

Minutes of December 6, 2016 at Kenner Collegiate Peterborough County School Councils' Association

Present:

Amanda Bush, Roger Neilson Public School (Regional School Council Co-chair)
Julie Chatten, Ridpath Junior Public School (Regional School Council Co-chair)
Janice Currie, Kenner CVI and Intermediate School
Heather Davidson, James Strath Public School
Maryanne Finbow, Kawartha Heights Public School
Chantal Goller, Keith Wightman Public School
Annette Simpson, Millbrook/South Cavan Public School
Bernadette Vanderhorst, Norwood District High School

Principals:

Dave Crawford, Percy Centennial Public School
Alison Sadowski, Clarington Centre for Individual Studies, Northumberland Centre for Individual Studies, and Peterborough Alternative and Continuing Education

Vice-principals:

Ian Beaman, Norwood District High School
Sandy Wallace, Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute and Intermediate School

Superintendents:

Peter Mangold, Superintendent of Education: Student Achievement
Jack Nigro, Superintendent of Education: Student Achievement

Trustees:

Rose Kitney, Trustee (City of Peterborough)
Angela Lloyd, Trustee (Township of Cavan Monaghan Township of Douro-Dummer,
Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan)

Guests:

Lauren Kennedy, Registered Dietician, Peterborough Public Health
Deanna Moher, Health Promoter, Peterborough Healthy Kids Community Challenge Coordinator

Regrets:

Steve Girardi, Superintendent of Education: Student Achievement
Greg Ingram, Superintendent of Education: Student Achievement
Diane Lloyd, Trustee (Municipality of Trent Lakes, Township of North Kawartha, Township of Selwyn)
Shirley Patterson, Trustee (Township of Asphodel-Norwood, Township of Havelock Belmont Methuen, Municipality of Trent Hills)

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm. Amanda Bush chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Approval of October 18, 2016 minutes.

Approval of the minutes by Julie Chatten, seconded by Janice Currie.

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Approval of the agenda.

Approval of the agenda by Julie Chatten, seconded by Alison Sadowski.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Parent Involvement Committee Update

An update from the Parent Involvement Committee was not available this evening.

Healthy Kids Community Challenge Initiative – “Growing Healthy Kids” in Our Community

Deanna Moher, Interim Coordinator, Peterborough Healthy Kids Community Challenge (HKCC) was introduced and welcomed. In October 2015, Claire Townsend provided an overview of the Healthy Kids Community Challenge and introduced the first theme – *Run. Jump. Play. Every Day* to the Peterborough Regional School Council. Theme 1 ran from October 2015 – June 2016.

The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released “*No Time to Wait*”, the *Health Kids Strategy Report in 2013*. The report recommends a wide range of initiatives to help promote healthy weights. Action has already been taken by:

- Providing more kids with healthy snacks and meals in school.
- Introducing legislation on the inclusion of calories on menus.
- Supporting new mothers to breastfeed (known to be a protective factor in the promotion of health weights among children).

The report also called for the province to implement a community-driven program that develops healthy communities for kids - The Healthy Kids Community Challenge. Peterborough was 1 of 45 communities selected to participate serving the City, County and First Nations communities, local school boards, child care agencies, non-governmental organizations, local businesses, and others.

Almost 30% of children and youth are overweight or obese. Why?
Energy balance relating to:

- activity levels
- eating habits
- sleep

When children are as healthy as they can be their:

- physical and mental health improves
- school attendance increases
- performance in school improves
- family health and well-being may improve
- self-confidence grows
- community engagement increases

Partnership with Peterborough Public Health, City and County of Peterborough, our First Nation communities, our local school boards, child care agencies, non-governmental organizations, location businesses, parent councils, parents, families is key.

HKCC Goal: reduce the prevalence of and prevent childhood overweight and obesity in the challenge communities.

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HKCC Principles:

- Focus on healthy kids, not just healthy weights. Age range 0-12 years.
- Healthy kids live in healthy families, schools and communities
- Target protective factors for healthy weights – including improving nutrition, physical activity and promoting adequate sleep
- Focus on positive health messages – avoid stigma around weight
- Support health equity through interventions at the population level by targeting at-risk populations.

Details of Themes 1, 2 and 3 were shared. Theme 2, July 2016-March 2017, is *Water Does Wonders*. This theme is focused on promoting water as the best beverage choice for kids and increasing access through free hydration stations across the community. Theme 3 will be to boost veggies and fruit, April 2016-December 2017. Activities for Theme 3 to be determined.

