

LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

November 26, 2018

Sarnia Education Centre and Chatham Regional Education Centre
Video Conference Rooms

Present:

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.; Jamie Rea, Bright's Grove; Tracy Pound, Cathcart; Kristen Schrie, High Park;
Jennifer Whiteye, Naahii Ridge; Melissa Hewitt, Queen Elizabeth II Sarnia; Annette Schleihauf, Zone Central;
Lisa Tetrault, Chatham-Kent Public Health, Donna Schmidtmeier, Lambton Public Health

Regrets:

Jim Costello, Director of Education; Miranda Mitchell, Alexander Mackenzie S.S.;
Angie Baresich, Brooke Central; Sharon Chapman, King George VI (S); Anne Patterson, Thamesville Area;

Welcome – Jamie Rea

- Co-Chair Jamie Rea welcomed everyone to the Parent Involvement Committee meeting and noted regrets from those unable to attend.
- Superintendent of Education, Mark Sherman attended on behalf of Director Costello.
- Jamie introduced Katie Colameco, the Board's Mental Health Leader

School Climate Survey – Katie Colameco, Mental Health Leader

- Katie indicated that she has been the Board's Mental Health Leader since July.
- She explained that the Ministry of Education asks all school boards in Ontario to conduct anonymous school climate surveys to help with planning programs and decision-making regarding programs supporting safe and inclusive school environments; to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs and to assess perceptions of safety amongst students, staff and parents/guardians. The Lambton Kent District School Board conducts school climate surveys of students, school staff and parents every two years as they all play a key role in contributing to a positive school climate. Four surveys are conducted: A Gr. 4 to 6 Student Survey, a Gr. 7 to 12 Student Survey, a Staff Survey and a Parent/Guardian Survey.
- This year a working group was formed to assist the Board in determining the questions for the 2019 Climate Survey. The stakeholder group consists of Board Office staff from areas of Senior Administration, Safe Schools, Special Education, First Nations, and Health and Safety; Principal representatives from the Equity and Inclusion Committee and Multi-Disciplinary Team, representatives from Chatham Kent Public Health and Lambton Health and a representative from the Parent Involvement Committee (Nancy Simon). Consultation is also taking place with the Board's Student Trustees.
- The working group is looking at the last Climate Survey and questions that will create conversation and assist in development of plans moving forward.
- The LKDSB took part in a pilot project with several other school boards and the Windsor Essex Health Unit. The 17 questions from "The Healthy Living Module" will be incorporated into the School Climate Survey.
- It is hoped that draft surveys will be ready by the end of December to present to the working group. Information will be shared with parents/guardians to let them know that the survey will be coming out and some pre-work will be done with students to help them understand terms used in the survey. Surveys will be rolled out the first two weeks of April. In the past parent/guardian response has not been great. Board staff will work to get the word out to parents and information about the survey will be shared via social media. The Board wants to hear from parents/guardians as well as students and staff.
- The Windsor Essex Health Unit will be analyzing survey data and will compile results by the end of June 2019. Results will be shared with staff and parents/guardians. The Multi-Disciplinary Team will be involved in discussions going forward and they will assist in the development of strategies. Individual school results will be shared at the school level and with school council.
- In response to questions, it was noted that the Ministry developed a survey guide that includes several check box questions vs. open ended questions. There is a section at the end of each survey for additional comments.
- The review of the Student Survey questions is almost complete. The Parent Survey will be developed soon. Nancy Simon sits on the working group. Other members of PIC who are interested in being involved in development of the Parent Survey were asked to let Sue know.

Business Arising from the Meeting of October 15, 2018

- Superintendent Lane inquired about a member of the Indigenous Liaison Committee joining the Parent Involvement Committee. No one on the committee is a parent of a student in the system but they will try to have a representative in some capacity for next year's PIC.
- Nancy Simon indicated that the Board's Indigenous Lead sits on the School Climate Working Group and that he would be interested in attending a future PIC meeting. Mark Sherman provided an overview of the role of the Indigenous Lead. PIC members supported inviting the Indigenous Lead to present at an upcoming meeting.

School Cash Online

- With respect to some schools being slower to adopt School Cash Online, Business Staff will begin issuing adoption reports to the Superintendents for review. Parent support in pushing for increased participation will also help schools that have been slower to move to the online system.
- Business staff need to know specific school issues in order to address concerns with tracking (i.e. pizza day orders).
- The requirement for parents to have to re-enter cheque/bank information each time they load cash is a security feature.
- Business staff require more detailed information regarding the request for customization in order to address this with KEV.
- The intent is to add in the credit card feature in future. The use of credit cards can be more cumbersome on the school side, which is why the initial focus is on getting all schools engaged and using the system. Business staff hope to look at this feature more closely in the spring of 2019.
- Staff are in the process of rolling out a donation module, so that people can make donations on-line and the donation receipt can be printed at the time of the donation. This will hopefully be implemented for December 2018. More details regarding this feature will be forthcoming.

