

Education, Policy and Operations Committee Meeting Minutes – September 2, 2026

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
G. Elliott B. Godkin R. Hutcheon T. Lloyd (Vice-Chair) J. MacLeod-Kane J. Maracle K. McGregor (Chair) J. Morning S. Ruttan C. Scott A. Bateman (Student Trustee) M. Katz (Student Trustee) (virtual) V. McCourt (Student Trustee) (regrets)	M. Blackburn, Superintendent of Education K. Burra, CEO/CEDO/Director of Education P. Gollogly, Superintendent of Education A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education T. McKenna, Superintendent of Education S. Sartor, Superintendent of Education A. Grange, Communications Consultant M. Christopher, ITS
Guests:	Recorder:
	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the CEO/CEDO/Director and Trustee Liaison

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lloyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided the Land Acknowledgement: “The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek 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. On behalf of the School Board, we express our sincere gratitude for sharing this land with us and continue our reconciliation efforts. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land.”

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts declared.

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4. PRESENTATION

None at this time.

5. REPORTS FOR ACTION

5.1 Policy 3 and Policy 20 Updates

CEO/CEDO/Director Burra presented proposed revisions to Policies 3 and 20, noting that the changes are primarily required to reflect amendments introduced by Bill 101 and associated regulations, which replace references to the Director of Education with the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He explained that the revisions update the job description, responsibilities, and future selection process for the CEO and align Board policy with provincially mandated requirements. While many responsibilities previously assigned to the Director of Education remain unchanged, new responsibilities prescribed through regulation have been incorporated into the policies.

CEO/CEDO/Director Burra further explained that the legislation establishes separate roles for Chief Executive Officer and Chief Education Officer, permitting a Board to appoint a CEO who may not possess an educational background. In such circumstances, a Chief Education Officer would be required to fulfill the educational leadership responsibilities assigned under regulation. He noted that he currently holds both the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Education Officer responsibilities; however, the policies must recognize the possibility that these functions may be separated in the future.

CEO/CEDO/Director Burra advised that, in addition to the required housekeeping amendments, Trustees may wish to consider whether any supplemental responsibilities should be added to the policies. While provincially mandated duties cannot be removed, Boards may choose to include additional expectations. He also identified a minor correction within Policy 3, section 2.9, where a reference to the Director of Education should be updated to Chief Executive Officer.

The recommended motion included in the agenda package was put on the floor for discussion.

*MOTION MOVED by Trustee MacLeod-Kane that Trustees approve the proposed revisions to Policies 3 and 20, as outlined in Appendix A, and provide any additional suggested amendments for consideration.
Carried.*

6. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 Early Years Update and Pilot

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Superintendent McDonnell provided an update on the Limestone District School Board's Before and After School Program (BASP) review and the development of in-house services. She reviewed the extensive data sources used to inform decision-making, including the Phase One BASP review conducted in spring 2025, which was initiated in response to requests for additional information regarding family access to before and after school programming. The review included a family survey, focus groups with third-party providers, and consultation with school councils; and identified recurring themes related to service gaps, anticipated future demand, and barriers to access.

Superintendent McDonnell explained that the Phase Two review, conducted between fall 2025 and winter 2026, examined additional data to better understand community needs and support future planning. Sources included the 2023 Early Development Instrument (EDI), Baragar enrolment and demographic data, Statistics Canada information, Ministry of Education data, community mapping of existing third-party child care providers, and results from the BASP section of the 2026 Family Engagement and Climate Survey. She noted that this analysis, together with municipal waitlist information and directed growth planning data, informed the recommendations presented to Trustees.

Superintendent McDonnell reminded Trustees that a report presented in May 2026 outlined the board's intention to proceed with an in-house BASP pilot. She announced that four schools had been identified as pilot sites: École Maple Elementary School, Harrowsmith Public School, Granite Ridge Education Centre, and Tamworth Elementary School. She noted that three of the sites are located within Frontenac County and one site is located within Lennox and Addington County. She further advised that an additional potential site is currently under consideration and will be shared once confirmed.

Superintendent McDonnell advised that the board's goal is to launch the pilot programs in December 2026, while recognizing that several factors could affect the implementation timeline. These include Ministry of Education licensing requirements, participation in the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding process, municipal planning requirements associated with directed growth plans, staffing and infrastructure readiness, and the development of operational processes necessary to meet licensing standards. She also noted that ongoing provincial labour negotiations could have an impact on implementation timelines.

In closing, Superintendent McDonnell expressed enthusiasm for the introduction of the in-house pilot program as an opportunity to improve access to high-quality child care services for Limestone students and families. She noted that the board intends to consider expansion to additional sites in the future based on the evaluation of the pilot's success and ongoing analysis of community needs. She advised that future updates regarding the implementation of the pilot would be provided by Superintendent Sartor.

Chair Lloyd thanked Superintendent McDonnell and called upon Trustees for questions.

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6.2 Safe School Review and Update

CEO/CEDO/Director Burra provided an update related to the continuing work with Dr. Wendy Craig and the 3 Phases of her Safe Schools Review. SO Gollogly reported that staff are working with Dr. Wendy Craig to enhance the accessibility, consistency, and visibility of safe schools information on the board's website. Updates have been made to current resources and information available under the Safe Schools section, and staff will continue to review and improve content to ensure it remains current, relevant, and easily accessible to families and school communities.

It was noted that administrative procedures have been revised to strengthen language related to bullying prevention and intervention, including more explicit references to cyberbullying. Staff are also reviewing resources, links to Ministry information, and processes related to Safe Schools Incident Reporting to ensure information is readily available and consistently communicated across the system.

