnwood Central School and North Lambton Secondary School into a Kindergarten to Grade 12 School on the Kinnwood Central School Site. The community is supportive of the review but hopes that approval will be granted to pursue construction of one new school. The Final Staff Report will be presented at a Special Board Meeting on February 7. Delegations will be heard at the February 28 Board Meeting with the final vote taking place at the March 21 Special Board Meeting.
- Under the Chatham Elementary Review, a recommendation is being made for the consolidation of John N. Given Public School Kindergarten to Grade 8 English Language Program at Tecumseh Public School and the relocation of the John N. Given Public School Grade 7 and 8 French Immersion Program to McNaughton Avenue Public School. McNaughton Avenue has approximately 700 students with over half French Immersion. Student safety concerns have been raised over students crossing south of McNaughton Avenue. The Board has talked to the Municipality about an additional cross walk. The Final Staff Report will be presented at the April 11 Board Meeting. Delegations from the Chatham Elementary Area will be heard at the April 25 Board Meeting with the final vote taking place at the May 9 Board Meeting.

### Cashless Schools

- Parents and staff have expressed frustration regarding the frequency that parents are requested to send money to the school for hot lunch days, field trips etc. Concerns have also been raised around the handling of cash and potential risks for staff. Provincial auditors have recommended that school boards explore movement to cashless schools.
- The LKDSB is looking into piloting the KEV Group cashless school accounting system. Parents can provide a void cheque or can pre-load money to allow the school to pull funds from their account as needed. There would need to be significant percentage of parent buy-in to move in this direction to avoid duplication of work for office staff. Administration fees apply and costs are rounded up which would be communicated to parents up front. Approximately 40 boards in the province are utilizing the system.
- PIC members spoke in support of moving to cashless schools. It is becoming harder to get volunteers to count money at schools. Many schools only accept cash and not cheques.
- Questions were raised around liability with click button and the legality of consent. PIC representatives will be invited to the KEV in-service session and can report back to the Committee.
- Further information will be shared once schools have had a chance to pilot the system.

**Jim to report back.**

### Next Meeting

- May 15, 2017 at 5:45 p.m. in the Board Room of the Sarnia Education Centre.

### Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- The draft 2017-18 School Year Calendar will be shared with PIC. Feedback can be sent to Superintendent Taf Lounsbury.
- Kristin spoke to drainage issues on the High Park School property. Flooding could be a city issue or perhaps related to construction. **Jim will look into.**
- A Website Mock Up meeting is scheduled on February 7. **An update on the new LKDSB Website will be shared at the next meeting.**

Adjournment: 7:07 p.m.