



LIMESTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Regular Board Meeting Wednesday, May 22, 2019 Limestone Education Centre 220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston 5 p.m.

Private Session

* In accordance with the Education Act, Section 207.(2) a meeting of a committee of a board including a committee of the whole board, may be closed to the public when the subject under consideration involves,

- (a) The security of the property of the board;
- (b) The disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a meeting of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;
- (c) The acquisition or disposal of a school site;
- (d) Decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board; or
- (e) Litigation affecting the board.

Motion to Move into Private Session

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Chair's Update

Director's Update

Action Items

- (a) Board Minutes – March 20, 2019 & April 10, 2019
- (b) Audit Committee Minutes – May 6, 2019

For Information

- (a) Personnel Update
- (b) Safe Schools Update
- (c) Property Update
- (d) OPSBA Update
- (e) Labour Update
- (f) Legal Matter

Report to Public Session

Public Meeting - 6 p.m.

Acknowledgement of Territory:

"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."

Adoption of Agenda

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Chair's Update

Director's Update

Presentation: Limestone Student Achievers Awards

Section A – Matters Requiring Action at the Meeting

1. Consent Agenda

- (a) Expressions of Condolences and/or Congratulations
- (b) Board Minutes – April 10, 2019 (Pages 5-15)
- (c) Reports from All Committees:
 - i) Special Education Advisory Committee – April 17, 2019 (Pages 16-19)
 - ii) Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) – April 24, 2019 (Pages 20-26)
 - iii) Audit Committee – May 6, 2019 (Pages 27-29)
 - iv) Budget Committee – April 17, 2019 and May 14, 2019 (Pages 30-46)

2. Routine Matters

- a) OPSBA Report – Trustee French
- b) Report from Student Trustees

3. Reports For Information

- a) Ministry of Education Update (Verbal) – Director Rantz

4. Reports Requiring Decision

- a) Election of Trustee representation on Audit Committee

- * The Audit Committee shall consist of three (3) Trustees and two (2) external members.
- * The term of office for a Trustee member of the Audit Committee shall be four (4) years.

5. Notice of Motion

None at this time.

Section B – Information

1. Internal Reports and Other Communications

2. External Reports and Other Communications (Pages 47-50)

- a) Letter to Minister Thompson from Hastings & Prince Edward DSB re: proposed changes to funding for students with Autism – April 1, 2019
- b) Letter to OPSBA from Waterloo Region DSB re: decision to repeal the provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act – March 11, 2019
- c) Letter to DSB Chairs from Waterloo DSB re: changes to Full-Day Kindergarten – April 29, 2019

3. Communications Referred to Committee

4. Requests for Reports and/or Information

5. Other Business

6. Future Meetings

Board Meetings

- June 19, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations)

- May 29, 2019 5:00 p.m.

Special Education Advisory Committee

- June 12, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Budget Committee

- June 12, 2019 4:30 p.m.
- June 17, 2019 4:30 p.m. (Tentative)

7. Other Special Meetings/Events

- LDSB Retirement Celebration June 11, 2019 7:00 pm Lancaster Drive P.S.
- OPSBA/CSBA AGMs and NTGIE July 4-6, 2019

8. Adjournment

Public Meeting

Trustees: J. Brown
G. Elliott
L. French (Vice Chair)
T. Gingrich
B. Godkin
R. Hutcheon
K. McGregor
J. Morning
S. Ruttan (Chair)
S. Hart (Student Trustee)
S. Kim (Student Trustee)

Officials: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education
J. Douglas, Communications Officer
S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools - regrets
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning For All
D. Rantz, Director of Education
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness and Assessment
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education - regrets
K. Smith, Communications Officer
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

Guests: E. Beaulieu, Elementary Program Consultant
A. Daoust, Teacher – Southview P.S.
B. Emmerton, Teacher – Sydenham P.S.

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Chair Ruttan read the Acknowledgement of Territory:

“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.”

Adoption of Agenda

Addition: Private Session (to occur following Public Session)

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor, seconded by Trustee Brown, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Elliott declared a conflict as his wife is an employee of the Board.

Trustee Godkin declared a conflict as his daughter is an occasional teacher with LDSB's co-terminous Boards.

Chair's Update

Chair Ruttan stated:

"Congratulations to the hundreds of students who participated in the recent LDSB Chess Tournaments, Skills Competition, Waterloo Mathematics Competition, Kid-preneur Fairs, and other individual school and sporting events. I had the honour, as Chair of the Board, to attend and present awards at the Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Science Fair last week. The annual event provides an opportunity for Grades 5 to 12 students to showcase their knowledge, talents and ingenuity in science, engineering and technology. The potential for new discoveries is real. Congratulations to the many award recipients. Their projects were truly amazing.

These types of learning opportunities, which enhance the standard curriculum, provide students with so many different and new experiences to achieve success. Thousands of volunteer hours are given so generously every school year to ensure students grow and learn in many ways.

During National Volunteer Week, I would like to extend sincere thanks, on behalf of all Trustees, to the hundreds of volunteers in Limestone schools. Thank you for your commitment to public education. Your gift of time and talent to support our students and staff is truly valued. Our schools are better places because of what you do.

The Community Planning and Partnership Meeting on March 25 was a very positive business meeting, bringing together staff and various community partner organizations. The annual meeting is an opportunity to share planning information, discuss facility-use partnerships, and explore community use of space in our schools. Trustee French brought greetings from the Board.

We are eagerly awaiting details on funding from the provincial government. The Grants for Students' Needs are expected to be released at the end of April.

With our annual operating and capital budget meetings starting next month there is still much we do not know about how the Government's proposed reductions and changes to education will specifically affect Limestone. Although, we do know, generally, that the school board will be facing an estimated \$2-million shortfall.

As stated in the Board's recent letter to Ontario's Education Minister Lisa Thompson, Limestone is deeply troubled by these proposed changes, and the profound impact these changes will have on our students and staff.

We hope that the provincial government hears our concerns, and continues to consult, and work collaboratively with the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, school board staff, and union and federation partners to ensure equitable and sustainable funding to support the achievement and well-being of all students.

Applications for the position of Student Trustee are now being accepted. I know I speak on behalf of all municipally-elected Trustees when I say how important it is to have student voice represented at this level, actively engaged in the district's governance activities, and providing insight to issues among the Board, school staff, and students. I hope many students consider the opportunity of joining us around the horseshoe.

And that concludes my report."

Director's Update

Director Rantz stated:

"Good evening Trustees, it is always an honour to report on how our schools continue to focus on the Board's strategic pillars of Wellness, Innovation and Collaboration.

It is fitting on this Day of Pink against homophobia and transphobia to share that Limestone will host a Gender & Sexual Diversity Student Conference on April 17 at Bayridge Secondary School. LGBTQ2S+ students and allies will attend workshops on self-advocacy and connect with youth organizations in the community. Sessions like these are critical to ensure Limestone provides an equitable and inclusive school climate where all students feel safe, accepted and welcome.

By promoting wellness, and supporting our students and families, we improve student achievement and well-being.

There will be another Cannabis information night, tomorrow, April 11, sponsored by the Frontenac Secondary School Council. The event is a vital collaboration between health partners, families and the school board. "Weeding Out the Truth" will include presentations, activities and exhibits to support families in their conversations with children and youth about cannabis and the associated mental health risks and learning challenges. The session is free and starts at 7 pm at Frontenac Secondary School.

Grade 10 students wrote the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test March 27. I would like to extend my appreciation to all of the educators who helped prepare our students, and acknowledge the hard work of both students and teachers towards the successful completion of this very important test, required for graduation.

Focused efforts by educators and engaging specialty programs ensure academic achievement and well-being for all students - whatever their strengths, interests and career goals. Some of these programs include events like the Limestone Skills Competition, hosted at St. Lawrence College and Bayridge and Napanee District secondary schools. This collaboration provided over 500 elementary and secondary students an opportunity to come together to test their knowledge. Congratulations to all students and educators who accepted the challenge, and all the best to 17 Limestone students who are moving on to the Ontario Skills Competition in May. Winners there move on to the national competition.