Event Planning for 2018-2019

- A recommendation was made at the last meeting to investigate Marian Small, author and consultant for improved Mathematics Education. This would align with the Ministry's focus on math fundamentals.
- We have had no further suggestions submitted to date.
- A suggestion was made to have the event(s) focus on healthy families and helping students succeed. Committee members supported bringing in a guest speaker and then having break out or carousel sessions on topics of interest.
- It was recommended that break out topics be offered for parents of both elementary and secondary aged students. Suggested topics included:
 - **Cannabis and Vaping/JUULing**
Concerns were shared that many secondary and even elementary students are now vaping. Both local health units have held and attended events aimed at educating school staff, parents and students on cannabis use and legalization and substance abuse. They are working with educators to provide resources. The Health Units are very interested in working with PIC and schools/school councils to share information about cannabis, tobacco and vaping and the new regulations under the Smoke Free Ontario Act. The Health Units are also attending Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings with Board Office staff. Vaping concerns are on the radar of school staff including health concerns such as "popcorn lung". It was clarified that JUULing is vaping using a smaller device (JUUL), which is about the size of USB key, enabling individuals to vape more discreetly. JUULing in classrooms has become a concern.
 - **Resiliency**
 - **Healthy Relationships**
 - **Appropriate Use of Social Media / Limiting Screen Time**
 - **Keeping Boys Interested/Engaged in School** (has been focus on girls in STEM)
 - **Job Fairs for Students**
Students need to be made aware of what courses are required for specific careers earlier on i.e. Gr. 7/8 vs. deciding in Gr. 12 and don't have courses (i.e. Math courses needed to be a firefighter). Mark shared information on the Experience the Trades Event which was recently held in collaboration with the St. Clair Catholic District School Board and local community skilled trades partners. This event is held every two years.
- A proposal was put forth to develop short video productions/vignettes that focus on tough subjects; and to invest money in creating content and sharing the videos with students and the school community (i.e. This is What Your Lungs Look Like from Vaping). The videos could be promoted and posted on the Board/school websites, LKDSB Facebook and YouTube. It was suggested that perhaps students could be featured in the promotion videos – youth engagement through the Public Health Units with time invested used towards student community service hours. Health Unit representatives can help guide questions and content.

- Sue will follow up with Jim and Heather Hughes, the Board's Public Relations Officer regarding promotion and content of the vignettes and whether student participation would count towards community service hours.
- PIC Members are to email Sue with suggestions for the Healthy Family events by December 3, including challenges they would like addressed and key concerns. Sue will compile information and send out to the group.
- Committee members supported holding two events, one in Sarnia and one in Chatham in late April or early May with details to be confirmed at the next meeting.

Director's Update – Jim Costello

- Deferred to next meeting.

People for Education's "Making Connections" Conference Update – Kristen Schrie.

- Kristen reported on the Making Connections conference held in Toronto on Saturday, November 10.
- Maggie MacDonnell, Global Teacher Prize Winner was the keynote speaker. She teaches in a northern Inuit village and is an advocate for Canadian Indigenous people. The theme of her speech was equity in the public-school system and changing how we address equity.
- Kristen shared information on the sessions she attended that focused on: "mental health not mental illness"; the issues students with disabilities face to navigate the system and "the need to broaden the spectrum of normal"; "finding success from out next generations" - students are more successful if they see themselves in their teachers (diversity in hiring); and the importance of teaching students financial literacy.

Other Business/Future Agenda Items

- Alexandra participated in one the government's town hall teleconferences. Issues discussed included the health curriculum, emotional intelligence – resiliency and coping skills, and the importance of financial literacy. Online submission forms can be obtained at fortheparents.ca.
It was noted that the Ministry conducted a curriculum review. Boards have yet to see the new curriculum, but it is hoped that financial literacy content will be built into the Gr. 9 and 10 Math curricula. Work is also being done to address the gap between Academic and Applied students.
- Concern was raised regarding the availability of hot lunch providers. School boards are required to adhere to the Ontario School Food and Beverage Policy and pre-approved vendor lists. It was noted that some schools access Lunches for Learning that are operated by local churches.

Next Meeting

– February 4, 6:30 p.m. – Sarnia and Chatham Education Centres (Video Conference Rooms).

Adjournment: 7:29 p.m.

Sue Fraser, Recording Secretary