



# AGENDA - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, August 26, 2020, *immediately following EPOC*

Limestone Education Centre

220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, ON

[VIRTUAL MEETING LINK](#)

## PUBLIC SESSION

**Public Meeting – Immediately following EPOC (*EPOC starts - 6 p.m.*)**

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.”

- 1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
- 3. CHAIR’S UPDATE**
- 4. DIRECTOR’S UPDATE**

## Section A – Matters Requiring Action at the Meeting

- 5. Reports for Information**
  - 5.1 School Re-entry Plan Update – Director Burra (Page 6)**

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## **6. Reports Requiring Decision**

None at this time

## **7. Draft Motions Requiring Decision**

### **7.1 Motion brought by Trustee Elliott:**

MOTION: That all students in the LDSB (K-12) wear masks inside schools and on buses, allowing for appropriate medical exemptions.

### **7.2 Motion brought by Trustee Elliott:**

Motion: That The Director, or designate, investigate the purchase of stand alone HEPA air filters for windowless classrooms, prioritize ventilation improvements over any unassigned capital school renewal projects from the 2019-2020 plan, and brings a report as soon as possible.

### **7.3 Motion brought by Trustee Elliott:**

Motion: That the Director, or designate, investigate the purchase of Plexiglas shields and movable dividers between desks, and brings a report as soon as possible.

### **7.4 Motion brought by Trustee Morning:**

MOTION: That Limestone District School Board places the Ontario Ministry of Education on notice regarding the provincial responsibility to provide the required fiscal infrastructure to implement the health regulations and safety measures advised by Canada's most trusted health experts federally and provincially: namely and most critically, two-metres of social distancing and proper ventilation. Under the current funding parameters, LDSB staff have done everything possible to mitigate risk, but enhancing existing health and safety measures, including proper spacing, requires additional funding. The Board, therefore, declares formally and unambiguously that Return to School directives and allocations provided by the Ministry for return to school are inadequate to maximize safety for the resumption of classes.

## **8. Notice of Motions**

### **Section B – Information**

## **9. Internal Reports and Other Communications**

**8.1 LDSB Letter to Minister of Education re: Funding, July 24, 2020 (Page 4)**

## **10. External Reports and Other Communications**

**9.1 Letter to the Limestone District School Board Trustees, from Crystal Bevens-Leblanc, Chair, LDSB Parent Involvement Committee. (Page 5)**

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**11. Other Special Meetings/Events**

**12. Adjournment**

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We're Turning Innovation into Action



We're Committed to Collaboration

July 24, 2020

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The Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Ministry of Education  
5th Floor, 438 University Ave.  
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

To the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education,

As school boards across Ontario continue to work on various reopening plans for the 2020-2021 school year, the Trustees of the Limestone District School Board would like to share some important considerations to maintain student and staff safety and well-being during any return to school model.

Regardless of the model chosen – whether that be continued remote learning, a return to in-school learning that follows public health directives, or a blended learning model of remote and in-school learning – considerable costs will need to be incurred by school boards that are not accounted or provided for in current funding models.

Remote learning will require additional investment to ensure equity of access for all students through adequate Internet access (especially in rural and remote areas), appropriate devices (including supportive assistive devices for those whom require them) and maintenance of those devices, technical support and ongoing professional learning for staff.

In-school learning will require a robust staffing plan to accommodate as many students as possible (including those with special education needs) while following public health directives. There will also be requirements for appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff and students (to comply with both health and safety and labour requirements), cleaning and sanitizing supplies and equipment, and transportation requirements. Each of these items requires adequate and reliable funding. Although we are awaiting direction on PPE requirements, we are estimating a cost of up to \$3 million for our school board alone. Obviously, extra staffing costs would be high as well, depending on the re-entry model, not to mention replacement staff required for those who become ill or are required to self-isolate.

Whatever model will also require significant investment to provide mental health supports for students and staff who have been adversely affected by the pandemic. We must also consider providing food security supports to our most vulnerable populations which relies on school-based supports and interventions. We cannot underestimate the affect the pandemic, lockdowns and school closures have on our school communities and we must be appropriately funded to continue this important work for as long as is needed.

We know there are still many unknowns regarding the new school year, and indeed how the pandemic will continue to affect our school communities in both the short and long term. To adequately and responsibly plan for the required changes to keep everyone safe going forward, school boards must receive additional and flexible funding. Recent increases to the Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) and Priorities and Partnerships Fund (PPF) are welcome but do not currently account for the myriad of challenges that lay ahead. It is critical that local boards be engaged in the planning and decision-making and have some flexibility to act with local needs in mind, based on public health expert guidance.

We know you, too, are committed to ensuring the health, safety and well-being of students and staff is a priority. We urge the Ministry of Education to join school boards in helping to ensure a safe return to school for everyone.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Ruttan  
Chair, Limestone District School Board of Trustees

cc: OPSBA

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Suzanne Ruttan (Chair) | Debra Rantz (Director of Education and Secretary) | Craig Young (Treasurer)

August 12, 2020

Dear Trustees,

The Limestone District School Board Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) understands the complexity of navigating and planning for the reopening of schools. We appreciate the careful consideration of the Limestone District School Board Senior Staff throughout this challenging process, and recognize that the directive received from the Ministry of Education, and the resource structure allocations provided are inadequate and unacceptable. Our Provincial Government must ensure school boards have required fiscal infrastructure to implement the Health Recommendations and safety measures advised by our country's most trusted health experts.

As such, we are calling on all Trustees to introduce and pass a motion to declare formally and unambiguously that Return to School directives and allocations provided by the Ministry of Education are inadequate to permit the safe resumption of classes.

The safe resumption of classes will require Ministerial structural support to reduce class sizes, provide adequate classroom spaces, address poor ventilation and to implement safety measures aligned with both the Federal and Provincial Health Recommendations, as well as the recommendations commissioned by our Provincial Government as published by SickKids.

In addition to the Health and Safety Protocols outlined in pages 16 - 19 of the Limestone District School Board August 12, 2020 Special Board Meeting Package, additional provision from the Ministry of Education will be required to ensure maximum class sizes of 10 - 15 students to assure direct and indirect contacts are limited to approximately 50. This is required to ensure reduced transmission should a student or staff member test positive for SARS-CoV-2, as is physical distancing of 2 metres in as many indoor school settings as possible.

Reopening schools at this urgent and pivotal time, with inadequate Ministerially-provided infrastructure is reckless. The failure of our Provincial Government to differentiate between wasteful expenditure and crucial investment may result in lives being lost. It is not too late to develop and implement a reasonable plan that allows for safe instruction. We, the Parent Involvement Committee, comprised of School Advisory Council Representatives from across Limestone District School Board, urge you as our Elected Trustees, to use your collective voice to ensure our Provincial Government provides adequate structural capacity to ensure the safe reopening of schools.

Thank you,  
Crystal Bevens-Leblanc  
Chair, Parent Involvement Committee  
Limestone District School Board