About half of our schools participated in Earth Hour March 29. This event is another way Limestone is turning innovation into action. Students can see how important energy conservation and stewardship is to our lives today, and for the future. Together, LDSB participating schools saved approximately 3,077 kilowatts, triple the amount calculated from last year. These types of savings could:

- power 236,681 CFLs (13watt) light bulbs for one hour;
- save the Greenhouse Gas equivalent of 135 liters of gas; or
- power a laptop for 68,375 hours

Significant.

And that concludes my report, Chair Ruttan.”

Trustee Elliott thanked Senior Staff for the work put into the recent letter to the Ministry of Education.

Presentation: French as a Second Language

Superintendent Babcock introduced Elisabeth Beaulieu, Elementary Program Consultant.

E. Beaulieu stated that the goals of the French as a Second Language (FSL) programming in Ontario are: to increase student confidence, proficiency and achievement in FSL, increase the percentage of students studying French until graduation, and increase student, educator, parent and community engagement in FSL.

The CEFR is the Common European Framework of Reference and it is the framework used to teach French as a second language in Ontario. It is embedded in the curriculum. The levels of proficiency are:

- A1: Basic (very basic phrases)
- A2: Basic (simple short exchanges of information)
- B1: Independent (describe experiences and give reasons)
- B2: Independent (complex technical discussions)

LDSB offers the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF), which is an internationally recognized evaluation of second language proficiency. It certifies a student's proficiency in French. This is a pilot project for interested Grade 12 students enrolled in an FSL course this year. There are 23 LDSB students participating next month.

A. Daoust and B. Emmerton, FSL teachers, shared how they are using action-oriented authentic tasks to engage students. They both shared videos of how this learning is represented in the classroom.

Trustee French asked how the DELF certificate works. It was clarified that it was offered to all secondary sites, and students could elect to participate.

Trustee Elliott asked how teachers keep families engaged in FSL learning outside of the classroom. Teachers use Minds Online and social media to help change the mindset of learning.

Trustee Ruttan thanked the presenters.

Section A – Matters Requiring Action at the Meeting

1. Consent Agenda

- (a) Expressions of Condolences and/or Congratulations

(b) Board Minutes – March 20, 2019

(c) Reports from All Committees:

i) Special Education Advisory Committee – March 27, 2019

ii) Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee – March 19, 2019

MOTION: That the Consent Agenda of April 10, 2019, as presented, be approved.

MOVED BY: Trustee Elliott, seconded by Trustee McGregor. Carried.

2. Routine Matters

(a) OPSBA Report – Trustee McGregor

Trustee McGregor stated:

“April 4-5, 2019 the Education Labour Relations Human Resources Symposium “Sharing Strategies for Success” was held at the Sheraton in Toronto. Trustees from LDSB who attended: McGregor, Morning, French, Hutcheon, Gingrich, Elliot, Brown and Godkin.

Opening remarks were made by the Minister of Labour, Laurie Scott, MPP.

We each selected various workshops to attend. Two workshops that I attended that were very interesting and thought provoking were Invisible Disabilities: Understanding the Challenges and Duties in the Employment Context and Medical and Recreational Cannabis in Schools: The Law and Best Practices.

Local and Central Bargaining were front and centre throughout the conference and Trustees learned more about the complexities of upcoming negotiations.

OPSBA Eastern Regional Meeting is this coming Saturday (April 13) at Gloucester High School in Ottawa from 10a.m.-2 p.m.”

(b) Report from Student Trustee(s)

Student Trustee Hart stated:

“On the evening of Thursday, March 21, the InterSchool Council held its Coffee House event in a fundraiser for the United Way of KFL&A, to which we raised roughly \$170. During the night, we had several amazing performers from across the Limestone District School Board. An amazing crowd came out to watch the show as well, including Trustee Elliott, our Madame Chair Trustee Ruttan, and Director Rantz. We also have our upcoming Lip-Sync Battle Royale Finals on April 25, where the location of the event has been changed to Bayridge Secondary School.

Trustee Kim, our future incoming Student Trustees, and I will also be attending another conference with OSTA-AECO from May 23 to May 26. This is to be able to prepare and mentor our incomings, as well as organize the future years of the organization. We will have amazing guest speakers as a well, including the Minister of Education herself, Lisa Thompson.”

Student Trustee Kim stated:

“The InterSchool Council met on Tuesday, April 9. At this meeting, we discussed the logistics about the Lip-Sync Battle Finals. We have an exciting panel of judges, including me and Student Trustee Hart, Mr. Stiff, who is an amazing teacher at Ernestown Secondary School, and also has performed on Broadway, and one of our very own Communications Officers, Jane Douglas. The night is set to have amazing performances from all the secondary schools of LDSB.

Some more exciting news is that applications to be the next Student Trustee of LDSB for the 2019-2020 school year have been released and are posted on the LDSB website. Anyone who is a full-time student of LDSB, who is at least in Grade 10 and has maintained a minimum of a 70-per-cent average overall can apply. The election will be held at the next Interschool Council meeting, which is set to be on May 7.

These are all the updates from the Student Trustees.”

2. Reports for Information

a) Kingston Secondary School Update

Superintendent Burra shared the timeline for construction and integration:

- Fall 2017 Construction on the school begins and Acquisition of the Library building/site
- Fall 2017 Groundbreaking Ceremony at the site
- Winter 2018 Naming of the New School: Kingston Secondary School
- Spring 2018 New Principal Announcement
- Dec. 2018 Communication that KSS would not open at the start of the 2019-2020 school year
- March 2019 Black Bear Mascot, “Bears,” Nickname confirmed by the Integration Committee
- 2019-2020 Anticipated completion of construction in winter of 2019-2020

Students for Kingston Secondary School are already integrated in KCVI. For the past three years, successive incoming grade 9 classes have been integrated. At the start of the 2019-2020 school year, all grades will be comprised of students from the catchment area for Kingston Secondary School.

Regular community updates occur on the LDSB website, under New Schools, and KSS Snapshot Newsletter. This information is also accessible on the KCVI website.

As of April 1, 2019, construction at Kingston Secondary School is sixty-five per cent complete. As indicated above, construction is now scheduled to be completed in the winter of 2019-2020.

A parent/student information evening was held on Wednesday, April 3. The meeting was well attended, with approximately 80 parents, community members and students. Superintendent Burra and Facilities Manager Fowler answered questions about foot and bike paths to the school, floor plans and changes to the designs, traffic flow, school start time, whether the school will have a stage, environmental enhancements, and when students will move to the new school.

The proposed cosmetology space will be operated as a flex space at this time. If it is designed and equipped as a fully functioning cosmetology lab it would not be usable for other programming. LCVI has a fully functioning cosmetology classroom that could also be accessed by students from KSS as needed.

Trustee Morning spoke to a call from a community member regarding KCVI artifacts. Superintendent Burra will connect with the individual.

Trustee French asked what the process is for the disposition of assets/artwork from KCVI. Superintendent Burra answered that the disposition of these pieces is quite complex. Staff are exploring all options, including appraisals, auctions, and to loan/sell to museums. Monies could be used to cover items that are not included in the new school build funding envelope, such as furniture, equipment, uniforms, etc. The Ministry does have a fundraising guideline, which clearly dictates how monies raised can be spent.

Trustee French asked for clarity on the use of the cosmetology space at KSS, specifically if money for the design of the space would be used in another area of the school. Superintendent Burra answered that the use of the cosmetology space could change in the future. Boards do not receive monies for equipment purchases for new schools, so LDSB is not holding funds for the equipment for this space. The Board would be required to make a new investment in equipment purchases, and this would come from a different pocket of funding. It was clarified that the infrastructure for a cosmetology learning space is present in the new school, but that the Board would not be purchasing specific cosmetology equipment at this time. This will allow those monies to be available to purchase furniture and equipment for other areas of the school.

