

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2025

Public Meeting

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
R. Hutcheon B. Godkin (Chair) G. Elliott J. Morning K. McGregor- regrets S. Ruttan T. Lloyd J. Neill J. Maracle C. Scott	K. Burra, Director of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Corporate Services P. Carson, Manager of Financial Services L. Benjamin, Assistant Manager of Financial Services J. Silver S. Sartor S. Hedderson A. McDonnell T. McKenna S. Gillam P. Gollogly
	Recorder and Producer:
	D. Burns, Administrative Assistant S. Shaw, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Godkin called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Chair Godkin noted that the Acknowledgement of Territory was read earlier during the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chair Godkin asked for any additions or objections to the agenda. There were no additions or objections

MOTION: That the Agenda as presented be accepted.

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

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee.

4.1 2025-2026 Preliminary Operating Budget Expenditures

Superintendent Young thanked the finance department and Manager Carson for the many hours devoted to preparing the budget reports. Manager Carson presented the 2025-2026 preliminary operating budget expenditures. Manager Carson highlighted the following changes from the 2024-2025 revised estimates to the 2025-2026 estimates:

Classroom Teachers have increased \$4.5M or 2.9%.

Supply Staff has increased \$0.8M or 8.6%.

Educational Assistants have increased \$1.4M or 7%.

Early Childhood Educators have increased \$125,000 or 2.3%.

Textbooks and Supplies have decreased \$0.8 or 9.5%.

Professionals / Paraprofessionals have decreased \$140,000 or 1.3%.

Library and Guidance have increased \$140,000 or 3.9%.

Staff Development has decreased \$0.6 or 32.3%.

Principals and Vice Principals have increased \$350,000 or 2.8%.

Coordinators and Program Teacher Support has increased \$170,000 or 3.2%.

Director and Supervisory Officers have decreased \$22,000 or 2.5%.

Board Administration has increased \$210,000 or 2.7%.

Transportation has increased \$130,000 or 0.6%.

School Operations and Maintenance has increased \$0.5M or 1.6%.

Other Non-Operating Expenses have decreased \$0.7M or 21.9%.

The 25-26 Preliminary Operating Budget Expenditures of \$318.6M, exceeds the 24-25 Revised Estimates operating expenditures of \$312.7M by \$5.9M or 1.9%.

Superintendent Young presented highlights from the appendices on Indigenous Education, Special Education and Mental Health, and Programs Supported by Accumulated Surplus.

Chair Godkin opened the floor for questions and discussion ensued.

Limestone District School Board

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4.2 2025-2026 Preliminary Capital Budget- Revenues and Expenditures

Manager Carson presented the 2025-2026 preliminary capital budget – revenue and expenditures report. The 2025-2026 preliminary capital budget- capital revenues of \$24.2M, are balanced to the capital expenditures of \$24.2M. For 2025-2026, the school renewal allocation is \$4.4M, an increase of \$18,000 or 0.4%, as compared to the 2024-2025 revised estimates amount of \$4.4M.

The school condition improvement allocation is \$16.8M, an increase of \$80,000 or 0.5%, as compared to the 2024-2025 revised estimates amount of \$16.7M. The funding from each source matches the expenses.

Superintendent Young noted that the revenue matches expenses the expenses on the capital budget. There is a \$100K increase in 2025-2026, that is less than 0.5% of an increase. We will be doing less work this year with the money provided in comparison to last year. The Ministry doesn't flow us the money until we can prove it as spent, then the Ministry bundles the debt up, as they get a better rate, they then funnel us the interest to make the payments.

Chair Godkin thanked Superintendent Young and Manager Carson and opened the floor for questions and discussion ensued.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 2025-2026 Budget and Recommendation for Approval

Manager Carson presented the 2025-2026 budget and recommendation for approval report. The 2025-2026 preliminary operating budget revenue totaling \$316.2M was presented at the June 4, 2025, Committee of the Whole (Budget) meeting. The 2025-2026 preliminary operating budget expenditures totals \$318.6M.

The 2025-2026 preliminary capital budget revenues and expenditures total \$24.2M. The Ministry requires school boards to submit a consolidated Public Sector Accounting Board ("PSAB") budget. The operating revenue is \$316.2M, and the capital is \$24.2M.

There are PSAB adjustments for capital, and school generated funds. There are similar adjustments to the operating and capital expenses. Amortization of Asset Retirement Obligations ("ARO") of \$1.7M and after all of these adjustments there is a \$4.3M deficit.

The compliance report excludes some of the PSAB adjustments, the main one being the amortization of ARO of \$1.7M, leaving us with a deficit of \$2.5M for compliance purposes.

Superintendent Young discussed the appendices.

Chair Godkin opened the floor to questions and discussion ensued.

Limestone District School Board

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MOTION: That the Board approve the 2025-2026 Budget prepared on a PSAB basis with total revenues of \$342.7M and total expenditures of \$347M.

MOVED BY: Trustee Ruttan.

Chair Godkin asked if there were any objections to the motion, there were two objections to the Motion as presented. *The motion is passed with two dissenting members.*

5.2 2026-2027, 2027-2028 Deficit Elimination Plan

Superintendent Young presented the deficit elimination plan. Ontario Regulation 280/19 allows for an exception to the requirement of a balanced budget providing that the board: (a) has sufficient accumulated surplus to fund the deficit, (b) has a deficit budget that is less than 1% of its operating revenues and (c) the board submits a deficit elimination plan for approval. The Board currently has \$19.9 million in unallocated accumulated surplus to fund a deficit elimination plan. Appendix A details the two-year deficit elimination plan for the years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028. Superintendent Young discussed Appendix A.

Chair Godkin opened the floor to questions and discussion ensued.

MOTION: That the Board approve the 2026-2027, 2027-2028 Deficit Elimination Plan as outlined in Two Year Deficit Elimination Plan.

MOVED BY: Trustee Ruttan.

Chair Godkin asked if there were any objections to the motion, there were no objections to the Motion as presented. Carried.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Trustee Neill that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.