

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – April 14th, 2022 DRAFT

Roll call:

<p>Members:</p>	<p>Staff:</p>
<p>Crystal Bevens-Leblanc Shayla Bradley Jennifer Foster Lucy Aron Melissa Rickey Rob Richer Rena Petrick Gelareh Monajemi Virginia Venditti Kim Harper Alejandra Zamora Vanessa Wood Susan Coleman Mike Hipson Mark Foster Jim Jodoin Kelley Packalen</p>	<p>P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent A. Andretta, Administrative Assistant C. Wilson, Teacher</p>
<p>Trustees:</p>	<p>Guests:</p>
<p>Robin Hutcheon Judith Brown</p>	<p>Leigh Wood-Landry</p>

Shayla Bradley offered the land acknowledgment:

The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. When we acknowledge this traditional territory, I also want to recognize this longer history before colonization and the terrible impacts of colonization and cultural genocide, including in education. As we all know, and the ongoing impacts of today and I want to acknowledge the many Indigenous peoples who are still here, who are resilient, who are stewarding land and remind all of my fellow settlers that we still have a lot of work to do and supporting land and language reclamation and representation in our systems, including the education system. If you tuned into EPOC last night, you would have heard an update on the board equity action plan. There was a lot of discussion around representation in all our various committees and groups.

1. Call to Order

Called to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The membership adopted the agenda with the note that there will be no IEAC report, and C. Bevens-Leblanc requested to add a motion to the agenda, that PIC write a letter to the local Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Trustees to request a mask mandate. There was no opposition to adding the motion to the agenda as new business.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Not at this time

4. Delegation/Presentation

4.1 Leigh Wood Landry- KMFRC Presentation

Nationally, there are approximately 85,000 military children, and up to 25% of them have both parents serving in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). Since our community includes CFB Kingston, RMCC, HMCS Cataraqui and the Princess of Wales Own Regiment, many regular and reserve force members live, work, and raise families in the Kingston area. About 85% of military families now live off-base. As a result, the experiences and needs of children in military family's impact teachers, childcare educators, civilian peers, and other people encountered in the community. This resource was created through a partnership between Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services, and Kids Help Phone. It can be accessed by visiting <https://www.cafconnection.ca/workingwithkids>. The guide speaks about the importance of military family literacy: being aware of and responsive to the experiences of children in military families.

The primary challenges facing military families are frequent relocation, parental absence, and risk. Few careers bring this combination and intensity of challenges. Postings occur at the discretion of

the CAF, in response to operational needs. Frequent relocations require acclimatizing time and time again, which includes needing to rebuild support networks, and learning how resources differ from one location to another (generally without family or friends in the area). Parental absence involves unpredictable work hours, and work-related separations lasting from one day to fifteen months at a time. Risk of injury or death is inherent to the profession of arms.

Military children are often incredibly resilient, but they may also face challenges that are relatively unique. When we consider the need behind behaviour, military children may feel isolated or misunderstood, miss friends they met in previous postings, and feel an overall lack of choice and agency. These experiences can be especially difficult for children who are neurodiverse, or who have a more introverted temperament and/or anxiety. Military children will also face significant differences among provinces and school districts or boards, in areas such as curriculum, language of instruction, timetables, testing, credit transfers, and graduation requirements (as well as available extra-curricular activities, and corresponding registration procedures).

Five suggestions to offer support and nurture community: Show flexibility, when feasible. For example, consider ways to welcome and include military children who arrive outside of usual try-out or registration times; and welcome acknowledgement of Month of the Military Child (April). Be approachable and empathetic; build connection. Nurture engagement – consider opportunities for mentorship and/or strength-based small groups, to promote belonging. Collaborate with military families, to help bridge any gaps in learning that are related to relocation. Connect with the MFRC for further information about the deployment cycle and how it commonly affects families (for instance, repeated periods of separation and reunion may be more difficult than longer deployments).

Leigh Wood-Landry answered questions about what has been successful in terms of embedding military kids into school culture and supporting families. She noted that partnerships are very important.

She also noted that KMFRC is happy to provide presentations to individual councils.

5. Approval of Minutes

February minutes were approved by consensus.

