



# AGENDA - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023 – 6:00 PM**

**Limestone Education Centre**

**220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, ON**

Link: <https://bit.ly/LDSBBoardMTGFeb22>

## PRIVATE SESSION – 5:30 PM

\*In accordance with the Education Act, Section 207(2) a meeting of a committee of a board including a committee of the whole board, may be closed to the public when the subject under consideration involves,

- a) The security of the property of the board;
- b) The disclosure of intimate, personal, or financial information in respect of a meeting of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or their parent or guardian;
- c) The acquisition or disposal of a school site;
- d) Decisions in respect of negotiations with employee of the board; or
- e) Litigation affecting the board.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PRIVATE SESSION**

**3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

- 4.1** Regular Board Meeting Minutes (Private) – January 18, 2023

**5. FOR INFORMATION**

- 5.1** SAFE SCHOOLS UPDATE  
**5.2** PROPERTY UPDATE

- 5.3 LABOUR UPDATE
- 5.4 LEGAL MATTER
- 5.5 PERSONNEL UPDATE
- 5.6 OPSBA UPDATE

## **6. REPORT TO PUBLIC SESSION**

### **PUBLIC MEETING - 6 PM**

**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.”

## **7. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

## **8. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

## **9. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION**

- 9.1 **Tri-Board Transportation Walking Distance, Bus Size and Efficiency** - Gord Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Tri-Board Student Transportation Services.

## **10. PRIVATE SESSION REPORT**

## **11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 11.1 Regular Board Meeting – Jan. 18, 2023 (Pages 4-19)
- 11.2 Education, Policy & Operations Committee Meeting – Feb. 8, 2023 (Pages 20-23)

## **12. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

- 12.1 **Chair’s Report**
- 12.2 **Director’s Report**

## **13. REPORTS**

- 13.1 **OPSBA Report – Trustee McGregor**
- 13.2 **Student Trustees’ Report**
- 13.3 **Reports For Potential Action**
  - 13.3.1 **School Year Calendar** – Associate Superintendent Gollogly (Pages 24-29)
- 13.4 **Reports for Information**
  - 13.4.1 **Corporate Services Survey** – Director Burra (Pages 30-31)
  - 13.4.2 **Virtual School Update** – Associate Superintendent Hedderson & Associate Superintendent Sartor (Pages 32-34)

**14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**15. NEW BUSINESS**

**16. CORRESPONDENCE**

None at this time.

**17. NOTICES OF MOTION**

None at this time.

**18. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**19. COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION**

**19.1** Parent Involvement Committee Meeting – October 6, 2022 (Pages 35-41)

**19.2** Parent Involvement Committee Meeting – November 17, 2022 (Pages 42-50)

**19.3** Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting – December 14, 2022 (Pages 51-57)

**20. FUTURE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

March 29, 2023 (*5th Wednesday due to March Break*)

April 26, 2023

May 17, 2023 (*3rd Wednesday for Staffing purposes*)

June 21, 2023 (*3rd Wednesday for Budget approval*)

**21. ADJOURNMENT**



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 18, 2023

### PRIVATE SESSION

#### Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) T. Lloyd K. Maracle (Regrets for PS) K. McGregor J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan M. Elshrief (Student Trustee) E. Jackson (Student Trustee) J. Kolosov (Student Trustee)	K. Burra, Director of Education S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, 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, Former Executive Assistant to the Director

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Godkin called the meeting to order.

#### 2. RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

*MOTION: To move into Private Session.*

*MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor and seconded by Trustee Neill. Carried.*

#### 3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Vice-Chair Godkin 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) – October 26, 2022

*MOTION MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor and Trustees Lloyd that the minutes listed in Action Items, Private Session, as distributed, be approved. Carried.*

#### 5. FOR INFORMATION

- 5.1 Safe Schools Update – Associate Superintendent Gollogly provided a safe schools update.
- 5.2 Property Update – None at this time.
- 5.3 Personnel Update – None at this time.
- 5.4 Labour Update – None at this time.
- 5.5 Legal Update – None at this time.
- 5.6 OPSBA Update – None at this time.

#### 6. REPORT TO PUBLIC SESSION

Vice-Chair Godkin 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 Lloyd and seconded by Trustee Neill. Carried.*

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) T. Lloyd K. Maracle K. McGregor J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan M. Elshrief (Student Trustee) E. Jackson (Student Trustee) J. Kolosov (Student Trustee)	K. Burra, Director of Education P. Carson, Manager of Finance M. Christopher, IT Programmer M. Crothers, Communications Officer C. Downie, Assistant Manager, Facility Services J. Douglas, Communications Officer D. Fowler, Manager of Facility Services S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, 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:
Suchetan James, Vice-Principal Lauren McEwen, Creative Arts Teacher and Equity Lead Laura Conboy, Teacher, Special Education and Mental Health Lead Darryn Davis, CKWS – Global TV	W. Moore, Former Executive Assistant to the Director

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

Chair Hutcheon provided the Acknowledgement of Territory. “We recognize that 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.”