Trustee Gingrich thanked Superintendent Burra and Manager Fowler for their presentation. He inquired if the Molly Brant E.S. yard is going to be any bigger after the construction of KSS is completed. It was confirmed that there will be some changes in yard space and additional parking for Molly Brant E.S.

b) Ministry of Education Update

Superintendent Labrie shared that Senior Staff have been reviewing the information related to the class size move from 22:1 to 28:1 for secondary schools. Memo SB02 references 3,475 teacher jobs to be lost provincially in 4 years. In LDSB that would be about 77 secondary positions lost over the next 4 years. The average number of retirements per year is approximately 20, enabling the loss of positions required in 4 years. The attrition protection is still being analyzed.

The Extension Funding (Local Priorities) added about 30 FTE positions Board-wide two years ago with a two-year commitment. This funding will be coming to an end and will affect the following:

- Elementary teachers – 6.0
- Secondary teachers – 3.83
- EAs/CDAs – 12
- Student support – 1
- Secretarial multiple small pieces – 3

- Maintenance and Caretaking – 4
- Total of 29.83 positions

Additionally, the Board has experienced a slight decline of 100 students overall, which would be a loss of approximately 6 teachers (secondary and elementary), regardless of changes imposed by the government. Budget planning is very much dependent on enrolment and there will be more detail through the budget process.

The Board also has Collective Agreements that need to be respected, and no doubt there will be difficulty in reconciling these with the Ministry direction.

Further information about potential budget reductions will be coming in the next few weeks.

Director Rantz stated that Ministry has stated that these are proposed changes, with opportunities for consultation. Senior staff is looking to articulate what the reductions would look like operationally at LDSB.

Trustee French asked in the instance of the contract extension funding ending, how will the loss of the 30 positions play out against normal retirement numbers. Superintendent Labrie answered that there should be enough attrition within the various groups that the Board could absorb the loss of those positions. It is the unknown additional cuts, in addition to the loss of these positions, that are of serious concern.

3. Reports Requiring Decision

a) Election of OPSBA Representative

Trustee Ruttan called for nominations.

Trustee Brown nominated Trustee French, seconded by Trustee McGregor.

Trustee French accepted the nomination.

Trustee Ruttan called for nomination two more times. Seeing none, the nominations were closed.

Trustee French was acclaimed as the LDSB OPSBA representative.

Trustee French Nominated Trustee McGregor as the alternate, seconded by Trustee Gingrich.

Trustee McGregor accepted the nomination.

Trustee Morning nominated Trustee Hutcheon for alternate, seconded by Trustee Godkin.

Trustee Hutcheon accepted.

Trustee Ruttan called for nominations two more times. Seeing none, the nominations were closed.

Trustees voted for the alternate position. Superintendents Labrie and Young counted the ballots.

Trustee McGregor was voted in as the alternate.

MOTION: That the ballots be destroyed.

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin, seconded by Trustee Gingrich. Carried.

Director Rantz withdrew from the meeting at 6:50 pm

4. Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion as given at the March 20, 2019 Board meeting:

MOTION: That the Director, or designate, compiles a comprehensive review of Choices at Seven and Choices at Nine for the April 10th Board meeting, including the rationales for limiting admission and location of programs, the number of applicants vs. the number accepted, the criteria used to determine acceptance to these programs, and the educational implications of these factors.

Trustee Morning stated that she was withdrawing the motion and moving it to a request for a report.

Section B - Information

1. Internal Reports and Other Communications

None at this time.

2. External Reports and Other Communications

a) Letter to Minister Thompson from Rainbow DSB re: consideration of one public school board – March 12, 2019

b) Letter to Minister Thompson from Hamilton-Wentworth DSB re: changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program

Trustee Godkin stated that letter “b” raised a lot of good points, and suggested a report on the matter.

Trustee Morning stated that she feels that charter schools may be coming back. She suggested a report on a realistic way to save money.

Trustee Elliott asked what the opinion is locally on the matter of one public school board. Trustee Ruttan answered that the topic is on the agenda for the upcoming Eastern Region OPSBA meeting.

3. Communications Referred to Committee

None at this time.

4. Requests for Reports and/or Information

Trustee Ruttan reminded Trustees that Policy 9 – Section 3.4.17 explains the process for requests for reports, noting that they are to be made in writing. They are then given to the Director for the Director’s discretion on how to proceed with the request.

Trustee Ruttan stated that there had been a request for a Choices at Seven report by Trustee Morning.

Trustee McGregor stated that she does not like make-work projects. She suggested that any topic that is being requested as a report, would actually be more beneficial for Trustees to have come to the Board as a presentation. She stated she feels it is a better use of Trustee and staff time, instead of asking Senior Staff to write reports.

Trustee Ruttan asked for a show of hands to support a request for a Choices at Seven report. The request failed.

Trustee French suggested not jumping to utilizing significant amounts of Senior Staff’s time to prepare these reports whenever an issue or question arises. It could come to the Board as a verbal update or presentation, or Trustees could have an offline conversation with a member of Senior Staff.

Trustee Godkin stated that he supports Trustee McGregor’s suggestion of presentations for these types of matters.

Trustee Ruttan reminded Trustees that they can always send requests for information to agenda setting or contact the Director when requiring information.

Trustee Godkin stated that he would be fine with a discussion of the changes to OSAP, rather than a report.

Trustee Elliott stated he is happy to wait until the OPSBA Eastern Region meeting for a discussion on the possibility of one public school board, rather than requesting a report.

Trustee Morning stated she is interested in a report on numbers of Autistic students in the Board. Trustee Ruttan asked that she send her request in writing to the agenda setting committee.

5. Other Business

None at this time.

6. Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Limestone District School Board of Trustees will take place on May 22, 2019 at 6 p.m.

7. Other Special Meetings/Events

See agenda listing.

8. Private Session

MOTION: That the meeting move into Private Session.

MOVED BY: Trustee Morning, seconded by Trustee McGregor. Carried.

Superintendent Young shared information on a property matter.

MOTION: That Trustees adopt a resolution stating that real property at Fairfield Elementary School (as attached) is not required for the purposes of the Board. In addition, to authorize the Superintendent of Business to undertake the notification process for this property and the negotiation of the sale of this property as guided by ON Reg 444/98.

MOVED BY: Trustee French, seconded by Trustee Hutcheon. Carried.

Personnel Item

A personnel matter was discussed.

9. Report to Public Session

Chair Ruttan called for a motion for the Board to rise and report.

MOTION: That the Board rise and report, and that the resolutions, as noted above, be made public.

MOVED BY: Trustee Hutcheon, seconded by Trustee Brown. Carried.

The Board moved into Public Session at 7:40 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Chair Ruttan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Trustee Gingrich, seconded by Trustee Brown, that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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

April 17, 2019

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held in Barry C. O'Connor Board Room at the Limestone Education Centre, 220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, Ontario, on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Members: S. Henderson-Todd, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children
A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University)
N. Nicholson, Autism Ontario-Kingston Chapter
L. Sansom, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
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
K. Leggett, Vice-Principal of Educational Services
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning for All
J. Murphy, Special Education Program Coordinator
L. Rousseau, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator
D. Scarlett, Principal of Educational Services

Regrets: N. Carson, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario
P. Dendy, Member-at-Large
D. Jalovic, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston
E. Sheldon, Community Living Kingston
L. Conboy, Mental Health Lead

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: Trustee Godkin, 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

As not all members of the committee were present it was decided that Trustee McGregor would send an email out for feedback on start times for the 2019-2020 school year.

5. Presentation: Autism Ontario – Natalie Nicholson

N. Nicholson stated that the Chapter's mission is to ensure that each individual with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society.

The Chapter has recently moved into its new location at 82 Sydenham St (The Spire), and that the office is staffed Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 2:00.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a life-long neurological disorder that affects the way a person communicates and relates to the people and world around them.

The Kingston Chapter offers a variety of programs including Family Support meetings, drop-in programs, and social outings, as well a number of special events throughout the year. This year the Chapter started a young adult (18+) social group.

On May 22 Autism Kingston will be hosting a workshop on Diverse Voices in ASD Practices. Further information can be found on the website.

