



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – May 2, 2024

Roll Call:

Members:	Staff:
V. Wood, Co-Chair and Sydenham HS S. Bradley, Past Chair and 2SLGTBQIA+ Focus Group S. Coleman, Amherst Island PS M. Rickey, Bayridge PS S. Black, Bath PS T. MacDonald, Centennial PS C. Innocente, Ecole Maple ES E. Offshack, EVS/SVS C. Bevens-Leblanc, KLC M. Hudson, LCVI/Calvin Park PS A. Macauley, Marysville PS M. Foster, Module de l'Acadie J. Kehoe, Molly Brant ES M. Richmond, Odessa PS M. Carrier, Perth Road PS V. Venditti, Polson Park PS J. Jodoin, Rideau PS S. Gratto, Storrington PS K. Mennie, Welborne Ave PS C. Glavin, W.J. Holsgrove	A. McDonnell, Superintendent P. Gollogly, Assoc. Superintendent S. Hedderson, Assoc. Superintendent E. Clost-Lambert, Research Analyst L. Gillam, Research Analyst M. Christopher, IT
Trustees:	Recorder:
B. Godkin	E. Smith, Administrative Assistant
Community Members:	

1. Call to Order

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

Co-Chair Wood 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. A suggestion was made that the motion document should be included as part of the Agenda when it is posted on the Board’s website. It is noted that the motion was emailed to all PIC representatives.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest declared.

4. Approval of Minutes

April 2024 minutes were not approved by consensus. Discussion followed concerning the Minutes not being distributed for review as part of the agenda. Decision was made to present the Minutes for approval at the meeting in October 2024.

5. Delegation/Presentation

Co-Chair Wood invited Supt. McDonnell, Laura Gillam and Ellyn Clost-Lambert, Research Analysts, to deliver their presentation on Student Census.

The Student Census process was initiated before the pandemic. The Ministry of Education mandates school boards to conduct a student census. LDSB was one of the early adopters. The 2020 student census was led by Superintendent Babcock. Data from the survey has been analyzed and reports have been created and shared publicly on the LDSB website ([Student Census - Limestone District School Board](#)). Overview of the presentation content: student census background, key findings, data usage and future steps. The five key components of the census were: identifying and addressing systemic barriers, expanding on existing strengths, cultivating classrooms and schools to eliminate discriminatory biases, creating equitable outcomes and inclusive learning environments, supporting student achievement and well-being. A notable response rate of 76% was achieved, particularly from students grade 4 to 12.

Laura and Ellyn took questions from the attendees.

6. Reports for Information

6.1 Co-Chairs Update

Co-Chair Wood welcomed everyone to the last PIC meeting for this school year. The Co-Chair reminded everyone that it is 38 days left until the exams for secondary schools. She further reminded that there is time sensitive motion at 7pm. Annual School Council reports are due end of June; information was emailed to all PIC representative last month. Co-Chair Wood invited feedback on how this year’s PRO funding process worked. She noted that 30 schools applied and received PRO funding. Final report on utilization of PRO funding will be provided in October 2024.

Discussion followed. Specifically, the suggestion was made that a reminder be sent to School Councils about PRO funding in September. The Board confirmed that PRO funding is part of the regular budget, and that communication is sent to administrators at the beginning of the school year outlining funding availabilities to School Councils. An additional comment was made about the Board sending emails under bcc and that the list of PIC representatives was not made available to all. Assoc. Supt. Gollogly informed that there are some concerns about sharing emails without an individual's permission. However, this is something that we can look into how to get permission from people who are elected as PIC representatives.

Co-Chair is needed for the next year's PIC. The election will be held in October for 2024/25 school year. The question was asked about when it was known that PIC did not have a Co-Chair and for how long it had been known that PIC does not have anyone incoming for September. Assoc. Supt. Gollogly explained that due to personal reasons the matter should not be discussed in the public forum.

Co-Chair Wood noted that a few people informed tonight that their emails are not on the PIC list resulting in them not receiving communication in timely manner. She requested everyone to please reach out to PIC Co-Chair Wood or Assoc. Supt. Gollogly or Erduana Smith if they think they are missing on or need information.

6.2 Trustee Update

Trustee Godkin's update was delayed in order to meet the 7pm voting on motion.

PIC Representative Kehoe addressed the lack of recent updates on Indigenous education. The concern was raised due to the absence of an Indigenous education update for some months. The request was made to ensure that updates are provided either monthly or quarterly. It was noted that Superintendent Gillam did provide a report last month, but not two months prior. This led to inquiries from parents as to who are the new parent representatives on the Indigenous Education Committee. Assoc. Supt. Gollogly confirmed that IEC is meeting next week, and they should be able to provide a report.

6.3 Board Update

Associate Superintendent Gollogly was delayed in order to meet the 7pm voting on motion.

6.4 KFL&A Public Health

No report was provided.

6.5 2SLGBTQIA+ Focus Group

Report will be disseminated via email.

