

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 12, 2020

### VIRTUAL MEETING

#### Roll call:

#### Administrative Staff Present:

| Members:            | Staff:  |
|---------------------|---|
| Becca Hole          | S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent of School Effectiveness |
| Lindsay McFadden    | E. Bolarinho, Administrative Assistant                      |
| Christine Innocente | L. Alward, Project Lead – System Support                    |
| Krystle Holton      |   |
| Betty Betts         |   |
| Meg Raymond         |   |
| Melissa Rickey      |   |
| Corrie Allingham    |   |
| Emberly Doherty     |   |
| Colleen Notley      |   |
| Elizabeth Sund      |   |
| Ruhi Snyder         |   |
| Jenn Kehoe          |   |
| Jennifer Foster     |   |
| Rena Petrick        |   |
| Melanie Carrier     |   |
| Pricia Evans        |   |
| Amber Meyer         |   |
| Kim Theriault       |   |
| Lucy Aron           |   |
| Nathalie Paul       |   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Crystal Bevens-Leblanc<br>Shayla Bradley |   |
| <b>Trustees:</b>                         |   |
| G. Elliott                               |   |
| <b>Guests:</b>                           | <b>Recorder:</b> M. Boulanger, Senior Clerk |
| Trustee Joy Morning                      |   |
| Trustee Garrett Elliott                  |   |
| Becky Smith - Skills Ontario             |   |
| Myra Baumann - LDSB                      |   |
| Melissa Baker Cox - LDSB                 |   |
| Sandra Price                             |   |
| Paige Wright                             |   |
| Stephanie Leonhardt                      |   |
| Nicki Woock                              |   |
| Jenn DeNoble                             |   |
| Pedro Santos                             |   |
| Alex Fletcher                            |   |
| Eric Lockhart                            |   |
| Stephanie Gratto                         |   |

Introduction and welcome from Associate Superintendent Stephanie Sartor.

Shayla Bradley 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.”

Limestone District School Board

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SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

## 1. Finance Presentation

### a. Myra Baumann – Manager of Financial Services

Stephanie Sartor introduced Myra Baumann, Manager of Financial Services. The financial team manages the report of all the funds received and spent for the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). The Ministry provides information for the next year's GSN through the Technical Paper. It describes the allocation for PIC and explains how it is calculated and what it can be spent on.

- Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants are themed – this year it is engaging parents and communication. School councils will receive \$500 per school.
- The TPA includes a description and examples of activities that are eligible for funding, and lists things that are ineligible

The presentation is shared in the PIC Group shared files in MS Teams.

## 2. Skills Ontario Presentation

### a. Rebecca Smith – Skills Ontario and Jason Quenneville, LDSB Experiential Learning Consultant

Thanks to Rebecca Smith of Skills Ontario and Jason Quenneville – Experiential Learning Consultant Limestone DSB for attending and presenting at tonight's meeting.

Rebecca explained that the government is now paying association fees which allows her and her colleagues to do more of these types of presentations around the province.

Becky described her extensive background in the trades and her path to her present career at Skills Ontario. She told of her passion for the work she has done as an automotive mechanic, machinist, welder and hopefully as a soon to be teacher. She has achieved all of this while managing a learning disability.

The presentation highlighted the 4 major pathways to 140 skilled trades in areas of construction, industrial, motive power, service and technology.

The 4 major pathways are workplace, apprenticeship, college programs and university. Her presentation highlighted the advantages of the different pathways and of a career in the trades. She described the savings in the cost of education, the potential incomes of people employed in the trades and the significant opportunities for work. She emphasized the many supports available by way of grants and bursaries from the 24 public colleges.

She also spoke of job satisfaction and job stability associated with trades work along with good health & safety conditions, better benefits and good pay.

To parents she asked them to consider how does your child learn – hands on, visual, likes to move around? And described co-op and OYAP as an opportunity to take a test drive in a career.

Dual Credit – half credits in school and half in college are a way for students to gain independence through a college experience. Limestone SHSM courses teach about trade and gets students job ready. Providing exposure to new programs and learning transferable skills.

