



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – April 4, 2024

Roll Call:

Members:	Staff:
V. Wood, Co-Chair and Sydenham HS S. Bradley, Past Chair and 2SLGTBQIA+ Focus Group M. Rickey, Bayridge PS T. MacDonald, Centennial PS C. Innocente, Ecole Maple ES M. Chapman, Ernestown SS C. Wither, Frontenac SS M. Hudson, LCVI/Calvin Park PS M. Foster, Module de l'Acadie M. Richmond, Odessa PS V. Venditti, Polson Park PS J. Jodoin, Rideau PS S. Gratto, Storrington PS K. Mennie, Welborne Ave PS	S. Gillam, Superintendent P. Gollogly, Assoc. Superintendent M. Christopher, IT
Trustees:	Recorder:
B. Godkin R. Maracle	E. Smith, Administrative Assistant
Community Members:	
L. Lollar, KFL&A Public Health	

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.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest declared.

4. Approval of Minutes

February 2024 minutes were approved by consensus.

5. Delegation/Presentation

Co-Chair Wood invited Supt. Gillam to deliver his presentation on Elementary Special Education Support. Supt. Gillam expressed gratitude for the opportunity to return and address the meeting. This presentation was also shared with the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Feedback from the SEAC led to some information being brought back to the Educational Services Leadership Team, resulting in some tweaks and additional information for clarity. Infographic will be shared at the end of the presentation, which is being used by school staff and current special education teachers to support understanding of the new model. Supt. Gillam recalled that Special Education review began in the spring of 2023. It was noted that the Special Education sector is currently underfunded by approx. \$8million each year. The four main findings from the review were discussed: equity of access to supports and services, the need for flexible and responsive supports, the importance of purposeful and planned inclusion, and the need to reduce siloed and identification-specific service delivery. The four proposed solutions were presented: putting supports where they are needed the most (in schools), creating flexible and responsive structures (siloed resources are less efficient), multi-tiered systems of support and capacity building. Supt. Gillam provided details on how resources are being realigned. Information will be shared with schools in the third week of April. The EA allocation process will occur simultaneously.

Question and answer followed.

6. Reports for Information

6.1 Co-Chairs Update

Co-Chair Wood welcomed everyone. Co-Chair reminded everyone that course selection has started for secondary schools. She further informed that Director Burra sent out a message outlining the budget for school year 2024/25. The school year budget survey closed on 7 March; the Budget Committee will meet on 17 April to review the budget and the outcome is expected to be announced thereafter.

The City of Kingston is seeking nominations for youth volunteers for the Civic Awards. The deadline for nominations is 19 April. An email will be sent out with more information about the nomination process.

Co-Chair Wood received an email that the Parent's Guide to Ontario Education system is being relaunched.

Limestone District School Board

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

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

The guide provides resources to help parents play a stronger role in their children's education. It outlines parent or school committee meetings and provides an understanding of specialized support and processes for suspensions and expulsions. The guide is available in 10 different languages. The information was posted on Facebook, Instagram, and X, but it will also be sent out to PIC representatives and Council chairs.

Co-Chair Wood reminded us that PRO funding should be spent (with invoices submitted) by 24 May, final report should be submitted by 31 May. Annual School Council Reports are due in June 2024. The template is available in the Financial Handbook page 48. Furthermore, an education funding technical paper for 2023/24 will be sent out as well as a great resource.

Co-Chair Wood informed that PIC bylaws review will be done at the next meeting.

The current balance of the PIC account is \$7,072. Co-Chair Wood expressed interest in hearing thoughts on potential presenters or ideas for parent engagement gatherings. They are also open to suggestions for workshops to host. She acknowledged that the year is coming to an end and there is only one more meeting, she encouraged the gathering of ideas for an enjoyable event.

She reminded that 8 April is a PA day and Total Solar Eclipse.

Co-Chair Woods noted observation dates: it is Autism acceptance month; Earth Day is on 22 April and P/VP Appreciation Day is 1 May.

6.2 Trustee Update

Trustee Godkin welcomed everyone. Trustee Godkin started his update by pointing out that Trustees have requested and have been assured that they will be receiving updates concerning Special Education Support. He pointed out that our Board has been very fortunate to be able to top up expenditures related to Special Education and not have any funding cuts. However, he expressed that Trustees are concerned that this cannot continue forever and encouraged the general public to think how they could advocate the province to properly fund education.

Trustee Godkin informed that the last Board meeting is available on the web page, Trustees received updates on the Math Achievement Action Plan, Virtual School (LDSB will have virtual school again next year), student achievement, and the Solar Eclipse warning. Trustee Godkin advised against using smartphones to photograph the Sun during the eclipse and to avoid looking directly at it to prevent damage.

The budget process begins on 17 April, he thanked everyone who submitted their suggestions to be considered.

The next EPOC is on 1 May, Trustees are going to receive professional development from the Equity Team; equity census next steps and adult credit and non-credit funding will be discussed.

Trustees continue to be concerned about traffic safety near schools. He pointed out that this is a complex situation given that roads belong to municipalities and not to the School Board. Senior staff are making efforts to work with municipalities for solutions.

Trustee Godkin further discussed:

- Media reports about inflation and the announcement of a national food sharing program by the Prime Minister.
- The Minister of Education announcement on funding for expanding new schools and additions to address overcrowded conditions in school.
- The social media lawsuit. Noting that our Board (like other smaller boards), due to resource constraints, is unable to focus on developing such a case.
- Trustee Godkin expressed interest in councils inviting Trustees to their meetings. He is usually available on Tuesday nights, Monday nights, and Wednesday nights when there is no Board or EPOC meeting.

6.3 Board Update

Associate Superintendent Gollogly provided a presentation on Student Achievement Plan.

The Ministry has provided a framework for tracking and reporting certain data points. These will be reported

on the website. The Ministry has provided data from two different academic years, which has caused some confusion.

Assoc. Supt. Gollogly informed of actions the School Board is taking to improve achievement of learning outcomes in core academic skills, preparation of students for future success, and student engagement and well-being. The Board will be reporting to the Board of Trustees four times a year to discuss improvements and actions taken to improve student engagement.

Assoc. Supt. Gollogly answered questions pertaining to EQAO and School Math Facilitators.

6.4 KFL&A Public Health

Lisa Lollar, RN, reported for KFL&A Public Health:

Solar Eclipse tips to help your family enjoy the event safely:

- Looking at the sun without proper eye protection can cause permanent vision damage. Solar eclipse glasses that meet international standard ISO 12312-2 are needed to safely view the eclipse.
- Regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, will not protect your eyes.
- When using eclipse glasses, ensure they are not scratched or damaged.
- Don't use a regular camera or phone lens to view the eclipse. It can hurt your eyes and your device.
- It is important to supervise children during solar viewing activities to ensure they don't look at the sun without proper protection.
- Trained Queen's University Eclipse Ambassadors will be present at viewing sites in [the Kingston area](#) to facilitate safe viewing of the eclipse. An [eclipse viewing event](#) will be held in Napanee at the Strathcona Paper Centre soccer field.
- Traffic congestion is anticipated on April 8 due to the number of expected visitors. Choose a viewing location close to your home or plan to use active transportation.
- Kingston Transit will be free on April 8 to support travel to eclipse viewing sites and reduce traffic congestion.

Where can I get solar eclipse glasses?

- Queen's University is providing solar eclipse viewing glasses to school students across our region and a limited supply to Kingston Frontenac Public Libraries.
- At KSS, the eclipse glasses will be distributed this coming Thursday/Friday in homeroom classes. If your student has a first period spare, please have them come to the office to pick up their glasses.
- [Tourism Kingston](#) has solar eclipse glasses for purchase.
- The Lennox and Addington Library system will be running "Engage with the eclipse" workshops leading up to the eclipse with participants receiving free solar eclipse glasses. [Registration for the sessions is required.](#)
- If purchasing solar eclipse viewers online, please do so through an [approved supplier.](#)

What if I don't have solar eclipse glasses?

- If appropriate eye protection is not available, alternate viewing strategies should be considered, such as an [eclipse box](#) or watching a [Live stream.](#)

If you or your child experience any vision changes after the eclipse, contact your optometrist promptly. You can also contact 811 to get health advice from a registered nurse. For more information, visit kflaph.ca/SolarEclipse

Park and stride maps:

The streets immediately surrounding many of our schools are very busy and congested at drop off and pick up times. KFL&A is working along side the city of Kingston to create map resources to clearly show areas where it is not legal to park or stop a car and to show nearby streets within a short 2 to 5 minute walk where parents can legally park to walk with their student to the school, or drop off students.

Completed maps for:

- Our Lady of Lourdes
- Archbishop O'Sullivan
- Henderson
- Sinclair

In the process of creating maps for:

- Rideau Heights
- St Genvieve (new school)
- Lancaster/ St Teresa of Calcutta
- Centennial
- Cat woods
- St Thomas More

They are hoping to expand this resource to all schools that have appropriate surrounding infrastructure: safe side streets with capacity to handle increased traffic for parking and safe connected pedestrian infrastructure from that parking location to the school (e.g., a route with sidewalks the whole way)

KFL&A will be using the lessons learned through our consultation with the city to make maps for schools outside of the city as well where appropriate. The maps are hosted on our Educator portal, so educators and admin can access them and make them available to their school community.

Parent Engagement Evening – Thursday, April 11 at 7pm.

The Catholic School Councils of Holy Cross and Regiopolis-Notre Dame are hosting a free event, at the Screening Room on Thursday April 11th at 7:00pm. There will be a screening of the film 'Screenagers Next Chapter: Addressing Teen Mental Health in the Digital Age' and a panel of local mental health experts who will be available for questions after the film. All are welcome.

Included is a poster with a QR code, registration is recommended due to limited seating.

Immunization of School Pupils Act:

The suspension period for the Immunization of School Pupil's act will begin on April 9th, 2024 for **some** schools. Parents or caregivers with questions about their student's immunizations should call KFL&A Public Health for more details. 613-549-1232, ext. 1451.

Report immunizations here: <https://www.kflaph.ca/en/health-topics/immunization-records-and-reporting.aspx>

Book appointments, if needed, here: <https://www.kflaph.ca/en/clinics-and-classes/immunization-clinics.aspx>

Parenting in KFL&A: Families and caregivers can connect with a registered nurse for any questions you have about your school age child/teen by phone 613-549-1154, email Parenting@kflaph.ca or following us on [Facebook](#).

6.5 Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC)

Superintendent Gilliam provided an update.

Three new Student Trustees have been selected, welcomed R.K. as the Indigenous Student Trustee. The

selection process involved over 15 students from across the district who self-identify as Indigenous.

Parent Caregiver Representatives: There are currently six parent/caregiver representatives on the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC). None of these parents are on their own School Councils, which has caused some discomfort in terms of joining PIC meeting to provide an update. However, they will continue to be asked to provide updates at each PIC date.

Terms of Reference and Protocols: The terms of reference for the IEAC have been renewed without changes for 2024/25. The committee has also confirmed four protocols related to inviting Indigenous community members into our schools, smudging in schools, provision of tobacco/providing gifts to community members, and the Indigenous team referral process.

Parent Engagement: A student from Trustee Maracle's Indigenous Studies course at Queens has created an allyship process, compiled a community resource highlighting organizations that support Indigenous community members, and sent out a survey to parents connected to self-identification through the current system.

Indigenous Focused Events: Supt. Gillam expressed willingness to support School Councils interested in hosting Indigenous focused events. An example was given of a successful event held in the fall/winter, with plans for a strawberry festival in the spring.

6.6 2SLGBTQIA+ Focus Group

S. Bradley informed that the last Focus Group meeting was productive. The Group is considering participating in the Pride Festival Community Fair. It is planned that some funds will be used to possibly purchase some giveaways. The Groups is hoping to increase participation in the Focus Group, which they hope will also boost interest and awareness in the parent involvement committee.

S. Bradley informed that the group discussed was that having more people involved gives us more insight and perspective because we don't want to be missing things we are unaware of.

The Group plans to increase awareness among parents and caregivers through school newsletters. They have received approval from the Limestone Communications Team to create an informational graphic.

The Group plans to reach out to the new Student Trustees introduced by Superintendent Gillam.

The Group has been looking for someone to provide training in responding to disinformation and hate. A member of the Focus Group who is a professional in diversity, equity, and inclusion and accessibility has agreed to provide this training.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 9 April at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held online, but there is always an opportunity to meet in person.

7. Reports for action - None at this time.

8. Unfinished Business - None at this time.

9. New Business – Vote on making PIC meeting recordings public. Assoc. Supt. Gollogly informed that the decision should be put to a vote among the PIC Representatives. If the vote is in favor, an official letter would be sent to Director Burra requesting the implementation of this idea. Discussion followed.

10. Correspondence – None at this time.

11. Next Meeting - Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 6:00pm.

12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Watch the eclipse safely with young children



Practice

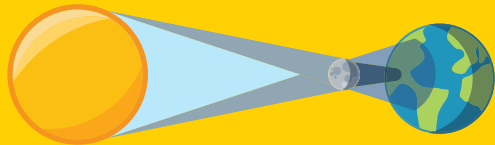
Have your child put their eclipse glasses on and take them off several times. Start indoors, then try outside on a sunny day.



Educate

Teach that eclipse glasses are not toys. Do not twist or bend solar eclipse glasses as this could affect their safety ability.

The glasses are very dark, so using them while walking is not safe. The best way to use the glasses is standing still, with a responsible adult.



Plan

On April 8, make sure your child is wearing their glasses properly before looking at the eclipse.

When children are playing outdoors, watch that they aren't staring at the sun while their eclipse glasses are off.



Protect your vision during the once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse on April 8, 2024

Looking at a solar eclipse without the proper eye protection can cause permanent vision damage.



You must use solar eclipse glasses that meet the international standard ISO 12312-2 to safely view the eclipse.



Regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, will not protect your eyes.



Don't use a regular camera or phone lens to view the eclipse. It can hurt your eyes and your device.



Pick up and drop off map



JR Henderson Public School

Legend

 Recommended to park

 No parking

 No stopping

 Walk time

 Walk route

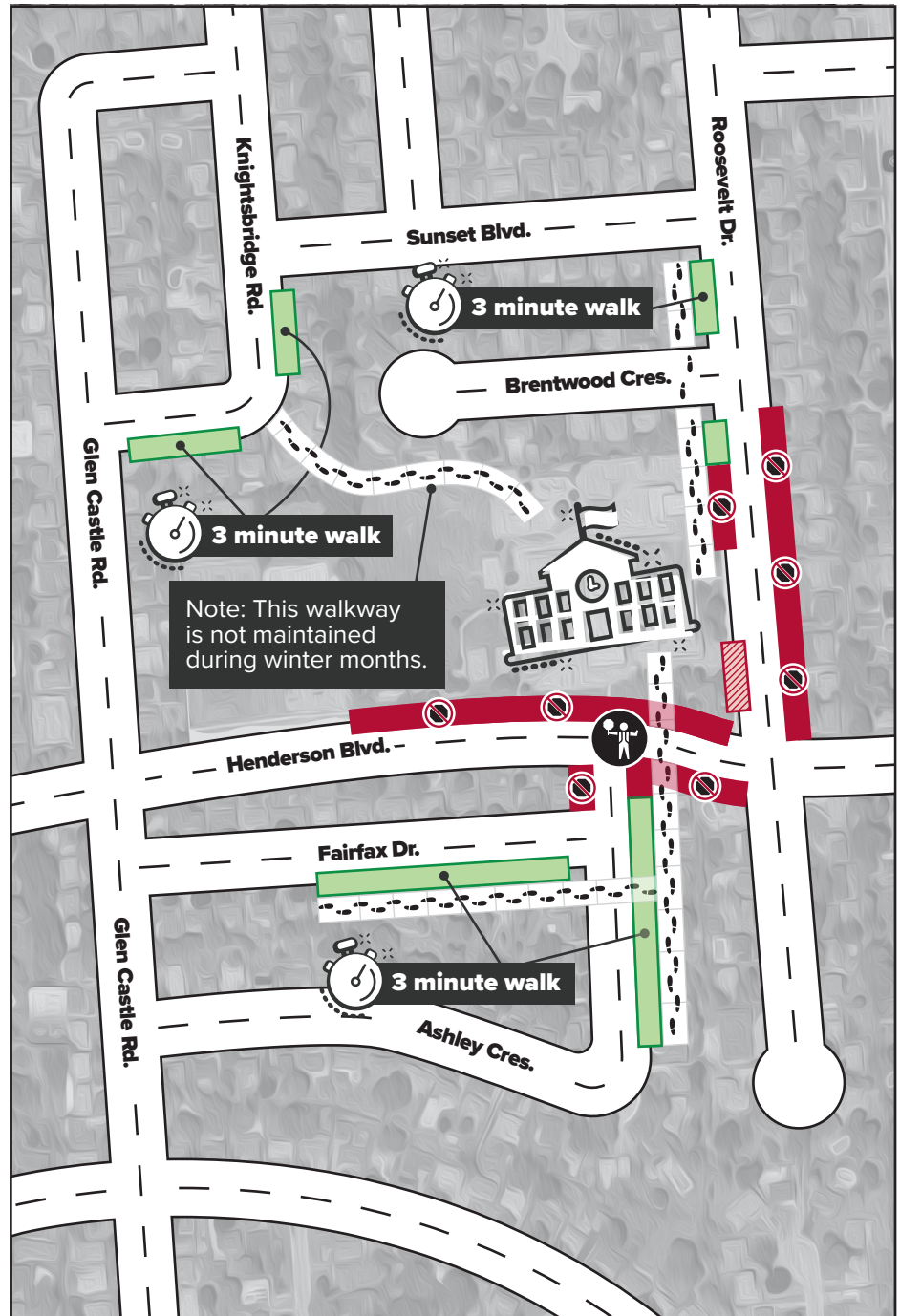
 Crossing guard



**JR Henderson
Public School**

Please remember to:

- Be careful on these routes,
- Watch over children walking to keep everyone safe,
- Follow existing parking regulations, and
- Avoid blocking driveways.





