

Regular Board Meeting Minutes August 20, 2025

PRIVATE SESSION

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) (regrets) R. Hutcheon T. Lloyd J. Maracle K. McGregor (Chair) J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan C. Scott M. Comeau (Student Trustee) (regrets) R. Kolosov (Student Trustee) (regrets) S. Ismail (Student Trustee) (regrets)	K. Burra, Director of Education M. Blackburn, Associate Superintendent M. Crothers, Communications Consultant S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education T. McKenna, Associate Superintendent S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McGregor called the meeting to order.

2. RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND PRIVATE SESSION

MOTION: To move into Private Session.

MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd and Trustee Neill. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes (Private) – June 18, 2025

MOVED BY: Trustee Scott that the minutes listed in Action Items, Private Session, as distributed, be approved. Carried.

Limestone District School Board

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5. FOR INFORMATION

- 5.1. Safe Schools Update
- 5.2. Personnel Update
- 5.3. Labour Update
- 5.4. Legal Update – Director Burra provided a legal update.
- 5.5. Property Update
- 5.6. OPSBA Update

6. REPORT TO PUBLIC SESSION

Chair McGregor called for a motion for the Board to rise and report.

MOTION: That the Board rise and report.

MOVED by: Trustee Neill. Carried.

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) (regrets) R. Hutcheon (Virtual) T. Lloyd J. Maracle K. McGregor (Chair) J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan C. Scott M. Comeau (Student Trustee) R. Kolosov (Student Trustee) S. Ismail (Student Trustee)	K. Burra, Director of Education M. Blackburn, Associate Superintendent M. Crothers, Communications Consultant S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education T. McKenna, Associate Superintendent S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
P. Carson, Manager of Financial Services Y. Abdulkareem, Human Rights and Equity Advisor	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

Chair McGregor welcomed everyone to the Regular Board Meeting and called the roll.

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She provided the Acknowledgement of Territory: “The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe. 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.”

7. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

*MOVED BY: Trustee Neill and seconded by Trustee Scott that the agenda, as presented, be approved.
Carried.*

8. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chair McGregor asked that if Trustees have a conflict of interest, could they please identify the item number. There were no conflicts declared.

9. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

None at this time.

10. PRIVATE SESSION REPORT

Trustee Elliott stated that earlier this evening during Private Session:

- The minutes were approved from the Regular Board Meeting (Private Session) of June 18, 2025.
- Director Burra provided a Legal update.

There was no other business conducted, or motions passed in Private Session.

*MOVED By Trustee Elliott and seconded by Trustee Scott that the Private Session Report be received.
Carried.*

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

11.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2025

*MOVED BY Trustee Scott and seconded by Trustee Ruttan that the minutes, as presented, be approved.
Carried.*

12. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

12.1. Chair’s Report

Chair McGregor stated: “As we prepare to welcome students and families back into our schools on Wednesday, September 3, I want to take a moment to reflect on the excitement and promise that a new school year brings.

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Each September marks a fresh beginning—an opportunity for students to grow, for families to engage, and for staff to collaborate in creating vibrant learning environments. This year, we look forward to building on our shared commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of every student, in every classroom, and every school across Limestone.

The start of the school year is not only a time of renewal but also a chance to strengthen relationships, foster innovation, and celebrate the diverse strengths of our communities. I am confident that through collaboration, dedication, and a shared vision for student success, we will achieve great things together.

On behalf of the Board, I extend a warm welcome back to all students, families, and staff. Let's make this year one of meaningful learning, growth, and achievement.

This concludes my report.”

12.2. Director's Report

Director Burra stated: “Good evening Trustees and members of the public joining us for this meeting. I am pleased to provide you with my update tonight as we prepare for the start of the 2025-2026 school year in two weeks.

I hope everyone found themselves with some holiday time this summer to enjoy time with family and friends. In reflecting on this summer, it is important for everyone to have the opportunity to recharge and reflect on the important work we do collaboratively to support children and youth in the Limestone community.

With the summer season schools were not running as they do for the other ten months of the year. However, there was lots of activity for students this July and August. Similar to last summer, over 260 students participated in Camp Read-A-Lot, and over 700 secondary students participated in summer session earning credits. In addition, almost 570 students participated in outdoor education programming offered at some schools, at Gould Lake, and/or on outdoor education trips. Trustees will receive a report in the fall providing more details regarding the range of summer programs that occurred in July and August. In addition, a considerable amount of facilities work occurs in schools during the summer and Manager Fowler will provide a summary of this work in September.

We are greatly looking forward to welcoming back staff and well over 20,000 students as the school year starts. While over 99% of students will be in face-to-face classrooms, Limestone continues to offer a virtual option for some students. Regardless of the format of learning, Limestone will continue to do its

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best to meet students where they are and support student well-being. Mental health and well-being are essential conditions for achievement and learning for all students.

Schools will be reopening next week with many staff getting ready for the new school year and we look forward to Limestone schools welcoming students back on Wednesday, September 3, with a full range of activities to be available for students in the 2025-2026 school year. As a reminder, we are starting the school year with a PA day on Tuesday, September 2. With almost all labour agreements behind us, we can expect stability on that front for this year. We all know that extracurriculars like sports and clubs, full arts programming, and field trips are of tremendous value. As Trustees know, all of these student activities are made possible by the generous time provided by staff and some community members. I think I speak for everyone in expressing our gratitude to the staff and community members that provide these valuable experiences and services to Limestone students.

This evening there are some routine, cyclical reports coming to Trustees, but we also look forward to sharing with you an overview of a new administrative procedure focused on Human Rights, and an award to honour the late former Trustee Judith Brown.

As Trustees know, considerable work occurs by central departments: facilities, finance, human resources, and ITS during the summer months to ensure schools are ready for the school year. I would like to acknowledge staff in all of those departments for the important work they do throughout the year, but also during the summer months.

Finally, I should also note that Limestone hosted its 12th successful Summer Institute earlier today with approximately 200 LDSB educators attending to learn from each other and continue to hone their craft. A wide range of learning topics were available to support educator learning K-12. We are very pleased to be able to provide this valuable learning opportunity to staff. This is just one example of learning that Limestone educators have been participating in this summer. As we all know, learning is a journey, not a destination, and we must always model learning to support the system, and do the best we can to serve every student, in every classroom, in every school.

Thank you, Chair McGregor. That completes my report for this evening."

13. REPORTS

13.1. OPSBA Report

Trustee McGregor reminded Trustees to complete their modules prior to August 31, 2025. She acknowledged that there are six modules and encourages those still outstanding to have them completed.

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13.2. Student Trustees' Report

None at this time.

13.3. Reports for Action

13.3.1. Short-Term Borrowing Resolution

Superintendent Young indicated that the purpose of the report was to recommend a short-term borrowing resolution for the 2025-26 school year to meet cash flow requirements. The Education Act requires the Treasurer of the Board furnish to the bank a copy of the resolutions authorizing the borrowing of the funds. Superintendent Young noted that the board has a cash management strategy implemented by the province. He reviewed the report with Trustees. He noted that we don't currently have a capital line of credit as we do not have any capital projects at this time.

Chair McGregor called upon Trustees for comments or questions.

MOTION MOVED by Trustee Ruttan and seconded by Trustee Elliott that the Board authorize the signing officers of the Board to enter into agreements with the Royal Bank of Canada for the following:

1. *The borrowing of funds to meet operating requirements to a maximum of \$20 million for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Carried.*

13.4. Reports for Information

13.4.1. Interim Reporting Quarter 3

Manager Carson indicated that the purpose of her report is to report on the interim financial operating expenditures for the period ending May 31, 2025. She stated that the Q2 2024-2025 interim financial report was presented to the Board on April 23, 2025.

Manager Carson reviewed Appendix 1 of the 2024-2025 interim financial report for quarter three with Trustees. The report indicates a spending level of 76 per cent. This is 9 per cent reduction in the spending level from this quarter last year. Manager Carson noted that this is due to additional expenditures related to the Bill 124 remedy payment from last year. She reviewed the expenditure categories captured in the Appendix.

Chair McGregor thanked Manager Carson and called upon Trustees for comments or questions.

13.4.2. Administrative Procedure 107 – Human Rights

Chair McGregor welcomed Superintendent McDonnell and Human Rights & Equity Advisor Abdulkareem to present their report. Superintendent McDonnell began by sharing Administrative Procedure (AP) 107 and how it acknowledges the impacts of historical and ongoing systemic discrimination. The purpose of

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AP 107 is to outline the Board's approach to creating equitable, inclusive, and accessible environments free from discrimination and harassment. This procedure also aligns with the Board's strategic plan goal of fostering student learning, achievement, and well-being. Importantly, Superintendent McDonnell shared that AP 107 serves as an overarching human rights procedure, establishing a consistent foundation for understanding, protecting, and enforcing human rights across the Board. It acts as an umbrella for other related procedures, such as those APs addressing student complaints, workplace harassment, and gender identity, ensuring they are grounded in the same principles and legal obligations. The procedure signals that human rights are not confined to isolated areas but are central to the Board's culture, policies, and daily operations.

Human Rights & Equity Advisor Abdulkareem shared some key components of AP 107 which include clear definitions of human rights concepts to promote shared understanding, clarification of roles and responsibilities for all community members, and detailed descriptions of processes relevant to the broader school community. The procedure emphasizes accountability through data collection and reporting, which is vital for compliance and continuous improvement. It outlines protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code and affirms the Board's commitment to upholding these legal standards. Examples of discrimination are provided to illustrate how violations may occur, and the scope of the procedure is defined to apply to students, staff, Trustees, and all members of the Board.

Superintendent McDonnell concluded the presentation by sharing next steps. This includes ensuring awareness and understanding of AP 107 among staff, students, families, partners and community members. A communication plan is in place, beginning with mandatory staff training on the September PA Day. The Board also plans to share the procedure with families and community partners, supported by a family guide to enhance understanding. Labour partners and associations have reviewed the procedure, which is now publicly available on the LDSB website.

The Board will continue to analyze human rights data to identify trends and inform decision-making. This includes evaluating where additional resources or support may be needed. The Limestone District School Board is committed to releasing human rights data annually, with reports being prepared for public sharing and community engagement.

Chair McGregor thanked Superintendent McDonnell and Equity Advisor Abdulkareem and called upon Trustees for questions.

13.4.3 The Judith Brown Black Excellence Award

Director Burra began his presentation by acknowledging that this award was finalized and presented in late June after the late Trustee Judith Brown's family's approval in mid-June. The Judith Brown Black

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Excellence Award was given to a deserving student from LCVI at the June 2025 graduation, with teacher Andrea Barrow assisting in the presentation.

Director Burra noted for awareness that there is a tribute to Judith Brown, featuring a portrait by artist Sandra Brewster, currently displayed downtown on Brock Street.

Director Burra explained that the award was created in response to requests from Trustees, Limestone staff, and the Umoja Black Advisory Council, which Judith Brown helped found and lead. The award description reflects Judith's legacy as an educator, community member, and Trustee.

Moving forward, the award will be presented annually to one graduating Black student in the board, with nominations submitted by schools. Due to time constraints, the first award was directly selected, but future awards will follow a formal nomination process similar to other board recognitions. Plans are underway to attach a financial component to the award through fundraising efforts supported by the family and Umoja.

Chair McGregor thanks Director Burra and called upon Trustees for questions.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14.1. Feeding Minds: Food and Beverages Policy (PPM-150) Delegation

Chair McGregor referenced a letter in the agenda package from the delegation that took place at the June 18, 2025 Board meeting.

15. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION

None at this time.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None at this time.

19. COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

None at this time.

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20. FUTURE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

September 3, 2025 (EPOC)

September 17, 2025

October 1, 2025 (EPOC)

October 29, 2025

November 19, 2025 (Annual Meeting)

November 24, 2025 (Special Meeting)

December 3, 2025 (EPOC)

January 14, 2026

February 4, 2026 (EPOC)

February 18, 2026

March 11, 2026

April 1, 2026 (EPOC)

April 15, 2026

May 6, 2026 (EPOC)

May 20, 2026

June 3, 2026 (EPOC)

June 17, 2026

21. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd and seconded by Trustee Scott that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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See Yourself in Limestone