The Chapter is run by a volunteer board of three people. It was confirmed that the Chapter does not receive any government funding. It runs through fund raising only.

6. Educational Services Update – D. Scarlett

D. Scarlett stated that LDSB is developing universal resources for transition planning, which will be available for all School to Community teachers, students, family members and community partners through My Blueprint.

Educational Services staff are working with a committee of teachers and a community partner to determine the current LDSB transition planning resources that will be included in My Blueprint, community resources that would be beneficial to include in My Blueprint, and any additional transition planning resources that may be beneficial to include in My Blueprint.

Work on this project will continue over the next few months and into the 2019-20 school year.

The tool can be used as a portfolio, to develop a resume, or explore volunteer opportunities, post-secondary options, career exploration etc. Educational Services looks forward to updating SEAC in June with our committee's progress.

7. Correspondence

None at this time.

8. Association Updates

As circulated with the meeting package.

9. Other Business

i) Ministry Updates – Associate Superintendent Alison McDonnell

Associate Superintendent McDonnell stated that there had been no new special education updates to share. The GSN announcements are later this year and will be shared with SEAC at the May meeting.

ii) SEAC Goal Setting

J. Murphy reviewed the process that was used by SEAC in the 2013-2014 school year to define a shared SEAC vision. At that time SEAC decided to focus on advocacy, community engagement and partnerships, and students and student achievement. Within each area of focus the group decided on a smart goal and action plan.

Associate Superintendent McDonnell noted that since this time there has been a full special education review at the Board and the development of a special education monitoring plan, as well as the development of the Board's new Strategic Plan.

C. Tooley asked if SEAC was involved in the consultation related to the special education monitoring plan and LDSB Strategic Plan development. Associate Superintendent McDonnell answered that SAEC was consulted in the development process for both.

A. Martin suggested that it would be beneficial to compare the special education monitoring plan and LDSB Strategic Plan against the document that SEAC developed in 2013-14.

Members were in agreement that this work should begin in September 2019.

iii) Resignation of member-at-Large

S. Shunk has regrettably resigned, effective immediately. The Board will proceed with filling this position as soon as possible.

iv) Service Animals in Schools – Public Consultation

The Ministry of Education is now beginning a public consultation on a draft Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) School Board Policies on Service Animals. You may access the draft PPM and survey and provide online feedback by accessing the following link: www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-service-animals-schools. This consultation will be open until May 4, 2019.

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

April 17, 2019

10. Next Meeting Date

Tri Board SEAC-May 15, 2019 at 5 pm at Algonquin & Lakeshore CDSB.

11. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) April 24, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

Trustees: J. Brown
G. Elliott
L. French (Vice-Chair)
T. Gingrich
B. Godkin
R. Hutcheon
K. McGregor
J. Morning
S. Ruttan (Chair)
S. Hart (Student Trustee) - regrets
S. Kim (Student Trustee)

Officials: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education
M. Baumann, Manager of Financial Services
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education - regrets
S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning For All
D. Rantz, Director of Education
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness & Assessment
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Public Session

Acknowledgement of Territory:

"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."

Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Elliott declared a conflict as his wife is a teacher with the LDSB.

Trustee Godkin declared a conflict as his daughter is an occasional teacher with LDSB's co-terminous Boards.

Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) April 24, 2019
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Section A – Matters Requiring Action at the Meeting

1. Reports for Information

a) Supports for Students with Autism

Associate Superintendent McDonnell provided an update on the After-School ABA Program (Autism Skills Groups).

In October 2016, the Ministry of Education invited school boards to submit applications to support After School Skills Development (ASSD) programs that would enhance skills in students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to reach their full potential. These programs supported the transition to the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP) led by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS). This program funding seeks to fill a service delivery gap within communities and improve positive outcomes and measurable achievements of students with ASD in their social, communication, self-regulation, and life-planning skills in order to support academic achievement.

The Limestone District School Board (LDSB) in collaboration with Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board (ALCDSB) and Maltby Centre were one of twenty-two school boards who were successful in the application for ASSD funding. This program funding was extended to LDSB for the 2018-2019 school year in the amount of \$176,025.00.

The After-School ABA Program offers free Autism skills groups to children/youth between the ages of 3 to 21 who are diagnosed with ASD and attend the LDSB or the ALCDSB. The groups focus on teaching a variety of skills including social, communication, behaviour/emotional regulation, social/interpersonal, school/group readiness and activities of daily living. The curriculum is a research-based social skills training program.

Staffing for this program consists of:

- One full-time coordinator;
- Seven group facilitators responsible for the delivery and planning of the programming and;
- One consultant from Maltby Centre (the regional Autism service provider) assigned to the program for nine hours and responsible for consultation on new curriculum development, development of parent training resource and consultation on group programming as necessary

A narrative report must be submitted to the Ministry of Education by June 30, 2019 including:

- its focus, target groups, number of students served, delivery modality, length of students' stay in the program (in days or months);
- evidence of the extent to which the program and individual students' goals were achieved;
- analysis of measurable achievements of students who completed the program;
- analysis of the feedback from students, staff, and families about the program relevance and effectiveness, including their levels of satisfaction and;
- key lessons learned, effective practices, and suggestions for further enhancements to supports and services provided to students with ASD in school settings.

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The Board is pleased about the success of this partnership pilot and that it serves as a model for the province. The Ministry of Education has now indicated that all 72 school boards will be provided with funding for the 2019-2020 school year.

Trustee Morning asked if LDSB staff examined why 12% of participants showed no change or remained stable. Associate Superintendent McDonnell replied that it was reviewed, and that staff follow up and make recommendations for specific students to see more growth moving forward. This could include more time in the program, more practice at home, or new school supports, etc.

Trustee Morning asked if LDSB is receiving the same amount as last year. It was clarified that this have not yet been announced, only that all 72 boards are eligible.

Trustee Morning stated that Maltby is now fee-for-service, and asked if this will affect the program. Associate Superintendent McDonnell replied that it would not affect the ABA program, as it runs outside of Maltby's regular programming.

Trustee Ruttan asked for clarification of what the ABA therapy is, and the concerns she's heard expressed by parents regarding the funding cuts and change to service provision. Associate Superintendent McDonnell replied that ABA is the therapy skill set utilized in schools, and also in organizations like Maltby. Parents are expressing concerns that the that cuts to ABA time in schools reduces the effectiveness of the therapy for the students.

Associate Superintendent McDonnell explained that the OAP (Ontario Autism Program) funding changed in 2016. Before the change parents could take services offered through organizations funded by the government or they could take money to purchase their own services. Now the only option will be to purchase services. The ABA After-School program does not replace the services to be purchased through OAP funding.

Trustee Godkin stated that the government had announced there would be funding for training related to Autism support, and asked if there had been more information released about this. Associate Superintendent McDonnell stated that LDSB has not received notice of any extra funding in this area, but expects that more information will be available when the budget is announced.

Trustee Godkin stated that due to changes in OAP funding new students have come to the Board. He asked how Educational Services staff are coping with this. Associate Superintendent McDonnell replied that LDSB has only one new student due to this change. The government has announced a six-month transition period for funding for Autism supports.

b) Alternative Learning and Continuing Education

Superintendent Silver and Associate Superintendent Sartor provided an update on the changes to LDSB's Alternative and Continuing Education Program Changes, Summer Session and Summer Learning Program for July/August 2019.

The Limestone District School Board has 7 Alternative Education Sites, and 1 Continuing Education Centre throughout the District. Current enrolment in Alternative Sites is 344 Full-Time Equivalent Students, under age 21, and 167 Full-Time Equivalent Adults, over age 21. Most of the Alternative and Continuing Education sites are housed in locations owned by Limestone District School Board.

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Summer Session has been offered through the Limestone District School Board for many years. Initially it ran in partnership with Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, but in 2011, ALCDSB stepped away from the partnership, and LDSB continued to run summer school independently. Summer Session offers students with the opportunity to reach ahead to take a new credit, or to improve a credit. Summer Session has offered students the option of taking courses face-to-face, through hybrid and e-learning, and through co-operative education.

