

Special Board Meeting Minutes Limestone District School Board

July 6, 2020

To help slow the spread of COVID-19, the Ontario government has extended the Declaration of Emergency to July 15, 2020. This extension will enable the government to continue protecting the health and safety of the people in Ontario. As such, for the time being, the Board will be conducting its business via virtual meetings.

Private Session

Present:

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

Staff: D. Rantz, Director of Education
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

Recorder: W. Moore, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

Chair Ruttan called the meeting to order and conducted the roll call.

MOTION: To move into Private Session.

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

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Elliott declared a conflict as his wife is a teacher with the LDSB and a member of ETFO.

Chair's Update

No update at this time.

Director's Update

No update at this time.

Action Items

- (a) Board Minutes – June 17, 2020
- (b) Committee of the Whole (Director Selection) – June 24, 2020 and June 29, 2020

MOVED BY: Trustee Morning, seconded by Trustee Hutcheon, that the minutes listed in Action Items, Private Session, as distributed, be approved. Carried.

For Information

- (a) Personnel Update (Item (a) on Agenda)

A personnel update was provided.

MOTION: That the Board of Trustees appoint Superintendent Krishna Burra as the next Director of Education for the Limestone District School Board, effective August 4, 2020. The offer is pending the final approval filed with the Ministry of Education.

MOVED BY: Trustee Gingrich and seconded by Trustee McGregor. Carried.

- (b) Safe Schools Update.
None at this time.
- (c) Property Update (Item (c) on Agenda)
None at this time.
- (d) OPSBA Update (Item (d) on Agenda)
None at this time.
- (e) Labour Update (Item (e) on Agenda)
None at this time.
- (f) Legal Matter (Item (f) on Agenda)
None at this time.

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 Elliott, seconded by Trustee Hutcheon. Carried.

The Board moved into Public Session at 5:37 p.m.

Public Meeting

Trustees: J. Brown
G. Elliott
L. French (Vice Chair)
T. Gingrich
B. Godkin (regrets)
R. Hutcheon
K. McGregor
J. Morning
S. Ruttan (Chair)
J. Crook (Student Trustee)
A. Putnam (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
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources (regrets)
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
K. Smith, Communications Officer
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

Recorder: W. Moore, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

Chair Ruttan stated: "Good evening Trustees and the viewing public. My name is Suzanne Ruttan and I am Chair of the Limestone District School Board. Welcome to the Special Board Meeting of the Limestone District School Board Trustees for July 6, 2020. I would like to call this meeting to order."

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."

Chair Ruttan called the roll.

Adoption of Agenda

MOVED BY: Trustee Morning, 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 and is a member of ETFO.

Private Session Report

Trustee French made the following statement:

"The following Minutes and Motions were approved in Private Session:

Board Minutes – June 17, 2020

Committee of the Whole (Director Selection) – June 24, 2020 and June 29, 2020

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin that the Superintendent of Business Services draft the employment agreement for the successful candidate, with the following provisions included:

- *That the position be offered at the salary range of Step 3.*
- *Copyright language be added to the contract.*
- *Language be included to allow the Board to conduct a review and compensate, if necessary, in accordance with law, should the government lift the Board's wage freeze on compensation. Carried.*

In tonight's Private Session, I am very pleased to share there was a Personnel Update with the resulting motion:

MOVED BY: Trustee Gingrich and seconded by Trustee McGregor that the Board of Trustees appoint Superintendent Krishna Burra as the next Director of Education for the Limestone District School Board, effective August 4, 2020. The offer is pending the final approval filed with the Ministry of Education. Carried.

MOTION: That the resolutions, as noted above, be approved.

MOVED BY: Trustee French and seconded by Trustee Elliott. Carried, unanimously.

Chair's Update

Chair Ruttan stated:

"Thank you, Vice-Chair French. I am extremely happy to welcome Superintendent Krishna Burra into his new role as Director of Education for the Limestone District School Board.

An extensive executive search presented the Board of Trustees with several high calibre and worthy candidates -executives who strive for excellence and see Limestone as a leader in public education. Thank you all.

Trustees look forward to working in concert with you Superintendent Burra, as "we prepare students within safe and inclusive environments to embrace a changing world as lifelong learners and informed, responsible citizens." On behalf of all Trustees, congratulations on your appointment.

Director Rantz, thank you again for your commitment to the students and staff of this Board. Similarly, thank you for your unwavering focus on student and staff well-being, as well as their success. It has been an honour and privilege working with you. Best wishes on your retirement.

I would like to acknowledge Superintendent of Business Services and Treasurer Craig Young, and Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison Wynando Moore for their support to Trustees during the Director search. Thank you.

The transition between Directors will be different due to the amount of work and flexibility that will be required over the next weeks as we plan for September 2020.