## 7. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Hutcheon asked Trustees they would agree to move agenda item number *13.4.1 Multi-Year Capital and School Renewal Project Plan*, under *Reports for Information* to item number

13.3.1 under Reports for Action. She noted that under item 18. *Announcements*, Trustee Brown has an announcement to make.

*MOTION MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin and seconded by Trustee Lloyd that the agenda, as amended, be approved. Carried.*

## 8. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

## 9. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

### 9.1 Prioritizing Equity.

Superintendent Gollogly indicated that after a presentation to PIC in November, Trustees Brown and Godkin requested LCVI staff also come to a board meeting to present the work that they are doing in equity and inclusion. Superintendent Gollogly called upon Vice-Principal Suchetan James and Lauren McEwen, Creative Arts Teacher and Equity Lead, to present on Prioritizing Equity.

Vice-Principal Suchetan James and Creative Arts Teacher and Equity Lead Lauren McEwen provided their presentation. Suchetan James stated that the foundation of prioritizing equity is responding to student voice.

Lauren McEwen outlined to Trustees the different ways they respond to student voice and touched on:

- Gender neutral bathrooms expansion
- Pronouns and preferred names
- Black History and Pride Month Events
- Space and time for traditionally marginalized students

Suchetan James detailed the mindset of service in how they make that work. He touched on finding unity in the work versus division.

In conclusion, Suchetan James stated that prioritizing equity is: “Trying to impact culture one conversation, interaction, and decision at a time.”

Chair Hutcheon thanked Superintendent Gollogly, Vice-Principal Suchetan James and Creative

Arts Teacher and Equity Lead Lauren McEwen and called upon Trustees for any comments or questions.

## 10. PRIVATE SESSION REPORT

Vice-Chair Godkin stated that earlier this evening during Private Session:

- The minutes were approved from the Regular Board Meeting (Private) of October 26, 2022.
- Associate Superintendent Gollogly gave a safe schools update.
- There was no other business conducted, or motions passed in Private Session.

*MOTION MOVED By Trustee Godkin and seconded by Trustee Lloyd that the Private Session Report be received. Carried.*

## 11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 11.1 Regular Board Meeting – October 26, 2022
- 11.2 Initial/Inaugural Board Meeting – November 16, 2022
- 11.3 Nominations Committee Meeting – November 21, 2022
- 11.4 Special Board Meeting Minutes – November 21, 2022
- 11.5 Education Policy and Operations Committee – December 7, 2022

Trustee Brown requested that the districts of Strathcona and Meadowbrook be added to the districts in her area in the Initial/Inaugural Board Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2022.

*MOTION MOVED BY Trustee McGregor and seconded by Trustee Elliott that the minutes, as amended, be approved. Carried.*

## 12. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

### 12.1 Chair's Update

Chair Hutcheon stated "I am so proud to sit here today surrounded by people who care so much about children and education which is to say, our collective future.

When I sat down to write my remarks for tonight, it was hard to know what to say. We are still in survival mode, and everything feels like strange days.

So, I would like to take these moments I have this evening to thank families. Thank you for navigating the last three years so gracefully with us. It has been quite a ride of uncertainty and



making do; the struggles are real and can seem unending.

For the families who are struggling right now, I want to tell a story. The story of dropping my three young children off at school on Hallowe'en. It was a Monday, and no one likes Mondays, of course. When we arrived at the school my two boys went in just fine. My daughter, who is seven, was not fine. She insisted that Hallowe'en was in fact a holiday and we should not be at school. What ensued was the worst meltdown I have ever seen from any of my children – I have four. I was punched, kicked and screamed at in the school lobby. Over and over until the principal could get my child into her office. That evening my daughter wanted me to take her out trick or treating. Like nothing ever happened. I have realized that being in Grade two this year, she has never had a normal school year. The pandemic started when she was in Kindergarten and while we, as adults, may be able to pull ourselves up by the bootstraps, so-to-speak, and carry on, sometimes children are not. I tell this story because I want families to know that if you are struggling, you are not alone.

In these times, it has become increasingly important that children in school are looked after by kind, caring adults. That they are welcomed regardless of how they are expressing themselves and given the support they need, even if they do not realize they need it at the time. And in our schools, the contribution from families helps make this happen. Families that go out of their way to volunteer in classrooms and at recess. Families that make sure hot lunches happen and snack buckets get filled. Families that fundraise for whatever a school might need. Families that organize holiday events in schools and volunteer on field trips. Your dedication to our schools and our students is paramount to their success.