Please contact Deanna Moher at dmoher@peterboroughpublichealth.ca with any ideas and/or questions.

Healthy School Environments

Lauren Kennedy, Registered Dietician, Peterborough Public Health was introduced and welcomed. Lauren presented information on “Healthy School Food Environments – What Can We Do?” What makes a “healthy school” was discussed. An integrated approach is key to building a strong foundation in the use of an integrated approach to address a range of health-related topics. Many sample strategies and activities related to six curriculum-linked, health-related topics were discussed. Collectively, strategies and activities undertaken within these areas also contribute to a positive school climate, which is also key to a healthy school. Schools can offer support in moving away from focus on weight and focus on healthy living. Two ways to improve school food environment are providing health beverages and healthy fundraising. Information regarding a resource for schools “Bright Bites” was shared. www.brightbites.ca is a nutrition link for elementary schools.

A guide to making healthy drink choices was discussed. Drinks with no added sugar and plenty of nutrition can be enjoyed daily. Drinks with added sugar or with less nutrition should be chosen once or twice a week. Avoid drinks with added sugar, caffeine, acids or additives that are not safe for children. Sugar sweetened beverages are linked to the following conditions: obesity, cancer, dental cavities, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

February is Water Month. Resources will be provided to schools. Roles that schools councils can play in promoting water in schools were discussed as well as health fundraising ideas. Fact sheets on “Water – the Wonder Drink” and flavoured water recipes were distributed.

Fresh From the Farm promotes healthy fundraising for Ontario schools. From 2013-2016. Fresh From the Farm distributed almost 750,000 kg. of fresh, Ontario grown fruit and vegetables to Ontario families; raised almost \$626,000 for school initiatives; and, returned over \$880,000 to Ontario farmers. Fruit and vegetable bundles were available to purchase. Ridpath Junior PS promoted this fundraiser and raised \$1,800.00. Delivery was a drawback for this school. Profit/costing model – 40% of sales go directly to the school (less a nominal delivery fee), 50% of sales go to our Ontario farmers in support of the local economy; and, 10% is retained by Fresh from the Farm for program sustainability.

Please contact Lauren Kennedy at lkennedy@peterboroughpublichealth.ca for additional information.

First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education

Jack Nigro, Superintendent of Education, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education presented “Indigenous Education at KPRDSB 2016-17 and Beyond”. The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board has expressed full support for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action 62 and 63.

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Call 62 – We call upon the federal, provincial and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples and educators to:

- a) Make age appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal people's historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.
- b) Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms.
- c) Provide the necessary funding to Aboriginal schools to utilize Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms.
- d) Establish senior-level positions in government at the assistant deputy ministry level or higher dedicated to Aboriginal content in education.

Call 63 – We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues including:

- a) Developing and implementing Kindergarten to Grade Twelve curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history, and the history and legacy of residential schools.
- b) Sharing information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history.
- c) Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.
- d) Identify teacher-training needs relating to the above.

Five key groups:

1. Board staff
2. Principals and Vice-principals
3. Teachers
4. School support staff
5. **Parents and Community**

Our Indigenous students:

- Three First Nations Territories (Alderville, Curve Lake, and Hiawatha)
- Off Territory First Nations students
- Métis
- Inuit

Leadership means:

- Fostering inclusive and welcoming environments for all Indigenous students and families.
- Indigenous students seeing themselves reflected in the curriculum and in the school environment.
- Creating opportunities for ALL students to learn about Indigenous histories, cultures, and perspectives in all schools.

There is a curriculum review in progress focusing on expectations from Grades 4–8 Social Studies curriculum and the Grade 10 academic and applied History courses. There is also a review of the Native Studies curriculum document at the secondary level.

The Voluntary Self-identification Process policy is being revised during 2016-2017. Estimate that 3 times the current number of students will identify with enhanced outreach efforts coupled with intentional process improvements.

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Possibilities for parents:

- Parents Reaching Out Grants.
- Encourage your children to learn more, take Natives Studies courses.
- Discuss Indigenous Education as a possible focus for one of your school-based events.
- Advertise opportunities for parents to attend an Indigenous focused event outside of school.

More than 20 Indigenous secondary students from across KPR have joined together to form the Director's Indigenous Student Advisory Group. The students met with Director of Education Rusty Hick and Jack. The group members spent several hours sharing their thoughts on the positive experiences and challenges they face in school to improve programming for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Reports

Rose Kitney discussed the board's organizational meeting which was held on December 1, 2016. The chair and vice-chair were acclaimed at the election. The Striking Committee recommends Trustee membership for standing committees and this information will be shared next week. Trustees have the opportunity to move around on various committees.

