

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### November 17th, 2022

#### Roll call:

<b>Members:</b>	<b>Staff:</b>
<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>P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent A. Andretta, Administrative Assistant M. Christopher, ITS Systems Support Analyst Suche James, Vice Principal Lauren McEwen, Secondary Teacher</p>

<b>Trustees:</b>	<b>Guests:</b>
Judith Brown Bob Godkin 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.**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Adopted

**3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Not at this time

**4. Delegation/Presentation**

**4.1 Calvin Park/LCVI Prioritizing Equity**

Vice Principal Suche James and Lauren McEwen spoke to PIC about the equity work that is happening at Calvin Park and LCVI. Their efforts are based on student and staff voice-driven data and include bystander intervention, allyship and micro-aggression education, anti-hate and anti-bullying education, and inclusion in school and classroom culture. Both students and staff have a responsibility to learn and do these things.

LCVI and Calvin Park's efforts reach different groups of students.

Indigenous students are being engaged inside and outside of the school, and different days of importance are honoured. There are images of Indigenous leaders around the school and language learning.

The GSA voiced a desire for more gender-neutral bathrooms, gender-neutral change rooms and communication around preferred names and pronouns. Days of observance should be integrated in school assemblies and announcements. All-gender public health education and a queer sports and social club are being introduced, an initiative that came in part from PIC and Associate Superintendent Gollogly's efforts.

Students identified bullying as an issue and had workshops with Andrea Barrow and anti-bullying training at Queen's University. There is peer-to-peer mentorship happening with younger students in elementary feeder schools.

Calvin Park has a social justice club and they are exploring the human rights code. They are addressing hate in the social media world.

LCVI has the biggest population of newcomers, mostly Muslim. There is a prayer room for the students that can be private and blocked off, so they are comfortable having prayer at school. Staff are coordinating Friday prayers at the school so students don't have to leave and miss class. This is all student-driven.

LCVI is building classroom communities with curriculum and life skills. Kids are learning English but also getting credit in some of their compulsory courses. Partnerships with KEYS and ISKA also help make connections.

S. James and L. McEwen answered various questions from those in attendance.

## 5. Reports for Information

### 5.1. Chair Update: Shayla Bradley

Chairs Bradley stated:

“First off, thank you all for being here as volunteers and as engaged caregivers. Participating in, and standing up for public education is important. Canada’s public schools have been at the top of global assessment scales for a long time. We need to keep it that way, and our work with the PIC is part of that.

I want to congratulate and welcome all the trustees for the 2022-2026 term, many returning, some new. They all select their committees on Monday. On that note, I want to thank Trustee Brown and Trustee Godkin for being PIC’s trustee and alternate for the last year.

We held a chair’s workshop earlier this month. Thank you to everyone who attended. The recording and some information have gone out to chairs.

PIC chairs from across the province have been invited to a consultation with the Ministry of Education next Tuesday. At this point, we have not heard exactly what it’s about. Hopefully, we will get more specific questions with enough time that I can bring them forward to you for feedback.

You may hear more about this from Patty, but I want to reiterate some of the messages from the Director and Public Health around RSV, COVID and influenza in our schools. We are all being urged to mask in indoor public settings, including schools, stay up to date on vaccines, screen for respiratory symptoms, stay home when sick, and clean our hands and surfaces. Our local hospital system and the regional children’s hospital in Ottawa, CHEO, are asking people to do all this too. It’s important that we give kids as much protection as possible right now.

I know that hearing scary information about hospital capacity and children’s health and school absences can be a lot, on top of uncertainty while our valuable CUPE education workers negotiate and coming into colder weather and more darkness. If you feel stressed or worried you are not alone; I am certain you can look around this room and find someone who feels similarly.

I want to remind everyone that there are resources and supports for mental health and well-being, both for our students and for ourselves.



If you google Limestone Community Mental Health & Addictions Supports, you will find a board list to get you started. AMHS-KFLA — addiction and mental health services Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington — has a 24-hour crisis line.

For kids, I can tell you that the Maltby Centre will move quickly if you're in crisis and can help you chart a path out for your child.

We won't have another meeting until February, so until then, please keep connected with PIC and one another whenever you need help or a listening ear. We're all here for one another and for Limestone students."

### **5.2. Trustee Update: Trustee Brown**

Trustee Brown stated: "Good evening, Everyone! It sure is wonderful to be able to speak in person, Last night's meeting was preceded by a social time. Treats served were prepared by the Lancer culinary Arts Class from LCVI under the supervision of teachers Ian Montgomery and Andrew Kirby.

The formal art of the meeting began with LCVI students performing some of the songs from Momma Mia - a production to be presented in December from the preview we heard it is a treat you will not want to miss. We were strongly encouraged to buy tickets for \$15.

This was followed by the installation of the new Board of Trustees, and we were thrilled to add the Indigenous Trustee, in the person of Kelly Maracle. Other trustees are Garrett Elliott, Bob Godkin, Robin Hutcheon, Kelly Lloyd, Karen McGregor, Joy Morning, Jim Neill, Suzanne Ruttan and me, Judith Brown. The election for the Chair and Vice Chair followed. Robin Hutcheon was elected Chair and Bob Godkin Vice-Chair."

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

Associate Superintendent Gollogly stated: "I would like to welcome Casey Walters Gray, RN, BNSc Public Health Nurse School Health Team.

This week is Transgender Awareness Week. It raises awareness about the continued adversity that trans people face in our society, and work to counter anti-trans hate with education and allyship and holds space connected to using education to break the stigma associated with gender expression.

November 21 to 25, 2022, is Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Limestone will recognize Thursday, November 24, 2022, as a district-wide Pink Shirt Day.

