

**Special Education Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board**

May 15, 2019

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held in Barry C. Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board Education Centre, 151 Dairy Ave, Napanee on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees: K. McGregor, Chair
B. Godkin, Trustee

Members: N. Carson, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario
S. Henderson-Todd, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children
P. Dendy, Member-at-Large
G. Eaton Smith, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston
A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University)
N. Nicholson, Autism Ontario-Kingston Chapter
L. Sansom, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
E. Sheldon, Community Living Kingston
C. Tooley, Down Syndrome Association Kingston
C. Whalen, Family & Children's Services, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington

Staff: H. Box, Special Education Program Coordinator
S. Burnett, Special Education Program Coordinator
L. Conboy, Mental Health Lead
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning for All
L. Rousseau, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator
D. Scarlett, Principal of Educational Services

Regrets: K. Leggett, Vice-Principal of Educational Services
J. Murphy, Special Education Program Coordinator

Recorder: Liz Strange, Records Management Coordinator

1. Welcome

Trustee McGregor called the meeting to order, welcoming all those in attendance to the meeting.

Trustee McGregor read the Indigenous Acknowledgement:

"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. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: C. Tooley, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. Business Arising From the Minutes

a) SEAC start time for 2019-2020

Deferred until the June meeting.

5. Presentation: 2019-2020 Budget – Superintendent Young

Superintendent Young provided an overview of the 2019-2020 Grants for student Needs.

On April 26, 2019 the Ministry released B14 memorandum and B15 memorandum. On May 10, 2019 the Ministry released the EFIS submission forms. The technical paper has not been released yet.

Bill 100, Protecting What Matters Most Act (Budget Measures), 2019 proposes changes to the Education Act that would:

- Indicate that a Board is expected to balance its budget in 2019-20. However, a board may incur an in-year deficit up to the lower of 1 per cent of the school board's operating revenue or the accumulated surplus for the proceeding school year.
- Include a new requirement where a plan/resolution must be submitted by a school board, with its estimates submission, showing the elimination of the in-year deficit within two years.

There will be a kindergarten funded Early Childhood Educators (ECE) classroom staffing ratio change from 1.14 FTE to 1.0 FTE. For LDSB this funding reduction is \$704,742.

The Ministry will provide a new per-pupil amount of \$87.32 per average daily enrolment (ADE) to support ECE supply costs. For LDSB this new funding is \$217,078. For Intermediate classes (grades 4 to 8) the funded average class size was adjusted from 23.84 to 24.5, and a maximum board-wide average adjusted to 24.5 for all school boards. For LDSB this is a reduction of 9.0 FTE elementary teachers

For secondary (grades 9 to 12) the funded average class size was adjusted from 22.0 to 28.0. The maximum board-wide average was adjusted to 28.0. For LDSB this reduction of 69.1 FTE secondary teachers is spread over 4 years due to attrition protection. The secondary programming amount of 1.02 staff per 1,000 ADE will no longer be provided, effective September 2019. It is projected that the impact of removing the secondary programming amount from the Pupil Foundation Grant will be approximately \$52 million. For LDSB this is a reduction of 6.0 FTE secondary teachers.

The Supported Schools Allocation benchmarks are being updated to reflect the changes to class size. For LDSB the increase in funding is \$255,432.

To align with the changes to secondary class size and to reflect other data updates, the Supplemental Area Factor for school facility operations, within the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant, will be updated. These changes will be phased in over five years. For LDSB the decrease in funding over the five years is \$1,939,682.

The Ministry is introducing a new Attrition Protections Allocation (within the Cost Adjustment and Qualifications and Experience Grant) for up to four years to protect front-line staff impacted by the changes to class sizes and e-learning; allowing school boards to phase in the class sizes. For LDSB, based on known attrition and leaves, this funding will protect 48.8 FTE secondary teachers.

Other key elements of the attrition funding include:

- School board forecast protection to address situations where actual attrition is higher than the school board's forecasts; and,
- An additional 5 per cent attrition protection to further support the staffing complement for the continuity of STEM and specialized programming. This means boards are being provided with 105 per cent attrition protection funding.

For LDSB based on known attrition and leaves this additional funding is \$261,257.

The Ministry is investing nearly \$15.2 million in the Behaviour Expertise Amount allocation, an increase of approximately one hundred per cent over 2018-19. This investment will allow school boards to hire more professional staff at the board level who have expertise in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and to double the training opportunities that will build school board capacity in ABA. Of this amount LDSB is expected to receive \$172,396.