This past Monday, my daughter again was having a hard time and I had to leave her at school crying. I knew she would be okay because I know that support is there for her. I am always confident that staff are there to meet students where they are and give them the individual support they need. And it is not just that support from school staff, but also the support from the families that gives me that confidence and makes a school feel like home.

So, thank you families for all that you do and for helping to keep our schools full of love and feeling like homes. We could not do it without you.

And that concludes my report.”

## 12.2 Director's Update

Director Burra stated: “Good evening Trustees and the viewing public. While it is already past the middle of January, and the holiday season seems like a distant memory, Happy New Year to everyone.

I would also like to make a couple of comments, even though they have left, as it relates to Vice-Principal Suchetan James, as well as teacher Lauren McEwen. They are just two examples of exceptional educators in the systems that go above and beyond to try to be responsive to the needs of students and the communities they serve. And, making sure that we are complying with the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and making sure that we are legally protecting and ensuring the safety of students and staff that we care for inside of our buildings, as well as the families, that Chair Hutcheon so eloquently articulated in her comments.

The New Year always is a time of reflection, both thinking about the year behind, and the year ahead. I shared some reflections in the fall regarding the work of the previous Board. However, in education, there is always more work to do, and as a Board we continue to have significant work ahead. In 2023, we will launch and consolidate a renewed or revised Strategic Plan for the communities that we serve. This process will involve significant stakeholder engagement and be a primary focus for us as a Board in shaping our strategic focus into the second half of this decade, and ensuring we are prioritizing the right work to best support students.

While it is only January, preliminary preparations are already underway for preparing for the 2023-2024 school year. In the next few weeks, we anticipate the release of provincial funding to help support our planning for next year. Choices program information has been shared with the community and students will be engaging in those processes. In addition, last week, this week, and next week secondary schools are engaging with Grade 8 students and families to provide information to further support the transition to secondary school in the fall. And more senior secondary students will be considering expanded opportunities available for the fall. In the coming weeks, the Kindergarten registration process will also begin.

While teaching and learning have continued to be a focus in schools to support student learning and well-being, it has also been wonderful to see the range of extracurricular activities taking place in schools. As one example of many, I had the pleasure of visiting the Robotics event at Calvin Park/LCVI this past weekend. It was great to observe a couple of hours of the competition and to see the Calvin and LC students competing, but also other Limestone students who compete on a community-based team. The event was very well-attended by teams from across the province, and there is no question the students who were participating have significant skills in preparing for, and competing in, the challenges of the event. With the current provincial focus on STEM activities and curriculum like coding, robotics, and the computer science curriculum, I have no doubt that we will see more schools start participating in similar events.

This evening Trustees the agenda contains several updates: the multi-year capital and school renewal project plan, the revised estimates for quarter 1 of the 2022-2023 school year, an update on year two of the mental health and substance use strategy, and an update on staff

and student absences. In addition, as requested in December, there is an update from KFL&A Public Health. That concludes my update this evening. Thank you Chair Hutcheon.”

## 13. REPORTS

### 13.1 OPSBA Report – Trustee McGregor

Trustee McGregor provided her update:

- Coming up next week is the OPSBA Public Education Symposium (January 26-28, 2023) and staff along with the Trustees will be attending. I am excited about the workshops.
- New this year, we have PES Buddies. We were contacted by OPSBA and if you are a returning Trustee, you have been matched with another new Trustee in our region.
- The new Executive Director has been hired, Stephanie Donaldson.
- The Eastern Regional Meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2023. LDSB offered up a site, as did another board; a site has yet to be determined.

### 13.2 Student Trustees’ Report

Student Trustee Jackson stated: “Good evening everyone. On January 10, 2023 we held our monthly interschool council meeting, here at the board office. We had representatives from all secondary schools present at our meeting, with some attending in person and some joining online. We began our meeting with a general discussion to hear events and initiatives taking place at each school. These general discussions allow schools to share their successful experiences to inspire each other. Many schools outlined their holiday successes including holiday dinners for younger students, holiday shows, spirit weeks, food drives and blood drives. As chairs of the interschool council, we were blown away with the work our fellow students have done in their schools, so I want to share some specific work that was brought up.

Students at LSS have spearheaded many initiatives and have participated in activities to better their leadership qualities. Including making goody bags that were delivered to Fairmount Home in Inverary, a hat and mitt drive where the donations went to the feeder schools of LSS, and some students attended a Student Leadership Conference in Niagara Falls which included lots of workshops and opportunities for developing leadership skills. Additionally, students from NDSS participated in a fundraiser for the United Way, where students would pay to throw pies in the faces of student council members. This raised \$200 for the United Way.

