



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – MAY 19, 2021

PRIVATE SESSION

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 C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	W. Moore, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

1. MOTION TO MOVE INTO PRIVATE SESSION

MOTION: To move into Private Session.

MOVED BY: Trustee Hutcheon and seconded by Trustee Morning. Carried.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Godkin declared his daughter is an occasional teacher with two other public boards and with LDSB. Trustee Elliott declared his wife is a teacher with the LDSB and is a member of ETFO. Student Trustee Putnam declared her mother is a Student Support Teacher with the LDSB and member of ETFO.

3. Action Items

3.1 Board Minutes:

- 3.1.1 Regular Board Meeting – March 24, 2021
- 3.1.2 Education, Policy and Operations Meeting – April 7, 2021

MOVED BY: Trustee Brown and seconded by Trustee Elliott, that the minutes listed in Action Items, Private Session, as distributed, be approved. Carried.

4. For Information

- 4.1 Safe Schools Update – No update.
- 4.2 Property Update –Superintendent Young provided a property update.
- 4.3 OPSBA Update – Trustee French provided an OPSBA update.
- 4.4 Labour Update – Superintendent McWilliams provided a labour update.
- 4.5 Personnel Update – Superintendent McWilliams provided a personnel update.

5. REPORT TO PUBLIC SESSION

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

MOTION: That the Board rise and report, and that any resolutions, be made public.
MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor and seconded by Trustee Morning. Carried.

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. Senior, Admin Assistant, Producer J. Silver, Superintendent of Education K. Smith, Communications Officer W. Utton, ITS Support C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
	W. Moore, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

Chair Ruttan welcomed everyone to the Regular Board Meeting of the Limestone District School Board of Trustees, which was being held virtually due to ongoing provincial stay-at-home order.

Chair Ruttan called upon Trustee French to present the Acknowledgement of Territory: “The Limestone District School Board acknowledges that our schools and our communities are located on the ancestral and unceded territory of First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and First Peoples of Canada. As a second generation European immigrant I am privileged to live and thrive here on the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe. We purposefully recognize past and present Aboriginal Peoples and are committed to improving relationships among nations and promoting respect for the histories and cultures of Indigenous Peoples.

I ask you all to please reflect on the consequences of past actions and consider how each of us, in the full spirit of reconciliation and collaboration, can learn about our neighbours, learn

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee.

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about the full history and traumas that occurred and how they contributed to the present reality, learn about the treaties of these territories, and our duties within them, to go forward together.”

6. Adoption of Agenda

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin and seconded by Trustee Hutcheon, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

7. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Godkin declared his daughter is an occasional teacher with two other public boards and with LDSB. Trustee Elliott declared his wife is a teacher with the LDSB and a member of ETFO. Student Trustee Putnam declared her mother is a Student Support Teacher with the LDSB and a member of ETFO.

8. Private Session Report

Vice-Chair Gingrich stated that in Private Session earlier this evening, the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of April 28, 2021, and the Audit Committee Minutes of May 3, 2021, were approved.

Trustee French provided an OPSBA update.

Superintendent McWilliams provided a Labour update, resulting in the following motion:

MOVED BY Trustee McGregor and seconded by Trustee Brown that the Board ratify the tentative CUPE Local 1480 collective agreement as presented. Carried.

Superintendent McWilliams provided a personnel update.

Superintendent Young provided a property update.

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

9. Chair's Update

Chair Ruttan stated: “As Chair of the Board and Area Trustee, I extend our most sincere sympathies on the passing of a Grade 12 Sydenham High School student who died suddenly last week. Rural school communities are small and interconnected and our thoughts are with

the student's family, friends, and classmates. Our thanks to school and Education Services staff as they support the school community during this difficult time.

The first week of May is recognized as both Education Week and Mental Health Week in Ontario. This year, the Limestone District School Board showcased and celebrated teaching excellence and student achievement. The theme of Education Week 2021 was Stronger Together, a fitting concept given the way school and central staff and community partners have rallied to support students and families during these unprecedented times. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank all staff – in every role – for providing much-needed support and connection to students and families. Staff have gone above and beyond to find creative, innovative, and effective ways to support student learning and well-being during the pandemic.

Speaking of above and beyond, that is the theme of a new public awareness campaign to highlight the strengths of our public education recently launched by our trustee association, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association. The Above and Beyond campaign aims to dispel misconceptions and raise awareness about the important role local governance plays in our system. The campaign will continue to ramp up until the end of the school year and will look to maintain momentum over the summer break and ramp up again for the return to school in September. That concludes my report."

