

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – February 10, 2022

### Roll call:

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| <p><b>Members:</b></p>  | <p><b>Staff:</b></p>  |
| <p>Crystal BevenLeblanc<br/>Shayla Bradley<br/>Constance<br/>Carriere-Prill<br/>Lucy Aron<br/>Melissa Rickey<br/>Jen Trussell<br/>Rob Richer<br/>Rena Petrick<br/>Crystal Hudson<br/>Kristyne Ross<br/>Virginia Venditti<br/>Kim Harper<br/>Alejandra Zamora<br/>Vanessa Wood<br/>Colleen Notley<br/>Mary Collada-Meyer<br/>Christine Innocente<br/>Susan Coleman<br/>Josephina Smyth<br/>Mary Willock<br/>Terri Macdonald<br/>Stephanie Gratto</p> | <p>P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent<br/>S. Gillam, Superintendent<br/>A. Andretta,<br/>Administrative Assistant<br/>C. Wilson, Teacher</p> |
| <p><b>Trustees:</b></p>   | <p><b>Guests:</b></p>   |
| <p>Robin Hutcheon<br/>Judith Brown<br/>Joy Morning<br/>Bob Godkin</p>   | <p>Laura Conboy</p>   |

### Constance Carriere-Prill offered the land acknowledgment:

*“This evening we acknowledge that we are here on behalf of families in the Limestone District School Board, where we all live as uninvited guests on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee people. In being open and honest about this, we recognize the history that dates hundreds and thousands of years before the establishment of European colonies in this area, but also validate and acknowledge the importance of this territory for the Indigenous peoples who lived, and continue to live here, along with their sacred relationship to this land and its other relations. We should always strive to remember this in treating this land, and those who are stewards of it, with respect.”*

#### 1. Call to Order

Called to order at 6:04 pm.

#### 2. Adoption of Agenda

The membership adopted the agenda with the note that there will be no IEAC report, and that PRO Grant funding would be added as a new item.

#### 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

November’s minutes still need to be finalized for the next meeting.

#### 5. Reports for Information

##### **5.1. Chair Update from Co-Chairs Crystal Bevens-Leblanc and Shayla Bradley**

Co-Chairs Bradley and Bevens-Leblanc stated: “With gaps in our meeting schedule, we have been mostly working with one another online and through email and the phone. We appreciate all your commitment to parent engagement in the board and in your schools. We encourage you to continue reaching out and to continue working with one another outside of our meetings.

We sent two letters, the first letter was sent to Director Burra and Chair Ruttan requesting local COVID case reporting and tracking in Limestone as other boards across Ontario have put into place. We received communication back from Director Burra indicating that, based on public health advice and legal advice, the board is not able to do this as they do not have the authority to collect personal health information in this capacity, and that any data collected would not necessarily reflect an accurate picture given it would be voluntary disclosure.

Our second letter was to Minister Lecce and other government stakeholders requesting several things, including a strong test to stay program; expanded access to testing and quality masks for students; the return of case reporting; and clarity on who is being hired as emergency teachers. We have not received any communication back from our government, not even a confirmation that the letter was received, though we know it has been.

We attended a formal Ministry of Education consultation on curriculum and provided feedback. We advocated for more life skills learning; expanded opportunities for experiential learning and earlier access to it; and for online credits to be opt-in, versus the opt-out format they will be as of now. We also advocated for EQAO testing to be removed.

Crystal joined the school calendar committee which met over the last several weeks. The final calendar submission is going to the next board meeting for approval.

The 2SLGBTQIA+ Focus Group delegated to the Board in November. We are now following up with the Board to seek responses to their recommendations as we have not heard anything substantial. Our PRO- Grant committee met and reviewed applications. All are approved! A reminder that refreshments can only make up 10 per cent of the total grant, and that everyone will need to be prepared with a COVID back-up plan for anything that is not already virtual. There will be specific details sent out to every applicant shortly. Also, a reminder to complete your reporting on time. Thank you to our volunteers on the committee. We still have money to spend, which we will discuss further in this meeting.