As the leaders of the ISC, we find it important to identify and highlight significant events happening that we think would be good for the school councils to take part in. During this meeting, I expressed to the ISC that Black History month is approaching, and to begin planning and preparing to take part in events to honour and celebrate the achievements of Black Canadians. We heard from representatives at LCVI, that they are planning a Panel of Black

Excellence, with Black participants speaking about their experiences in Kingston, as well as successes and struggles they have encountered, and also offering advice to Black individuals observing the panel. The representatives also told us they will be screening movies at school, involving predominantly Black cast members, along with other events for students and parents during this time, which were not specified yet. We are looking forward to our next meeting to hear more great things from each school.”

Student Trustee Kolosov stated: “This month we continued planning and discussing the elections for the Indigenous Student Trustee position as well the plan for the Rural and Urban Student Trustee positions. The election of the Indigenous Student Trustee is scheduled to be held on February 6, 2023. I look forward to the election date as we anticipate a great turnout with at least four candidates that I know of who plan to run for the Indigenous Student Trustee position. This will also be our first in-person election for the position and will likely have a different dynamic than the previously held online elections. The event will be a great opportunity for the students to get to know the candidates and get involved into the work and initiatives that we are implementing for Indigenous students within the school board. On a different note, Kelly and I are making plans to expand the Knowledge-sharing program to a school on the Tyendinaga Reserve on a pilot basis to connect students in the local area and develop a strong support system for Indigenous students on and off the reserve. It is really great to have Kelly’s support and participation in this project because of her knowledge of the school board, her placement at Queen’s, as well as her connections and the local community. Thank you Kelly for your help so far, and I look forward to updating everyone on our work on this initiative. Thank you.”

### **13.3 Reports for Action**

#### **13.3.1 Multi-Year Capital and School Renewal Project Plan**

Superintendent Young introduced Manager Dave Fowler to present the report. Manager Fowler noted that starting in 2011-2012 the Board prepared a 10-Year Capital - School Renewal Project Plan (the Plan) that is updated each year. The purpose of the plan is to highlight proposed school renewal project activities under the following project types: Heating/Ventilation/AC; Electrical; Structure Communications (ITS); Site Improvements; Conveyance; Lighting; Interior Renovations; Plumbing; and Building Envelope.

At the June 15, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, the 2022-2023 Budget was approved including a capital budget consisting of \$21.3 million in School Renewal funded projects.

Facility Services Manager Dave Fowler and Assistant Manager Charlyn Downie reviewed details to the plan. They have developed the Capital and School Renewal Project Plan based upon the VFA Building Condition reports for all schools; assessing local needs with school staff, analysis from maintenance work orders; knowledge from facilities trades and maintenance staff, and

expertise from engineering and other consultants.

The Multi-Year Capital plan includes an updated 2021-2022 listing of \$20,591,350 projects by school or various schools, which was outlined in Appendix A. Project work estimates are based upon the best available project scope and costing information at the time of evaluation. It was noted that following Tamworth in the table, Truedell PS should not be included because the separator has been lost in the chart.

For the 2022-2023 to 2031-2032 school years, the 10-year plan includes an estimated \$4,500,000 in proposed annual school renewal project activity per year based upon prior year Ministry funding levels. This plan may/will change to reflect actual Ministry school renewal funding levels when announced.

The 2022-2023 Capital and School Renewal Project Plan detail was reviewed, and a few projects were highlighted.

Chair Hutcheon thanked the Superintendent Young, Manager Fowler and Assistant Manager Downie and called upon Trustees for comments or questions.

*MOTION MOVED by Trustee Neill and seconded by Trustee Godkin that the Board approve the Multi-Year Capital and School Renewal Project Plan; and that a revised copy of the 10-Year Capital and School Renewal Project Plan be posted on the Board's website. Carried.*

## **13.4 Reports for Information**

### **13.4.1 2022-2023 Revised Estimates and Interim Financial Report for Q1**

Superintendent Young called upon Manager Paula Carson to share the report on the 2022-2023 revised estimates and interim financial operating expenditures for Quarter 1.

Manager Carson noted that the projected ADE for the enrolments shows an increase of 137 at the elementary panel and 218 at the secondary panel, for an increase of 355 ADE.

Manager Carson advised that for the Operating Budget Revenue, the GSN - operating allocation increased overall by \$3.3M. An increase of \$5.1M in various grants such as pupil foundation, school foundation, special education, language, transportation, school operations, and Ministry Funded in-kind PPE, which are offset by a decrease of \$1.8M in various grants such as teacher qualification and experience, and the Indigenous Education grant. Superintendent Young reviewed the other revenues and indicated that over-all operating revenues at the 2022-2023 revised estimates has increased from \$268,843,493 to \$275,296,673 or a net increase of \$6,453,180.

Manager Carson reviewed the Operating Budget Expenditures and noted that the over-all operating expenditures have increased by \$6,928,789 to \$277,826,881 which is \$2,530,208 greater than the total operating revenues.