Summer Literacy Camps have been offered through the LDSB for the past nine years. The In-School Team (Educator, Administrator(s), School Support Teacher) identifies students working at least a grade below their current grade level, in literacy. Grade 1-8 students attend the camp. Classrooms consist of one instructor and one tutor for 15 students. Literacy camps have historically run for 2 sessions (3 weeks per session), at 3 sites per session

As leases expire, we review each program location. The lease for the Revive program site in Napanee has expired, and renovations are planned for the Gateway site in Napanee, which is owned by LDSB. Once those renovations are complete, Revive will move into the Gateway location, and will begin the 2019-2020 school year in its new location. The Revive location is leased by the Board, so this will result in annual savings of approximately \$20,000.

Traditionally, students who failed a course were able to attend summer school for half days in order to upgrade their previously failed credit. A few years ago, the Ministry of Education policy changed, which resulted in students having to attend summer session for a full day, regardless of whether it was an upgrade, or a reach-ahead credit. This has resulted in a large shift in the demographic of students attending summer session. The primary purpose of Summer Session is now a reach-ahead opportunity for students, which is the trend seen both in Eastern Ontario, and provincially. School boards in Eastern Ontario have also changed their model for summer school, moving to an e-learning model which provides more choice for students to obtain the credit they are seeking.

To date, Ontario school boards have not yet received information on any Ministry funding for the summer learning programs. LDSB has provided funding to offer a summer learning program on a smaller scale. The team will offer one session at three different sites (Centennial PS, Molly Brant PS and Southview PS) from August 6-23, 2019.

Summer Session options for students reaching ahead in credits will continued to be offered through LDSB, and will include e-learning courses, and co-operative education. Students who fail a credit and/or are eligible for credit recovery are not currently choosing summer session as an option, so it is imperative that we provide these opportunities at the school level. Schools, through the Student Success Teams, will focus their efforts at the school level on credit rescue initiatives and credit recovery options for students, to ensure they have opportunities to be successful.

Should Ministry funding become available, the team is ready to expand the summer learning program.

Trustee McGregor asked what percentage of other boards have students register with LDSB for Summer session. Superintendent Silver answered that she does not have the exact numbers, but noted that it is a low percentage of the total enrolment. She also noted that the

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board does not make money on running a Summer Session because transportation, and principal and team members' salaries are not funded. The only monies received is for the per pupil enrolment. Running more e-learning courses will cut down on the cost of running Summer Session.

Student Trustee Kim asked for confirmation that there will no longer be in-class Summer Session. Superintendent Silver confirmed that LDSB is moving to an e-learning delivery for Summer Session. Teachers will have the expectation to have conference calls and interactive planning in Summer Session to provide the support that students will need to be successful.

Trustee Hutcheon asked if there are supports in place for students who do not have access to wi-fi or laptops. Superintendent Silver answered that most student in these situations would use a library for a wi-fi connection and schools can sign out Chromebooks for student use.

Trustee McGregor asked if the Board expects an increase in participation by rural students. Superintendent Silver answered that rural students have been accessing Summer Session through e-learning courses for many years, and does not expect a large increase.

Trustee Morning asked how students who fail a course are supported. Superintendent Silver answered that credit recovery happens in schools in many different ways, and is a decision made by the student success team in individual cases. Credit accumulation overall in LDSB is high.

Trustee Ruttan asked if there is an appetite for 12-month school year. Superintendent Silver answered that she does not think this is the case. Most students are reaching ahead in summer so they can take more interest courses during regular school year.

Trustee Godkin asked how the e-learning courses affect students that need the face-to-face environment. Superintendent Silver answered that the Board has not seen a negative effect for any students.

Trustee Brown asked what would be the lowest amount of time to recover a credit. Superintendent Silver answered that it could be as simple as writing missing summatives to acquire the credit.

Trustee Elliott asked if LDSB thinks the government will mandate a new platform for e-learning. Director Rantz answered that there has been no substantial information at this point, but that school boards will provide input on the matter.

Trustee Ruttan stated that it is a shame that Baords have not heard about the funding for the Summer Learning Program, as it really helps students. She asked if staff can move quickly if an announcement comes late. Associate Superintendent Sartor answered that the Board has a great staff from last year who are ready to step in at short notice.

Trustee Godkin stated he would love to see the Summer Learning program expanded to North Frontenac. Associate Superintendent Sartor replied that a staff member in the area has a proposal ready to go if funding comes in.

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c) Interim Financial Q2 Report

Manager Baumann provided an update on the Interim Financial Operating expenditures for the period September 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019 (Quarter 2).

As at Quarter 2, \$125,686,788 of the \$252,605,592 operating budget or 50% has been spent. The expenditures are based upon items paid within the stated period. Certain expenditures may be non-cyclical in nature, which may lead to higher or lower expenditures within a given period. An example would be continuing education in which 35% of the operating budget was spent in Quarter 2. (See Appendix 1 for more information.)

The 2018-2019 Interim Financial Report for Quarter 2 indicating a spending level of 50% aligns with the 50% spending level reported for the same period last year.

The Board is on target to end the 2018-2019 fiscal year in a balanced-budget position.

Trustee McGregor asked why the staff development amount was so much less than the previous year at the same time. Manager Baumann answered that it was simply a matter of the timing of PD sessions compared to last year.

Trustee Morning asked if the partnership with the City of Kingston is included in the transportation amount. It was confirmed that it is.

Trustee Morning asked what Other Expenses includes. Manager Baumann replied that secondments are reflected there.

Trustee Morning asked if Educational Assistant hours are bound by CUPE agreements. Director Rantz answered that Collective Agreements dictate how many hours make up a FTE position, but employees can work part-time hours.

Trustee Morning asked if all schools start at same time. Director Rantz answered that the Board has some late start schools.

Trustee Morning stated that Upper Canada DSB has all schools at same start time for cost savings. Director Rantz answered that this would not work in LDSB as busing is shared between three school boards and covers a large geographical area.

Trustee Godkin asked if all LDSB salaries are at a living wage. It was confirmed that they are.

2. Reports Requiring Decision

None at time.

Section B- Information Items

1. Internal Reports and Other Communication

None at this time.

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2. External Reports and Other Information

None at this time.

Next Meeting Date

The next Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) meeting is May 29, 2019.

Adjournment

Chair French called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Audit Committee Limestone District School Board

May 6, 2019

A meeting of the Audit Committee was held in the Barry C. O'Connor Board Room at the Limestone Education Centre, 220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, ON on Monday, May 6, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.

Present:

Trustee L. French - regrets
Members: S. Ruttan

Community A. Young
Members: F. Tan

Officials: M. Baumann, Manager, Financial Services
D. Rantz, Director of Education
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services & Treasurer

Others: L. Huber, KPMG
H. Kobusinge, KPMG
P. L'Orfano, RIAT Ontario East
G. Segu, RIAT Ontario East

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Trustee Ruttan called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Acknowledgement of Territory:

"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."

Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: A. Young, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No committee members declared a conflict of interest.

Action Items:

1. Verbal Internal Audit Update

G. Segu introduced herself as the new Audit Manager for Ontario East, and explained that P. L'Orfano would be the main person responsible for the field work for audits in LDSB.

2. 2018-2019 Draft Audit Plan

L. Huber, Manager of KPMG, attended the meeting to provide an overview of the 2018-2019 Draft Audit plan: She noted the following highlights:

- Executive summary – this area of the plan outlines the Audit and Business risks, Audit Materiality and Independence and Quality Control
- Audit plan considerations – KPMG staff have met with the Board to review the organization, regulatory environment, Canadian Accounting Standards and Canadian Audit Standards as they pertain to the Board’s Audit. It was noted that the Auditing Reporting standards are effective this year.
- Management override and controls – the possible fraud risks
- Payroll Expenses – this is the largest part of board’s budget. KPMG works with Board staff over the summer months to review control processes
- Materiality – For the Board materiality is \$7,500,000 or 2.8% of materiality benchmark
- KPMG is developing new technologies and alliances to enhance the Audit process with a KPMG Clara Collaboration, Visualization Tool and Journey Entry Analysis
- The Auditing cycle - key deliverable and milestones
- New Audit Report format - re-ordering of the auditors’ report, including moving opinion to the first section, expanded descriptions of management’s responsibilities, those charged with governance and auditors’ responsibilities, and disclosure of name of the engagement partner
- Asset Retirement Obligations - in August 2018, PSAB issued the new standard, Section PS 3280

MOVED BY: A. Young, that Draft Audit Plan be received. Carried.

