

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – November 18th, 2021

Roll call:

Members:	Staff:
Crystal Bevens-Leblanc Shayla Bradley Lucy Aron Jim Jodoin Melissa Rickey Jen Trussell Rob Richer Kelley Packalen Gelareh Monajemi Rena Petrick Crystal Hudson Ruhi Snyder Kristyne Ross Virginia Venditti Annie Clifford Kim Harper Jennifer Kehoe Alejandra Zamora Vanessa Wood Colleen Notley Nicole Bos Lily Hughson Christine Innocente Melanie Carrier	S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent of School Effectiveness and Assessment A. Andretta, Administrative Assistant D. Todd, ITS Technician
Trustees:	Guests:
Robin Hutcheon Joy Morning Bob Godkin	Liz Coates (KFPL) Kayo Murakami

Co-Chair of PIC Shayla Bradley offered the land acknowledgment.

“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.”

1. Call to Order

Called to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

There were no objections to the motion, no objections. The membership adopted the adopted the agenda.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Shayla Bradley is employed with KFPL as well as our guest Liz Coates

4. Approval of Minutes

October minutes were approved by consensus.

5. Reports for Information

5.1 Chair Update from Co-Chairs Crystal Bevans-Leblanc and Shayla Bradley

We have been working to get as many people into the PIC working Facebook group as possible, given the gaps between meetings. If you aren't a member of the group but are on Facebook let us know so we can make sure you have access.

We attended a Ministry of Education consultation session October 26 and passed along some of what we have heard from families. We expressed our gratitude for the local decision to avoid hybrid learning as much as possible. We also expressed the need for the government to address inequities and gaps caused by the pandemic on a structural level. Many PIC chairs, including us, highlighted that our schools and education system need more funding to succeed.

We hosted a chair's workshop, attendance and engagement was great. Chairs now have an email with a poll to choose a date for an information session on the Indigenous Family Representative position, and we are also collecting information on how we can support SACs through a survey that has gone out to chairs.

We provided our input on the board's policies up for review; thank you to everyone for giving feedback and thank you to our Trustees for noting in the Education, Policy and Operations Committee meeting that PIC's feedback represents many schools through our representatives.

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Trustees Godkin, Elliott and Hutcheon also reiterated PIC's support for taking the option for an individual's name out of the board's school naming/renaming administrative procedure and we thank them for that.

We are excited to be working with Ale on strategies to help newcomer families feel more comfortable with the education system and, ideally, more welcome around SAC and PIC tables. If anyone is interested in joining an ESL committee to do this work with us we would love to have you. We are also looking for people interested in strategic planning and PRO Grant subcommittees, and to work on the fall election package and council toolkit and reviewing board policies/procedures relating to PIC and councils.

5.2 Board Update-Associate Superintendent Sartor

Over the past few months, staff and KFL&A have worked hard to support the return of extracurricular activities in schools. It has been wonderful to experience students returning to sports and other collaborative events that have been missing from their lives over the past year and a half.

School spirit days and community-minded events like the Terry Fox Run and Socktober are all important and meaningful ways that students, staff, and families are working together. It has also been wonderful to witness students returning to outdoor learning at Gould Lake. Over the coming weeks, students in Grades 4 to 12 will be invited to participate in a school climate survey to gather data that supports creating a positive school environment.

November is Indigenous Education month in Limestone. Schools continue to engage in a wide range of learning and activities to support learning more about the importance of Truth and Reconciliation; the legacy of Residential Schools; the importance and value of Indigenous ways of knowing, doing, and being.

Finally, Remembrance Day was last week. Staff in different schools and Limestone buildings offered the opportunity for many Educations Centre staff to participate virtually in the events they were offering at their schools – the ceremonies were moving, impactful and an opportunity to continue to learn.

5.3 Trustee Update-Trustee Hutcheon

Trustee Robin Hutcheon shared updated from the board.

COVID Funding was announced, and the details are in the report from the October meeting package that highlights the major areas where that COVID funding has gone. As of the October 27th, board meeting we had 91% of LDSB staff fully vaccinated. The number does continue to go up.

Trustee Hutcheon updated PIC members of the renaming administrative procedure and there was a motion put forward to create a policy surrounding naming and renaming of a school building, but the motion was failed. Names are still being put forward as an option for schools. Members expressed some concerns with the renaming process and how it relates to parent engagement, particularly the scheduling of meetings without considering parent availability and the potential for flexibility in that. There was also concern expressed about IEAC's ability to be included in the process, and the student/parent videos that went out on renaming focusing specifically on the former name versus looking at best practices for future names. This is a system-wide issue as any other school being named or renamed should have some element of parent engagement and these concerns could come up again if not addressed now.