The additional \$6.9M in expenditures is a result of increased salary and benefits expenditures due to staffing changes, expenditures pertaining to new PPF grants received from the Ministry, additional computer expenditures, Ministry Funded in-kind PPE, and planned use of the accumulated surplus internally appropriated funds.

Manager Carson advised that as at Quarter 1, \$71,004,215 of the \$277,826,881 operating budget or 26% has been spent. This is comparable to the 25% results from the same quarter last year.

Chair Hutcheon thanked Superintendent Young and Manager Carson and asked Trustees for comments or questions.

#### **13.4.2 Year 2 Update on the 2021-2024 Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy**

Superintendent Gillam indicated that this update for Trustees is to provide some of the key factors from year one, but also to highlight key strategies and goals of year two of the Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy. He introduced Laura Conboy, Mental Health Lead, Special Education.

Laura Conboy noted that every school board is required to have a 3-year mental health and addictions strategy. The annual action plans are completed and submitted to SMHO prior to the beginning of each school year. All documents can be found on the LDSB website under “Mental Health and Wellness.”

Laura Conboy shared from the 2021-2022 Progress Report some highlights including:

- Mental Health and Substance Use Knowledge – Communication and resources targeted at families/caregivers.
- Mental Health and substance Use Support – Enhancement and promotion of the online self-referral mechanism for secondary students to access school-based mental health supports.
- Pathways to/Through/From Circle of Care – increase staff awareness of Suicide

Response Protocol and pathways to care

- Equip and Support Staff – Assemble and disseminate wellness resource packages to guidance teachers.

Laura Conboy shared from the 2022-2023 Key Activities including:

- Mental Health and Substance Use Support – Evaluate the impact of enhancements to the LINKS DLC program on student well-being and academic achievement.
- Culturally Responsive Mental Health Promotion/Prevention/Intervention – Pilot the Supporting Transition Resilience of Newcomer Group (STRONG) – In partnership with Human Rights and Equity staff, establish mental health and substance use supports that prioritize the voices and experience of students from racialized, marginalized and underserved groups.
- A Relationship- based Approach to Student Well-being and Achievement - Introduce The Third Path to all schools - Support ELL instructors with concentrated learning and support in this area.

Chair Hutcheon thanked Superintendent Gillam and Mental Health Lead Laura Conboy, and called upon Trustees for comments or questions.

### **13.4.3 Staff and Student Absence Update**

Superintendent McWilliams advised that this report will highlight the trends for both staff and student absences for the six-week period leading into the December break and will also update what the last seven or eight days have looked like.

Superintendent McWilliams advised that for staff absences, there are a variety of reasons staff may require coverage, including, but not limited to, sick leave (majority of reasons currently), medical appointments, personal leave, professional development, student activities and vacation. There are several variables in unpacking the absences including the number of long term sick leaves, the number of viruses circulating in the community, and the associated increase in absences which may result from either staff and or their family members, and whether or not professional learning and other extracurriculars are running throughout the system. The overall daily average number of absences for last year, and this year for the same period, was roughly 362 last year and 366 this year, so on average, it is pretty stable in terms of the overall system. When we look into sick leave specifically, for the six week period prior to the December break of the current school year, it is clear that absences peaked in mid-November

which is to be expected with three dominant virus circulating (COVID, Influenza, & RSV). So, all three of those did result in a spike of absences, with absences dropping slightly in the next four weeks and into the December break. Compared to the same period and leading into the break for the 2021-2022 school year we had fewer absences due to sick leave, however the overall trend was the same with November seeing a peak in absences and seeing a decline leading into the December break.

Superintendent McWilliams noted that last year LDSB did have a number of quarantine days recorded for staff, where appropriate, due to COVID, which do not actually get recorded as sick leave. For the period from January 12-18, the trend has continued as our absences for sick leave continue to decline. Just looking at the return from January 9 of this year, we have seen 838 absences due to sick leave and the comparable period to last year we saw 930 absences due to sick leave, so we are in better shape this year. Overall, based on what has been seen on a regular basis this trend, at this point in time, seems to be stable and if forecasting the next five days out, the number of the absences in the system, where we are seeing the jobs already being entered into the system for call out purposes, is suggesting a continued decline.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly stated that LDSB continues to work closely with KFL&A Public Health in monitoring student absences due to illness. LDSB has created an absence due to illness reporting dashboard to support our school communities with information about Limestone schools. The information presented in this dashboard is provided on a voluntary basis by families when reporting their child's absence from school due to illness.

Currently after returning from the December break, we are seeing a relatively low absence rate. From January 9, 2023 to January 18, 2023, we had a low of 245 students absent on January 13 and a high of 580 on January 16, which does not include the inclement weather days. To compare last year at this time, we pivoted to remote learning for the first two weeks after the break, from January 17 to January 26, 2022, we had a high of 702 students absent on January 25 and a low of 174 on January 19, 2022. At this time, we are seeing a downward trend in absences due to illnesses.

