



# Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

*A Great Place to Learn and A Great Place to Work!*

Dwayne Inch, Chair of the Board

Rob McGall, Director of Education

## Safe Schools Advisory Committee PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, May 8, 2012 – 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm**

- Present:** Mandy Savery-Whiteway, Superintendent of Education, Safe Schools, Shelley Steele, Safe Schools Team Supervisor, Wendy Sutherland, Safe Schools Team, Todd Reid, Safe Schools Team, Thelma Goodfellow, Trustee, Lucille Kyle, Trustee, Pierre Martin, VP – ETFO, Karen Chow, HAPE-OTL, Marian Moon, OSSTF, Adam Terpstra, Teacher Candidate, Lyn Knell, Bay of Quinte Safe Communities, Dave Snider, Quinte West OPP, Lonne Foeller, Quinte West OPP, Jennifer Cotnam, Trenton High School, Indigo Christ, Student Trustee (outgoing), Ella Wanless, Student Trustee (incoming), Daniel Meeks, Student Trustee (incoming), Kelly Towers, Attendance Counsellor, Maribeth deSnoo, Hastings and Prince Edward Learning Foundation, Julie Pohlman-Brogee, Child and Youth Counsellor Supervisor, Kerry Donnell, Communication's Officer, Donalda Simmons, Mental Health Leader, Melanie Crawford, Child and Youth Counsellor.
- Regrets:** LaShelle Brant, Tyendinaga Education Committee, Terry Briard, Centre Hastings OPP, Hans Verbeek, Belleville Police Services, Kim Guthrie, Prince Edward OPP, Suzanne Cox, Bancroft OPP, Dwayne Stacey, Highland Shores Children's Aid Society,
- Minutes:** D. Burshaw

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### Welcome and Introductions:

Mandy Savery-Whiteway welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed appreciation to the committee members for their support. Members introduced themselves.

### Message from the Director of Education:

Director McGall talked about the AiM System Plan and its focus on the system plan goals. They include Success for Each Student, Employee Excellence and Community Connections. These goals are all integrated and ensure students are connected and engaged. When they are engaged in school they feel safe and that is this board's main priority. The Safe Schools Advisory Committee is one of the committees that support this strategy. He explained that this year the AiM System Plan involves a number of different action steps. This year there will be a slightly different approach to the development of the plan by targeting certain groups, developing think tanks and trying to condense the plan. The first of May, 2012 was the beginning of meetings to develop a more focused version that captures key priorities. In 2012 – 2013, the System Plan will be more focused with eight to ten key priorities for the district to which all three goals will connect.



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Thursday, May 17, 2012 is the AiM System Meeting at Loyalist College. It will allow community partners, federations and internal employees the opportunity to provide feedback. Monday, June 18, 2012 is the Trustee retreat which will allow the Trustee's to provide input and set priorities that includes safe, caring and respectful schools. He commented that great feedback has been received and is being incorporated in this document as well from the district survey.

Superintendent Savery-Whiteway thanked Director McGall for his welcoming messages.

Director McGall explained to the committee that each year the Great Place Awards are the highest form of recognition within the district. Nominations are accepted for employees, students, parents/guardians, volunteers, and community partners from throughout the district. The guidelines describe how the nominee has made a significant contribution to support student achievement and to Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board being *A Great Place to Learn and A Great Place to Work!* The nominations are to include examples of how the nominee has demonstrated the Growing with Character attributes, which are: Caring, Cooperation, Honesty, Humour, Integrity, Respect, Responsibility and Trustworthiness. They are also to describe who has benefitted from the activities and how and also describe the effect on student achievement. Ten awards are selected each year.

Superintendent Savery-Whiteway informed the committee that the Safe School's team had nominated and was awarded the recognition for the eight local Police Services within our district. She commented that the school response officers both in elementary and secondary were exemplary to the school system and student/staff safety. This board is so fortunate to have such a great working relationship with these eight Police Services. She called on the two officers that were present Dave Snider and Lonne Foeller of the Quinte West OPP division.

### **Update on AiM - Achievement in Motion System Plan, Positive School Climate – Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement – School Climate Surveys – Bullying Awareness and Prevention/Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week update and this year's date:**

Superintendent Mandy Savery-Whiteway talked about the AiM System Plan and how the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board is a system of character that delivers a quality learning experience to support high levels of achievement for each student. Our students will see themselves as contributing citizens to a caring, safe, respectful and inclusive classroom, school and global community. She talked about gathering data from a variety of different sources which then evolved the School Climate Surveys. She spoke about Promoting Positive School Climates in Ontario schools. This resource supports and complements the work schools are doing in numerous areas. It brings together ideas from various initiatives in which schools are already involved. The focus of Positive School Climates includes: Parent Engagement, Student Voice, Equity and Inclusive Education, Safe and Healthy Schools, Leadership Development and Character Development. No single solution can guarantee the creation and maintenance of a positive school climate. Success requires ongoing, comprehensive and collaborative effort on the part of everyone involved.