The group thanked Becky was thanked for her incredible presentation.

Jason Quenneville - LDSB Experiential Consultant, spoke about the programs within LDSB. The board's experiential learning team works alongside students to promote champions for these programs through teachers.

There are many certifications that are provided by the school system that make students more employable. These programs help students find their pathways, give them self-esteem and a leg up in their future careers.

Reach ahead and experiential learning helps them learn the culture of work and finish secondary school with phase 1 apprenticeships. LDSB has an excellent partnership with St Lawrence College that allows students to experience College and get early credits. The Women in Trades program provides exposure to all trades.

There are skilled trades videos online on the website and other resources you can find there. Our board's SHSM web page provides details about programs as well as guidance counselors in the schools. In particular, this is discussed at transitions between grade 8 and 9, in my blueprint and in school presentations.

### 3. Standing Updates

#### a. Chair Update

Chair Crystal Bevens-Leblanc provided an update as follows:

“- Note: This is a collaborative group! We recognize that many people feel like they are “new” and aren't comfortable participating. We would like to note that the majority of Reps ARE new, so you're not alone. We restructured and created all of the new positions because we genuinely want to hear from all school communities; It is important that we are representing the voice of families across the board. Please speak up. Please share your thoughts. Please participate. We do not expect that everyone will share the same perspective and that voices from one school community will not always reflect the voices in other school communities, and that is exactly why you are here! Thoughtful,

meaningful discussions from various perspectives will ensure we are well balanced and able to effectively fulfil our role as an Advisory Committee to the school board.

- Shayla & Crystal attended the Parents as Partners Conference hosted by TDSB the weekend of Oct 24th & 25th. Recordings of the Keynote Speakers are posted on their website, and we will share the link in our working group. Attended individual workshops and look forward to incorporating many aspects of what we learned here in LDSB as we progress through the school year.

- Parents Engaged in Education has hosted two webinars thus far this school year, which were shared with PIC Reps. The primary speaker is quite engaging and we have found the information to be very relevant and useful. We will continue to share upcoming opportunities with the PIC as we become aware of them.

- People for Education Summit is scheduled for November 16 - 18th. Crystal was able to secure tickets and will attend as possible, giving consideration to the fact that it is scheduled during business hours.

- TDSB PIAC "Ready, Set, Engage" Conference is scheduled for November 21st & 22nd. Shayla and Crystal are planning to attend, and highly encourage everyone else to attend also. TDSB is the largest school board in Canada with a dedicated Parent Engagement Department and is a plethora of knowledge, experience and resources for SACs.

- Our first PIC 2020/21 Resources for Families event, Navigating Special Education, is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17th from 6 - 7:30p. We have two presentations, followed by a question period. Jessi Lalonde, Technology Resource Teacher for LDSB will be discussing details regarding IEPs and IRPCs, and Kim Lockhart, SST within our board will be discussing parents/guardians role in advocacy and community resources for guidance and support."

## **b. Board Update**

Associate Superintendent Stephanie Sartor provided a Board update as follows:

"Good evening everyone.

We have had a very busy month. In addition to the completion of our second octomester in high school, at the elementary level, our educators are busy finalizing progress reports that will be sent out to families on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

While field trips are currently not permitted, we have begun to find ways to bring field trips to our students.

Our Gould Lake team is visiting our elementary students to engage in outdoor education. Our experiential learning teacher is engaging in excellent, hands on activities with our students at their school sites. Our secondary virtual students are receiving culinary kits in order to engage in cooking activities at home. Finally, many educators are finding ways to engage in virtual trips with their

students, alongside so many programs. These are just a few examples of the excellent, relevant and engaging programming that our educators are offering our students.

Over the past few weeks, students had the opportunity to signal their desire to move into virtual school or from virtual school back into their home school.

We now have 1425 elementary students enrolled, an increase of 220 students from the beginning of the year, and 598 secondary students, an increase of 68 students. The elementary and secondary virtual school administrators are busy hiring more staff who will begin over the next few weeks. Following that, the administrators will begin a process of creating a virtual school council.