The Local Priorities Fund, first established in 2017-18 during the last round of collective bargaining, expires on August 31, 2019. In 2018-19 LDSB received \$2,557,534. The investment related to the adult day school teachers will be transferred to the Continuing Education and Other Programs Grant. For LDSB this investment is \$388,970.

The base amount of the Cost Adjustment Allocation, providing supplemental funding for education workers benchmarks, has been discontinued for the 2019-20 school year. In 2018-19 LDSB received \$242,364. The Human Resources Transition Supplement, provided to assist school boards in managing the negotiated 2017-19 central agreements, expires on August 31, 2019. In 2018-19 LDSB received \$99,186.

Stabilization funding will be provided to school boards that run efficient transportation operations, but for which the costs of student transportation exceeds the funding provided for that purpose. This funding will be provided in 2019-20 based on boards' 2018-19 transportation deficits. For LDSB this funding is \$554,278.

For the International Student Recovery Amount Beginning in 2019-20, a school board's total GSN operating grants shall be reduced by an amount equal to a flat fee of \$1,300 multiplied by the international student enrolment. For LDSB this recovery is a \$143,000 reduction to international student fee revenue.

The Student Transportation Grant will be increased by 4% to help boards manage increased costs. For LDSB the increase in funding is \$548,180. The Ministry is also providing a 2% cost benchmark update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark to assist boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other costs). For LDSB the increase in funding is \$259,050.

The Ministry will provide a 1.0 per cent salary benchmark increase for staff in 2019–2020, to reflect the 2017–2019 central labour agreements. As a result of the phase-out of retirement gratuities a 0.167 per cent benefit reduction will be applied to the benefits benchmarks.

For the 2019-20 school year, the Ministry continues to invest \$1.4 billion in funding to support the repair and renewal of school facilities. This includes \$1 billion in funding towards the School Condition Improvement (SCI) program. Of this amount LDSB is expected to receive \$14,771,925.

6. Educational Services Update – D. Scarlett

Principal Scarlett shared the program location changes for the 2019-2020 school year to optimize efficiencies:

- District Learning Centre moved from Land O' Lakes to Granite Ridge
- Jr District Learning Centre moved from Catarauqui Woods to Fairfield ES
- Jr. LD Program at Lord Strathcona moved to RJ Sinclair
- CCTC (Section 23) program moved from NAEC to Sydenham HS

Associate Superintendent Alison McDonnell shared that the CCTC Belong Program would continue, but with a change in partnership from the Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board (ALCDSB) and Family and Children's Services of Frontenac Lennox and Addington (FACSFLA) to ALCDSB and Maltby. This change in partnership has resulted in the reduction of one CCTC Nexus program between Maltby and ALCDSB, which reduces approximately 8 spaces in our community for students to access CCTC Nexus Programming for the next school year.

Associate Superintendent McDonnell also confirmed that the CCTC ABC program, a partnership between Maltby and LDSB would continue for the 2019-2020 year. Maltby and LDSB are working together to determine what impact the changes in OAP funding will have on the structure of this program moving forward.

Discussion ensued around the best way to advocate to the Ministry of Education regarding proposed changes to education funding and the impact on students with special education needs. A. Martin suggested that SEAC investigate a single letter signed by all SEACs in the province. E. Sheldon suggested that all members ponder what they feel are the most appropriate ways to advocate and bring their thoughts back to the next SEAC meeting in June for further discussion.

7. Correspondence

As appended.

8. Association Updates

As circulated with the meeting package.

9. Other Business

- i) Ministry Updates – Associate Superintendent Alison McDonnell

Addressed in Superintendent Young's presentation

- ii) Ontario Autism Consultations

The Ministry of Education is now beginning a public consultation on how children and youth with Autism who have complex needs can be better supported. You may participate in the consultations through an online survey and/or a series of telephone town halls in order to provide insight on:

- How Ontario Autism Program services and supports help families and children's learning and development;
- How families would use any additional funding based on need;
- Recommendations for the Ontario Autism Program;
- The role the education system should play in supporting students with autism to achieve their learning goals and;
- How health and social supports for children with autism can be better integrated.

More information can be found on the consultations web page: ontario.ca/autism or by calling the dedicated Autism Service Ontario Toll-Free number: 1-888-284-8340.

This consultation will be open during the month of May 2019.

10. Next Meeting Date

June 12, 2018 at 6 p.m.

11. Adjournment

MOVED BY: N. Nicholson, that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.