Motion to Private Session

MOVED BY: F. Tan, that the meeting move into Private Session.

Private Session

3. Multi-Year Audit Plan

G. Segu provided an overview of the Multi-Year Audit Plan.

MOVED BY: A. Young, that the Multi-Year Audit Plan report be received. Carried.

4. Internal Audit Activities Update

G. Segu provided an Internal Audit Activities update.

MOVED BY: A. Young , that the Internal Audit Activities Update report be received.

Carried.

Committee to Rise and Report

MOVED BY: A. Young, the committee Rise and Report to Public Session. Carried.

Other Business

None at this time.

Next Meeting Date

September 9, 2019.

Adjournment

MOVED BY: F. Tan, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

**Committee of the Whole Board (Budget)
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board**

April 17, 2019

Trustees: J. Brown - regrets
G. Elliott
L. French (Vice Chair)
T. Gingrich
B. Godkin
R. Hutcheon
K. McGregor
J. Morning
S. Ruttan (Chair)
S. Hart (Student Trustee)
S. Kim (Student Trustee)

Staff: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education
M. Baumann, Manager of Business Services
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education, Program and IT - regrets
C. Downie, Planning Officer
D. Fowler, Manager of Facility Services
S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools - regrets
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Special Education
D. Rantz, Director of Education
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness and Assessment
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education - regrets
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Trustee French, as Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and welcomed all those present.

She read the Acknowledgement of Territory:

"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."

Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin, that the agenda of April 17, 2019, as presented, be approved. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Elliott declared a conflict as his wife is an employee of the Board.

Trustee Godkin declared a conflict as his daughter is an occasional teacher with LDSB's co-terminous Boards.

Information Items

1. Budget Development Schedule

Superintendent Young provided an update on the budget development cycle, noting that due to the late Ministry announcements the GSN report has been moved to the May 14, 2019 meeting.

Multi-year enrolment projections prepared last year by the Board's consultant (Baragar Systems) continue to predict a further enrolment decline for 2019-2020. It is the Board's practice to have our consultant review current enrolment and demographic data each year and update enrolment projections by February, such that school principals and Board staff can review in early March and begin the school staffing process for the upcoming school year.

The budget development schedule has been established to ensure that the Board will be able to submit the 2019-2020 Estimates to the Ministry by the end of June 2019.

Director Rantz advised Trustees that budget request submissions from the public would be taken through the local Trustee. An advertisement for this process is being developed, and will be shared with Trustees to use through their social media.

Trustee French noted that the Board has indicated its concern regarding the late GSN announcement to the Ministry. It is a significant body of work to unpack the details of the GSNs, for staff to then present the information to Trustees.

Trustee Godkin asked if the Board has guiding principals to share with Trustees, that they in turn could share with their constituents. Trustee French suggested that the guiding principals are embedded in the new strategic plan. Director Rantz stated that the presentation from the Superintendent of Business Services should answer many of the questions that Trustees have regarding the budget process.

2. 2019-2020 Budget Process Presentation

Superintendent Young provided a presentation on the budget development process for school boards, noting that works begins on the preparation in January and culminates in the approval of the final budget in June.

Enrolment projections are a large part of the budget development process. At the elementary level staff review rollover (grade-by-grade, school by school), historical estimates of JK, the consultant review, principal review and local knowledge. At the

secondary level staff review student course registration data, historical estimates, the consultant review and principal review.

Class sizes are then created based on class size regulations and collective agreements, Ministry direction/funding, draft class organizations and the joint Staffing Committee.

Teaching staff costs are the largest part of a school board's budget. Collective agreements define salaries and increases, and estimates used in drafting the budget are based on average costs and the Q & E grid. An estimate of retirements and new teachers will also have an impact on average costs.

The Grants for Student Needs (GSN) is the largest envelope of funding that the school Board receives. Once it is received the Board will estimate expenses for all other costs outside of teaching staff, including custodial/maintenance/utilities, special education/curriculum/ITS, central administration/management, departments, schools and transportation. Finance staff would then review the technical paper for details.

The second biggest envelope of funding is the Education Program other (EPO) grants, followed by tuition fees and other revenues.

Next the Board will review all requests to align to board priorities (technology, special education, curriculum initiatives, school requests, succession planning, process improvement, professional development) and identify the funds available. The budget is also aligned to the Strategic Plan.

Communication about the budget comes to Trustees (Budget Committee), departments/schools, school administrators and employee groups through April to June.

A balanced budget will come to the Board in June for approval, and must be submitted to the Ministry by June 28, 2019.

Trustee Elliott asked if the Board would ever send money back to the Ministry. Superintendent Young replied that there are times that money is sent because it cannot be spent within the prescribed timeframes.

Trustee Elliott asked if there is a cap for the amount spent on Trustee professional development. Superintendent Young answered that the Ministry has an allocation for the training piece. Specific numbers can be provided if required.

Trustee Godkin stated that the with the government formulas, contracts etc, there seems to be little input from the Board of Trustees. Superintendent Young replied that the process is very prescriptive. There are all types of fixed cost, and it can be very difficult to find room within the budget.

Trustee Ruttan reminded Trustees that their role in the budget development is as governors, to ensure that staff are completing the budget process properly with the monies the Board was given. They do not get involved in the details, but provide oversight.

Trustee Hutcheon asked about the process order related to enrolment projections. Superintendent Young answered that Boards input their projected enrolment for the next school year and that will drive the revenue for the budget. Boards then put in actuals in the fall, which will create revised estimates. It is critical to have projections as accurate as possible.

Trustee Gingrich asked if there is any compensation for the new carbon tax. Superintendent Young answered that the Board has not received notification for any additional funding for this area.

Trustee Godkin asked if the cuts will be blocked in for areas that there shouldn't be cuts in, such as special education. Superintendent Young answered that departments will have to review their areas to look for flexibility and make decisions on changes then.

Director Rantz reminded Trustees that LDSB faced large cuts to the special education program a few years back, and through a comprehensive special education review were able to find innovative ways to manage this. Financial cuts can be an opportunity to find efficiencies and new ways of doing things.

Trustee Morning stated that the Board should look for possible federal funding. Superintendent Young answered that LDSB as an organization does go after grant monies and rebates on a routine basis.

Trustee Elliott asked if there is any competition between Tri-Board Student Transportation and the City of Kingston because of the new transit partnership. Director Rantz answered that the two work in conjunction with each other, not as a competition.

3. 2019-2020 Projected Enrolment and 10-Year Enrolment Trend

Planning Officer Downie spoke to the 2019-2020 projected enrolment and 10-year enrolment trend data as part of the 2019-2020 budget development process. This information is provided to the Board by Baragar, through a suite of products that includes mapping, demographics and other data. The numbers are derived through the review of various data sources, such as trends, birth rates, historical, student retention, housing, census, etc.

LDSB has experienced significant enrolment declines since the Board amalgamation in 1998, in keeping with the trending experienced across much of the province. Enrolment in 2014-2015 was 19,637 and is projected to be 19,145 in 2019/20, a decline of 492 students or about 2.5% as measured on an Average Daily Enrolment basis.

Over the next 5 years the current enrolment level of 19,254 (ADE) is forecasted to decline by about 219 (ADE) to 19,035 (ADE).

In response to a question about enrolment trends with other schools boards it was clarified that LDSB would have access to the numbers of students in the area that are not attending our schools on a yearly basis.

Enrolment projections are about 99% accurate.

