



EDUCATION, POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 6, 2023

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) T. Lloyd K. Maracle (regrets) K. McGregor J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan (virtual) E. Eckloff (Student Trustee) (regrets) A. O'Keefe (Student Trustee) (regrets) A. Wang (Student Trustee) (regrets)	K. Burra, Director of Education S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education J. Douglas, Communications Officer A. Grange, Communications Officer
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

Chair Godkin welcomed everyone to the meeting. He began the meeting by reading 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."

1. Call to Order

Chair Godkin called the meeting to order and called the roll.

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts declared.

4. Reports for Information

4.1 Update on the See Yourself in Limestone Student Census 2020

Superintendent McDonnell introduced her report. She began by reminding Trustees that the Student Census administration began in the late fall of 2020 and is a Ministry of Education requirement. The See Yourself in Limestone Student Census 2020 Preliminary Report was shared with Trustees in September of 2021. Following this, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was established in January of 2022 to support the analysis of the Student Census data. This group is comprised of Limestone District School Board (LDSB) Community Stakeholders, members of the Student Census team and Trustee Elliott. Superintendent McDonnell noted that the LDSB Student Sense of Belonging report was released in April of 2023 and was the first in a series of reports. She indicated that the report this evening is the second report focusing on student achievement which is due to be released in the next two weeks, prior to the holiday break. The Purpose of the student achievement report is to:

- Identify groups of students experiencing systemic barriers to equitable student achievement outcomes.
- Communicate findings to Staff so that they may consider it in their daily work and school planning.
- Act as a comprehensive resource regarding system-level student achievement outcomes until the next Student Census is complete.

Superintendent McDonnell reviewed the achievement indicators which include the following:

- At least one caring adult at school.
- An adult at school expects me to do well.
- Suspensions.
- Reasons absent or late.

- Special Education (IEPs)
- EQAO Math and Literacy
- Pathways (Enrolment in Applied English and Math)
- Credit Accumulation
- Graduation Outcomes

She reminded Trustees about the disparity index and comparison groups and clarified that each disparity index is done in relation to the data, all of which is clearly outlined within the report.

The overall findings were presented to Trustees in a graphic Venn diagram. She explained that this is an accessible way to view the data. Superintendent McDonnell explained that some students need more support to feel like they belong. Some students need more support to have the same success and the same achievement as other students.

The diagram illustrated that students with disabilities, IEPs, who are Gender nonconforming, have Lower socio economic status, and/or are Indigenous, have disproportionately negative outcomes and experiences for all, or almost all indicators. There is a correlation between achievement and sense of belonging for many groups, but not all, which places importance on the understanding that not all students have the same experience. It is essential that this data is not used to make generalizations or assumptions for a particular groups' experience.

Superintendent McDonnell indicated that the next step is to release the report to staff, families, labour partners, and community partners in the next two weeks. The focus remains on data literacy and guidance, ensuring human rights by eliminating harm, high quality learning and instruction, and pathways of choice.

Chair Godkin thanked Superintendent McDonnell for her presentation and called upon Trustees for questions.

4.2 Director's Annual Report 2022-2023

Director Burra stated that the Director's Annual Report is a legislated, annual requirement. The Annual Report is a summary of the previous 2022-2023 School Year. Director Burra explained that this is a legal requirement to publicly share information about LDSB including budget information, EQAO, as well as an opportunity to highlight and celebrate different Board initiatives. The report has

been posted to the website on the “See Yourself in Limestone” page and will be submitted to the Ministry of Education in compliance with the January 31, 2024 deadline.

Chair Godkin thanked Director Burra and called upon Trustees for questions.

5. Reports for Action

5.2 Public Feedback for Policy 13 Updates

Director Burra introduced his report. He indicated to Trustees that an interim Policy 13 was approved at a previous meeting of the Board in August of 2023. Public consultation took place from September to October where input was invited from families, Staff, the Parent Involvement Committee, and the Limestone community.

