

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 7, 2021

Roll call:

Members:	Staff:
<p>Crystal Bevens-Leblanc Shayla Bradley Erik Lockhart Jennifer Foster Lucy Aron Meg Redmond Jim Jodoin Melissa Rickey Jen Trussell Rob Richer Stephanie Kelley Packalen Gelareh Monajemi Mark Foster Rena Petrick Melissa Hudson Ruhi Snyder Kristyne Ross Virginia Venditti Tanya Lighthart Alejandra Zamora Janza Findlay Annie Clifford Kim Harper Dan Shaver Mary Collada-Meyer Stephanie Gratto Melanie Carrier Jennifer Kehoe Kayo Murakami-Wood Alejandra Zamora Flores</p>	<p>K. Burra, Director of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent of Safe and Caring Schools A. Andretta, Administrative Assistant D. Todd, ITS Technician W. Moore, Executive Assistant</p>
Trustees:	Guests:
<p>Robin Hutcheon Bob Godkin</p>	<p>Constance Carriere-Prill</p>

Associate Superintendent P. Gollogly offered the land acknowledgment.

“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. Call to Order

Called to order at 6:06 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Chair Crystal Bevens-Leblanc indicated she previously sent out a notice of motion to members of PIC, which she would like to discuss this evening, with some amendments. There was no objection to including this notice of motion.

“That the Limestone District School Board develop a transparent and inclusive decision-making Board Policy and Administrative Procedure that places value on community input and participation through adequate consultation with stakeholders on all Policy reviews.”

The agenda, as amended was adopted.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No declarations.

4. Approval of Minutes

The May minutes were approved by consensus. June minutes need to be revised to reflect bylaw wording from that meeting, then be posted on the board site. PIC cannot approve the minutes but will approve at the next meeting in November.

5. Reports for Information

5.1 Welcome and Introductions- Chair Crystal Bevens-Leblanc

Crystal Bevens-Leblanc introduced and welcomed associate Superintendent Patty Gollogly and Ann Marie Andretta, Administrative Assistant. They are both new to PIC committee this year.

5.2 Chair Update from Co-Chairs Crystal Bevens-Leblanc and Shayla Bradley

Welcome to everyone new joining PIC committee and welcome back to our returning representatives. CO-Charis Crystal and Shayla are looking forward to working together this school year. If any PIC representative has any questions, concerns or need any support, please message cochairs.

Co-Chairs are working on confirming a date for the chairs workshop near the end of October

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and will share that information once it is finalized.

PIC committee supported the Elementary Virtual School in establishing their first School Council, and Calvin Park and LCVI SACs have amalgamated to become one, increasing our total number of PIC Representative positions for the 2021/22 school year to 57. We currently have four (4) school communities not represented on the PIC – Amherst Island PS, Land O’Lakes, NDSS and Secondary Virtual. If you know any engaged parents or caregivers in those school communities, please help us connect!

Crystal will be representing the PIC on the ESAC. Shayla is the alternate representative if anyone would like to join, please let Shayla know.

LDSB has opened input for changes to Policy 13; The Limestone District School Board is seeking input on Board Policy 13: Delegations and Submissions, and on Article III, section 3: Vacancies on the Board. We are encouraging our members who are interested to provide any input. The information can be found on LDSB website.

5.3 Board Update-Associate Superintendent Gollogly

Associate Superintendent Gollogly introduced herself as the Superintendent responsible for Safe and Caring Schools, and PIC. Patty is looking forward in working with everyone, listening, and hearing your perspectives of the committee.

5.4 Board Report-Message from Director Burra; update on recommendation to AP 552

Director Burra wanted to thank all committee members and noted the roles they play are critical in this committee and partnership.

The Director thanked PIC for the opportunity to respond to the proposed edits from PIC to Administrative Procedure 552 – Naming/Renaming of Schools, stating he was reluctant to remove the section regarding the use of the name of a famous Canadian. The process is an opportunity to allow students and teachers to contemplate lesser-known historical figures from the past, both locally and nationally, who are not usually covered in the conventional curriculum. Director Burra shared his suggested amendments with the notion of exercising a bit of further caution in the actual document but not eliminating the possibility of names, again because of the learning opportunity for students as part of that process.