Staff and students will also experience a very different summer for many reasons. Summer learning for both staff and students will be strictly online, curriculum planning and facilities services work will continue, but all executed in compliance with health and safety regulations under COVID-19. Senior staff and administrators will be developing re-opening plans for September 2020. On behalf of all Trustees, I wish to thank all staff for making themselves available as the Ministry requests their services.

To Limestone families, we will continue to do our best to keep you as up to date as possible. And that concludes my update."

Director's Update

Director Rantz stated:

"Good evening Trustees, thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you for your kind words. Congratulations to Superintendent Burra on his appointment as Limestone's next Director. Krishna's wealth of knowledge and experience, his positive and collaborative leadership style, and his commitment to student achievement and well-being make him the ideal candidate to lead Limestone in the coming years.

We know that students, families, and staff are eager to learn more specific details about what the new school year will look like in Limestone schools. As you know, the Minister of Education has asked school boards to prepare for three scenarios for school re-entry in the fall: full return, remote return, and a hybrid model based on 15 students per class.

We surveyed our Limestone families to gather their feedback on this topic and have received over 6,000 responses to our survey. We are in the process of analyzing the results. I have met with our regional boards to share planning strategies and we are working with Tri-Board Student Transportation to help understand busing implications. Our coterminous Directors at Algonquin and Lakeshore and Hastings Prince Edward share our desire that regional similarities in our approach is ideal.

We are assembling working groups of principals, so we have a full understanding of operational impacts to schools and we have met with each of our union executives and there was a spirit of understanding that this is a complex challenge. We committed to sharing our operational approaches with them prior to sharing with the Ministry at the end of July.

The Ministry has made it clear that plans are to be vetted through them and provincial health prior to detailed planning and sharing. They have said that plans will not be approved until early August when they are in a better position to assess the public health situation. There are still many unknowns regarding the new school year, but please know that our plans will always have the health, safety and well-being of students, families, and staff as our priority. And that concludes my update Madam Chair."

Section A – Matters Requiring Action at the Meeting

1. Consent Agenda

No items were presented.

2. Routine Matters

No items were presented.

3. Reports for Information

No items were presented.

4. Reports Requiring Decision

4.1 School Year Calendar 2020-2021

Associate Superintendent Gillam advised that Limestone submitted its School Year Calendar for approval by the Ministry of Education at the end of February 2020. Although the 2020-2021 school year would start on Monday, August 31, 2020, this would be a PA Day. Students would attend classes beginning on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. Starting on Monday, August 31, 2020 allows us to begin Semester 2 on Friday, January 29, 2021 which would be a PA Day. School would be completed for students on Thursday, June 24, 2021 and Friday, June 25, 2021 would be a PA Day.

He advised that on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, Ontario school boards received new information from the Ministry that stated that Boards are encouraged to start their school year by September 1, 2020 and that Boards should also schedule three PA Days prior to the start of student instruction. Therefore, Limestone has resubmitted its 2020-2021 School Year Calendar with the following amendments:

- The 2020-2021 school year will still start on Monday, August 31, 2020 for staff only (PA Day). Tuesday, September 1, 2020 and Wednesday, September 2, 2020 will now also be PA Days for staff. Students will not begin school until Thursday, September 3, 2020.
- The remaining PA days will take place on September 25, 2020, January 29, 2021, June 4, 2021 and June 25, 2021.
- There are no changes to the semester information shared previously.

Trustees were called upon for any questions or comments.

It was questioned whether or not any pushback from families is anticipated with the new calendar submission. Associate Superintendent Gillam advised that instead of starting on Tuesday, September 1, students would start on Thursday, September 3, which will allow the Board to put added requirements in place for a safe entry.

It was questioned if the PA Days were the same for both the Secondary calendar and the Elementary calendar. Superintendent Gillam confirmed that the seven PA Days are the same for both the elementary and secondary panels. The only difference in the previous submission to the Ministry is that the November 20, 2020 and the April 30, 2021 PA days were removed and changed to September 1 and September 2, 2020.

It was noted that there was significant feedback on the calendar submission, prior to these changes, and it was questioned what communication plans are in place to advise families. Associate Superintendent Gillam indicated that he will be working with the Senior Team and the Communication Department to formulate a communication plan, but felt it was important to

share this with Trustees first and foremost, prior to the July 10, 2020 Ministry submission deadline.

MOTION: That the Trustees of the Limestone District School Board receive and approve the changes submitted to the Ministry of Education for the School Year Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

MOVED BY: Trustee Hutcheon and seconded by Trustee McGregor. Carried.

5. Notice of Motion

None at this time.

Section B - Information

1. Internal Reports and Other Communications

None at this time.

2. External Reports and Other Communications

None at this time.

3. Communications Referred to Committee

None at this time.

4. Requests for Reports and/or Information

None at this time.

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 July 13, 2020, immediately following the Budget Meeting.

7. Other Special Meetings/Events

July 13, 2020: Budget Meeting

8. Adjournment

Chair Ruttan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.