

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – May 4, 2023

Roll Call:

Members:	Staff:
<p>S. Bradley, Co-Chair and 2SLGBTQIA+ Focus Group V. Wood, Co-Chair and Sydenham HS S. Coleman, Amherst Island PS M. Redmond, Bayridge PS L. Ray, Ernestown SS M. Foster, J.R. Henderson PS C. Innocent, Ecole Maple ES J. Kehoe, Molly Brant ES (IEAC) V. Venditti, Polson Park PS S. Delouche, R.G. Sinclair PS J. Jodoin, Rideau PS S. Gratto, Storrington PS A. Bradshaw, Winston Churchill PS</p>	<p>K. Burra, Director P. Gollogly, Assoc. Superintendent M. Baker-Cox, Pathways and Equity G. Petznick, Expanded Opportunities J. Quenneville, Experiential Learning S. Aslam, Innovation and Technology</p>
Trustees:	
<p>B. Godkin M. Joy</p>	
Guests:	Recorder:
<p>K. Hare, KFL&A Public Health (regrets)</p>	<p>E. Smith, Administrative Assistant M. Christopher, IT</p>

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Co-Chair Bradley welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided the Acknowledgement of Territory. “We recognize that 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.”

2. Adoption of Agenda

Adopted.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest declared.

4. Approval of Minutes

April 2023 minutes were approved by consensus.

5. Delegation/Presentation

Director Burra, delivered a presentation on “*LDSB Strategic Planning Process 2023-2028*”. Director Burra answered some questions and invited PIC/School Council members to complete the ThoughtExchange Survey. Co-Chair Bradley thanked Director Burra for the presentation and invited Melissa Baker-Cox and the team to deliver their presentation on “*Expanded Opportunities*”. Jason Quenneville and Shamaila Aslam delivered presentation on “*Experiential Learning*”; Geoff Petznick delivered presentation on “*Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)*” a specialized program and “*Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)*”; Melissa Baker-Cox delivered presentation on “*Dual Credit*”, “*School Within A College (SWAC)*” and “*Under-represented Workers In The Trades (uWITTS)*”, she further informed about myBlueprint, a comprehensive education and career/life planning program with the tools students need to make the most informed decision about their future. Presentations will be shared with PIC members. The team answered follow up questions.

6. Reports for Information

6.1 Co-Chairs Update

Co-Chair Bradley informed that Ministry of Education PIC presentation will take place on May 15 to talk about education funding.

PRO grant money needs to be spent by May 18 and the final report submitted to the Board by May 26.

With reference to Bill 98, the Better Schools Act, public feedback can be given by emailing education.feedback@ontario.ca, due by 7:00pm on May 9, 2023.

Kingston Pride Parade is on June 17 and starts at 12:00pm. Napanee Pride Parade is on June 3.

Co-Chair Bradley invited any comments, recommendations for improvement; noted that this would be her last meeting as a Co-Chair and invited Vanessa Wood, the Co-Chair, to provide further update.

Co-Chair Wood informed that Sydenham HS is having its 150th reunion in August 2023.

Summer School is open for registration, school runs from July 4 until 28, closing registration date is June 28.

Co-Chair Wood recognized that May is Mental Health Awareness month, and that information is available on LDSB website. She further informed about Food Sharing Project and that they have reached out for some donations; Co-Chair Wood share statistics concerning rising cost of food prices and invited for donations to be made. She noted that it is concerning to see how many children did not have lunches or food. Recommendation was made to School Councils to set up a donation box to every canteen or similar, and to allocate certain percentage for donation to Food Sharing Project. It was further recommended that PIC should advocate to various levels of government on the topic of Food Sharing Project, recommendation was accepted. It was further suggested that School Councils/parents consider writing an advocacy letter as well. Discussion followed concerning donations for food.

6.2 Trustee Update

Trustee Godkin acknowledged that this week is Mental Health Week and Education Week. Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate community, it provides a special opportunity to celebrate community and to recognize the efforts of volunteers. Mental Health Week is a Canadian tradition, with Community Schools and workplaces rallying to celebrate, protect and promote mental health. LDSB has developed a comprehensive Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy to help promote mental health, identify issues early, reduce stigma and provide pathways to both Board and community-bases supports for students. Students can find more resources on LDSB website.

Trustees had an opportunity to go to OPSBA in May and received training in Labour Relations. Ontario Council of School Board Trustees annual general meeting is coming up on June 8 to 10.

Trustee Godkin recognized that in the past five years Board has been proactively reaching out to parents/guardians inviting their inputs. He encouraged that everyone participates in surveys that the Board is sending out as their input is valuable.

Trustee Godkin provided update on EPOC meeting from May 3, 2023.

6.3 Board Update

Assoc. Supt. Gollogly informed that the LDSB school year calendar for 2023-2024 has been approved by the Board of Trustees, confirmed by the Ministry of Education, and will be posted to the board website early next week.