With the announcement of provincial funding to build a new school in Peterborough's East City, community members are invited to share their thoughts on the school's design. The school, to replace Armour Heights and King George Public Schools, will be built at the King George PS site. During the school accommodation review, community members made it clear they wanted the new school to include historical aspects of both its predecessors, and be innovative and environmentally friendly. KPR is introducing an online collaboration, accessible from the home page which will allow students, staff and community members to share their views. Focus groups will meet in December and past Accommodation Review Committee members are invited to attend.

Trustees voted on a modified accommodation review to consider the future of Kirby Centennial Public School. Less than 90 students attend the school are most students are provided with transportation. A report from the Accommodation Review Committee will be presented to the Trustees in March for decision. A public meeting will be held at the school on January 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm. Senior administration is recommending the school close and its students move to Orono Public School effective September 2017.

Everyone is welcome to suggest a name for the new Lakefield elementary school. This school will house all local Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 students. It will open at the current Lakefield Intermediate site in September 2017 after extensive renovations. Information is available on the KPR website. The deadline for suggesting a name is Tuesday, January 31, 2017.

Superintendent Reports

Peter discussed the busy time in schools these days with concerts, trips, plays – fun time for students. Part of Peter's portfolio is to monitor schools that he is responsible for. School visits focus on school improvement plans to monitor and support. In the province Mathematics is a huge focus to boost student's mathematics skills. Students and coaches do very well teaching life skills for students. Hats off to the dedicated band leaders, coaches, etc. for their volunteer time. The Crestwood Mustangs played in the National Capital Bowl in Hamilton after claiming the COSSA AAA senior football championship; the Adam Scott Lions senior boys' volleyball team earned a trip to OFSAA; and the Thomas A. Stewart junior boys' football team were COSSA champions.

In Peter's portfolio he is now responsible for information and communications technology. He attended his first committee meeting with student success and teaching and learning staff. The committee will be deciding on what a modern learning environment looks like. Schools have applied for special funding for technology projects.

Alison Sadowski, Principal of the alternative and continuing education sites, is starting English as a Second Language (ESL) night school classes at Peterborough Alternative and Continuing Education (PACE) at PCVS for adults. With

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these classes hopefully a gap in the community will be filled which is not met by colleges or universities. A continuing education teacher will be hired and must be certified by Teachers of English as a Second Language (TESL). Alison has been working with the New Canadian Centre in Peterborough.

International language classes for elementary age students have started at PACE @ PCVS. Korean and Ojibwe classes are held every Tuesday while Mandarin classes are running every Monday. These international classes are non-credit, continuous intake.

Jack Nigro shared information about the possibility of another 30 Syrian refugee families will be moving to our region in the next 6 months. Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School is the main high school servicing the needs of English Language Learners.

The two school councils for Ridpath Junior Public School and Lakefield Intermediate School have joined to talk about consolidation plans. Renovations to the new Lakefield elementary school will be ready by September 1, 2017. Input from interested parents is appreciated for the best school for the community and students.

Rose asked how the Syrian children are doing in their schools? Jack and Cathleen Martherus, Vice-principal, Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School, met with Kawartha Rotary and shared that positive results have been experienced so far. KPR takes care of children and families. Good relationships are being formed. Language skills are moving along.

Alison attended the Ontario Association of Continuing Education of School Board Administrators' (CESBA) conference last week in Toronto. She reported that we have a very welcoming community. The government assisted refugees are at risk. The refugees have limited education and have suffered trauma and stress. The refugees are very grateful and are asking to bring the rest of their family. The work of school staff to support these students speaks to the caring for all of our students. There is a debt attached to the refugees coming here. Jack reinforced that we have ways to support any families in need. The families will be assisted discretely.

Rose shared that the New Canadian Centre (NCC) has funding for one year to purchase beds for the refugees. The NCC is working hard to assist the refugees.

OTHER BUSINESS

Confirmed Future Meeting Topics:

February 14, 2017

- Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants – Greg Kidd, Manager, Corporate Affairs
(Sharing session – please bring draft grant submissions to the meeting)

May 30, 2017

- Budget Process – Chris Arnew, Superintendent of Education: Business and Corporate Services

2016 - 2017 Future Meeting Dates

February 14, 2017

May 30, 2017

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.