Chair Hutcheon thanked Superintendent McWilliams and Associate Superintendent Gollogly and asked Trustees for comments or questions.

Responding to a question, Superintendent McWilliams indicated she could provide Trustees



with numbers on absences for November 2019 as comparative data, prior to COVID, for information purposes.

#### **14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**14.1 COVID, Influenza and Masks** – Dr. Dick Zoutman, MD, FRCPC, CCPE, C. Dir  
Director Burra noted that Dr. Zoutman presented at the recent EPOC Meeting, and Director Burra did reply to Dr. Zoutman that this topic would be up for discussion tonight. At that December meeting, there were a couple of Trustees interested in getting an update from Public Health and Dr. Oglaza provided an update, which is in the agenda package under correspondence.

Chair Hutcheon opened the floor for discussion on the presentation from Dr. Zoutman and the update from the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Oglaza.

It was questioned whether or not LDSB could increase the communication around masking, based on the KFL&A Public Health letter, which has language a bit stronger around masking that it has had in the recent past. Perhaps a middle ground for the Board to increase that level of communication.

After some further discussion, Director Burra indicated there would be no difficulty in sending communication to staff, as well as to the community, citing Dr. Oglaza and echoing that Public Health message.

In response to a question around students being bullied for wearing a mask, Director Burra noted that certainly any circumstances where a student is being ridiculed for wearing a mask, should be treated the same way as anyone else who might be trying to target someone or bullying them for any particular reason.

#### **15. NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

#### **16. CORRESPONDENCE**

**16.1 Public Health Update for Trustees** – provided for information.

## 17. NOTICE OF MOTION

None at this time.

## 18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Black History/Futures Month**

Trustee Brown stated that as a member of Kingston's Black History/Futures Month Guidance Group, she would like to share some information with Trustees. This group is composed of members from Queen's, the City of Kingston, community members and three from Limestone: Yusuf Abdulkareem, Andrea Barrow and herself, Judith Brown.

This year, in a spirit of growth and change, we would like to ensure that we are intentional about our future as much as we are about our past. For this reason and taking heed of The Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), as well as other collectives and groups, it is crucial we start to observe Black History/Futures Month. In short, recognizing Black Futures is "visionary " and "forward" looking as it assists in "dreaming and imagining a world in which we are all free and self-determined."

Today a Proclamation was released, by Mayor Paterson, on behalf of Kingston City Council, proclaiming the month of February 2023 to be "Black History/Futures Month" in the City of Kingston.

With the City being on board with the planning for the month, there are some amazing activities. They include: Feb.1: City Hall and Market Square will be illuminated with red, green and yellow lights recognizing Black History/Futures Month. In addition, the following events will be held at the Kingston Grand Theatre: Feb.10: Freedom: The Spirit and Legacy of Black Music (featuring Beau Dixon with a cabaret of 23 songs); Feb.18: Afrique en Cirque (show by daring acrobats accompanied by their musician); Feb.24: The Nathaniel Dett Chorale presents Harriet Tubman; Feb.25: Mardi Gras Mambo (Dirty Dozen Brass Band & Nathan & The Zydeco Cha Chas)...sounds of an authentic Mardi Gras party.

Our own Andrea Barrow has arranged some ambitious and exciting events. Some of them include some students learning to make roti, a Black hair care workshop, Black panel, of Excellence and a movie marathon.

Trustee Brown is hoping to arrange a panel of Elders entitled:

"Meet Your Elders," "Hear Their Stories!"

Featuring Blacks who arrived in Kingston in the 60s and 70s sharing their experiences. A reminder that all events are Open To All, not just Blacks. Thank you.

## **19. COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION**

**19.1** Special Education Advisory Committee – October 19, 2022

**19.2** Special Education Advisory Committee – November 9, 2022

## **20. FUTURE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

January 26-28, 2023 - OPSBA Education Symposium

February 8, 2023 EPOC

February 22, 2023

March 8, 2023 EPOC

March 29, 2023

April 26, 2023

May 3, 2023 EPOC

May 17, 2023

June 7, 2023 EPOC

June 8-10, 2023 OPSBA AGM

June 21, 2023

## **21. ADJOURNMENT**

*MOTION MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor and seconded by Trustee Neill that the meeting adjourn. Carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

## EDUCATION, POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 8, 2023

### PUBLIC MEETING

#### Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) T. Lloyd K. Maracle (Regrets) K. McGregor (Regrets) J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan M. Elshrief (Student Trustee) E. Jackson (Student Trustee) (Regrets) J. Kolosov (Student Trustee) (Regrets)	K. Burra, Director of Education J. Douglas, Communications Officer S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent
Guests:	Recorder:
Educational Services Principal, Michael Blackburn	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

Chair Godkin welcomed everyone to the meeting. He called upon Trustee Hutcheon to read the 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. Call to Order

Chair Godkin called the meeting to order and called the roll.

