

FOLLOW UP FROM LINDA STEEL

There are 4 committees that require parent representation:

SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee): Every Board in the province is mandated by the government to have a SEAC. Representatives from government recognized organizations (Autism, Learning Disabilities, etc.), representatives from Sr Admin, and two Trustees make up the committee. However - within our Board there also is a position for a District Council/PIC parent liaison position. It is an important position as many families struggle with the challenges presented by a child with special needs. Knowledge and understanding are important in addressing these challenges. All SEAC meetings are open to the public.

London District Catholic School Council/Parent Involvement Committee: All LDCSC/PIC meetings are open to the public. More information available from Shannon.

Standing Committee on Catholicity and Communications: (I currently Chair this committee)
Catholicity - Right now we are working with the Diocese to strengthen the home/school/parish triad and aligning with "Renewing the Promise". Phase One (this year) will be largely focused on the parishes - figuring out how we (school/parish) can actively and visibly support each other. Phase Two will focus on parent engagement.

Communications - This covers everything from website, social media, Messenger, notices, letters to parents, labour unrest, school closures, bus cancellations, who to contact when, etc. Shannon has been able to attend the last couple of meetings, but I know she gets very busy sometimes and cannot attend. It is important we have consistent ongoing representation and input from parents. How do we know our communications are effective if we do not hear from our parents? What do we need to improve? Where are the gaps? All Catholicity and Communications Committee meetings are open to the public.

Standing Committee on Policy: (I Chaired this committee until last year) We have not been successful in engaging a parent to sit on this committee. And, again, the parent voice is extremely important when setting policy. Every policy we develop, amend and pass affects your children (whether directly or indirectly). And everything that happens within a Board is covered/governed by a policy. I strongly believe parents should have a say in developing policies. Last year we amended our Policy on Committees to include specific representation for a parent on the Policy Committee. All Policy Committee meetings are open to the public.

The Agendas, Minutes, attachments, and meeting schedules are posted on the Board website. To find these go to the LDCSB home page, click on "About Us" tab for the pull-down menu. On the pull down menu click on "Board and Committee Meetings". They are all listed there.

I would also encourage parents to attend our Budget meetings. These meetings set the spending and spending priorities for the next school year - in all areas (from staffing to bussing to school improvements - and sometimes cuts). What do you want to see in your child's classroom and school? These meetings will start shortly (will be posted on LDCSB website) - and will include public input sessions. The final budget is presented and passed in June.

Please feel free to call me if you have any other questions:

Linda Steel

lsteel@ldcsb.ca

519-681-5697.