The Student Human Rights incident and Complaint mechanism will allow the Board to monitor, track, and respond to human rights incidents and complaints that involve Limestone students in a fair, timely, and consistent manner and ensure that appropriate response, resolution, and support

are provided. This complaint mechanism consists of Administrative Procedure 367: Student Human rights Incident and Complaint and the Student Human Rights Incident and Complaint Form available online. Complaints can be submitted using this form.

Our high schools have students who are currently training to become Youth Facilitators for an Anti-Bullying program. Youth Facilitators will deliver a three-hour workshop to grade 6 to 8 classes at their respective feeder schools. Students have completed day one of training and are in the process of completing day two and will be ready in December to visit classes.

Things continue to be interesting in our worlds. Unfortunately, it appears central talks between the government and CUPE have hit an impasse. Consequently, CUPE has provided five days' notice to put themselves in a legal strike position and have announced that a full withdrawal of services will occur on Monday, November 21st.

While time remains for a fairly negotiated settlement to avert this job action, we need to prepare for potential school closures on Monday and beyond. Families will need to prepare contingency plans for the duration of any school closures. We will of course communicate information as we receive it, and like an inclement weather day, this may mean having to update families and staff as late as Sunday evening or Monday morning regarding the status of schools for November 21.

With more seasonal weather upon us, people will be spending more time indoors and, as a result, public health authorities are concerned about the spread of several illnesses and the impact on hospital capacity for pediatric emergencies. As many of you are aware, Monday morning, Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, provided an update to the public indicating he is strongly recommending masking in all indoor public settings, including in schools and in childcare settings.

As the risk of illness increases, Dr. Moore recommends everyone getting back to practicing the basics that we know work to help prevent the spread of illness:

- Mask in indoor public settings, including schools and childcare settings due to the additional risk of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), COVID-19, and influenza (flu).
- Stay up to date with your vaccines.
- Screen daily for respiratory symptoms.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Always practice good hand hygiene and regularly clean surfaces (which is especially important for RSV and flu viruses).

Although student and staff absences go up and down throughout the school year, we have experienced a recent uptick in both student and staff absences due to illness at some sites. Limestone continues to work closely with KFL&A Public Health in monitoring student absences

related to illness. A version of this dashboard was posted on our website during the spring of 2022. We are again making the Student Absence Reporting Dashboard available to support our school communities with information about student absences due to illness in Limestone schools. This work has been supported by KFL&A Public Health guidance. This concludes my report.”

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

No Report

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

S. Bradley stated: “We had our second meeting in October.

If you go to the board website and find Families - Equity and Inclusion - Student and Family Resources you will see the resources supporting trans rights and gender-confirming care that the group had put together last year. We have a few more ideas, but it’s an excellent start, and we’re thrilled to see that information out there for students and families.

We plan to introduce ourselves to the new board, share our report from last year and ask for an update when the time is right for that. When budget submission time comes, we may have a few ideas.

Trustee Godkin highlighted that Rainbow Health Ontario is hosting a virtual panel Nov. 24 from 2-4 pm on Zoom discussing current and future issues in 2SLGBTQ health care. Go to [rainbowhealthontario.ca](http://rainbowhealthontario.ca) to find it.

Continuing to scan through board policies, procedures and practices and draw attention to areas that may need a view through a human rights lens; the more people we have looking at things from different perspectives the greater the insight is.

We decided we are meeting in December, as we have a new board and want to get a meeting in where we can invite everyone. That will be Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. online.”

## **6. Reports for Actions**

None currently.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

Not at this time.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Best Practices-Where PIC Fits**

Christine Innocente shared a presentation showing how PIC and school councils fit into the education system, so all have a shared understanding. The presentation outlined the appropriate

mechanism for bringing issues forward in the board hierarchy, depending on the issue. It highlighted the various responsibilities and roles of people and organizations within the education system and the board.

As another best practice, Chair Bradley highlight that hybrid meetings are something councils can and should do, and the Ministry of Education encourages it. The board has said that school councils should have the tech they need to make it happen. If you find that is not the case, your principal should reach out.

### **Renaming PIC**

Chair Bradley reminded that at the first PIC meeting of the year, the Director said that we can rename the Parent Involvement Committee to something less parent-centric if desired.

Some ideas that have come forward include Family Advisory Committee or Family Involvement Advisory Committee. There does not seem to be a strong feeling in any direction. Chair Bradley asked representatives to consider so PIC can discuss in February.

### **8.2. PRO-Grant Funding**

Chair Bradley shared that there is general parent engagement funding and PRO Grant funding. PRO Grant funding is for initiatives that address local caregiver needs and/or remove barriers that prevent caregivers from participating and engaging fully in their children's learning and educational progress.

PRO grants are funded at \$1500 + \$500 per school this year. LDSB does not typically have every school apply for these grants so PIC is going to offer up to \$1000 for each applicant again.

Grants can fund things like anti-racism and anti-oppression initiatives, food sovereignty and environment (community gardens); mental health and well-being (workshops on student and family mental health), physical health and wellness, targeted resources to meet specific parent needs, 2SLGBTQIA+ initiatives, STEM (e.g., in-person learning nights), cyber-literacy, literacy supports for parents to help their children.

The application will be going out very soon. Councils will have until mid-December to apply. They will have until mid-May to make the project happen. They will need to report by the deadline which will be in June.

PIC struck a subcommittee to review grant applications.

### **8.3. Co-Chair Trial Run**

Chair Bradley noted there was still no interest in anyone being a co-chair. This year is manageable but next year the rotation falls apart as there will be no second-year chair and the Education Act





precludes more than two consecutive terms of chairing. If anyone is interested in taking on the role as a trial run to understand the logistics before signing on for a full two years, that is an option. She offered a reminder again that the first-year co-chair's job is just to learn.

## **9. Next Meeting**

Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.