10. Director's Update

Director Burra stated: "As the Chair indicated in her remarks, the Limestone District School Board is mourning the loss of a Grade 12 student from Sydenham High School. This loss has been felt deeply within the Sydenham school community, and I offer our condolences to the family and all those who knew this student. I echo the Chair's comments in thanking both school and Educational Services staff for their ongoing support of students and families. This support will continue for as long as it is needed.

It was wonderful to see staff recognized for their ongoing efforts during this unprecedented year during Education Week and Mental Health Week in early May. The 2020-2021 school year has been full of challenges for everyone – students, families, and staff – and yet I have been continually impressed and inspired by the way our school communities have embraced change and adapted time and again to a regularly changing landscape. I have said it before, but it

certainly bears repeating, that we are fortunate in Limestone to have education workers and support staff who regularly step up to provide care and support in these overwhelming circumstances.

Later this evening, staff will provide Trustees with an update on planning for the 2021-2022 school year. While there are still some unknowns and updated Ministry guidance is anticipated in the summer, we are working diligently to plan and prepare what we can now, to ensure a smooth transition back to school in September. We are certainly aware of the concerns raised from a number of stakeholders regarding the potential use of hybrid learning in 2021-2022, and that Trustees have received a number of communications expressing concerns. As Trustees are aware, during the 2020-2021 school year, Limestone made a very conscientious effort to keep virtual learning separate from in-person learning to the maximum extent possible. Significant COVID funds were used for this purpose. Our goal for the coming year is to again keep these two learning models separate. Given the date for families to indicate a request for virtual learning next year has been pushed out to June 4, we still await the necessary information for planning decisions related to virtual learners. More information related to fall planning is part of a report tonight and more information will be provided at future meetings.

Speaking of the fall, we are also hopeful that most students and staff who wish to be vaccinated, will be, by the start of September. Education workers have been eligible for vaccines for a few weeks now and we will be working with the Ministry and public health on the upcoming rollout of vaccines for students aged 12 to 17. The preliminary plan from the province indicates that 12 to 17 year olds will have an opportunity to receive a first dose of the vaccine in June and then receive a second dose in August. We will share more information on this as soon as we are able. The provision and rollout of vaccines to an expanding portion of the population, including intermediate and secondary age students, provides significant hope for what the summer and fall may hold for all of us, in what may be the start of putting this pandemic behind us, or at least significantly reducing its impact.

This evening, Senior Staff will also be providing a mid-year update on Limestone's Strategic Plan. While many actions and initiatives had to be deferred or altered last year due to the pandemic, we are pleased to report that many others are back on track. Staff will provide a snapshot of some of those items still in progress in a lengthy report tonight.

Finally, and very importantly, I would like to take a moment to highlight the 11 secondary

students being recognized with Limestone Student Achievers Awards this evening. This is a highlight of the Board Meeting calendar for both Trustees and staff. As you will soon hear, these students are truly bright lights in an otherwise very challenging year. Their contributions to our strategic priorities of wellness, collaboration, and innovation in supporting others during the school year is exemplary. Regardless of where these students are headed after graduation, it is clear they will continue to make a positive and significant impact and forever be wonderful ambassadors of the Limestone District School Board. That concludes my report Madame Chair.”

11. PRESENTATION – LIMESTONE STUDENT ACHIEVERS AWARDS

Vice-Chair Gingrich stated that the Limestone Student Achievers Award recognizes outstanding achievements of secondary students whose exceptional accomplishments merit recognition beyond the separate categories of awards at the school level. For 2020-2021, given the global pandemic, the LDSB recognizes an exemplary, graduating secondary student for their contributions to the strategic priorities of wellness, collaboration, and innovation in supporting others during the 2020-2021 school year.

Trustee Elliott stated that Recipients have demonstrated exemplary achievement in all three categories: leadership; positive attitude, energy, and school spirit; and academic standing. Students are nominated by their schools and then selected by the awards committee of the Board. A representative from each school will read the citation. Each student will receive a medal, a framed award certificate and a lapel pin that will be sent to their respective site.