Shayla Bradley raised that the Ontario Human Rights Commission is engaging the public to develop a policy on the discriminatory display of names, including those on public buildings. Director Burra confirmed that this would apply to schools and noted some protections will be built into the naming process to avoid discriminatory names.

Janza Findlay stated that there are Indigenous teaching about places and geographical elements, noting those natural elements should not be considered any less valid than a person’s name.

Jennifer Kehoe indicated that Indigenous people are not Canadians, but sovereign nations, and noted ‘Indigenous Peoples’ should also be capitalized, in response to the AP wording as presented. Crystal Bevens-Leblanc suggested the board examine other ways this learning can be incorporated for students, as renaming, and naming only happen infrequently. She noted there was research work done on past school names, including some of the board’s most recently named schools, but some of those are now controversial.

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SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

Director Burra also answered several open questions from PIC members and guests. He discussed how the Board will approach public input on policies, including collecting feedback and sharing it with Trustees at their Board meeting.

The PIC membership determined their proposed motion, brought forward onto the agenda, should be revised considering the public input that is now happening. The PIC will explore making a recommendation on how the policy-making policy can be operationalized to ensure strong public input and accountability.

Jennifer Kehoe asked about the Indigenous voice's census, requesting accountability and follow up to ensure collaboration versus consultation.

Alejandra Zamora Flores inquired about the student census, asking which cultures and languages are most underrepresented in SACs and on PIC. She noted the education system is overwhelming for newcomers and was concerned with how an amalgamated SAC would meet parent engagement needs. She inquired about hybrid learning, and if antiracism work is continuing. Director Burra explained that information is coming forward from the census but does need to be analyzed. He outlined situations in which hybrid learning would be used for continuity of learning for students, but that it only will happen in these specific situations. He noted that amalgamation is happening in part to create more admin time to support other needs in the system including virtual school. Antiracism work is continuing but it is challenging to release staff for PD right now especially in the elementary level. The board is doing more hiring, and antiracism work is happening centrally right now.

Janza Findlay inquired if OCAP principles are being used through the census process and noted Indigenous people should have access to data under OCAP. Director Burra confirmed that training occurred.

Director Burra also discussed how to tailor the school communication app to family needs, masks with windows for speech, how hand sanitizer is procured, and how the board's vaccination attestation and education process is working for staff.

5.5 Trustee Update-Trustee Hutcheon

Trustee Robin Hutcheon shared updated from the Board.

The Trustees sent a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting masking better than level two. OPSBA is advocating around adding the COVID-19 vaccination to mandatory childhood vaccines.

5.6 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee - Jennifer Kehoe

Jennifer Kehoe provided an update on LDSB Indigenous team members. She noted that, except for two staff, any students accessing these staff must go through a referral process with their principal every year.

She shared that IEAC met and recommitted to bringing what they can offer. She will always bring truth, and the best of herself.

She provided an update on an Orange Shirt Day initiative which she spearheaded, offering support to educators in discussing Orange Shirt Day. She was disappointed that the initiative did not reach all schools and did not get to teachers until September 23. She would like this work to feel more like a partnership, and to see more people who identify as Indigenous to

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stand alongside.

She noted that 'caregiver/kinship' is missing from LDSB Administrative Procedure 110 – School Councils.

Jennifer Kehoe and Janza Findlay explained the Indigenous Family Circle's origins, and that the work began shortly before COVID-19 caused problems for momentum. The Indigenous Family Circle would still like to connect with Indigenous families in Limestone, and there is also an opportunity for SAC Indigenous Family Representatives to connect with one another.

5.7 2SLGBTQIA+ Focus Group-Constance Carrière-Prill

A presentation from Constance Carrière-Prill provided that the working group of parents and administrators have met through the summer and created a task list of items to move forward regarding supports for 2SLGBTQIA+ students, parents and staff. The group is focusing on work together to identify area that could be improved upon for education and support. They are also looking to raise visibility so more parents can be involved.

The working group is also drafting a proposal to send to the Director of Education, asking for a formal anti-hate policy to be developed for the Limestone District School Board. Constance Carrière-Prill read an introductory proposal:

"While the board has an anti-bullying policy, we believe more is needed to offer increased protections to the district's most vulnerable students - those who by virtue of being members of marginalized groups under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Act are known to be exposed to higher levels of discrimination, exclusion, and violence.