A final note: Municipal Elections are coming soon, and the Board is dealing with trustee boundary review and determination models at its upcoming meetings. If you as an elector are interested in this, the February Board Meeting will be focused on working with demographic information and the March 9 EPOC Meeting is when the final decision will be made.”

This concludes Co-Chairs report for this evening.

## **5.2. Board Update-Associate Superintendent Gollogly**

Since in-person learning resumed a few weeks ago, it has been wonderful to see the teaching and learning occurring in schools. While provincial masking requirements remain in place on all student transportation and inside schools, KFL&A Public Health has lifted the requirement for masking outdoors when students are in cohorts.

Black History Month provides us with the opportunity to recognize and learn about the achievements and contributions of Black Canadian changemakers. We are particularly proud of our partnership this year with Kingston Frontenac Public Library offering a variety of exciting opportunities for students and families.

Limestone will continue to offer elementary and secondary virtual schools next year. In the coming weeks we will be sharing a survey with elementary families to indicate their desire for a virtual option. Short-term remote learning-Schools will also be reaching out to ensure continuity of learning. The ongoing need to offer the option of short-term remote learning will continue to be assessed moving into the coming weeks.

Additional Rapid Antigen Test kits are available in schools for students to take home if they are exhibiting symptoms at school or who have 'screened out' resulting in an unplanned absence from school. Please connect with your child's/children's school(s) if this is the case. Public Health authorities continue to emphasize the importance of vaccinations. Information about local clinics can be found <https://bit.ly/3GzRmQW>

A return-to-train model started in the past couple of weeks to allow extracurricular athletics to resume by having teams practice. We are very pleased we will see a full return to play that will allow all inter-school competitions to resume in our region next week.

With the end of quadmester two at secondary and term one at elementary, report cards will be shared with students/families soon. Once the 2022-2023 calendar has been approved by Trustees and confirmed by the Ministry of Education, Limestone will promptly share the information to families.”

There was a question as to the deadline for virtual school in the 2022/23 school year — presently, there is no deadline. A parent also asked about EA support and shortages, with the response that there are an additional 50 EAs hired.

### **5.3. Trustee Update-Trustee Brown**

Trustee Brown stated: “Last night, as many of you know was our EPOC meeting of the year and our first report on the agenda was: *Preparing for the 2022 School Board Elections*. There will be boundary information so watch out for further discussion related to this change. School Year Calendar was set for 2022-2023. It was approved by Trustees but now must be approved by the Ministry. There was a lengthy discussion on Policy 13 (Delegates and Submissions and Bylaw Article III, Section 3) focused on Trustee Replacement. For the first article, input was sought from the public and based on this, plus some Trustees input, the basic outcome was that delegations would be received and would be allowed 5 minutes if their application is received four (4) days prior to the meeting, (by 4 p.m. on that day). Any late requests will be allowed 2 minutes. There is also to be an accessible clause added; for example, if a person needs a translator that will be considered. The selection committee for choosing a trustee, if the need should arise, would consist of all trustees and the Director. Applications will be public, but the interviews will be private.

As you know, there is a Black Caucus Advisory Group in Limestone. We are finalizing our Terms of Reference. The group is also anxious to have new members. It is open to any parents of Black children. I was happy to participate in the Queen's / Community Celebration for the Opening of Black History Month. With the help of Superintendent Jessica Silver, I was able to report on many of the initiatives already in place by Limestone to address EDII issues." This concludes Trustee Brown's report.