6. Reports for Information

6.1. Chair Update from Co-Chairs Crystal Bevens-Leblanc and Shayla Bradley

Co-Chairs Bradley and Bevens-Leblanc stated:

“Since our last meeting there has been several changes to COVID protocols and all of our experiences within the education system as caregivers and as people involved with School Advisory Councils as a result. We always encourage you to connect with your classroom teachers,

administrators, or superintendents as appropriate for school-related issues and to reach out to trustees for board governance issues, and we're always here as Co-Chairs to help you navigate where to go if you're not sure.

We've had a lot of questions about communication of absences in schools, what the numbers mean, why there are buses canceled – the last family-facing update from the Director hopefully answered some of those questions along with information from Superintendent Gollogly explaining that absences are reviewed at the 30% absent mark and the school information is passed along to public health if the reason for increased absences is determined to be illness. For information, last night the Director told trustees that the percentage of COVID-related absences appears to have peaked mid-last week.

We will leave the board updates to Trustee Brown, but we have been told through the board that public health and provincial ministries are an appropriate place to send any additional advocacy regarding public health measures like mandated masks.

In terms of how PIC is responding to our local COVID situation, we have, as a group, been discussing what everyone wants in terms of a return to meeting in person. The majority are interested in continuing virtual meetings or at least having a hybrid option for any in-person meetings, not just due to COVID concerns but also for equity in terms of childcare, travel, and other personal responsibilities. As Co-Chairs we feel that's important, and we don't want to leave anyone out.

We're planning to use some parent engagement funding to have Lynn Lyons present on managing anxiety after many of you said that it would be something you'd like; we don't have dates yet, but this would be open to the whole board. The 2SLGBTQIA+ focus group is also discussing a workshop opportunity on equity and inclusion.

A reminder that PRO Grant funding must be spent by May 27 and the final report submission is due June 3. C. Bevens-Leblanc noted the School Pedestrian Safety Working Group has been organized by the city of Kingston and that she is representing parents of LDSB on the committee. The city launched a survey that day, which she urged all families and schools to complete.

The goal of the group is to have a list of recommendations to go before the city in June, hopefully to be implemented September." This concludes Co-Chairs report for this evening.

6.2. Board Update-Associate Superintendent Gollogly

Limestone continues to work closely right now with KFL&A public health to monitor COVID-19 activity within the schools and surrounding communities. When there is an increase of COVID-19 activity, there has been an increase in staff and student absences. We started to see a peak, or at least we hope we saw the peak and things have started to taper off, which has been great to hear. We are hopeful that the circumstances will be improving by the end of April. Although masks are no longer required for students, staff and visitors in the school, masks are

strongly encouraged. If schools cross the 30% threshold of absences due to COVID related reasons, KFL& A public health and LDSB will come together and discuss what will happen for that school. If the reasoning is behind that is COVID related reasons, then a letter will be sent to the community and families recommending that they strongly encourage masking.

What are the new things that is coming out? Our workplace census and belonging survey, which is being launched April 29th. We strongly believe that if we know better, we can do better. We recognize that the lived experience of our staff and students contribute to the diversity of ideas and perspective, which in turn are teaching, learning, and are working environments.

Some exciting things that are changes with public health is the fact of graduation and extracurriculars, are back. Full extracurriculars have resumed in schools and has been wonderful to see the return of spectators in the school sports. I can personally say I was at St. Lawrence College a couple of weeks ago to watch the basketball championships, and it was just wonderful to see the energy amongst everyone.

The changes to public health measures also allow schools to plan for more regular activities in the spring, including graduation. Graduation ceremonies and celebrations may look different from school to school and may not resemble graduations prior to the set pandemic. But we are still excited that this is coming into play for us.

6.3. Trustee Update-Trustee Brown

Trustee Brown stated: “Trustee Brown shared that at the EPOC meeting April 13, trustees heard a report on expanded opportunities for students in Limestone. There is a selection of credits and experiences a student may create or choose in secondary school that lead to one of four possible post-secondary destinations: apprenticeship programs, college, university, or the workplace. These include co-op, school within a college, programs for women in the trades, Specialist High Skills Major programs, and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

The second report at EPOC was on the Equity Action Plan. Feedback from many consultations was provided and more detail will be given in September 2022. Trustee Brown shared that she gave an update on the Umoja Black Advisory Committee, which is making great progress, and looking for more diversity in the members. She invited PIC representatives to reach out if they knew anyone who would be interested.