We see this policy as a product of consultation and collaboration with students and faculty who belong to these groups, with a clear intent to identifying discriminatory or violent acts due to protected status as being hate acts. The policy would clearly state the district's stance of zero tolerance for such actions, noting they will be addressed as serious acts when being reviewed under disciplinary guidelines for corrective measures.

We believe that by calling it by its name, the policy will assist students in identifying behaviors they may not have previously seen as particularly serious, as actions which can be especially harmful for their fellow students. Education around this policy would improve student awareness and, it is our hope, curb further acts of hate within our schools. Finally, such a policy would clearly signal to 2SLGBTQIA+ and other marginalized students that they are not only seen, but this board recognizes they need extra protections due to their status and can find these protections within the board's policy."

Constance Carrière-Prill stated that PIC will be seeking the Director's support to pursue the development of such a policy and provide guidance on the procedure for approval and implementation. She noted that PIC is mindful of the hefty workloads of our peers within

existing board groups and committees, and that our group is more than willing to take the lead in coordinating with the school community and board partners in this task. Constance Carrière-Prill did state that she would not ask the Director to comment on this tonight, as it still needs PIC's approval.

Director Burra will be happy to discuss next steps in the process once the proposal has been shared with him. He also stated that he is happy to connect Constance Carrière-Prill to Laura Conboy, Limestone's Mental Health Lead, if she is willing to share her email contact information.

Jennifer Kehoe suggested that a delegation to the Board of Trustees be requested, through Chair Suzanne Ruttan, for the next Board Meeting to share this work that has been done at the grassroots level.

2SLGBTQIA+ Focus Group's next meeting is Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

6. Reports for Actions

None at this time.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1 Amendment of By-Law -Co-Chairs Crystal Bevens-Leblanc and Shayla Bradley

Shayla Bradley explained that the bylaw amendment suggested in June needed work to fit in to the rest of the PIC bylaws. The amendment was made on its own, without fully looking at how it interacts with existing bylaws, and there were some questions about its wording over the summer.

Meeting participants discussed various aspects of the proposed amendment, clarifying that the only elected position in the PIC is co-chair. Participants determined that defining a past chair's eligibility for a regular representative seat is already set out by other bylaws and procedure. They determined a potential past chair would already know they can decline the past chair position as no parent is obliged to take any position within PIC.

Participants affirmed that they did not want the past chair position to fall under 'community representative' as they wanted to ensure those spaces were available for true community representation as set out in the existing bylaws. They chose to establish the position as 'past chair' versus member-at-large for simplicity. They removed reference to appointments and vacancies as that is already covered in PIC bylaws and in the Education Act. Participants affirmed the importance of allowing a past chair to have voting rights, and to have those voting rights for their term even if they do not have a child enrolled in LDSB.

They approved the final wording by consensus. It reads:

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The outgoing chair of the committee is an ex-officio member of the executive in the position of Past Chair for a term of one year following their term of office. The past chair is an advisory position assisting the elected current co-chairs and maintaining continuity for initiatives.

The past chair has voting rights, whether they have a child enrolled in a school in LDSB.

Shayla Bradley will amend the bylaws and prepare them for ratification with co-chairs and the board.

7.2 PIC and PRO-Grant Budget 2021-22-Associate Superintendent Gollogly

The budget for 2021-22 will be discussed at the following PIC meeting on November 18th, 2021.

7.3 Equity Lens Presentation - Kayo Murakami-Wood - Marysville P.S.

Kayo Murakami-Wood equity presentation will be postponed for the next meeting on November 18th, 2021.

8. New Business

8.1 Communication/Collaboration

Members will have an opportunity to voice communication at agenda call for November's meeting. No communication or collaboration currently.

8.2 Fall Elections

Superintendent Gollogly did not receive any applications that was eligible for the position of co-chair. We have until November 15 to fill the position. Co-chair position for now is Crystal and she is only eligible for the second term if no one else is nominated for the position. Shayla will mind members of the opportunity; deadline for the Ministry of Education is November 15, 2021.

9. Correspondence

No correspondence to document.

10. Next Meeting

Thursday November 18, 2021, at 6:00 PM

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.