

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 11, 2021

### VIRTUAL MEETING

#### Roll call:

#### Administrative Staff Present:

Members:	Staff:
Crystal Bevens-Leblanc	S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Shayla Bradley	E. Bolarinho, Administrative Assistant
Christine Innocente	
Jennifer Foster	
Amanda Pringle	
Melissa Robertson	
Ruhi Snyder	
Elizabeth Sund	
<b>Trustees:</b>	
Trustee Robin Hutcheon	
Trustee Bob Godkin	
<b>Guests:</b>	<b>Recorder:</b> M. Boulanger, Senior Clerk
Lucy Aron	
Melissa Rickey	
Judith Brown	
Crystal Harris	
Alexander Macfarlane	
Wynando Moore	
Joy Morning	

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Crystal Bevens-LeBlanc welcomed everyone and led roundtable introductions of those present.

Superintendent Stephanie Sartor read the traditional Acknowledgement of Territory:

“The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit, and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land.”

## 1. Adoption of Agenda

## 2. Standing Updates

### a. Chair Update

Co-Chairs Crystal Bevens-LeBlanc and Shayla Bradley provided an update as follows:

“In January we hosted an evening of breakout sessions to provide more opportunity for collaboration and discussion regarding virtual parent engagement. Thank you to Christine Innocente for creating a document to include all of the input and feedback and for sharing it with the PIC!

Shayla & Crystal met with the Ontario PIC Connection to discuss next steps in formalizing a provincial organization representing PICs across the Province of Ontario. Subcommittee formed to focus on this, as well as another meeting scheduled to provide an opportunity to collaborate with other PIC Chairs to discuss/share issues and concerns PICs are experiencing within their individual boards.

Upcoming meetings:

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> – Formalization Committee

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> – Support/Connection

Both Co-Chairs attended the School Year Calendar Committee meeting hosted by Associate Superintendents Scot Gillam and Steve Hedderson and have been seeking input from families regarding specific PA days to share with the committee for consideration.

Elementary Virtual Admin hosted the first informal Virtual SAC meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. They utilized the meeting to seek input from parents/guardians regarding what is and is not

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working well with EVS, and advised they are compiling a list for the board to consider in anticipation of potential virtual school in 2021/22 school year.

PIC Co-Chairs followed up with Associate Superintendent Sartor regarding some specific concerns expressed by virtual families in hopes of providing some relief this school year. There will be two more EVS SAC meetings scheduled for this school year, and a Graduation Committee will be formed as well.

Informal SAC meeting for Secondary Virtual will be hosted by the PIC on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm with Admin, Steve Ward in attendance. All SVS parents are encouraged to attend.

The first LGBTQ2S+ Focus Group meeting is scheduled for 6p on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Information will be shared across the board in the coming days in hopes of garnering participants.

As per our request, the LDSB Equity Team has put together an Equity training presentation/workshop specifically for SACs. This is scheduled to occur during our regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, and we encourage all LDSB SAC members to attend.

Received an invitation from the Ministry of Education to attend an “EDU Parent Engagement Session” the last week of February 2021. Both Co-Chairs plan to attend.”

## **b. Board Update**

Associate Superintendent Stephanie Sartor provided a Board update as follows:

“Good evening everyone.

We have had a very busy period since the beginning of January. Once again, as our system and community transitioned to full remote learning, we saw evidence of flexibility, perseverance and instructional growth. Our educators felt more comfortable delivering online learning, more students were online for a greater period of time. Our data consistently pointed to growth in system capacity related to technology use, support and participation.

Equally, as we learned about the opportunity to return to inclass learning, our students and staff in brick and mortar schools were excited to be together again, in person.

While we were in full remote learning, our Educational Services team beautifully developed a structural and organizational system to support the return of some of our students with significant special education needs. This was truly a heroic and large scale team effort to manage the staffing, transportation and communication surrounding this. I was able to visit 8 different schools where students were attending during the remote period – they were clearly happy to be there.

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Our system is busy preparing for a change in our student information system – we have been working toward this since the spring of 2020.

As a result of this switch, we have engaged in an earlier process for the Grade 8 to 9 transitions. Students have engaged in choosing courses for the upcoming Fall year. In the coming months, schools will begin timetabling.

Kindergarten registration is beginning in our schools. In addition, the Choices at 7 program application process is currently underway.

Term 1 report cards will be shared with our elementary students next Wednesday. Of course, these dates are different for secondary.

We are currently engaging in provincial discussions with other school boards as we begin to vision what is possible for brick and mortar schools and virtual schools. This will certainly take some time, and we will await more information from the Ministry to continue to inform our decision making.