Trustee McGregor invited the following Administrators to read the citation for their student achiever:

Principal Heather Highet, Bayridge Secondary School – *Emily Swaine*

Principal Angela Salmond, Ernestown Secondary School – *Heather Craig*

Principal James Bonham-Carter, Frontenac Secondary School – *Zahraa Abdul Hasan*

Principal Emily Yanch, Granite Ridge Education Centre – *Grace Guigue*

English Teacher Beth Barz, Katarokwi Learning Centre – *Anas Alsawal*

Principal Darlene Scarlett, Kingston Secondary School – *Namirah Quadir*

Principal Anne Marie McDonald, Loyalist Collegiate & Vocational Institute – *Ashley Loyst*

Principal Ted Holden, La Salle Intermediate and Secondary School – *Violet Derbyshire*

Principal John Mooney, North Addington Education Centre – *Diana Weichenthal*

Principal Erin Pincivero, Napanee District Secondary – *Ashley Groth*

Principal Roxanne Saunders, Sydenham High School – *Annika Putnam*

On behalf of Trustees of the Limestone District School Board, Chair Ruttan congratulated this year's recipients. She noted that their names will be recorded on a plaque, displayed in the Barry C. O'Connor Board Room at the Education Centre. Recipients will also be recognized more publicly on the board website and social media channels. Chair Ruttan indicated to the student achievers that their achievements make the schools better; and they inspire fellow students, staff, and community members alike.

Chair Ruttan thanked Trustees Elliott, Gingrich, and McGregor for their work on this committee.

12. Consent Agenda

12.1 Board Minutes

12.1.1 Regular Board Meeting – March 24, 2021

12.1.2 Special Board Meeting (I) – April 7, 2021

12.1.3 Special Board Meeting (II) – April 7, 2021

MOVED BY: Trustee French and seconded by Trustee McGregor that the minutes listed in the Consent Agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

12.2 Reports from all Committees

12.2.1 Special Education Advisory Committee – March 10, 2021

12.2.2 Education, Policy and Operations Committee – April 7, 2021

12.2.3 Budget Committee – April 21, 2021

MOVED BY: Trustee Brown and seconded by Trustee Gingrich that the committee minutes in the Consent Agenda, as presented, be received. Carried.

13 Routine Matters

13.1 OPSBA Report - Trustee French advised Trustees that the Board of Directors have not met since her last report. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2021. At that meeting elections will be held for some of the rep roles. Trustee French shared the Policy Resolution package with Trustees earlier this week, and she reminded Trustees that they will need to be voting on these at the AGM. She is seeking any feedback from Trustees. The four priorities that school board across the province have submitted as a priority include (1) COVID Gap Funding from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, (2) Anti-Racism Research Funding, from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, (3) Mandatory Black Heritage in Social Studies and History Curriculum, from the Waterloo Region District School Board, and (4) Funding for Indigenous Trustee Positions in School Boards, submitted on our behalf, the Limestone District School Board. If Trustees have any feedback, please forward to Trustee French.

As well, from the OPSA table, and through the Canadian School Board Association, the Annual Congress and National Gathering of Indigenous Trustees is taking place remotely on July 7-9, 2021. The event includes three half-day sessions, each day from 12:00 - 4:30 p.m. The first day focuses on Racism in Schools; on July 8, 2021, the focus is on Mental Health and Well-being in Schools; and on July 9, 2021, the focus is on Indigenous Education and Calls to Action. Trustee French hopes that Trustees are able to attend this learning opportunity.

13.2 Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustee Quadir stated: "Good evening. To begin the report, I would like to thank all staff at the school board for their ongoing and relentless support of student success. As we near the end of the school year, our appreciation only increases for our educators, support staff, administrators and more, who have tirelessly worked to make our classrooms as compassionate, engaging, and inclusive they can in this virtual and pandemic setting. Yesterday the current and incoming Student Trustees met with the Inter-School Council to discuss student initiatives and well-being with secondary student leaders from across the board and it was wonderful to hear about how students are striving to take care of themselves and their school communities. As an avid member of the mental health and well-being working group with the provincial student trustee association OSTA-AECO, I have had the pleasure of advising School Mental Health Ontario's modules on mental health this year which I am ecstatic to announce are going out to classrooms this spring and in the upcoming fall. Thank you."

Student Trustee Putnam stated: “Good evening everyone, I hope you are all staying safe and well. We would like to extend congratulations to our octomestered students for completing their seventh octo. We would also like to wish them well in the beginning of their eighth and final octo of the school year. It has definitely been an adjustment for students at our octomestered schools this year, but we have seen them persevere and succeed through all the new challenges presented. Next weekend, both the current and incoming Student Trustees will be attending the OSTA-AECO Annual General Meeting conference. We are very excited to be welcoming out incoming Student Trustees into OSTA and also having the opportunity to engage in professional development with our cross province colleagues. Thank you.”

Student Trustee Traviss stated: “Good evening, while it has been an especially tough few months for us all, I wanted to take a minute to congratulate you all, not just for finishing octo seven, but for coming this far. All around me I see students finding new ways to adapt to virtual school. Whether it is interacting with your school community through social media, an Indigenous student attending Indspire, or promoting local business (I am looking at you, Bayridge), it is inspiring to see this level of perseverance coming from limestone students. To close, I want to wish you all good luck on your final class of the year, which for many, includes graduating from high school, a milestone for hundreds of students across our board, especially in times as challenging as these, and a reminder that we are almost through this - and with one more push - we can all make it to summer break. Thank you.”

14 Reports for Information

14.1 Strategic Plan Monitoring

Director Burra advised that the period of time covered in the mid-year update of the Strategic Plan is between the period from September 2020 and the end of January 2021. The full year Strategic Plan update will be presented to Trustees in the fall which covers the entire school year.

Director Burra noted that with the last year or so, there were some items within this work that had been more challenging for staff to accomplish, given primarily the need to move to remote learning/working at different points in time, but also the inability to bring groups of people together for some of that work. Trustees will see there is significant progress in some areas of the Strategic Plan and then there are other areas that we have been hampered due to circumstances presented by the pandemic.

Director Burra stated that the document at the end of the Strategic Plan, attempts to map the items that Trustees have received information regarding, or had to make decisions about, at the EPOC and Board Meetings. He noted that as we progressed through the year, there are a number of different items that are documented and they cross-reference directly to the Strategic Plan.

Senior Staff highlighted the following initiatives: W.1.2 Mental Health; W2.1 Accessibility; W2.2 Equity; W2.3 International Education and Second Language (French); W3.1 Health and Safety; I1.2 Literacy (Snapshot) and (Empower - Support for Virtual School); I2.2 Leadership Development/Succession; I3.1 Alternative & Continuing Education; I3.2 Technology Enhanced Education; C1.3 Parent Engagement; C2.1 Indigenous Education; and C3.1 Early Years/Childcare.

Chair Ruttan thanked Senior Staff for the detailed report. Some Trustees indicated they would like to change the format in the way the Strategic Plan is presented, as there is a lot of information to be shared. Chair Ruttan asked Trustees to email their suggestions as to how this information can be shared and Trustee questions addressed in a manner, they think would be more efficient for the fall report.

14.2 2021-2022 Preliminary Operational Guidance and Virtual School

Director Burra indicated that this report provides Trustees with an update regarding current special education programming and an overview of the preliminary Ministry of Education funding and operational guidance for the 2021-2022 school year. An earlier update was provided to Trustees related to the provision of special education services for students with significant special education needs. A few weeks ago, boards did receive a significant number of memoranda from the Ministry related to funding and operational guidance for next year.

Director Burra noted that the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and Priority Partnership Funding money amounts will be addressed through the regular budget process. Budget information did arrive later than hoped.

Director Burra advised that at this juncture most students are in programming through virtual or remote learning circumstances. There is still no clear date as to when students might return to schools, however, the provincial and the local data is trending down, and it is in the realm of possibility that boards may hear further information from the Ministry of Health, as well as the Ministry of Education, as it relates to school resuming at some point this spring.

Director Burra noted that as part of the Ministry information, boards were required to extend the deadline for students to decide about providing their choice for schooling next year.

Simultaneously, LDSB also sent out some survey information to families and students as well, to find out their virtual learning experience, which will be useful information. A year ago, Limestone did a similar survey that went to staff, families and students, and we are looking forward to seeing that data. The OPSBA Student Survey will also be sent out later this month .

Director Burra stated that as far as the preliminary operational guidance is concerned, boards have been informed that they will receive further information in the summer. At this point, boards have been told to plan for elementary schools to operate full time in person. Students should continue to be cohorted with their classmates and their homeroom teacher. In secondary schools, boards are to adopt secondary timetabling methods that emphasize cohorting of students as much as possible and to limit the number of student-to-student contacts. Based on this preliminary, operational direction, all LDSB secondary schools will be planning for a Quadmester.

School boards are also asked to have plans in place to pivot to other modes of delivery if necessary while still providing students with access to the full breadth of courses: (a) adapted timetables and a study hall where instruction is split between in-person instruction and (b) remote learning to allow for smaller cohorts.

Director Burra advised that health and safety measures will also be communicated to school boards in the summer. Depending on the vaccine rollout and the efficacy of those vaccines, a few months from now, there is a lot of reason for optimism as far as what the 2021-2022 school year will look like.

