

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 6th, 2022

Roll call:

Members:	Staff:
<p>Crystal Bevens-Leblanc Shayla Bradley Jennifer Foster Melissa Rickey Gelareh Monajemi Alejandra Zamora Susan Coleman Mark Foster Jim Jodoin Kelley Packalen Josephina Smith Christine Innocente Mandy McKinnon Laura Carter Melanie Glassford Melissa Hudson Amanda McPhee Virginia Venditti Rena Petrick Barb Murphy Rob Richer Lesla-ESS Chair Alison Bradshaw Terri M Kristin Mennie Kayley Miller Melanie Carrier Vanessa Wood</p>	<p>K. Burra, Director of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent A. Andretta, Administrative Assistant M. Christopher, ITS Systems Support Analyst</p>

Trustees:	Guests:
Judith Brown Bob Godkin Garrett Elliott Tiffany Lloyd	

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee.

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

Shayla Bradley offered the land acknowledgment:

Before I acknowledge the lands, we're on and the stewards of that land, to place myself in relation, I was born in colonized Canada; my family is European by ancestry. I had the privilege of learning about Anishinaabe teachings and culture while living in Obishikokkang Territory for a decade before coming here, and I've had wonderful local friends who have helped me learn too. I am very grateful for what I've been taught about land, sovereignty, and culture. At the same time, I think it's imperative to acknowledge that proximity to Indigenity is not Indigeneity itself. I am a settler.

I want to acknowledge that the Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee and to acknowledge their enduring presence on this land and the presence of Métis, Inuit, and other First Nations from across Turtle Island.

A land acknowledgement is a starting point -- we acknowledge the land and the people — then what? As we talk about education and families, I encourage everyone, including myself, to think about how the Parent Involvement Committee will take action to support Indigenous Peoples, families, and communities. The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, points to education as the key to reconciliation, and that includes educating ourselves.

1. Call to Order

Chair Bradley welcomed everyone and noted that while we frequently use the word parent, in this context it often refers to caregivers, kin, and guardians because families as a whole impact the education system.

She discussed what PIC is: a statutory, official board committee; a support system for parents and school advisory councils; an advisory body to the board; and a forum to support, encourage, and enhance meaningful parental involvement within schools and within the entire board. She further discussed the structure of PIC, and introduced some key people.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Adopted

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Not at this time

4. Approval of Minutes

May minutes were approved by consensus.

5. Reports for Information

5.1. Board Report: Message from Director Burra

Director Burra thanked all committee members and noted their roles are critical in this committee and partnership.

Director Burra started his presentation with an update on enrolment, noting a positive start to the year with an increase in enrolment, resumption of full K-12 learning and extracurricular activities in schools. There are about 200 students who are in remote virtual school, not including secondary students who are doing e-learning courses but in a physical school for other courses.

There is an opt-out for students and families in Grades 9 and 10 who do not feel an online course will work for them. The Ministry of Education is funding LDSB with the assumption that about 15% of students are doing e-learning, so a high number of opt-outs could create pressure.

Municipal elections are coming up, and the new group of trustees that will formulate the board will be sworn in and start their term. In the spring, the trustees invited the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte to create an Indigenous Trustee.

Director Burra noted that we are still in a pandemic and, even from the standpoint of flu season, there are ups and downs over the year, and many public health authorities are assuming there will be various waves. This is an item the board will have to monitor; at present, they are not feeling the pressures of previous periods.

It is also a labour relations year between the provincial government and unions representing workers in the jurisdiction, including CUPE, OSSTF and ETFO. The board will communicate whatever information it has about any impending job action as available.

Money was invested in secondary music programs, drama and visual arts, and to support elementary arts projects. The Limestone Learning Foundation provided roughly \$70,000 worth of books by a wide range of authors to create classroom sets that would go into every classroom for grades four to six last year. This year, similar money is being invested in K-3 classroom libraries, focusing on multiple voices supporting different equity issues and social justice issues and mentor texts to support reading and writing in the classroom.

The board has continued to invest in technology to have devices available to support learning either at home or for students face-to-face in the classroom.

Director Burra shared the LDSB strategic plan and its wellness, innovation and collaboration pillars. There will be opportunities for PIC, councils and the community to engage with a refresh or reset of that plan this year, helping focus and prioritize the board's work in terms of supporting students and serving the communities in LDSB.

The board wants every student to have hope, value and purpose as they move forward, knowing the last few years have been disruptive and inflation is inflicting additional pain on families and children.

Education can open the door to different opportunities, and we need to make sure that we focus on learning to create the best possible outcomes that families and young people want.

The board is working toward professional learning with teachers and learning recovery for all. PA Days and staff meetings are a component. Release time has been a challenge because of lower occasional and relief staff numbers.

Literacy and numeracy are key priorities, as are student voice and choice. If students have more choice and voice in how they demonstrate their learning, that is highly effective in making sure they will do the best they can. The board is also encouraging risk-taking, not in terms of safety but revisiting how things have been done in the past and how that could change.

The graduation rate is around 84 to 85%, and the board's goal is to reach 90% at minimum in the next few years. They also recognize that graduation is not a likely outcome for some students as they are working on a certificate, in school to community programming, or otherwise not in secondary school working on an Ontario secondary school diploma.

The board is using a book called Street Data to explore how to reach students in the margins who are historically underserved and not successful in the system right now. They are looking at other students in the margins, and the census data will help determine needs.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission released its Right to Read report in the spring. LDSB has been doing some work already, and with the report's release, more resources will be going out to schools, learning sessions, and potentially Ministry funding.