The window to change from brick and mortar to virtual school and vice versa is currently open and will remain open until February 19<sup>th</sup>. Any change requests will be reviewed, and students beginning at a new site will commence March 8<sup>th</sup>. The time between the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> will allow for staffing and hiring to take place. Since the last time that I shared virtual school enrolment in November, we have had a decrease from 1425 to 1213 students in elementary virtual school and an increase from 598 to 648.”

### c. Trustee Update

Trustee Bob Godkin shared greetings from the Board on behalf of Trustee Robin Hutcheon.

Trustees realize parents have issues that are out of the control of the Board but they welcome input from PIC. Trustees are here to listen.

Currently the Board is working on updating policies and have an upcoming workshop on policies and by-laws.

Student safety is of paramount importance and last night they learned that crossing guards are being added in the Town of Napanee and reviews are being done in the area of Elginburg and Hwy 15.

Comments about the excellent ESL presentation at February 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Questions were asked about the number of ESL students at LDSB and Superintendent Sartor offered details about the strategies used. There are 257 elementary and 79 secondary students which equals 1.7% of our student population. The needs are different across the system and we receive support from translation services. There are many techniques used to meet individual needs.

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Questions were asked about the continuation of virtual schools. Superintendent Sartor said this is a popular topic of conversation at our board and across the province and a lot has been learned on the subject. There isn't a definitive answer and she can't report on structure yet but she will share any information determined with PIC when she has it.

Compliments were offered for the hard work of all involved with virtual school and successful start to engaging parents of elementary virtual students. The first Secondary Virtual School school council meeting will be held Tuesday February 23 at 6 pm.

#### **d. Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Update**

No update provided.

### **3. Other Business**

#### **a. Parent Engagement Funding Information & Subcommittee Approach**

Shayla Bradley provided information about the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grants. Unused grants will be clawed back so it is important that a process is developed to distribute funds. Co-chairs would like to form a sub-committee to process applications. There are 2 buckets of funding, with \$12,000 each, that need to be spent before June 30<sup>th</sup>. A report on this funding will be due on July 15<sup>th</sup>. The application is being developed and there will be a deadline in March for submission. There are some restrictions on how it is spent. The co-chairs shared these examples of how the funding is being utilized in other boards:

- Internet safety
- Google classroom workshop
- Scientist in schools
- Self-regulation workshop
- Mindfulness night
- Resource lending library
- Book club
- SKILLS Canada competition
- Speakers or workshops on racism and oppression

There was information shared about the background and changes to the PRO grant and a request was made for volunteers to join the sub-committee.

#### **b. Ontario PIC Connection**

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Provided by Crystal Bevens-Leblanc. Formalization meeting – February 12<sup>th</sup>.

### c. Presentation “The Decline of Recommended Sleep” – Ruhi Snyder

Ruhi Snyder is a field researcher on advanced sleep health. She shared her 10 years of work on self-regulation, sleep, diet and exercise which has been presented nationally and internationally. From her studies she presented information on the global decline of sleep in teens and adolescents.

Teens need 9.25 hours or more of sleep and this is in decline, regardless of geography or socio-economic circumstances. Local collection of data in our area also shows a 2 hour decline of sleep in teens. This is very significant to health and brain development as sleep cycles and stages regulate the brain and create connections as teens sleep. This is very important to both physical and mental health. Information was given about the circadian clocks of individuals, which controls everything. Teens experience a shift in their clocks when hormones start activating sleep – the release of melatonin is delayed and their wake up is slow. Lifestyle of teens is a contributing negative factor to sleep. Their sleep is shorter and is affected by staying up late, screen time, early morning schedules and academic pressures that further suppress melatonin release. If dream sleep is impeded this has a negative effect on emotional regulation and critical thinking skills. Chronic sleep problems can lead to mental health issues like anxiety or depression. This can have serious implications to the developing brain.

Some suggestions for bedtime rituals to promote better sleep were to begin 2 hours before bedtime by turning down lights, the use of fairy lights, not to eat close to bedtime and no caffeine with 6 to 8 hours before sleep. An hour before bed might include a bath or shower and reading but no screen time. A consistent ritual and discussing the importance of sleep regularly was recommended.

Questions and discussions around other strategies included tips on expending excess energy with exercise before dinner, slowing transitioning bedtimes back in teens that were staying up too late and how quiet households at bedtime help children who have a fear of missing out.

Ms. Snyder answered that she was available to present to individual SAC groups.

#### 4. Equity Fund

Equity funds – the co-chairs investigated the idea of creating an equity fund based on the work of other school boards and offered a definition from Toronto District School Board available through that board’s website. The co-chairs suggested introducing this at LDSB through PIC to support all district schools. The purpose is to support schools across the district to ensure opportunities are equitable and to address areas where there are fund-raising challenges. The co-chairs will gather more information to share at a future meeting and are seeking feedback from the group for next steps to be discussed.

#### 5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.