



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 7, 2021

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott L. French T. Gingrich (Vice-Chair) B. Godkin R. Hutcheon K. McGregor J. Morning S. Ruttan (Chair) A. Putnam (Student Trustee) N. Quadir (Student Trustee) Q. Traviss (Student Trustee)	M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education K. Burra, Director of Education S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent J. Silver, Superintendent of Education L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	W. Moore, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

1. Call to Order

Chair Ruttan welcomed everyone to the Special Board Meeting of the Limestone District School Board of Trustees, which was held using a hybrid meeting model with some Trustees and staff attending virtually, and some attending in-person at the LDSB Education Centre.

Chair Ruttan stated that board meetings begin with the reading of the Acknowledgement of Territory. Recently the Board agreed that each Trustee would share the acknowledgement at each Board and EPOC meeting. Tonight, we begin with Trustee Elliott. Going forward, each Trustee will share the acknowledgement in alphabetic order.

Trustee Elliott stated: “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. I moved here in 1998 and I am truly grateful for the opportunities presented to me in this beautiful region and to be part of this community with my family. Although this acknowledgement is only a small piece of my reconciliation, I hope to continue to reflect on the privilege I have as a settler and try to do better in both my thoughts and actions.”

Chair Ruttan advised the viewing public that this Special Meeting of the Board has been called to address an OPSBA Policy Resolution submission, and the election of a Board OPSBA representative. This meeting is solely intended to deal with the OPSBA deadline items. As such, no standing reports or agenda items are included.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest for this meeting was declared.

3. Order of Business

3.1 OPSBA Policy Resolution Submission

Trustee French thanked Trustees for supporting this process. It has been a few years since Limestone has submitted a policy resolution. She indicated this is a process that is used selectively, to allow a Board to bring forward questions for OPSBA that would be of interest to Boards across Ontario. Limestone District School Board has been very dedicated to supporting Indigenous voice in our Board and has struggled with structures that exist in policy to allow us to have a dedicated, designated Indigenous Trustee as part of the decision-making Board. Limestone supported an Indigenous Student Trustee and that has exemplified voice at our table, but that is still outside of the process that we would desire as a group.

Trustee French indicated she was happy to draft a policy resolution on Limestone’s behalf within the parameters that OPSBA has provided, and thanked Trustees for all their feedback and counsel. Once there is a formal resolution by the Limestone District School Board, it can be submitted through the OPSBA Annual General Meeting process that will go through the Executive and to the OPSBA Board of Directors at the provincial level, seeking support.

Trustee French reviewed the draft policy resolution submission, starting with the rationale.

Rationale

Whereas, public school boards across Ontario are acting to address racism in education and improve Indigenous education, and

Whereas, the colonial Ontario Regulation 462/97 presently limits school boards to only having a designated Indigenous Trustee if they have a reciprocal education agreement with a First Nation for students attending schools in their board, and

Whereas, some school boards may not have an Indigenous community in their geographic boundary and/or fewer self-identified students, and further, that Indigenous students may include members of multiple other Indigenous communities, urban Indigenous, Métis or Inuit populations outside of a Reciprocal Education Agreement as evidenced in Student Census data, and

Whereas, several school boards have designated Indigenous Student Trustees in an effort to support Indigenous voice, but Student Trustees do not have the full responsibilities, accountabilities, and authorities in governing and decision-making as elected Trustees, and

Whereas, one of the Limestone District School Board's Strategic Goals is "to improve student achievement and well-being, promote diversity and foster a sense of belonging (cultivate, nurture)" with numerous initiatives to engage, empower and welcome Indigenous students and families, and

Whereas, Canadians have a duty to implement the Calls to Action of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and further, elected Trustees have legal obligations and responsibilities to uphold Human Rights and Equity, and

Whereas, one of OPSBA's key priorities and work is "Advancing Reconciliation – First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education.

Resolution

Be it resolved, that OPSBA lobby the Ministry of Education to revise Regulation 462/97, or provide an alternative mechanism, in order for boards to have a process to add an additional, funded designated Indigenous Trustee.

MOTION MOVED BY: Trustee French and seconded by Trustee Gingrich that Trustees of the Limestone District School Board approve the draft OPSBA Policy Resolution Submission, as presented, and forward to OPSBA for their annual general meeting for consideration. Carried.

3.2 Election of Board OPSBA Representative

Chair Ruttan called for nominations for the position of Board OPSBA Representative. Trustee Gingrich nominated Trustee French and was seconded by Trustee McGregor. Trustee French accepted the nomination.

Chair Ruttan called for nominations two additional times. Hearing none, she stated that nominations would be closed.

MOVED by Trustee Elliott, that the nominations be closed. Carried.

Chair Ruttan congratulated Trustee French on being acclaimed as the Board's OPSBA Representative.

Chair Ruttan called for nominations for the position of Alternate. Trustee French nominated Trustee Gingrich and was seconded by Trustee McGregor. Trustee Gingrich accepted the nomination. Trustee Godkin nominated Trustee Hutcheon and was seconded by Trustee Morning. Trustee Hutcheon accepted the nomination.

Chair Ruttan called for nominations two additional times. Hearing none, she stated that nominations would be closed.

MOVED by Trustee McGregor, that the nominations be closed. Carried.

Trustees voted on their selection of Alternate. Director Burra and the Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison collected the votes and Director Burra counted the votes.

Chair Ruttan congratulated Trustee Gingrich on being elected as Alternate. Chair Ruttan thanked Trustee Hutcheon for putting her name forward.

MOVED by Trustee Elliott, that the ballots be destroyed. Carried.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Trustee Hutcheon and seconded by Trustee Brown that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.