She provided an update on policy housekeeping, Trustee Godkin’s policy resolution to OPSBA on affordable housing, and a motion on mask mandates that was not tabled.

Trustee Brown answered a question about whether translation services would be available for people who want to attend Umoja meetings. She asked for the contact information of people interested in attending. Representatives, Trustee Brown, and Associate Superintendent Gologly also discussed student access to guidance counsellors to understand the various educational

pathways available.” This concludes Trustee Brown’s report.

6.4. Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

No update to report

6.5. 2SLGBTQIA+Focus Group

2SLGBTQIA+Focus Group had Fae Johnstone who is a trans woman and an advocate with Wisdom to Action, conduct a wonderful workshop on support kids who come out, and what they can do as family members and community members. We were able to record so if you go to the PIC public Facebook page you should see the link and the video and that will work for anyone even if you don’t have Facebook. If you can’t find it email me.

The focus group has signed up to be part of Kingston Pride this year. You’re welcome to join us; we’ll be walking in the parade and we’re looking forward to it a lot, both as a show of representation and care for our entire school community but also because it’s going to be the first time a lot of us have met in person.

The group is also looking at hosting a Get Real workshop, so these are workshops that are going to be happening for students and staff, but they’ve asked if we want a parent-facing session and if it works out that’s something we could potentially use parent engagement funding for.

We are still working with staff, still trying to reach students to make sure that we’re amplifying what they want and need because that’s what this is all about. If you are a member of the queer community or have a child, who is you’re welcome to join us. Our next meeting is May 10 at 7:30.

Following the report, PIC approved a funding request for the get REAL workshop, via consensus, coming from general parent engagement funding.

7. Reports for Actions

None currently.

8. Unfinished Business

Not at this time.

9. New Business

9.1.Motion to advocate for masking

Crystal Bevens-Leblanc brought forward the following motion:

PIC would write a letter to the local Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Trustees to request a mask mandate.

S. Bradley clarified that PIC would be writing two different letters; one to Dr. Oglaza and one to the Board of Trustees, noting that the issue is very legally murky. Those in attendance were invited to speak on the issue.

Discussion clarified that the letters would be written on behalf of PIC, with each PIC representative representing their school community and school community voice.

S. Bradley offered that, when PIC has written letters in the past, it has been where there is a consensus of majority of PIC representatives who vote, feeling their schools would be in support of the motion. She advised that reps should look at what their schools would support, as much as they can, because PIC does not poll every individual person at a school. She noted that there is no judgement based on how anyone is voting because every school is different. Participants discussed the OCDB motion and that OCDB had public health backing.

A participant expressed the need for consultation as part of the process when dealing with a contentious issue and noted that there was not enough time to do that at the meeting itself. Another participant expressed concern about trying to go beyond existing public health measures.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly suggested taking some time for representatives to consult with their school communities.

S. Bradley paused the speakers list and offered a change to the motion; given that some PIC representatives were asking for more time and others were concerned about the urgency of the motion, that the actual voting on the motion take place electronically with a deadline.

She suggested that PIC reps reach out to their councils, SAC chairs, and/or school community and find out, however the rep can, what their school community thinks. She noted that it is perfectly fine to say no to the motion and that it is okay to disagree.

Representatives agreed on a deadline of end of day April 22. There was a request for rationale for the motion to be provided in writing, which S. Bradley agreed would be sent as part of the electronic vote information.

S. Bradley clarified that if the motion went forward PIC would be writing a letter saying that the advisory committee supports a return of mask mandates, and that PIC wouldn't and doesn't operationalize our advice.

9.2. Other Business

PIC members were reminded of an upcoming literacy conference with LDKA, that PIC is working on an anxiety workshop with Lynn Lyons, that an event with the KFL&A mental health family advisory committee is happening May 4 and that bylaw review is upcoming.



PIC members were also asked to consider how many meetings they want in the upcoming school year with four as a minimum.

PIC members also discussed bullying prevention in general and shared some ideas and strategies. They discussed the many structural and systemic issues that lead to injustice especially for newcomers and marginalized people. They discussed the equity action plan and how caregiver voice should be shared with the board.

A member requested advice in dealing with a later autism diagnosis for a child. PIC members and Associate Superintendent Gollogly offered some ideas.

10. Next Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 2022

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.