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Surveys were completed by students/staff/parents and or guardians two years ago. The school climate surveys were a bit cumbersome and will be redesigned making it more effective. The surveys are to be completed again this year. The AiM System Plan connects with the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board's Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA). and creates a culture of collective responsibility for high levels of student achievement for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners, who are resilient, critical-thinking global citizens and who can effectively communicate, collaborate and problem solve.

Superintendent Savery-Whiteway anticipates new legislation being passed which will require some updates to current board procedures. The Accepting Schools Bill is before the legislature and addresses bullying behaviours and the reporting mechanisms. Superintendent Savery-Whiteway discussed Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week but stressed as well how Bullying Awareness and Prevention continues within this Board all year. Prevention and reporting is critical. Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week is scheduled this year November 19 -25, 2012. Bullying Awareness Week is a national campaign in Canada. There were copies of events from the schools within the district explaining all the different activities that were done at each school site last year. Events are being planned as we speak for this year's week. She introduced Jen Cotnam from Trenton High School who organized Pink Shirt Day, April 11, 2012. Jen spoke of the history and success that has been created in support of Bullying Awareness and Prevention initiative. International Pink Shirt Day started in Nova Scotia as a way for students to stand up for acceptance in our schools. Now it has spread throughout North America as a way to visibly send a message that bullying, racism, homophobia, hate and discrimination will not be tolerated within our communities.

This year was the 4<sup>th</sup> annual International Pink Shirt Day here in the Quinte region. Pink Shirt Day started at Trenton High School as a small event that sold 80 shirts the first year. After receiving some amazing press in the local papers, on local television and through word of mouth, Pink Shirt Day attracted the attention of other schools and organizations throughout our community. Last year organizations such as the Children's Mental Health Association, Highland Shores Children's Aid Society, the Education Centre, Three Oaks Foundation, Quinte Health Care and several others joined forces. Trenton High School exceeded their expectations and sold 1,300 pink shirts between two of Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board's high schools and to community participants. This year 2,660 shirts were sold. She explained what they have done each year, as each year has its own separate message on the shirts. Elementary schools also joined in this year. Jen also told the committee that they are starting a road show travelling to elementary schools across our district beginning the end of May. She also talked about Quinte Day that had just occurred and how the positive energy could be felt by all who attended. Thirty students from each secondary school were included in full workshops that day. Superintendent Savery-Whiteway thanked Jen for her very positive and enthusiastic work in Bullying Awareness and Prevention.

The committee voiced opinions on connections with regard to awareness and prevention. Centennial Secondary School is gearing up for a film festival on bullying awareness and prevention. Bullying Awareness and Prevention is not just a school concern but is inclusive of society. Information was also shared about a Student Voice event coming up on May 23, 2012 at Loyalist College beginning at 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. With supports of the Student Success Lead Teachers, they will be hosting an event for Grade 9 students where they will participate in activities and discussions designed to promote and develop leadership, teamwork and advocacy. May 24, 2012 is another workshop called Student



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Involvement Day Symposium. It will focus on building healthy relationships and ensure safe, caring respectful and inclusive 21<sup>st</sup> century schools. This includes a focus on developing student leadership opportunities with the context of Gay Straight Alliances (GSA) or Diversity teams and Safe School teams. This event is also at Loyalist College, Alumni Hall.

Superintendent Mandy Savery-Whiteway had the committee break into groups. She handed out a document containing two questions and asked the committee for their suggestions to help this board continue to promote a positive school climate. The outcome is as follows:

## **1. Discuss ways that the board can share information with parents and community partners about expectations with respect to student behavior and school safety and about the strategies that are in place to support positive school climate?**

Feedback was:

- School open house/info nights
- Social media – Facebook and Twitter
- Newsletters
- School/board websites
- Articles in newspapers
- Radio features/testimonials
- Texting (ask parents for preferred method of communication)
- Engagement of parents, visits to homes
- Schools involved in community events (i.e; Stirling Hockeyville)
- Resiliency, focus on strengths

## **2. What can be done to improve communication with parents and our community with respect to safe schools initiatives?**

Feedback was:

- Involve parent councils
- Use different methods; on line, website, news letters, synervice, texting, Twitter and Facebook
- Bring schools into community events
- Personal invites, not synervice
- Sunshine calls, not just disciplinary calls
- Press releases about events i.e. Great Place Awards with community policing officers
- Meeting in community spaces not always in the schools



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## **CTAP updates – training:**

Shelley Steele, Safe Schools Supervisor gave a brief overview on the statistics this year compared to last year. Maribeth DeSnoo asked if a report could be generated showing each year's reporting. It was confirmed this could be done. Shelley Steele talked about training that happened this year noting that a Level 1 training was cancelled for May 3 and 4, 2012 but will be offered again this coming fall. She talked about the upcoming Level 2 Violence Threat Risk Assessment Training that will be offered this June, 14 and 15, 2012 at Loyalist College. She shared with the committee about the National Conference that had just taken place this past month. As the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board was one of the first boards to sign on, Kevin Cameron often uses our board as an example. A refresher Violence Threat Assessment Training course will be held as well this coming year as quite a few administrators/teachers have had their level 2 training for some time now and need this refresher. Kawartha Pineridge District School Board has approached us about partnering in hosting a Provincial Conference. More news will be forthcoming on this.