7. Reports for action

Voting on Motion "Live Streaming and Retaining PIC Meetings" commenced at 7pm. The motion was brought forth by Christine Innocente, PIC Representative of Ecole Maple ES. Christine was unable to attend. She appointed Shayla Bradley as her proxy vote and John Ryder-Burbidge to speak in her place.

Co-Chair Wood explained the process.

John Ryder-Burbidge put the following motion for discussion on the floor:

THAT the LDSB publicly broadcast live video of the PIC meetings, presenters and presentations, unless closure is specifically authorized under the Municipal Act and there is a real need to exclude the public; keep the recorded videos accessible on the LDSB YouTube Channel, and link these videos to the LDSB website; and THAT the LDSB classify PIC recorded meetings as Archival under the LDSB Records & Information Management Manual to therefore ensure that the information is not destroyed; and

THAT the Director or Board designate advise the PIC on any relevant policy updates or best practices required to implement this action and ensure compliance, such as a requirement to include a notice of live streaming at the commencement of each meeting.

Following discussion, a friendly amendment was made to the original motion.

MOTION MOVED BY: John Ryder-Burbidge THAT the LDSB publicly broadcast live video of the PIC meetings', (strikeout comma and replace with apostrophe) presenters and presentations, unless closure is specifically authorized under the Municipal Act and there is a real need to exclude the public; keep the recorded videos publicly (insert word publicly) accessible on the LDSB YouTube Channel, and link these videos to the LDSB website; and THAT the LDSB classify PIC recorded meetings as Archival under the LDSB Records & Information Management Manual to therefore ensure that the information is not destroyed; and THAT the Director or Board designate advise the PIC on any relevant policy updates or best practices required to implement this action and ensure compliance, such as a requirement to include a notice of live streaming at the commencement of each meeting. Carried.

8. Unfinished Business - None at this time.

9. New Business

Angela McCauley, member of Marysville PS community, requested to address an issue that is affecting Marysville Public School. LDSB has proposed changes to Marysville PS that could be detrimental to the continuation of public education on the island. Changes include: reduced staffing, reduction to one classroom and busing to off-island schools. Community is looking for support from PIC representatives. The public meeting with LDSB representatives is scheduled for Monday, 6 May 2024 at 6:30pm. The community feels that the only public school on this island is in danger and access to education for all as well. PIC Representative from Amherst Island PS (AIPS) shared that their school had faced same issue and informed of the safety related concerns that parents of students at AIPS had at the time. Trustee Godkin (also Trustee for the Wolf Island and a former resident) shared his own experience whilst residing on the island with his family. Trustee Godkin stressed that there is no intended closure of Marysville PS.

Shayla Bradley reminded that bylaws have to be reviewed before the next school year. The meeting concluded with an agreement to proceed with the bylaws review through email communication, ensuring adherence to the bylaw requirements.

10. Correspondence – None at this time.

11. Next Meeting – Thursday, TBC October 2024.

12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MOTION – LDSB PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Subject: Live Streaming and Retaining Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting

Member of Committee: Christine Innocente

Written Notice Provided on: April 23, 2024

For Consideration at: May 2, 2024

Provided: in writing for inclusion as a regular agenda item of the Limestone District School Board (LDSB) PIC meeting with advance circulation by email

BACKGROUND

WHEREAS the purpose of the LDSB PIC is to support, encourage, and enhance parent engagement at the Board level to improve student achievement and wellbeing; and

IN RECOGNITION of the reality that parents and caregivers bear the burden of competing responsibilities, including those directly related to the care of their student, at all times of day, and these responsibilities can reasonably impair the ability to engage through attendance at a live PIC meeting, and

ACKNOWLEDGING this impairment may be disproportionately felt by parents and caregivers of young children, children with disabilities and other children with high needs; those providing elder care; those with employment circumstances requiring work or sleep during PIC meeting times; those with internet connectivity or device access challenges; and other parents and caregivers with similar accessibility and access challenges, and that such parents remain duly interested in engaging but require the support of the Board to ensure reasonable accommodations to facilitate participation; and

WHEREAS LDSB families/parents have repeatedly indicated their desire to be able to view and listen to meetings after they have occurred to facilitate their participation; and

WHEREAS then Superintendent Krisha Burra provided the ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: LIVE STREAMING/RECORDING OF BOARD MEETINGS (“the Report,” Education Policy Operations Committee (EPOC), MARCH 6, 2019) citing “that live streaming made meetings more accessible for members of the public and the media” but there were disadvantages cited related to “the cost of equipment, and salaries for two or more staff to support the live streaming;” and

WHEREAS the Limestone District School board has since obtained the requisite equipment and staff, which are now deployed to PIC meetings, to create and retain meeting recordings for minutes, therefore the operational concerns noted in the Report have been resolved; and

WHEREAS the PIC in November, 2019 approved the practice of live-streaming meetings on the social media platform Facebook as a cost-free, recorded and post-accessible, but limited, solution to support equitable access, but this practice was replaced during the COVID-19 pandemic by LDSB-supported virtual meetings that are limited to live-access; and

