

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

MAY 20, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

Roll call:

Administrative Staff Present:

Members:	Staff:
Melissa Rickey	S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Jim Jodoin	E. Bolarinho, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Foster	M. Christopher, Software Application Analyst
Meg Carr Harris	C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services and Treasurer
Ruhi Snyder	
Virginia Venditti	
Christine Innocente	
Rena Petrick	
Kim Theriault	
Lucy Aron	
Kim Graham	
Stephanie Gratto	
Crystal Bevens-Leblanc	
Shayla Bradley	
Trustees:	
B. Godkin	
R. Hutcheon	
Guests:	Recorder: M. Boulanger, Senior Clerk
Kim Lockhart	

Alexander MacFarlane	
Constance Carriere-Prill	
Manon Thibodeau	
Sara Wellwood	
Jory McNabb	

Co-chair Crystal Bevens-LeBlanc welcomed everyone and began the meeting at 6:06 pm.

Trustee Robin Hutcheon offered a personalized land acknowledgment in place of 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. **Budget Presentation – Craig Young**

Superintendent Young presented a series of slides outlining the budget development process at Limestone DSB. This presentation was given to the Board of Trustees at the April 21, 2021 board meeting. Superintendent Young provided an overview that described what the budget is, the timeline involved for the components that go into the budget and information about the funding boards receive. The budget estimates all expenses other than teaching and is put together for the trustees through the Budget Committee to approve. Limestone’s Budget Committee is comprised of all trustees. Boards cannot adopt a deficit budget for a fiscal year.

Superintendent Young also provided an update on results from the March 4 - 19, 2021 Survey. A summary of responses showed that the majority stressed the top 5 categories of:

- Mental health and well-being
- Reading and writing skills
- Arts / Music / Drama
- Mathematics
- Outdoor Education

3. Standing Updates

a. Chair Update

Chair Bevens-LeBlanc provided an update as follows:

A letter was sent to the Minister of Education on behalf of the Parent Council on May 17th to voice concern and opposition to the privatization of public education via e-learning/TVO/TFO through legislative changes to the Education Act. The next scheduled PIC Chair consultation with the Ministry of Education is scheduled for the second week of June.

Parent Council's first board-wide fundraising initiative in support of The Food Sharing Project has been officially launched. Please share the link at <http://bit.ly/PICFoodSharing> with your school communities and encourage them to support this essential service. Parent Council is working with Communications in establishing a central website for parents and guardians with a goal to launch in the fall of 2021.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission completed a Right to Read inquiry. The full report will be available in fall, and Associate Superintendent Sartor has agreed to provide an update with the board's perspective when that report becomes available.

School Councils are reminded to spend the Pro Grant funding and that the deadline for spending the funds is June 18. A meeting is scheduled for June 17 to review the bylaws, wrap up of the school year and planning for the fall.

Parent Council received an invitation from Prologue Performing Arts, a non-profit organization, that facilitates access to the performing arts in schools and communities across Ontario. A free virtual year end showcase and celebration is scheduled for June 1 from 5-5:30 pm. This event showcases the student poetry inspired by Britta B. (a former LDSB student) and other inspiring artists and provides a great opportunity to expose and expand

experiences for Limestone students, through identity-affirming arts experiences. A reminder to all members of the upcoming workshop with Selam Debs, anti-racism coach/consultant, is scheduled for June 3.

Work on the Strategic Plan for Parent Council is on-going and a survey has been created to facilitate this process. The Parent Council will share this survey with school communities.

b. Board Update

Associate Superintendent Stephanie Sartor provided a Board update as follows:

Good evening everyone.

I hope you are all well. As we are facilitating another meeting virtually, I sincerely hope that the current decreasing Covid numbers and increasing vaccination rates will allow us all to resume some in-person activity soon.

While most students remain learning virtually at this time, we do have some more elementary and secondary students even since we spoke last who have returned to face to face learning because it has been determined that they are unable to benefit from virtual learning. It is both exciting and rewarding to visit schools and see students and staff enjoying learning together at so many of our elementary and secondary schools. A huge thank you to our school staff, school leaders and Educational Services team for making this happen.

We celebrated Education Week at the beginning of May. We continue to be so impressed by everything that our education workers and support staff are doing to support students and school communities.

We are currently working on planning for the 2021/2022 school year. Following June 4th, we will begin planning and staffing for both virtual and in person learning.

Vaccines continue to be available for our staff and many are getting or have been vaccinated. It is exciting that our students aged 12-17 will also be available.

Thank you.

c. Trustee Update

Trustee Robin Hutcheon shared updates from the Board.

The trustees will review budget for approval on June 2nd.

Board by-laws were passed at the May 19th board meeting where they also received an update on the strategic plan with many initiatives showing green light status.

A letter has been sent to the Ministry of Education expressing Limestone's concern with online learning through TVO.

The board is expecting a report on how to continue live streaming and archiving of meetings to allow greater public access.

d. Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Update

No update provided.

e. LGBTQ2 Focus Group

A presentation from Constance Carriere-Prill provided background on a working group of parents and administrators with a goal of increasing access to resources for students, parents and educators. They are looking to add the input of student voice and they have planned a resource page. They are waiting for input from the Gay Straight Alliance group on how to best support students, parents and educators. The group is in the early planning stages and have been doing some extensive brainstorming that is providing a good start; leading them into the fall with lots of ideas of where they are going.

4. Other Business

a. LDSB Policy Review – Invitation for Input

A comment was made requesting the board consider making access available for parents to be able to attend more meetings by incorporating live streaming, making content available online and improve the consultation process. Parents are encouraged to reach out to trustees who stressed that this input is valued.

b. SAC/Equity Sharing - AVPS

Kim Graham is an engaged parent, on the Amherstview SAC, who learned about the role of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion reps at Toronto DSB School Councils. She has since consulted with other boards to learn more about what they are doing with such roles in their councils. Amherstview SAC has plans to broaden what their representation looks like and making sure their space is open to anyone and everyone. They have started by acknowledging that the Amherstview community is diverse and that they need to understand how to best support this diversity and encourage more people to join. Their goal is to remove barriers and make connections to diverse learning opportunities.

c. By-law Review

Deferred to June meeting.

d. PIC Past Chair

An idea has been brought forward to create a Past Chair position for PIC. Expanding the roles to 3rd Past Chair, 2nd Year Chair and 1st year Chair. Support was given to this idea to ensure continuity, provide back up for a big job and help achieve longer term agenda items.

Shayla Bradley will draft language to bring a motion forward for voting at the June meeting.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

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