



We're Putting Wellness First



We're Turning Innovation into Action



We're Committed to Collaboration

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2019

1. Approval of Agenda – approved
2. Associate Superintendent of Safe & Caring Schools Scot Gillam welcomed everyone to the meeting. The LDSB Indigenous Acknowledgment was delivered.
3. Associate Superintendent Gillam introduced Nicki Gowdy, Chair of PIC, Garrett Elliot - Trustee Representative and Trustees Joy Mourning, Tom Gingrich, Robin Hutcheon, and Bob Godkin to the meeting. Co-chair Sabena Islam sent her regrets as she was coaching the LC curling team.

4. Associate Superintendent of Safe & Caring Schools Update (Scot Gillam)

a) Black History Month – Associate Superintendent Gillam provided an update of a variety of activities occurring through LDSB to celebrate Black History Month.

b) Smoke Free Act – Associate Superintendent Gillam provided an update on the enforcement of the Smoke Free Act by KFL&A bylaw officers. A reminder that no smoking or vaping can occur within 20 m of any point on school property. Gillam reviewed how secondary schools have been working with KFL&A and families to support smoking cessation as part of this process. LDSB really appreciates the support of KFL&A in this matter. All secondary schools will be receiving new signs and elementary schools will be getting heavy duty stickers to replace the old signs.

c) School Year Calendar 2019/20 – Associate Superintendent Gillam reviewed the School Year Calendar consultation process, including identifying members of the consultation including Trustee Ruttan and PIC Co-Chair Sabena Islam. The Calendar will go to Trustees on March 20 for approval. There was a discussion around the number of bus cancellations this year. Concerns were raised around the number of days and expectations if students did go. Associate Superintendent Gillam reminded everyone that if buses are canceled, and the schools are open, that programming should be happening for all students. What that programming looks like, is quite different depending on your geographical location within the Limestone Board. Our primary concern during those days is student safety, but when children are at school, our expectation is that their learning will continue.

d) Kindergarten Registration - Associate Superintendent Gillam informed the PIC that Kindergarten registration in LDSB was underway and that this year, registrations would be initially completed electronically, with other information shared upon the guardians next visit to the school.

e) Safe Schools/Emergency Response - Associate Superintendent Gillam reviewed the events of Dec 5 and 6 with the PIC group. Associate Superintendent Gillam provided the feedback that we received from Kingston Police. These situations, while stressful and potentially traumatic, provided both the Police and LDSB with some opportunities to review and improve our practices. Both the LDSB and Kingston Police were very impressed with the handling of all situations by staff, students and parents. Further discussion items included a way to inform both students who are outside and perhaps even community members that something was occurring at the school. This is being followed up by the Safe Schools team and our local police partners.

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

f) **Skills Competition** – March 22nd at St. Lawrence College - Associate Superintendent Gillam informed the PIC group of the upcoming Skills Competition on Friday, March 22nd at St. Lawrence College. Both elementary and secondary students will compete in a wide variety of challenges – Lego robotics, environmental sustainability, construction, culinary, animation, computer tech, etc. PIC members are encouraged to check it out. Winners at this competition may be eligible to compete in the Provincial Skills competition in Toronto in May.

g) **Principal/Vice-Principal Profiles** - Associate Superintendent Gillam reminded everyone that Principal/Vice Principal profiles had been sent out to each School Council for completion. PIC members were to go back and remind their Councils to complete these.

h) **Health Unit updates** – please see attachment to the email.

5. Discussion Items

Trustee Garrett Elliot

Trustee Elliot introduced himself and spoke about a motion to have live streaming investigated for Board Meetings. Other options besides live streaming were discussed by various PIC members. Garrett to follow up in May.

Digital/Technology Work Group Update

Christine Innocent provided a review of the October session. She updated us on the Literature Review being conducted with Health Kids funding from KFL&A. Christine mentioned that not a lot of people have stepped forward to assist so was looking for direction on how to move forward. Suggestion of having a Health Symposium with this topic at the forefront of the discussion. A discussion ensued to gather parental and community interest and format. Looking at possibility of soliciting parental feedback at this year's Spring Symposium. Looking at a Fall Event on this topic. Potential to apply for another Pro Grant this Spring to assist with Digital follow up on Fall of 2019. Further information will be gathered at Spring Symposium and more discussion at May meeting.

Spring Symposium

A discussion was had about potential topics for the Spring Symposium. The title of the Pro Grant is We Are All One. Safe spaces and cultural identity were identified as fitting under this topic – these included but are not limited to Indigenous, Muslim, LGBTQ2S, Transgender, Physical Challenged perspectives. A planning session email will be sent by March 22 to enlist support and put together a more aligned presentation platform. Still waiting on a few potential speakers to weigh in prior to deciding on a format. Trustee Elliot and Jen Kehoe said they were interested in helping with potential speakers and the day. A few dates will also be sent out after the Minutes are shared. Ideas can be sent directly to gillams@limestone.on.ca

Future Meeting dates:

Spring TBA – Speaker Series/Event

May 9, 2019 – location TBD

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm.