



Education, Policy and Operations Committee Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2025

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
G. Elliott B. Godkin R. Hutcheon T. Lloyd (Vice-Chair) J. Maracle K. McGregor (Chair) J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan C. Scott (approved virtual) M. Comeau (Student Trustee) R. Kolosov (Student Trustee) S. Ismail (Student Trustee)	K. Burra, Director of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent of Education S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent of Education A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent of Education A. Grange, Communications Consultant
Guests:	Recorder:
	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. APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Chair Lloyd indicated that Trustee Scott was joining the meeting virtually.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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Student Trustee Kolosov requested to amend the agenda to present the Student Trustee Report as item 6.1.

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

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts declared.

5. REPORTS FOR ACTION – None at this time.

6. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Kolosov stated “Good evening Trustees,

In this Student Trustee report for this month, I will be sharing items from this month’s Interschool Council (ISC) meeting, the Indigenous Leadership Circle meeting, and OSTA-AECO Ontario Student Trustees Fall General meeting that my co-Trustees and I attended this past weekend.

Firstly, we had our second ISC meeting of the year on November 12, with guest speakers Michael Blackburn with Gabriel Bergeron, a Bayridge Secondary School student, who presented the SLAP program mission and background of the program, which Gabriel created as an initiative to provide laptop technology to students in Limestone that don’t have access to the technology they need. We also had Andrea Barrow, the Equity Curriculum Consultant in Limestone, share a presentation on promoting inclusion and considerations for Winter holidays, and the importance of being inclusive for all holidays celebrated over the winter season.

We also discussed schools' progress on promoting and taking action on the United Way Initiative, where schools are brainstorming fundraising ideas for over the holiday season. And lastly in our meeting, we discussed the upcoming Student Trustee elections that will be opening on December 1 and taking place in February in the new year.

We had our first LSDB Leadership Circle meeting of the year on October 28, which is the group of Indigenous students from all high schools across the LDSB, facilitated by Jessi DiRocco. At this meeting, we got the chance to visit the St. Lawrence Career Fair, with many different vendors from post-secondary school. This was a great way to kick-off the year, and get to know each other in the group! It’s amazing to see that the group has expanded significantly this year, with many new faces in the Circle.

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Lastly in my report, myself, my co-Trustees Mia and Siham had the privilege to attend the Fall General Meeting for OSTA-AECO, which stands for the Ontario Student Trustees' Association. This was a conference located in downtown Toronto, hosting various professional development opportunities, teambuilding, and networking. Some examples of the PD sessions include learning about consent culture in both the workplace and in personal lives with the High School Too association, navigating post-secondary pathways and scholarships, managing well-being and a student leader, and team-building challenges like bridge and tower building. It is such a privilege to be given the opportunity to attend a conference like OSTA-AECO, and it is a great learning experience that helps us learn and grow as Student Trustees.

That concludes my report for this month. Thank you."

6.2 "See Yourself in Limestone" Communications Update

Chair Lloyd welcomed Communications Consultant Allison Grange to give her presentation. Ms. Grange reminded Trustees that a presentation on the Communications department's 2025-2026 priorities came to the September 3, 2025 EPOC meeting. She reiterated that the "*See Yourself in Limestone*" strategic communications plan is aligned with the Limestone District School Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, specifically supporting Goal 5: Improve responsiveness and service to families, staff, and community partners. The approach ensures consistent, timely, and effective messaging aligned with Board priorities.

Trustees were advised that the update presented would focus on the implementation of this communications strategy, including examples of posters and graphics that will be visible to Trustees, students, staff, families, and community members beginning in January 2026.

Ms. Grange shared that three key priorities were identified for the current school year:

- Student Recruitment and Retention
- Staff Recruitment and Retention
- Expanded Opportunities Programming

It was noted that Communications efforts are tailored to meet key milestones, such as Kindergarten registration in January and staff recruitment in the spring. Messaging will emphasize student achievement, well-being and belonging, and greater choice in schools and programming. The Communications team is working collaboratively with departmental teams and the Senior Team to develop materials and messaging. Most advertising for the 2025–2026 school year has been planned and booked, with designs and messaging evolving throughout the year.

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Visuals for Kindergarten registration posters will emphasize diversity, inclusion, and the message "*I can succeed and I belong.*" These posters will also be available in French and adapted for social media. Secondary school registration and Expanded Opportunities posters will feature a different horizontal design for quick differentiation, while maintaining brand colours, fonts, and curved text elements. Messaging for Kindergarten registration will primarily target families, whereas secondary registration messaging will focus on students to encourage conversations within families about opportunities and program choices.