## 2. Adoption of Agenda

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

## 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts declared.

## 4. Reports for Information

### 4.1 Right to Read Follow up.

Associate Superintendent Sartor shared an overview of the Limestone District School Boards' response to the Ontario Human Rights Commissions' (OHRC) Right to Read report. The report contains 175 recommendations for the Ministry of Education, Faculties of Education and school boards with over half of the recommendations advising action. She explained that there are five main categories that these recommendations can be divided into.

- 1) Curriculum and Instruction
- 2) Early Screening
- 3) Reading Interventions
- 4) Accommodations
- 5) Professional Assessments

The largest implication is the revision of the elementary language arts curriculum, which is currently underway and will be released for implementation in the fall of 2023.

Associate Superintendent Sartor highlighted the important literacy work completed during the 2021-2022 school year. The focus of the work was closely aligned with many of the recommendations included in the OHRC report. She emphasized 4 key initiatives:

- Learning Coaches in the classroom
- Professional Learning for Administrators
- Acadience Pilot – Universal Screening for K-2
- Expansion of Empower

She concluded that critical and necessary changes to the literacy program will continue to be made with intentionality, support, and collaboration.

Chair Godkin thanked Associate Superintendent Sartor and called upon Trustees for questions.

## 4.2 School Year Calendar

Associate Superintendent Gollogly introduced the report outlining the School Year Calendar process for 2023/24. Three school boards in the Tri-Board Consortium, Limestone District School Board, Hastings Prince Edward County District School Board and Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, traditionally collaborate to create a common calendar. At this time, the template has not been released from the Ministry of Education ahead of the March 1, 2023, deadline for approval.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly took Trustees through three calendar options that are currently being considered. Two of the options presented follow a more traditional calendar. The third option includes a less traditional format where the school year would start before Labour day to provide a break at the end of October.

A survey will go out to school communities for consultation which will include students, families, and staff for input.

Chair Godkin thanked Associate Superintendent Gollogly for her report and called on Trustees for questions.

## 4.3 Special Education Review

Superintendent Gillam introduced the Special Education Review. He indicated that the last time this was completed was in 2016, and he welcomed the Principal of Education Services, Michael Blackburn to take Trustees through the plan.

Principal Blackburn explained the purpose of the review is to identify key priorities and areas of focus. The 2023 goals of the review are to examine the current special education supports and services to identify areas for refinement and enhancement. This will be paired with gathering student, family, staff, and community partner voice to aid in identifying priority areas of impact for success of students with special education needs. Using the ThoughtExchange platform, one critical question will be asked: “What key supports and services are important for students with special education needs to experience success at school and reach their full potential?”

There are two specific timelines for gathering voice for the review. The first group surveyed will include students with special education needs and their families. The information gathered from this group will be shared in the next review with Limestone staff and community members/partners. Principal Blackburn indicated that the next steps after gathering information through the exchange will be to analyze the data and share it back to the Board in the Fall of 2023.

Trustee Godkin thanked Superintendent Gillam and Principal Blackburn for their presentation and called upon Trustees for questions.

**5. Reports for Action**

None at this time.

**6. Unfinished Business**

None at this time.

**7. New Business**

**7.1 OPSBA Public Education Symposium – Roundtable Discussion**

Chair Godkin opened the floor for reflection on the recently attended Ontario Public School Board Association's Public Education Symposium. The conference was held in Toronto from January 26-28, 2023. Trustees who attended the conference shared experiences and highlights from the various workshops, keynote speaker sessions, and networking opportunities.

**8. Correspondence**

None at this time.

**9. Next Meeting Date**

March 8, 2023

May 3, 2023

June 7, 2023

**10. Adjournment**

*Moved by Trustee Hutcheon that the meeting adjourn. Carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.



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## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR FOR 2023-24

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 22, 2023

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#### Purpose

To review the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar process and provide an update to Trustees regarding the two options presented in the stakeholder survey.

#### Background

Provincial Regulation 304 School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days requires that a regular school year start on or after September 1 and end on or before June 30. Every school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days.

In Limestone District School Board, the 194 school days are made up of seven PA Days and 187 instructional days. Examination days for secondary schools fall under instructional days.

Regulation 304 requires the following school holidays:

- Every Saturday and Sunday
- Labour Day – September 4, 2023
- Thanksgiving Day – October 9, 2023
- Ten (10) consecutive days for Winter Break - December 25, 2023 – January 5, 2024
- Family Day – the third Monday of February – February 19, 2024
- Five (5) consecutive days for March Break – March 11, 2024 – March 15, 2024
- Good Friday and Easter Monday – March 29, 2024 – April 1, 2024
- Victoria Day – May 20, 2024



The Board shall submit an approved school year calendar to the Ministry of Education by March 1, 2023. A school year calendar that deviates from Regulation 304 must be approved by the Ministry of Education and is referred to as a modified calendar.

