

Education, Policy and Operations Committee Meeting Minutes –

April 1, 2026

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
G. Elliott B. Godkin R. Hutcheon T. Lloyd (Vice-Chair) J. Maracle K. McGregor (Chair) J. Morning (virtual) J. Neill (absent) S. Ruttan C. Scott M. Comeau (Student Trustee) R. Kolosov (Student Trustee) (regrets) S. Ismail (Student Trustee) (regrets)	K. Burra, Director of Education M. Blackburn, Associate Superintendent of Education S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent of Education A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services A. Grange, Communications Consultant
Guests:	Recorder:
Y. Abdulkareem, Human Rights and Equity Advisor	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the 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 McGregor that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Limestone District School Board

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

There were no conflicts declared.

4. REPORTS FOR ACTION – None at this time.

5. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

5.1 Student Human Rights and School Safety Reporting Tool Data 2024-2025

Superintendent McDonnell welcomed LDSB Equity and Human Rights Advisor Yusuf Abdulkareem, who was in attendance for the presentation. Trustees were advised that this data was last formally shared in October 2024 and that the consolidated reporting tool has been in place since October 2022. It was noted that the report forms part of the public accountability process and, following this presentation, will be posted on the Limestone District School Board website alongside previous reports.

Mr. Abdulkareem explained that the reporting tool was restructured to combine human rights and school safety reporting into a single system in response to community feedback requesting a streamlined and accessible process. The tool allows students, parents, staff, and community members to report concerns related to human rights, school safety, bullying, and related issues. Data presented focused specifically on human rights complaints received through the tool during the 2024–2025 school year.

During the reporting period, a total of 280 concerns were submitted. Following review and investigation, 129 reports were confirmed as human rights complaints involving one or more protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code. The remaining reports were reclassified as other school-based or safety-related concerns requiring follow-up but not meeting the criteria for a human rights designation. Grade 7 students accounted for the largest proportion of verified human rights complaints (24%), followed by Grades 8 and 9, consistent with trends observed in previous reporting cycles. Race-related grounds represented the highest proportion of complaints, including a significant number related to anti-Black racism, with sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic origin, and creed also identified.

Mr. Abdulkareem further outlined enhancements to the reporting in response to community feedback, emphasizing a shift toward including actions taken by the Board in response to the data, rather than reporting statistics alone. Examples included system-wide human rights learning initiatives, the development of anti-Black racism learning modules for suspended students in grades 7-12, and the provision of additional resources and professional learning through SharePoint, curriculum consultants, and administrator training. Trustees were advised that these measures are intended to address identified trends and support continued improvement in human rights and equity practices across the system.

Limestone District School Board

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

Chair Lloyd thanked Superintendent McDonnell and Equity and Human Rights Advisor Yusuf Abdulkareem for their presentation and called upon Trustees for questions.

5.2 Ministry of Education: Student and Family Support Offices and Customer Service Protocol

Associate Superintendent Gollogly reported on a new Ministry of Education mandate requiring school boards to establish a Student and Family Support Office and a formal customer service protocol. While the requirement was initially applied to boards under Ministry supervision, it is now mandated for all boards to be fully implemented by the September 2026 school year. Associate Superintendent Gollogly advised that upon review, the mandate closely aligns with existing Limestone DSB administrative practices and timelines for responding to family concerns.

Trustees were informed that current administrative procedures already require acknowledgement of family concerns within two business days and either resolution or a status update within five business days. Staff explained that while concerns typically follow a progression from classroom to school and system administration, families may enter the process at any level. These practices are already well established across the system and consistent with the Ministry's expectations in Policy Program Memorandum 170.

Beginning in September, the Board will introduce enhancements to formalize compliance with the mandate. These include the designation of a dedicated Superintendent overseeing the Student and Family Support Office, the establishment of a dedicated phone number and email address for family concerns, and the inclusion of this information on the Board's website. Concerns received through these channels will be formally tracked and categorized by topic, including attendance, curriculum, early years, mental health, special education, and school climate.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly further advised that concerns received through the Student and Family Support Office will be subject to mandated tracking and reporting requirements, including timelines for response and engagement. Monthly data, along with results from a family customer service satisfaction survey, will be submitted to the Ministry of Education to assess how concerns are addressed and resolved.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly shared the implementation overview, outlining current development work, including assignment of supervisory responsibility, creation of tracking tools, submission of a proposal to the Ministry, and preparation for system launch no later than September 1, 2026. Staff noted that a phased or "soft" launch may occur over the summer as development continues.