#### **5.4. Indigenous Education Advisory Committee**

No update to report

#### **5.5. 2SLGBTQIA+ Focus Group**

Constance Carriere-Prill stated: "The 2SLGBTQIA+ Focus group continues to meet monthly, with participation from parents, administrators, and Trustees. During the last meeting they were joined by Andrea Barrow, new EDI Consultant for the board, introduced by Trustee Judith Brown. The meeting prior, they were joined by Rae MacDonald, Yusuf Abdulkareem (the new Human Rights and Equity Officer) and Liv Rondeau, who are leading the staff working group. The focus group plans to continue to collaborate on relevant projects. They have been invited to contribute anything related to the focus group into the staff monthly newsletter. They have been asked by Yusuf to contribute feedback towards the Anonymous Reporting Tool and have been providing that feedback.

The focus group has been working on setting up a parent resource page on the LDSB website- Stay Tuned! Some projects that the group is working on is to create a parent support group for parents of 2SLGBTQIA+ students and establishing some sort of point of contact for personal support. They have reached out to Student Trustees for collaboration and are looking at ways they can connect with the Equity Reps in each of the schools. They are also looking at setting up additional future educational events for families. The group is growing, please join!

2SLGBTQIA+ focus group has applied for a PRO Grant funding and has been approved. The plan is to set-up a parent workshop on "*Beyond Tolerance* - How to Support your 2SLGBTQIA+ kids after coming out." This concludes Constance Carriere-Prill's report.

There was a question about how the focus group started, with an interest in creating a similar group for families with neurodivergent students. The PIC Co-Chairs are eager to do this and would be happy to hear from anyone with an interest in doing so.

## **6. Reports for Actions**

None currently.

## 7. Unfinished Business

Not at this time.

## 8. New Business

### 8.1. Laura Conboy-LDSB Mental Health Lead

Laura Conboy, Mental Health Lead, attended to solicit feedback about the Mental Health and Wellness pages on the LDSB website. She has also solicited feedback from the Family Advisory Committee. The purpose of this exercise was to gather information regarding the website content so that it can be better tailored to share communication and resources with families/caregivers and students that support mental health and substance use concerns. Feedback gathered from the 2021 Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy Survey indicated that many caregivers are unaware of school-based mental health supports and how they can help their child to access them. Updates to the website will hopefully be completed by the end of June 2022.

Laura Conboy expressed that there is a vacancy on the Mental Health and Substance Use Leadership Committee. Laura is looking for two parent representatives, a primary delegate, and a backup, to attend four meetings per school year. This is a two-year commitment. If you are interested, please reach out to Laura Conboy at [conboylaura@limestone.on.ca](mailto:conboylaura@limestone.on.ca).

The PIC Members gave feedback to Laura from their schools and what items can be changed including greater ease of finding the information, more resources for elementary age students, and support for suicide awareness and prevention information.

Many of the questions were addressed around student and caregivers' privacy.

After hearing more from Trustee Brown and Trustee Godkin the members shared ideas of recourses of what other schools are doing around curriculum and EDI. They suggested that we need to incorporate Black history learning all the time.

### 8.2. Motion of Funding Transfers from Parent Engagement to PRO-Grant

Crystal Bevens-Leblanc brought forward the following motion:

MOTION Moved by: Crystal Bevens-Leblanc That PIC transfer \$5000.00 from parent engagement funds to PRO-Grant account to support the remainder of the PRO-Grant applications that were submitted. Carried.

The PIC PRO Grant committee awarded all applicants for the 2021/22 school year but there were additional applications brought forward. To fund those, the PIC will take some money from the general parent engagement 'bucket' given there are few opportunities for whole-system gatherings and events.



Stemming from this conversation, Co-Chairs gave a reminder that Alejandra Zamores is interested in supporting newcomers and English language Learners in engaging with the school system and places like SACs and PIC. If anyone has interest or skill in this area, please reach out.

### **8.3 Vaping in Washrooms**

As a new business item, Colleen Notley noted an increase in vaping in washrooms at FSS, with the understanding that this is happening in other LDSB schools and is a board-wide issue. The problem is something administration is aware of, and families are encouraged to follow the resolution protocol. It is something the board is aware of and is being discussed.

## **9. Next Meeting**

Thursday, May 5, 2022

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.