Ms. Grange shared that there is a multi-channel approach to engage interest holders which includes:

- Website updates, news stories, and school e-newsletters
- Digital billboards, Kingston Transit ads, and posters for schools and community partners
- Social media (organic and paid), print and radio ads
- Video production featuring staff and student stories
- Internal communications via myLDSB and positive news stories shared with media

The Communications team will continue to monitor and evaluate the plan through enhanced data tracking with a stronger emphasis on engagement metrics such as clicks, likes, shares, views, open rates, form submissions, and overall audience engagement. Actionable feedback will be gathered to optimize resources and improve impact.

Ms. Grange concluded the presentation by sharing that the Communications team will continue collaborating with the Senior Team to further develop the comprehensive communications plan. Additional initiatives and campaigns will be supported throughout the year, with a commitment to consistent messaging and meaningful engagement across all channels.

Chair Lloyd thanked for Communications Consultant Grange for her presentation and called upon Trustees for questions.

6.3 School Year Calendar

Associate Superintendent Gollogly provided an update on the School Year Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. She noted that there are some unique challenges for the 2026-2027 school year. Some of these challenges include the late timing of Labor Day and the close proximity of March Break to the April break. She advised that another factor to consider is that the Ministry has recommended designating October 26 as a Professional Activity (PA) Day to accommodate municipal voting.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly advised that the consultation process with co-terminus boards is considering several options to address these challenges, including potentially starting the school year

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prior to Labour Day and adjusting the placement of PA days throughout the year. Consultation with staff, students, and families will be undertaken to determine the most desirable option. She concluded her presentation by notifying Trustees that recommendations on calendar options will come for approval at a later date once consultation with co-terminous boards, unions, non-union partners and the Parent Involvement Committee has taken place.

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

6.4 Director's Annual Report

Director Burra stated that the Director's Annual Report is a legislated regulatory, annual requirement. The Annual Report is a summary of the previous 2024-2025 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. He indicated that his presentation would primarily provide historical context, as the EQAO data was only released earlier today. This data will be incorporated into the finalized report, which will be shared with Trustees at a later date. The report will be communicated to families, caregivers, and community members in addition to being posted to the board website for viewing. This will be submitted to the Ministry of Education in compliance with the January 31, 2026, deadline.

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

6.5 EQAO Data

Director Burra reported that EQAO data was publicly released earlier today and has been shared with Trustees. He further noted that a letter from the Minister has been issued and will be communicated to families and caregivers, as well as posted on the board's website. Given the limited time to analyze the newly released data, Director Burra advised that today's presentation will provide a high-level overview. A comprehensive analysis, aligned with the Strategic Plan, will be presented to Trustees in January 2026.

Director Burra emphasized that EQAO is only one measure of student progress; however, it remains an important tool for achievement planning and can influence family decisions and real estate trends. EQAO results correlate strongly with other local measures and student success pathways.

Director Burra shared an overview of the EQAO data in the following areas:

Grade 3 Results:

Significant improvement was reported in Grade 3 reading, writing, and mathematics, with growth between 5.5% and 7.5% across all measures since the Strategic Plan was initiated. Each percentage point represents approximately 15 students. Limestone is now at or above the provincial average in all three

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Grade 3 EQAO measures. This success was attributed to the efforts of Teachers, Educational Assistants, Principals, and program teams.

Grade 6 Results:

Double-digit gains were observed in Grade 6 reading, writing, and mathematics compared to the previous year. While the province also experienced gains, Limestone's improvements were more than twice the provincial average in some areas. The board is now at or above the provincial average in all three Grade 6 measures. Focused attention on junior writing contributed to notable improvement following a previous decline.

Grade 9 Mathematics and OSSLT:

Grade 9 mathematics results improved by 5.5%, though Limestone remains slightly below the provincial average. Since the Strategic Plan's implementation, results have increased by 4%. OSSLT results are just below the provincial average (83.8% vs. 85%), but Limestone has a higher percentage of students writing the test in Grade 10 compared to other boards. If exemptions were excluded, Limestone's results would exceed the provincial average.

Director Burra concluded his presentation by explaining that overall, the EQAO results are a success story, with improvements across all measures from the previous year. He noted that while board-level data is positive, some individual schools require further attention and analysis. Limestone DSB proudly serves all students, including a significant number with special education needs. This commitment to inclusivity is a point of pride for the board and reflects its dedication to supporting diverse learners, even as it influences overall results.

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

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

10. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

February 4, 2026

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11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Lloyd that the meeting adjourns. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

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