Getting to school

We want students to start and end their day in a safe and vibrant community atmosphere.

Walking or wheeling, even part of the way, helps your child be more alert and ready to learn in the classroom and reduces traffic around the school.

Help keep school drop-off and pick-up zones safe

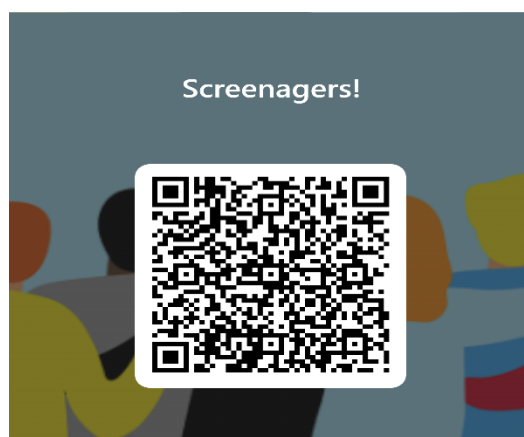
- If your family lives close enough to walk or wheel, plan to leave the car at home entirely!
- When your child is ready, have them take the bus, if available.
- If your family needs to drive, plan to park a short distance from the school and walk the last block or two.

Traffic congestion is no fun for anyone.

Do your part to support the safety of our school community by keeping your car away from the school at drop-off and pick-up times.

SCREENAGERS NEXT CHAPTER

ADDRESSING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH IN THE DIGITAL AGE



BY: Holy Cross & Regiopolis -Notre Dame Catholic High Schools Catholic School Councils, PRO Grant

WHEN: Thursday April 11, 7:00 PM

WHERE: The Screening Room, 120 Princess St. Kingston

TICKETS: All are welcome, please register ahead of time using the QR code as seats are limited. There is **no cost** to this event.

There will be a panel of mental health experts to answer questions after the movie

LDSB Special Education Restructuring 2024

What are we doing?

School-based elementary special education resources are increasing.

These changes...



Shift services from identification- or diagnosis-based to needs-based



Put more resources in schools



Enhance flexible, responsive structures



Expand multi-tiered systems of support



Build schools' capacity through special education teams

Give students increased access to supports in their own school.

What does this change look like?

Current

- 33 Program and Itinerant Teachers
- 17 Program-based Educational Assistants
- School to Community Team
- Behaviour Action Team
- Autism Team
- District team Professional Student Service Personnel (PSSP) support
- Portfolio-based, centralized Special Education Coordinators



Future

- 26 Intensive Support Teachers
- 3 additional Student Support Teachers
- Literacy Intervention Teacher
- Safe Schools Program Teacher
- Mental Health Coordinator
- 17 School-based Educational Assistants
- Intensive Support Team
- Safe Schools Team
- Increased school-based PSSP support
 - 3 Student Support Counsellors
 - Speech Language Pathologist,
 - Clinical Psychologist (.20 FTE)
 - Board Certified Behaviour Analyst
- Family of Schools-based Special Education Coordinators

Please contact Educational Services Main Line with your questions:
613-542-9871 ext. 90140

LDSB Special Education Restructuring 2024

How did we make this decision?



A Special Education Review helps to ensure services meet the needs of students and families. **Over 3400** students, families, and staff participated in the Special Education Review

First, we asked students with special education needs and families their thoughts.

Then, Limestone staff, students, families and community members responded to their ideas.

We asked...

“What key supports and services are important for students with special education needs to experience success at school and reach their full potential?”

Please contact Educational Services Main Line with your questions:
613-542-9871 ext. 90140

LDSB Special Education Restructuring 2024

We heard...

The following quotes are examples of students' and families' answers to the Special Education Review inquiry question.

That individualized support and accommodations matter.

"[I need] a wiggly stool, a fidget from time to time, access to computers, headphones for noise control about pencil and paper noises. More adults in the room. I am very active so I need things to help me burn energy."

That caring and knowledgeable staff matter.

"One of the key supports important for students that have special education needs are special support teachers that can support their needs and listen. [...] [They] can understand your experiences and try to fix it."

That inclusion and school culture matters.

"Show them that they are not alone, show them that their needs are thought of and being taken care of. Students need to feel like they belong to this place and would be happy to be here."

That special education programming matters.

"We need more specialized supports in every school.
There's lots of people like us.
I like being with other kids like me.
They know what I'm going through."

Please contact Educational Services Main Line with your questions:
613-542-9871 ext. 90140