CEO/CEDO/Director Burra advised that efforts have been made to consolidate safe schools information into a single location on the Board website. This work was undertaken in response to information being distributed across multiple webpages, with the goal of streamlining access and improving user experience for students, families, and staff.

As part of ongoing professional learning, it was shared that a half-day session during the October 26, 2026 P.A. Day will be dedicated to this work. In collaboration with Interval House, author Barbara Coloroso will provide presentations and learning opportunities for administrators and staff on topics related to student safety and well-being.

Chair Lloyd thanked Superintendent Gollogly and CEO/CEDO/Director Burra for their update and called upon Trustees for questions.

6.3 Curriculum Updates and Assessment and Evaluation Policy Changes

Superintendent Sartor began the presentation by providing an overview of significant curriculum, assessment, and evaluation changes introduced by the Ministry of Education between spring 2026 and the start of the 2026-2027 school year. She reported that considerable work was undertaken throughout the spring and summer to prepare educators for implementation through the development of resources, professional learning opportunities, and system supports.

Superintendent Sartor outlined the introduction of the new Kindergarten Curriculum, which came into effect at the beginning of the school year and represents a substantial revision from the 2016 program. The updated curriculum includes four specific learning strands, a greater emphasis on explicit instruction

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in literacy and mathematics, structured literacy approaches, progress monitoring, and tiered instruction. While play-based learning remains an important component, the curriculum now combines play-based approaches with more direct teaching strategies. Additional changes include mandatory early reading screening, increased focus on culturally responsive assessment practices, and expanded Indigenous education content. Superintendent Sartor noted that efforts to support implementation included sharing Ministry and sector resources, providing targeted professional learning for registered early childhood educators, administrator training, and dedicated staff collaboration time during the September P.A. Day.

Looking ahead, Superintendent Sartor advised that support will continue through school-based coaching, professional learning, resource development, and ongoing assistance from program consultants and administrators. Schools have also been provided with communication materials to help inform families of the curriculum changes and to support student learning at home.

Superintendent Gollogly reported on revisions to the Grades 7 and 8 History curriculum, noting the inclusion of mandatory learning related to the contributions of Black individuals and communities in Canada. Educators were introduced to the revised curriculum in spring 2026 and have been provided with summaries of key changes and supporting resources from the Ministry. The revisions are intended to strengthen students' understanding of the historical and ongoing contributions of Black Canadians to the development of the country.

Superintendent McKenna provided an overview of secondary assessment and evaluation policy changes. Beginning this school year, all secondary courses will include a 65 percent classroom assessment component, with the remaining 35 percent allocated between final examinations, and attendance and participation. She noted that course outlines, assessment plans, final evaluations, and reporting practices were updated over the summer to align with the new requirements. Trustees were also advised that students who entered Grade 9 in September 2025 must successfully meet new financial literacy graduation requirements as part of earning an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Superintendent McKenna further reported on updates to the Grade 10 Canadian History curriculum, including the addition of learning related to Black history in Canada, extremist political and social ideologies, the Holocaust, and antisemitism. The revisions are intended to deepen students' understanding of diverse Canadian experiences, discrimination, human rights, and the impacts of extremist ideologies. Professional learning and resource development began in the spring and continued throughout the summer, with teachers and central staff using September P.A. Day time to review course outlines and ensure the new expectations are integrated into instructional programming.

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Superintendent McKenna concluded the presentation by advising that families will be informed of the assessment and evaluation changes and that further communication will be provided as additional Ministry updates are received.

Chair Lloyd thanks Superintendents Sartor, Gollogly, and McKenna for their presentation and opened the floor for questions.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Motion from Trustee MacLeod-Kane

Chair Lloyd read Trustee MacLeod-Kane's motion which was presented at the Regular Board Meeting of August 19, 2026. She called upon Trustee MacLeod-Kane to speak to her motion.

Trustee MacLeod-Kane introduced the motion to review the Role of the Trustee, the Role of the Board Chair, and the Trustee Code of Conduct. She noted that the Role of the Trustee and Role of the Board Chair provisions were last revised in 2021 and advised that the proposed review was being brought forward in the interest of promoting fairness, democratic participation, and effective representation within the Board. Trustee MacLeod-Kane acknowledged that the existing governance documents were originally developed with the intention of supporting respectful conduct, good governance, and productive Board deliberations.

Trustee MacLeod-Kane expressed concern that the current governance documents may, at times, limit Trustees' ability to fully represent the interests and concerns of their constituents. She stated that in her opinion, Trustees should be able to question previous Board decisions, raise new issues, and continue advocating for the communities they represent without feeling constrained in carrying out their responsibilities. She further emphasized that Trustees are accountable to the electorate, and that differing viewpoints and ongoing debate are important components of a democratic process.

During discussion, Trustee Ruttan raised a point of order to seek clarification regarding the process and timing for deferring a matter. She advised that a deferral may be considered once a motion is on the floor.

Trustee Ruttan requested that the matter be deferred. CEO/CEDO/Director Burra provided clarification regarding the procedural requirements for a deferral motion and advised that, once moved, a motion to defer is not debatable and must be voted on by the committee.

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Trustee Ruttan then moved that consideration of the motion be deferred. The motion to defer was put to a vote.

MOTION MOVED by Trustee Ruttan that the motion be deferred to a future Board Meeting for consideration by the new sitting Board. Carried

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None at this time.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

11. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

October 7, 2026

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee McGregor that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03p.m.

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See Yourself in Limestone