Lots of exciting things are going on for the Month of May – Bayridge and LCVI Road Race and NDSS Road Race.

Assoc. Supt. Gollogly recognized that the May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited (MMIWG2S) individuals. Also known as Red Dress Day, this solemn day is observed to honour and remember missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people, and to encourage one another to take action for change. On this day, we encourage everyone across the school district to wear red and remember, honour, and give voice to MMIWG2S whose stories have not been heard.

Assoc. Supt. Gollogly thanked PIC for sponsoring a parent session May 10th regarding awareness of Human Trafficking: **Alexandra Stevenson "The Laughing Survivor"** shared her story from a child activity to human trafficking victim to adult activist. Alexandra breaks down what trafficking is, what it commonly looks like (and doesn't look like) and what you need to know to keep your child safe. She shares techniques that you can use with children as young as 2 years old to start laying the groundwork for healthy relationships, understanding consent and recognizing vulnerabilities.

See Yourself in Limestone Student Census: Student Sense of Belonging Report: the first in a series of reports that focuses on belonging at school for different demographic groups: race and racial background; religion; country of birth; first language; and newcomer or refugee status, and how these identities relate to student experiences. Building local knowledge about who Limestone students are and how they are experiencing school is a crucial step towards actively creating meaningful positive change for all individuals within the school community.

6.4 KFL&A Update

K. Hare sent regrets. An update was provided on behalf of KFL&A:

- Immunization of Schools Pupil Act
 - In progress after being paused for approx. 2 years.
 - There were larger numbers this year which was expected because the pandemic made access to healthcare more challenging for people.
- Grade 7/8 school-based immunization clinics
 - Round 2 of the in-school clinics are underway.
- Mental Health Week
 - Wellness teams and wellness activities are happening in schools this week.
 - School team Public Health Nurses (PHN) support their schools in various ways for e.g. assist with planning, provide resources such as game boards and wheels which provide an interactive component to the wellness events, print resources e.g., smoothie recipe cards, Secondary Schools can apply for funds to support healthy snacks etc.
 - Roadmap to Wellness KFL&A Family Advisory Committee is hosting *Where to Turn?* event
 - Saturday May 6th from 12pm to 3pm
 - Rideau Heights Community Centre
 - Drop-in event to explore mental health services and resources for children, youth, and families.
- Discover Kindergarten
 - Discover Kindergarten events are being scheduled. School team PHNs have been invited to attend 11 open houses this spring to provide additional resources, promote Public Health messages, answer questions, and engage with families.
- Celebration of Dance
 - 6400 LDSB elementary students are participating in this initiative and are being physically active through dance.
 - A Virtual celebration will be held on May 17, 2023. Schools may choose another day for their own event.
- Marathon Club
 - Marathon Club is happening now and is part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum and Healthy Schools initiative.
 - Students are encouraged to set goals, train, and complete a total of 21.1 km (half marathon) or 42.2 km (full marathon) during the months of April, May, and June.
 - 2222 students are registered for the half marathon and 2027 students are registered for the full marathon.
 - Schools that register for Marathon Club are provided instructions and resources to support running activities during or after school hours and some schools may hold a final km run at their school as a celebration.

Limestone District School Board

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6.5 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)

J. Kehoe informed that Indigenous Education Advisory Council will become standing Committee soon who will be required to report to the Board of Trustees.

LDBS has partnered with the Kingston Indigenous Languages Nest (KILN) to create a garden in City Park which will start in the near future. Meeting is taking place May 9, 2023, at 610 Montreal Street, all Indigenous family representatives.

J. Kehoe invited LDSB to be more proactive about planning events around culturally sensitive days.

6.6 2SLGBTQIA+ Focus Group

S. Bradley reported that the group met and talked about the importance of being specific in our language when it comes to historically or currently marginalized communities. Pink Shirt Day, for example, was created to stand up against homophobic bullying but has become just "anti-bullying" in general. International Day of Pink, which is specifically about transphobic and homophobic bullying, needs to not just state that, but be a clear commitment that we will not accept anything less than equity and justice for 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Similarly, we discussed how Autism Acceptance Month is all about autism, not just neurodiversity in general. S. Bradley pointed out that it's not enough to simply acknowledge that bullying is bad or that we should be accepting of those who are different from us — we must be intentional in our efforts to understand and support those who are facing unique challenges based on how society is intolerant of their identities. People who are in need of that support can tell when it's been diluted to be more generally acceptable and while it may be tempting to do so to avoid controversy or divisiveness, there's nothing controversial about human rights.

7. Reports for action - None at this time.

8. Unfinished Business - None at this time.

9. New Business

Co-Chair Bradley informed that PIC bylaws were sent out and requested comments by June 1.

10. Correspondence – None at this time.

11. Next Meeting – TBC (next school year).

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.