Chair Lloyd thanked Associate Superintendent Gollogly and called upon Trustees for questions.

5.3 Math Achievement Action Plan Update

Limestone District School Board

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

Associate Superintendent Hedderson provided an update on the Math Achievement Action Plan, highlighting its alignment with the Board's Strategic Plan and the provincial Math Achievement Action Plan. Trustees were reminded that the plan supports positive school cultures, student engagement and well-being, improvement in educator instructional capacity, and the effective use of data by administrators and school teams to guide achievement planning. The three provincial focus areas were reiterated: implementing curriculum and high-impact instructional practices, strengthening educator mathematics content knowledge, and better understanding the math learner to ensure responsive tasks and interventions.

Associate Superintendent Hedderson shared an overview of key provincial indicators, with a focus on student progress in mathematics achievement as reflected on report cards. Mid-year data from the 26 priority schools showed gradual improvement, particularly an upward shift of students previously achieving below the provincial standard, including movement from Level 1 to Level 2. There was also evidence of sustained achievement at Levels 3 and 4. Trustees were advised that, while overall board-level results continue to improve, variability between schools remains an area of focus, with ongoing analysis used to differentiate supports and target improvement where needed.

System level examples of strategies contributing to improved student outcomes were shared. These included the continued implementation of daily mandatory mathematics fluency instruction, which has supported incremental gains along the developmental fluency continuum. Progress was also reported in the use of diagnostic assessments and short, data-informed cycles of instruction to accelerate learning for students experiencing gaps. Increased utilization of provincially funded digital math tools was noted, supporting both classroom instruction and stronger homeschool connections.

Trustees were informed that qualitative data was also analyzed to better understand successful practices in schools demonstrating significant growth. Across five identified schools, common themes emerged, including a strong emphasis on foundational fluency, consistent use of responsive instructional adjustments, improved coherence and efficient use of instructional time, and strengthened student confidence and perseverance through purposeful practice. These strategies are being shared and unpacked with schools system-wide to support consistent implementation.

Additional system supports were outlined, including the introduction of targeted tutoring in select schools based on achievement data and staffing availability. Trustees were also advised of enhancements to summer programming, with the former "ReadALot" initiative transitioning to a Summer Literacy and Math Program delivered across four sites. In addition, Associate Superintendent Hedderson reported on a new partnership with Queen's University to offer a blended Primary/Junior Mathematics Additional Qualification course, combining online learning with in-person sessions led by Board staff. Ministry

Limestone District School Board

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

funding will substantially offset participant costs, and the initiative is intended to strengthen classroom practice through direct connections to system-based instructional work.

Chair Lloyd thanks Associate Superintendent Hedderson for his presentation and opened the floor for questions.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

May 6, 2026

10. ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE INTO PRIVATE SESSION

Moved by Trustee Godkin that the meeting adjourns and that Trustees move into private session. Rise and report out from private session will take place at the public April 15, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

PRIVATE SESSION

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon T. Lloyd J. Maracle K. McGregor (Chair) J. Morning (virtual) J. Neill (absent) S. Ruttan C. Scott M. Comeau (Student Trustee) (regrets)	K. Burra, Director of Education M. Blackburn, Associate Superintendent of Education S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent of Education A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services A. Grange, Communications Consultant

Limestone District School Board

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

R. Kolosov (Student Trustee) (regrets) S. Ismail (Student Trustee) (regrets)	
Guests:	Recorder:
	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

11. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lloyd called the meeting to order.

12. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chair Lloyd asked Trustees if they had a conflict of interest to declare with any of the agenda items. There were no conflicts declared.

13. ACTION ITEMS

None at this time.

14. FOR INFORMATION

- 14.1. Safe Schools Update – Director Burra provided a Safe Schools Update.
- 14.2. Personnel Update – Director Burra provided a personnel update.
- 14.3. Labour Update
- 14.4. Legal Update
- 14.5. Property Update
- 14.6. OPSBA Update

15. REPORT TO PUBLIC SESSION

Chair Lloyd called for a motion for the Board to rise and report at the April 15, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION: That the Board rise and report at the April 15, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.

MOVED by: Trustee McGregor. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Limestone District School Board

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