There will be a new kindergarten to grade eight language arts and grade 9 English curriculum, and de-streaming has become a reality. Students are generally used to this as they are de-streamed from K-8. Part of the rationale for doing this is to delay that decision about whether students choose academic or applied programming, as research shows differing success rates and students who are not making informed choices.

This is not about shaming the applied pathway that existed before or a college or workplace pathway. It's about ensuring students understand the implications of their choices and that they're pursuing the opportunities they want moving forward.

There are teacher shortages in areas across the province, including technical staff such as a licensed mechanic who's also an educator who can teach auto and French teachers. Occasional support staff and educators are also a challenge to secure as wages are better in many other occupations available right now. It is a challenge for LDSB in terms of being able to provide a competitive, fair wage.

Director Burra answered various questions and provided information to meeting attendees, including that the PIC can change its name if members desire but would need to append (PIC) to the new name for organizational purposes. PIC can also provide a profile of its ideal trustee representation. Any ongoing COVID decisions, such as advising people of spiking absences or strongly recommending masks, will be data-driven. Vaping is a problem the board is very aware of, and parents can continue to reach out to administrators. The board is not considering funding security, and they know that students will go elsewhere to vape; they are focused on education around health decisions.

5.2. Chair Update: Shayla Bradley

Chair Bradley thanked everyone for volunteering their time and expressed hope that they all will find value in this group.

She noted that the committee has ratified its new bylaws via an electronic process. A key change is an option to appoint one co-chair who should be finishing their two-year term if both Co-Chairs' terms are ending simultaneously.

She shared that there is an update about PRO grant reimbursements, to be provided by Ann Marie Andretta, and confirmed upcoming PIC meetings for the school year on November 17th, February 9th, April 6th, and May 4th. There is potential for some opportunities to connect and learn in between meetings; members were asked to share subjects of interest.

Chair Bradley shared that there is a PIC Facebook group available to representatives to connect. She concluded by acknowledging her co-chair and friend Crystal Bevens-Leblanc and her work with PIC for the last three years as co-chair. Chair Bradley applauded C. Bevens-Leblanc's work in the background, dedication, tenacity and support with everything PIC does and that school councils have required.

5.3. Trustee Update-Trustee Brown

Trustee Brown shared an update from the last EPOC meeting, the final meeting for this term of trustees. The meeting included a report dealing with the equity action plan and its monitoring system. Trustee Brown heard from Umoja that representation matters, and asked about Black teachers in classrooms.

Another report dealt with the summer programs including summer credit programs, literary campus support, applied suicide training, intervention skills, and Gould Lake outdoor education. Trustees discussed bylaw amendments required to add an Indigenous Trustee, the Board Student Transportation Banking Agreement, and smudging in schools.

5.4. Board Update: Associate Superintendent Gollogly and Administrative Assistant Ms. Andretta

Patty Gollogly, Associate Superintendent of Safe and Caring Schools, shared that she is happy to be working together with PIC again this year, along with Ann Marie Andretta, administrative assistant for PIC. They work together to get any communication to schools and parents about PIC.

Ann Marie Andretta shared information about PRO Grant reimbursement. The first step for reimbursement is to ask your principal or vice-principal for their purchasing cards. Most principals have a board VISA card. Also, the office administrator, office manager or the budget clerk will have a board VISA as well. If there is something that you need to purchase immediately with your own debit card or your credit card, you can bring in your receipts and get a reimbursement from the non-board funds within the school which is the school council funds. Then the office administrator or budget clerk can submit the proper reimbursement form that they need to get the funds back to the school. This will close the gap of the waiting period for payment.

5.5. Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

No Report

5.6. 2SLGBTQIA+ Focus Group

Chair Bradley shared that the 2SLGBTQIA+ focus group is essentially a subcommittee of PIC and explained its formation. Last year the group tackled issues like gender-neutral washrooms, access to information and resources, gaps in support, and making the board's human rights incident reporting tool more effective. We also marched in Napanee and Kingston Pride.

There's still work to do but we feel like we are all moving in a good direction.

It's a new year with new people, and we'd love to figure out goals and gaps once again. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. online. You can email the LDSB PIC Co-Chair's Gmail address to get on the list.

S. Bradley thanked parent chair Constance Carriere-Prill for her work leading the committee for the past year. On top of all the other amazing things she does every day, she's in law school now, so she had to step back from chairing this year.

6. Reports for Actions

None currently.

7. Unfinished Business

Not at this time.

8. New Business

8.1. Elections

S. Bradley said there were no nominations for the co-chair position. Because PIC can operate with just one chair under our bylaws, we will move forward without that spot filled and ask again for expressions of interest. PIC will try to hold an election at the November meeting.

S. Bradley reminded that the role of the first-year chair is to learn and prepare and that she is happy to help anyone interested throughout the year, so they feel ready to take on the incumbent, second-year chair role next school year. C. Innocente read the description of the first-year chair's role.

Because PIC still needs a second-year chair this year, P. Gollogly asked to appoint S. Bradley under the new bylaws allowing for this situation. There was no opposition from the membership. C. Bevens-Leblanc will move to the past chair position.

8.2. Best Practices

The committee will discuss best practices at the next meeting in November.

9. Next Meeting - Thursday, November 17th, 2022

10. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.