Feedback was received from six individuals which was taken into consideration and is reflected in the changes in the new proposed policy. Director Burra identified that Trustee Elliott brought forward a language change for consistency, which has been adjusted in section 1.3. This minor change was made to align language regarding the timing of when a delegation will be heard. He also noted that minor additions for consistency and clarity are also reflected in the proposed policy.

Chair Godkin called upon Trustees for questions. Trustees had a discussion surrounding the acceptance of out of area submissions to the Board, specifically section 2.3.0 of the proposed Policy 13. This section refers to language in section 1.9.0, subsection (c), which reads: Delegation presentations will not be received if the delegation will be presented by a delegate(s) that do not reside in the jurisdiction of the Limestone District School Board.

Trustee Elliott proposed an amendment to the proposed motion and put forward the following:

MOTION: To remove the sentence in 2.3.0 that states that it should be noted for consideration of submissions, residential requirements as outlined in section 1.9.0 (c) do not apply. This was defeated.

MOTION MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor that Trustees approve the edits made to Policy 13. Carried.

5.3 See Yourself in Limestone: The Road Ahead – 2023-2028 Strategic Planning Process Phase 2 Consultation Results Overview

Director Burra began his presentation on the data and feedback received during this second consultation process which took place from November 2-24, 2023. He shared that over 1000

responses were received from the community with the largest group being students and families. He shared the feedback from the proposed mission statement with Trustees which he noted in some cases, was diverse and contradictory.

Feedback on the proposed mission was presented to Trustees in emerging themes:

- Empowerment and Skills Development.
- Inclusivity and Community Engagement.
- Concerns About Implementation and Authenticity.
- Simplicity and Clarity.
- Academic Focus and Practical Application.

Director Burra acknowledged that since the agenda package was released, there has been an amendment (shown in italics below) to the proposed mission statement based on feedback which he presented to the Trustees:

“Our mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of the students we serve by empowering every student with the essential skills to shape their future, *be lifelong learners*, and contribute meaningfully to an interconnected, inclusive and evolving world.”

Director reviewed the feedback on the proposed vision which he noted showed areas of overlap. This was presented in the following themes:

- Inclusivity and Belonging.
- Inspiration and Nurturing Hope.
- Realism and Practicality.
- Clarity and Conciseness.
- Support and Resources for Implementation.

This feedback was reflected in an amended (shown in italics below) Vision:

“Our Vision is for all *students, families, and staff to feel they belong* within Limestone: a system that understands and supports learners’ strengths, needs, and preferences; inspires their hearts and minds; and nurtures hope for the future success of every student in every classroom, and every school.”

Director Burra acknowledged that feedback from the consultation process highlighted a need for the mission and vision statements to be concise which initiated the creation of a focused intention to ensure that these statements are memorable. He shared these statements with Trustees:

- “To make a positive difference in the lives of every student in every classroom, and every school.”

Director Burra invited Trustees to ask questions and noted the proposed motion for consideration.

MOVED BY Trustee Ruttan: That Trustees confirm the Limestone District School Board’s new Mission and Vision to allow staff to continue to further develop the Strategic Plan for Board approval. Carried.

Director Burra pivoted Trustees’ attention to the Board Values section of his report included in the agenda package. After consultation with members of the community, and Trustee input from the September 6, 2023, EPOC meeting Director Burra invited Trustees to participate in a ‘dotmocracy’ exercise to establish and confirm the Values. Trustees selected seven Values:

- Equity
- Empathy
- Respect
- Integrity
- Adaptability
- Community
- Creativity

Chair Godkin referenced the second proposed motion included in the report.

MOVED By Trustee Lloyd that: Trustees confirm the Values: Equity, Empathy, Respect, Integrity, Adaptability, Community and Creativity, to anchor the Strategic Plan and allow staff to continue to further develop the Strategic Plan for Board approval. Carried.

6. Unfinished Business

None at this time.

7. New Business

Trustee Brown announced that the Board received the David Perry Memorial Award for the Boards contribution to the Food Sharing Project at an awards ceremony the evening prior.

8. **Correspondence**

None at this time.

9. **Next Meeting Date**

February 7, 2023.

10. **Adjournment**

Moved by Trustee Lloyd that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.