The IEAC report included the great news that the committee is very close to becoming a formalized, official committee of the board! There was another question around the renaming process and what PIC could do to support the wants/wishes of the Indigenous Family Circle, with a response highlighting how all families should come together collectively to advocate for spaces in which people can use their voices and discuss these issues as they feel comfortable. Lastly, a motion is being brought forward at the November 24th board meeting on whether educators will be allowed to wear level two masks in our schools, and several boards across the province have started to pass these motions.

5.4 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee - Jennifer Kehoe

Jennifer Kehoe provided an update on LDSB Indigenous team members. The renaming committee is in the process of finding a new school name for Ecole Kingston East Elementary School. Jennifer felt that the renaming committee was predetermined. She voiced that not all the specific Indigenous people who wanted to be included were offered an opportunity because the committee meeting dates had been determined prior to the call for volunteers, and those who were unavailable were excluded instead of meetings being shifted to accommodate would-be volunteers.

Associate Superintendent Sartor will follow-up with Superintendent McDonnell, who supervises that family of schools and is participating in the process. She also suggested that Superintendent Gillam would be able to clarify these concerns as well.

5.5 LGBTQIA2S+ Focus Group- Ruhi Snyder

LGBTQIA2S+ Focus Group are well on their way in developing resources and they will be coming along soon. They will be going up online and make it accessible to everyone. There will be infographics for students, staff, and parents that they can use, and we are reaching out to district groups for increased collaboration.

We are encouraging everyone to join our focus group, including students so we can have their input and shape the conversation and we can create amazing spaces for our all but specifically for LGBTQIA2S+ students.

Ruhi appreciated the support of the trustees who attended this evening meeting. The three of them have been regularly attending the LGBTQIA2S+ focus group meetings.

Constance and Ruhi are going to be presenting at a district board meeting. They are asking the board for support on number of key issues, specially focus on anti-hate policy and they are calling it “Beyond the Language of Inclusion - Embracing a Culture of Continuous Improvement for our LGBTQIA2S+ students”.

6. Reports for Actions

None currently.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1 Equity Lens Presentation - Kayo Murakami-Wood – Marysville P.S.

Kayo Murakami-Wood is an engaged parent, on the Marysville SAC, who has intensive learning of Indigenous teaches at Marysville and Wolfe Island community. She has consulted with other community members and knowledge keepers to learn more about what they are doing within their communities and teachings. Marysville has plans to broaden what their representation looks like and making sure their space is open to anyone and everyone. They have started by acknowledging that the Marysville’s community is diverse and that they need to understand how to best support and encourage more people to join. Their goal is to remove barriers and make connections to various learning opportunities amongst island communities.

7.2 PIC and PROGrant Budget 2021-22- Associate Superintendent Sartor

Associate Superintendent Sartor shared that is are two budget lines; PRO Grant currently has \$25,100.00 and Parent Engagement has \$37,236.

Associate Superintendent Sartor also discussed the application process coming for school to apply for the PRO Grant money. Schools will need to submit the application in the new year. More detail to come in 2022.

8. New Business

8.1 LDSB/KFPL Partnership- Liz Coates

Liz Coates is the Manager of programming and outreach from KFPL and partnered with LDSB, by doing class visits for every grade and getting a library card for all students. Liz discussed about how important the library is for student, parents, and schools-Why? It’s all about reading for pleasure and studies show that reading for pleasure impacts children achievement in all subjects, not just language. Reading for pleasure fosters empathy in children and provides them with diverse perspectives and parents reading habits play a large role in determining how often children read. Liz talked about getting a library card; anyone who lives in the city of Kingston or the townships of Frontenac or goes to school in these areas can get a free library card. Any teachers that live outside of the area, they can also get a corporate card. This would allow teachers to use the card for their classroom.



You can get a card by going to your local library branch or completing the form online. Schools can hand out forms, send them home and get them signed. Once you sign up you have instant access. KFPL can also do class visits. The teachers or parent can organize a library visit; however, we are doing virtual tours online right now.

Liz answered other questions from PIC members about different program at KFPL.

9. Correspondence

No correspondence to document.

10. Next Meeting

Thursday February 10th, 2022, at 6:00 PM

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

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