## **Restorative Practices updates:**

The aim of Restorative Practice is to manage conflict and tension by repairing harm and strengthening relationships as a way of building community. Restorative Practices focuses on repairing the harm done to people and relationships rather than simply punishing the person who caused the harm. The basic hypothesis is that human beings are happier, more cooperative and productive when those in positions of authority do things with them rather than to them or for them. More than ever, Restorative circles are moving forward into classrooms to help support a community of caring. Shelley Steele announced that on May 23, 2012 a Restorative Practices Framework and Classroom Circles Training will take place at the Education Centre. The training is full but a waiting list has been developed. Lucille Kyle, Trustee for the board commented that there is a need to get more people to buy into this concept because it truly is effective and a necessity for people/students to move on. Maribeth deSnoo asked if community partners were aware of this training especially for their summer programs. Shelley Steele mentioned that training was requested from Camp Quinn- Mo- Lac last year. She stated that if anyone reaches out to us, we will provide the training. It was noted by several committee members the value and importance of a circle and the impact it has on not just the person who was harmed but the person who did the harming as well. It is a very powerful initiative. Restorative Practices Facilitator training has just taken place at the Education Centre on May 1 and 2, 2012. The training was full.

Wendy Sutherland, Safe School's Team updated the committee on information with regard to the Safe School's Regional Session that she had just attended. She confirmed that this board's trends in suspension/expulsion data are consistent with larger urban boards..

## **Suspension/Expulsion updates:**

Todd Reid is the academic teacher supervising expelled students. He gave an overview of the suspension/expulsion program. If students are expelled from all schools in the board, the board offers them academic and additional supports to promote positive behavior in a program for expelled students. When students complete the program, they may return to school, or explore other educational pathways. He explained the difference between suspensions versus expulsion. Expulsions do not have a time limit. Expelled students are removed from school for an indefinite time period. Students are



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suspended first while an expulsion is being considered. The principal does not expel students but can recommend expulsion to the school board. Only the school board can expel students.

Since February, 2008, just over 4 years, the expulsion program has had a total 60 Students. As of June this year, 2012, there will be 13 students that have graduated, 3 of them from the expulsion program. By this time next year, of the 60 students, it is estimated that 18 will have graduated.

Since February, 2008, 34 students have transitioned back to a school in our district (meaning they met the requirements of the expulsion). 15 students have been transitioned to Adult Education. This means that we transitioned all of our students to a school program.

There are 11 students currently in the Expulsion Program.

### **The Expulsion Process for Students**

Students are suspended for 20 days pending an expulsion. The student goes before an Expulsion Committee where a decision is made on the expulsion. If the student is expelled, they must meet the requirements of the expulsion in order to be considered to transition back to a school. The requirements usually include both academic and counseling components. Wendy Sutherland and Todd Reid support the students to meet these requirements and their goals.

They work with many community partners such as; Highland Shores Children's Aid Society, Prince Edward County CAS, Probation, Children's Mental Health, Youth Hab, 8 Police Services, Custody Facilities, parents and guardians and The Learning Foundation.

Students coming into program often have very few credits and are able to re-integrate into schools successfully and without gaps in learning.

### **New Business:**

Lyn Nell of Safe Communities Bay of Quinte announced that they are sponsoring a "Railway Safety Focus Facebook Contest". This is open to residents of the Quinte region as defined on their website. Face book pages must have a Railway Safety focus. The contest will close on July 31, 2012 and winners will be contacted and announced on their website. The pages will be judged on content, creativity and "likes". Decisions by the judges will be final and any questionable content, illegal activities or unsafe practices undertaken in the development of contest pages will result in immediate disqualification. Please visit the website at: [www.saferquinte.ca](http://www.saferquinte.ca)

Lyn also advised the committee they are arranging community awareness on concussions. Bay of Quinte Safe Communities and the Brain Injury Association Quinte District are hosting a Concussion Discussion. It will be held at the Quinte Sport Centre on May 23, 2012 from 5 -7 pm. It is free to the public. Anyone who has influence over an injured player, needs to know the causes, symptoms and steps to take before deeming a player is ready to get back "into the game". Understanding the long term effects of concussions is vital to making such a potentially life-altering decision.



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Lonne Foeller, Quinte West OPP gave some history on Pedal for Hope. The first annual Quinte region Pedal For Hope has wrapped up and is being deemed as a huge success. The week-long event rose over \$15,000 to support kids with cancer. Organizers say they're hoping to extend the ride to two weeks next year and add more to the 10 schools who participated this year. The Officers biked over 230 kilometers. An expansion of the program would be in line with other regions like Peterborough that rose over \$230,000 to support the same cause with a three week ride.

### **Adjournment:**

Mandy Savery-Whiteway thanked everyone for their input and dedication to this very worthwhile committee. Notification of the next meeting will be communicated at a later date. The meeting adjourned at 3: 15 p.m.