WHEREAS best practice for public meetings suggested by the Ontario Ombudsman is to “Record the meeting, including all decisions, by taking minutes, and preferably also by recording audio or video;” and

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Education handbook for PIC’s, established under Ontario Regulation 612/00, recommends PIC’s “Endeavour to be as open as possible in [their] decision-making process, not just making meetings ‘open to the public’ but also designing them to encourage the community to attend” and “the [PIC] committee will need to ... identify barriers to participation and strategies for outreach. By doing so, the PIC will establish the connections necessary to reach all parents,” and

WHEREAS reducing and removing barriers to parent access to discussions at PIC meetings, parent engagement with the work of the committee, and providing the highest level of accountability and transparency possible to all interested parties also improves accountability and transparency for the LDSB as a whole; and

WHEREAS many English Ontario School boards demonstrate commitment to transparency and accountability by making available recordings of their Board and/or Committee meetings, via YouTube streaming or other platforms, including: the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, Toronto District School Board, Avon Maitland District School Board, Durham District School Board, Simcoe County District School Board, Waterloo Region District School Board, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board, Halton District School Board, Upper Canada District School Board, Upper Grand District School Board, Ottawa Catholic District School Board, Greater Essex County District School Board, Bluewater District School Board, Trillium Lakelands District School Board, Durham Catholic District School Board, Rainbow District School Board, Renfrew County District School Board, and Peel District School Board.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED:

THAT the LDSB publicly broadcast live video of the PIC meetings, presenters and presentations, unless closure is specifically authorized under the Municipal Act and there is a real need to exclude the public; keep the recorded videos accessible on the LDSB YouTube Channel, and link these videos to the LDSB website; and

THAT the LDSB classify PIC recorded meetings as Archival under the LDSB Records & Information Management Manual to therefore ensure that the information is not destroyed; and

THAT the Director or Board designate advise the PIC on any relevant policy updates or best practices required to implement this action and ensure compliance, such as a requirement to include a notice of live streaming at the commencement of each meeting.

For reference:

TDSB - PIAC

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Statutory-Advisory-Committees/Parent-Involvement-Advisory-Committee>

Avon Maitland DSB - PIC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghwkcUav4B0>)

DDSB - PIC

<https://www.youtube.com/@DDSBLive/streams>

Simcoe County DSB - PIC

<https://www.youtube.com/@scdsbpublic>

Bluewater DSB - Board

https://www.bwdsb.on.ca/about_us/board_meetings/webcast_recordings

Rainbow DSB - Board

<https://www.rainbowschools.ca/board/board-meetings/board-meeting-videos/>

Renfrew County District School Board

<https://www.youtube.com/@rcdsbcommunications>

TLDSB - Board

<https://www.tldsb.ca/board-meetings/?playlist=94e8653&video=c19eef9>

WRDSB – Board <https://www.youtube.com/c/WRDSBVideo/live>

UCDSB – Board, SEAC etc

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/board/board-meetings/board-and-committee-meetings-2023-2024/>

PDSB - PIC

<https://www.peelschools.org/meeting-highlights-and-recordings>

HDSB – PIC

<https://www.youtube.com/@hdsb/streams>

HWCD SB - PIC

https://www.hwcdsb.ca/our_board/committees_consultation/catholic_parental_involvement_committee

OCDSB – Board and PIC

Board (<https://www.youtube.com/@TheOCDSB/videos>) and PIC meetings clickable from Board Calendar (eScribe) and playable back several months

DCDSB – Board (retained a few months)

<https://www.youtube.com/@DurhamCatholicDSB>

Ottawa Catholic – Board

<https://www.ocsb.ca/our-board/meetings/>

HWDSB Board, Committees etc

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/trustees/meetings/>

GECD SB - Board

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG3UXEe-CXoryKt9SGZy4bA>

Help Save Public Education on Wolfe Island!

Limestone District School Board has proposed changes to Marysville Public School that could be detrimental to the continuation of public education on the island. Changes include: reduced staffing, reduction to one classroom, and busing to off-island schools.

The Public School is necessary because it is fully inclusive - open to ALL. It must be protected for Wolfe Island kids - currently and for the future! MPS is a vibrant and creative school, where everyone is welcome and our teachers (all Wolfe Island residents) are invested in our kids and island community. MPS Parent Council is currently looking into opportunities to bring students from Kingston to our unique school.

MPS parents invite you to join us in discussing future possibilities for Marysville PS

Public Meeting with LDSB representatives
Monday, May 6, 2024
6:30pm
Marysville Public School

Please join us and bring your questions and concerns!

If you'd like to show your support for our school, you can also contact:

Bob Godkin, Trustee: godkinbo@limestone.on.ca 613-539-1705

Krishna Burra, Director of Education: burrak@limestone.on.ca 613-544-6925 x31235

Steve Hedderson, Associate Superintendent: heddersons@limestone.on.ca
613-544-6925 ext.31229

Rebecca MacDonald, Principal: macdonaldb@limestone.on.ca 613-546-9454