At the end of October, Superintendent Labrie announced his retirement after 31 years in education. Yesterday, Manager Sue McWilliams was announced as our new superintendent of human resources.

Some important updates that relate to our student census planning – answers to frequently asked questions and an abundance of resources have been posted to our website. In addition, the Student Identity Census questions have been posted. Schools have received many resources from our staff to support their students through the completion of the census. The census will open on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are hopeful that most families (K-3) and students (4-12) will be able to get the census completed by the end of November.

I am happy to report that, based on the input from our Indigenous Education Council, led by Jennifer Kehoe, as well as the feedback that you provided me at the last meeting, our Administrative Procedure 110 has been amended. It now includes language to encourage that space be held for an Indigenous Family representative position, and other positions that are representative of school communities. It also includes language outlining parent/guardian participation on school councils when their children move from home school to virtual school or vice versa.

We continue to be so impressed by the incredible work of our LDSB staff as they all work together to improve student wellness and achievement, every day.”

### **c. Trustee Update**

Trustee Garrett Elliott shared greetings from the Board.

He highlighted information about the October 28 EPOC meeting – mentioning the KSS/Vanier transition to the new school will likely happen on December 15 or January 22. A report on ventilation was presented at the EPOC meeting with information about studies and other work being done.

At the Board meeting on November 11 the agenda dealt with the equity action plan, IEC and action items in the strategic plan.

### **d. KFL&A Public Health Update**

Associate Superintendent Stephanie Sartor provided an update as follows:

### “Present cases in schools within KFL&A

- Outbreaks = 0
- Active Cases = 3
- Contacts being followed = 90 plus

For more information regarding the status of cases in our area and Ontario visit: <https://www.kflaph.ca/en/healthy-living/status-of-cases-inkfla.aspx>  
Visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres> for school and day care numbers and closures for Ontario.

### Masking

- We are waiting for provincial direction regarding masking policies. The Public Health Agency of Canada has recommended three-layer cloth masks and wearing a face covering whenever around anyone who is not a member of your household (regardless if you are already maintaining a physical distance of 2M). <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/about-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html>

### Sport training

- More information to follow re: sport training in the schools.

Public Health Nurses

- PHN continue to visit schools to review infection control practices.
- Staff have been receiving training to assist York with their investigations of positive cases.
- Staff are working with community partners and school staff to help address concerns such as student gatherings outside of schools.
- Contact tracing and case management for our local schools continue when positive cases are received.

Immunization for Grade 7 students:

· Immunization clinics for Grade 7 students requiring Hepatitis B, Human papillomavirus or meningococcal vaccines, will be offered in January 2021. Parents can book an appointment on our website. <https://www.kflaph.ca>”

#### **e. Indigenous Education Advisory Committee – Jennifer Kehoe**

“The Sub Committee for the Indigenous Education Council is just about finished the Terms of Reference to make it an official standing committee of the board.

There was 4 days of PD for teachers on the land at Gould Lake that was overdue and well received with incredible feedback from teachers.

November is Indigenous Education month and last week was treaty week. There is a number of school by school learning occurring surrounding indigenous peoples.”

#### **4. Arising Business**

##### **a. Updates from Subcommittees/Working Groups**

##### **i. Bylaw Committee – Christine Innocente**

a. Bylaw changes were by the committee.

##### **ii. Special Education Event – Navigating IEPs and IPRCs**

##### **b. AP 110: School Councils – Update (Indigenous Family Representative, Other Officer Representatives and Virtual School Councils)**

#### **5. New Business**

- a. Shayla Bradley was acclaimed as co-chair
- b. Partners in Education – Trustee Elliott described the Role of Trustees
- c. Reminder that School Advisory Councils should not be referred to Parent Advisory Committees
- d. Census survey – parents are encouraged to participate, and if needed, skip questions they would prefer not to answer

Meetings will be added for January and April – these meetings will be focused on certain topics.



**6. Other Business**

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.