**Committee of the Whole Board (Budget)
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April 17, 2019

Trustee Morning asked how much Baragar's services cost and if it is worth paying for the service every year. It costs approximately \$39,000 per year, and provides accurate and timely data refreshed to what is currently happening in the area each year.

The data provided by Baragar can be used in other ways, including reviewing boundaries, demographic background, etc. The Board would lose the same monies paid to Baragar, or more, if off in planning each year.

All boards in the country use a similar service for their planning needs.

Other Business

None at this time.

Next Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, May 14, 2019	4:30 p.m. (Grants for Student Needs)
Wednesday, June 12, 2019	4:30 p.m. (Budget Deliberations)
Monday, June 17, 2019	4:30 p.m. (Tentative)

Adjournment

Trustee French called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Trustee Hutcheon, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

**Committee of the Whole Board (Budget)
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board**

May 14, 2019

Trustees: J. Brown - absent
G. Elliott
L. French (Vice Chair) – via videoconference
T. Gingrich
B. Godkin
R. Hutcheon
K. McGregor
J. Morning
S. Ruttan (Chair)
S. Hart (Student Trustee) - regrets
S. Kim (Student Trustee)

Staff: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education
M. Baumann, Manager of Business Services
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education, Program and IT
J. Douglas, Communications Officer
S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Special Education
D. Rantz, Director of Education – regrets
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness and Assessment
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education - regrets
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Trustee Ruttan called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed all those present.

She read the Acknowledgement of Territory:

“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.”

Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin, that the agenda of May 14, 2019, as presented, be approved. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Elliott declared a conflict as his wife is an employee of the Board.

Trustee Godkin declared a conflict as his daughter is an occasional teacher with LDSB's co-terminous Boards.

Information Items

1. 2019-2020 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Overview Presentation

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.

Trustee Godkin stated that by 2021 all organizations will be required to show a liability regarding liquidating properties with asbestos, etc. He asked if that will affect school boards. Superintendent Young stated that school boards will have to follow this change and list all environmental costs associated with any owned property as a liability in their accounting. There are asbestos reports for all buildings in the board currently, but to get estimates for all remediation costs is a large undertaking.

Trustee Morning asked if the Board is mandated to increase secondary class sizes to 28. Superintendent Labrie stated that the 28:1 ratio is simply a number that has been announced. LDSB will not be staffing for this number for the next school year. The announcement of this number is to inform the province that Boards are expected to move toward this number, but there are a number of factors involved in reaching that goal, including changes to collective agreements. It will be difficult to meet this number with the reduced funding being provided.

Trustee Garrett asked if the GSN information will be shared on the website. It was confirmed that the information comes through to the public in the meeting minutes.

Trustee French asked for clarification on the number of FTE reductions across the system for next year. Superintendent Labrie answered that with the changes in the funding formula it will translate as a reduction in 12-13 elementary positions and approximately 26 secondary positions for next year. He noted that this will not be all classroom teachers, as teachers are also in positions outside of classroom instruction.

Superintendent Labrie stated that support staff also had a number of reductions in various groups. As the Local Priorities funding ends Boards will not be able to continue to support some positions.

Trustee French asked if the increase for Special Education will go to support student who may come to the board because of the reduction in OAP (Autism) funding. Associate

Superintendent McDonnell confirmed that it would be targeted specifically to Autism support.

Superintendent Young stated that when the Board's expenditures are presented the information will show where staffing reductions have occurred.

Trustee McGregor asked where the attrition rate at this point stands against known retirements. Superintendent Labrie stated that there have been about 22 retirements submitted already, and suspects that a few more will come in before the end of May. The number of retirees will drive the staffing reduction due to the funding decreases for next year.

Superintendent Labrie stated that a potential redundancy list is provided to Trustees every year, and this will be issued in the next few weeks.

Trustee Godkin asked with the increased class size is there an exemption clause for any unique situations, such as a school in an isolated area. Superintendent Labrie stated that 28 student class sizes is only grades 9-12. Numbers for classes will remain the same for next year, but the money to support these classes is being decreased. There are unique areas with higher staff to student ratios, due to things such as geographic location. Bigger schools in the system may have higher class size ratios than remote/rural schools.

Trustee French stated that OPSBA is advocating about these issues at the provincial level, and is planning a broader strategy for working with the government.

Trustee Morning asked for more information on alternative programming, and how these generate income for the Board. She stated that some constituents had expressed concern about some programs being discontinued. Superintendent Labrie stated that only international education generates incomes for the Board, but that there are a number of different types of alternative education across the Board for both under and over 21.

Superintendent Burra stated that the Board has not closed any alternative programming, but that some programs have been relocated. Second Chance and Street Smart were relocated to the Katarokwi Learning Centre (Former First Ave. school) The Board has eliminated using rental space to include the programming in sites already owned by the board where possible.

2. 2019-2020 Budget Consultation – Trustee Constituent Feedback Consolidation

Trustee Ruttan stated that comments came from a variety of sources, including:

- 60 plus individual constituents
- 4 unions
- 1 association
- 1 parent group

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The feedback has been collated into the following chart and will be handed off to Senior Staff:

Budget Priority Area	Wellness	Innovation	Collaboration
Assessments (EQAO)			
Basic needs (food, clothing, shelter)	-maintain food programs		
Continuing/Adult Education	-More in-class summer school options rather than online -Re-open physical sites x2		
Community Partnerships	-investigate student school bus utilization vs those entitled to school bus use	-examine monopoly with Tri-Board -re-evaluate transportation costs	-work with city of Kingston to enable urban HS students to use city bus instead of yellow -review busing boundaries (North HPEDSB) -community use of schools as a tool to keep rural schools sustainable
Early Years & Kindergarten	-maintain ECE x3 -fund testing for LD for early intervention	-improve outdoor play areas · Add rubber surfacing to outdoor play areas	
English as a Second Language			
Environmental Sustainability		-more green initiatives x2 -examine the impact of buildings, buses, and	-work with co-ops and other NFPs to install renewable energy products

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Budget Priority Area	Wellness	Innovation	Collaboration
		budgets on green house gases -improve recycling and organic waste programs to reduce waste disposal costs	
Equity & Inclusion	- review Choices at 7 for equity		
Extra-curricular Activities		-adequate allocation of funding for release time when schools send teams to competitions	-reach out for support from the community for clubs and sports
Facilities Renewal (renovations & maintenance)	-improved air quality, proper ventilation, and air conditioning systems x3 -fix parking lots/drop-off areas -bus loop at LCVI/Calvin Park review x2 -postpone updates to fleet vehicles, playing fields, furniture, paving	-school inventory to determine their needs in renovations	-surplus facilities/equipment to be sold for extra revenue -negotiate new vendor contracts, cost sharing with other school boards or city -surplus space to rented to community partners x2
French as a Second Language (Extended & Immersion)			
Health & Safety	-impact of violence in classroom x 5 -increase crossing guards during peak traffic times x2		-work with city council to ensure safe streets around all schools

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Budget Priority Area	Wellness	Innovation	Collaboration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -make school entrances more accessible -funding for pavement and fencing improvements for safety 		
Indigenous Education	-increase funding for Indigenous Education x5		
Innovation/Technology		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -materials, resources, training and wired access -freeze on buying all non-essential technology x2 -ensure existing computers are in good working order -allow for more computers to accommodate mandatory online courses 	
International Education			
Learning Materials (technology & textbooks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -prevention of on-line pornography -hardcopy agendas in hands of all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -real life learning resources -field trip resources x2 -rename the category to reflect the purchasing of classroom supplies and photocopying 	
Literacy (reading & writing)	-increase funding for school libraries	-include math literacy	

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Budget Priority Area	Wellness	Innovation	Collaboration
Mental Health & Well-Being	-increase resources (trained professionals and guidance staff) x 6 -enhance experiential learning and more programs that promote student wellness		
Outdoor Education	-increase outdoor equipment and yard improvements	-school inventory to determine outdoor/sporting equipment needs	-maintain experiential programs x2 ie Gould Lake -utilize geography to find collaborations and opportunities to study locally
Parent/Family Engagement		-implement live-streaming for board meetings x2	
Physical Literacy & Fitness			
Safe Schools/ School Climate	-increase funding for EA x 17 -maintain EA levels		
STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, Math & Engineering)	-increase funding for art supplies, musical instruments, and theatre inside or outside the classroom -increase courses that are NOT math, science, and English	-importance in the A, not just STEM x2	
Skilled Trades		maintain tech and culinary programing	
Special Education (programs for individual learning needs)	-maintain or increase current levels of funding x 7	-implementing enrichment programs,	