Director Burra provided some updates as it relates to graduation requirements. There were some changes to requirements at the end of last year, as well as for this school year. There are two significant changes, and the first one is the reduction in the number of community service hours required for students graduating in the spring of 2022. The other is the removal of the literacy requirement for the graduates in 2022, however both these requirements would resume in the 2022-2023 school year.

Director Burra noted that the EQAO assessments in 2021-2022 will be reinstated.

The additional COVID Funding for 2021-2022 is outlined in the report. Boards have been directed to plan for spending of up to 50 per cent of these funds. Boards will be informed, at some point later in the fall, whether they will have access to the remaining 50 per cent. As Trustees look at this additional funding support of just over \$3 million, only \$1.5 million is available to begin the school year. That also applies to the potential use of reserves and the ability to draw down reserves of one percent of operating allocation, which was what the

permission was that boards received this year. Trustees need to think about that as potentially one per cent to start the school year and find out whether we have an opportunity to draw down further after that.

Chair Ruttan thanked Director Burra for his report and called upon Trustees for any comments or questions.

15 Reports Requiring Decision

15.1 Bylaws and Policy Review

Director Burra stated that Trustees spent quite a bit of time working with parliamentarian Lori Lukinuk, reviewing policies and bylaws, and so tonight is a culmination of some of that work. There are still a couple of remaining pieces of work that go outside of the bylaws and appendices that we discussed at a prior Education, Policy and Operations Committee meeting, and they are in front of Trustees tonight. The discussion around the Trustee replacement process will be discussed when Trustees review Trustee Distribution in the summer. The other item, which will be excluded from the items we will be reviewing tonight, is Appendix G, which will also be attached for further discussion in the summer.

Chair Ruttan asked Trustees if they had any further amendments regarding the Bylaws. There were none.

Chair Ruttan asked Trustees if they had any further amendments regarding the Appendices. There were none.

MOTION That the Limestone District School Board adopt the Limestone District School Board Procedural Bylaws and the attached appendices as presented by the Education, Policy and Operations Committee.

Moved by: Trustee Brown and seconded by Trustee Hutcheon. Carried.

16 Notice of Motion

None at this time.

SECTION B – Information

17 Internal Reports and Other Communication

None at this time.

18 External Reports and Other Communications

18.1 Correspondence to MPPs Arthur, Hillier and Kramp re: Online and Remote Learning, dated April 20, 2021, provided for information.

18.2 Letter to the Limestone Learning Foundation re: LLF Presents Elly Gotz – Learning from the Past to Counter Hate, dated April 20, 2021, provided for information.

19 COMMUNICATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

None at this time.

20 REQUESTS FOR REPORTS AND/OR INFORMATION

20.1 Request for Information on Live Streaming

Trustee Elliott expressed concerns that when meetings are reverted back to in-person learning, he is concerned that the ability to live stream will be lost. He is also wondering if meetings could be archived in the future.

Director Burra advised that Trustee Elliott has raised two pieces. The first is the quality of the equipment (audio visual experience for viewers). With the hybrid meetings, the board ran into some challenges created by current equipment. The board may pursue improved equipment, not only for the purpose of hybrid Board meetings, but for the provision of professional learning (to save on travel time and dollars attached to staff who might be travelling to the Education Centre from North Addington or from Granite Ridge, as an example). Audio visual equipment is a one-time expense with additional costs down the road if equipment needs to be replaced or upgraded.

The other question relates to captioning and provincial accessibility requirements. Auto captioning is far from perfect as artificial intelligence is completing that translation. To ensure compliance with the Accessibility Act, proper captioning of videos, must be completed to be compliant. There is a different type of cost that is associated with transcription. There would be different costs associated with that as far as the transcription is concerned, because it is multiple hours of work for each hour required for audio transcriptions. For example, if you are looking at City Council for the City of Kingston, those meetings are captioned, but they do not include all committee meetings. The number of meetings, and types of meetings included,

would impact the ongoing cost of transcription services.

Chair Ruttan asked Trustees if they would like to see a report for information come forward. The majority of Trustees agreed to have staff prepare this report. This item will go to the Agenda Setting Committee to determine the appropriate timing for the report.

21 BUSINESS ARISING

None at this time.

22 OTHER SPECIAL MEETINGS/EVENTS

OPSBA's AGM is scheduled to be held June 10 to 12, 2021.

23 ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Trustee French and seconded by Trustee Godkin that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.