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Budget Priority Area	Wellness	Innovation	Collaboration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -impact of autism funding reductions x 2 -autism-only classrooms -increase or maintain student -success/resource rooms -specific programming support for angry students who lash out 	like research-based curriculum units	
Specialty Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -maintain Focus programs and SHSM (LCVI included) x3 - reduce AP and pre-AP programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -arts in general (include) LEAP, AAEP x2 -maintain music, drama, and other arts teachers 	
Student Leadership Development			
Staff Leadership & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -increase PD for occasional staff 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -reduce consultations -scrutinize expenditures on consultants and contractors x2 -reduce funds spent on principals, superintendents and Trustees professional development x3 -compare expenses with Catholic board to find efficiencies x2

Budget Priority Area	Wellness	Innovation	Collaboration
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -living wage, in line with city council initiatives -acknowledgments for territory daily in school -more Indigenous focus 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -labour Relations -compensation (Senior Administration) x4 -maintain or increase staffing levels in schools x3 -minimum class sizes x2 -exploration of Indigenous Education Advisory Council and what their priorities are -defend and advocate funding for humanities and arts -revenue fixed by Govt – any future flexibility?

Trustee Godkin stated that requesting written submission for feedback limits some people from being able to participate. He suggested consideration of other formats for participating for next year.

Student Trustee Kim asked for clarification on the Choices at Seven feedback. Trustee Ruttan answered that she believed the constituent wanted to see the admission process be made more equitable.

Trustee Hutcheon stated that some feel that the textbook line in the budget is misleading, as teachers don't use textbooks as much as used to. She asked that is be clarified as to what other items this funding is spent on.

Trustee Elliott asked if the actual submissions would be published. It was clarified that that was not the intention of this process. In the past when formal deputations have been taken the content has been captured in the minutes.

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Trustee French thanked staff for their assistance in soliciting feedback from the public. She stated that she appreciated the format for the way the information was pulled together.

Other Business

None at this time.

Next Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 4:30 p.m. (Preliminary Operating Revenue and Expenditures/Preliminary Capital Revenue and Expenditures/Consolidated Budget)
Monday, June 17, 2019 4:30 p.m. (Tentative)

Adjournment

Trustee Ruttan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.



Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

Shannon Binder, Chair of the Board
Mandy Savery-Whiteway, Director of Education

Possibilities
TODAY & TOMORROW

April 1, 2019

The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2A5



Dear Minister Thompson:

The vision in the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB) 2015-2020 Strategic Plan: Possibilities Today & Tomorrow is: All students prepared and empowered for the possibilities of today and tomorrow. In order to accomplish this inclusive vision, we are committed to priorities of Achieving Excellence & Equity, Learning & Leadership, Public Confidence and Well-Being. As provincial education partners, we recognize the government's commitment to fiscal responsibility. We also know that Ontario's education system is recognized globally, and we want to work collaboratively to both improve and maintain the high quality of education in this province.

I am writing to you because our Board of Trustees is very concerned about the proposed changes in funding to support students with autism, as well as the reduction in the secondary programming amount in the Pupil Foundation Grant, the Cost Adjustment Allocation, the Human Resource Transition Supplement and Classroom Loading Factors. Reductions in funding result in the loss of employees who contribute every day to student achievement. We are particularly alarmed by changes to class sizes in elementary and secondary schools. The proposed increase in average class size in secondary schools to 28:1 is of significant concern. It is clear that teaching positions will be affected and that there will be an impact on the range of programming at secondary schools.

Our board is a mix of suburban and rural areas with a number of small schools. Maintaining a range of programming and an adequate number of staff in secondary schools are already challenges. The reduction of staff, even through attrition, will result in fewer options for students, as well as increased concern about student safety. Senior staff are working to understand the full effect of the proposed increases in class sizes. There will be negative impact on student achievement and well-being.

As elected officials, we have an expectation of equity of access to programming for students in HPEDSB. While we already offer e-learning courses, we know that in many areas of our school board students are unable to access reliable internet service and/or transportation to an accessible location. The e-learning environment is not appropriate for all students.

In addition, as funding decreases and class sizes increase, HPEDSB staff will need to adhere to the local collective agreements which specify more stringent limits on class size. This will increase the funding gap. HPEDSB will be challenged to offer the programs and services necessary for each student to achieve success.

As Trustees, we often hear about the incredible work of our educators and support staff. We know how dedicated our employees are to creating safe, inclusive learning environments and to supporting our most vulnerable students, our students with special needs, our Indigenous students, and to supporting mental and physical well-being.



Hastings and Prince Edward
District School Board

Possibilities
TODAY & TOMORROW

Shannon Binder, Chair of the Board
Mandy Savery-Whiteway, Director of Education

We are pleased to see that the government continues to invite consultation and hope it seriously considers input from school boards. We ask that you focus on students and value public education by reconsidering the changes to class sizes and funding that will impact both the programs we can offer to students and the number of employees in our system.

We hope to have details soon from the Ministry of Education about how its plan will support school boards to provide programs and services so that students can achieve and be well.

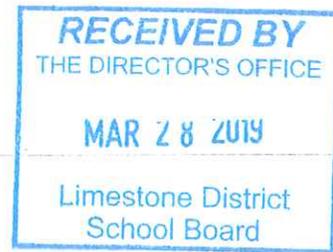
Sincerely

Shannon Binder
Chair of the Board

cc: Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Daryl Kramp, MPP, Hastings-Lennox & Addington
Todd Smith, MPP, Bay of Quinte
Cathy Abraham, President, Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA)
Chairs, Ontario public school boards

March 11, 2019

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
1850-439 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Y8



Dear OPSBA,

Recently, our Board of Trustees approved a motion to send a letter to Premier Ford regarding the decision to repeal the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act.

On November 15, 2018, the Provincial government announced that the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act would be repealed and the Office of the Ombudsman would assume the duties of this office. This decision will leave Ontario as one of the only provinces without an independent child advocate.

This Provincial Advocate is an independent officer of the Ontario legislature and provides an independent voice, including First Nations, children and youth. They educate children, youth, and their caregivers on the rights of children and youth. They make connections between families and organizations that provide them with services while encouraging dialogue and communication.

In addition, they conduct investigations and make recommendations to children's aid societies and services provided by residential licensees where a children's aid society is the placing agency.

The Advocate's review and investigations have helped to identify gaps and failures in the system, that have put children and youth at risk.

We request that OPSBA and our member Boards support our decision to send a letter to Premier Ford by sending their own letter. The children and youth of Ontario deserve to have their voices heard and know they are protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jayne Herring".

Jayne Herring,
Chairperson, Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: Chairs of all District School Boards



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YOUTUBE.COM WRDSBVIDEO

April 29, 2019

Dear Chairperson;

Recently, our Board of Trustees approved a motion to send a letter to Minister Thompson regarding the government's commitment to only fund the current Full Day Kindergarten program for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Waterloo Region District School Board is asking that the Provincial Government commit to funding Full Day Kindergarten beyond the 2019-2020 school year.

During the Education announcement on March 15 at the Ontario Science Centre, Minister of Education Lisa Thompson indicated her support full-day learning and made no further comment on whether the current program would be changing.

Research shows that Full Day Kindergarten provides students with many benefits. Students in the Full Day Kindergarten program have strong skills in reading, writing and numeracy as well as social skills and self-regulation.

The current program gives our students and their families the best start in public education.

We request that your Board take any action they deem appropriate to ensure that Full Day Kindergarten continues for four and five-year-olds in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Jayne Herring
Chairperson of the Board

cc: Chairs of all District School Boards



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