The three school boards in the Triboard Consortium (LDSB, HPEDSB, and ALCDSB) have traditionally agreed upon a common calendar to share transportation costs. The Consortium agreement and practice is that should a board decide not to conform to the common calendar, that board must continue to pay for the transportation as arranged in the common calendar, and is also required to assume 100% of the transportation costs for any additional days of transport. In Limestone District School Board, each day of independent transportation would cost more than \$65,000.

### Current Status & Next Steps

School calendar leads from the three boards, after consulting with their Senior Teams, met several times to create options to share with their School Year Calendar Committee.

Facilitated by Associate Superintendent Gollogly, Limestone stakeholders met on February 8th and 9th 2023 to provide input on the two (2) options presented. Stakeholders represented Trustees, parents (Parent Involvement Committee Co-chair), unions, federations, non-union employees, Human Resources, and administrators. For those stakeholders unable to attend the meeting, they were encouraged to submit their information directly to Associate Superintendent Gollogly. Based on these meetings in all three boards, the following options were presented for the Committee and as the basis of a survey that was available to all Limestone stakeholders, including community partners, from February 10th until February 21, 2023.

### School Year Calendar Options

#### Option 1

	<b>Option One EDU Base - 194 days</b>
First Day of School for Students	Sept 5, 2023
Last Day of School for Students	June 27, 2024
Winter Break	Dec 25-Jan 5, 2024
Spring Break	Mar 11-15, 2024
PA Days	Sept 25 Oct 27 Nov 10 Feb 2 Apr 12 May 31 June 28

Exam Days	Jan 25-31, 2024 June 20-26, 2024
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## Option 2

	<b>Option Two EDU Base - 194 days</b>
First Day of School for Students:	Sept 6, 2023
Last Day of School for Students	June 27, 2024
Winter Break	Dec 25-Jan 5, 2024
Spring Break	Mar 11-15, 2024
PA Days	Sept 5 Sept 25 Nov 10 Feb 2 April 12 May 31 June 28
Exam Days	Jan 25-31, 2024 June 20-26, 2024

## Alternative Calendar Concept

While LDSB is not considering a different school year calendar model for 2023-2024. LDSB is exploring a potential idea for a future school year calendar. This alternative model would include starting the school year the week prior to Labour Day at the end of August, which would allow us to create a fall break at the end of October or early November. This would not impact other traditional breaks in December/January, March, or the rest of July/August. We are exploring the fall break option due to increases in absences that typically occur in November for Limestone students and staff. Other well-being data also suggests that breaking up the period from Labour Day to the December/January break may be beneficial for students and staff. Given this potential model would deviate from the provincial template and Regulation 304, Ministry approval would be required.

## Survey Results

Survey results will be presented to trustees at the board meeting on Wednesday February 22, 2023. As of February 15, 2023, we have had over 3000 responses to the survey. We have had almost 2000 parents/guardians, close to 300 students and over 600 staff members respond to the survey.

## Recommendations

Given as of Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> we have yet to receive the annual memorandum from the Ministry of Education related to the 2023-24 school year calendar, we are recommending two potential options for trustees. In the event the memo is released and requires a March 1 approval, trustees may choose to approve the calendar or a Special Meeting of the Board can be held between February 22 and March 1. Otherwise, the recommendation is for trustees to receive this information and approval may occur at a later date. As a result, the recommendations are below.

That the Board:

1. Receive this report and copies of the two calendar options for information purposes.

Or

2. Based on the report and overview presentation of the consultation feedback, that Trustees approve a calendar option for the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar.

**Prepared by:** Patty Gollogly, Associate Superintendent

**Reviewed by:** Krishna Burra, Director of Education

**Attachments:** School Year Calendar Options 1 & 2



Ministry of Education

# School Year Calendar 2023 - 2024

Legend **H** - Statutory Holiday **E** - Scheduled Examination Day

**P** - Professional Activity Day

**B** - Board Designated Holiday

Half Day

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1st Week					2nd Week					3rd Week					4th Week					5th Week										
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F						
August 2023					1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31							
September 2023								1	H	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29					
October 2023				2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30	31									
November 2023						1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30							
December 2023								1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29						
January 2024				1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31								
February 2024							1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29							
March 2024								1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29						
April 2024				1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30									
May 2024							1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31					
June 2024				3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28											
July 2024				1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31								
TOTAL				Note: The 2023-2024 calendar provides for 195 possible school days between September 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days																														

**Note:** The 2023-2024 calendar provides for 195 possible school days between September 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days



Ministry of Education

# School Year Calendar 2023 - 2024

Legend **H** - Statutory Holiday

**E** - Scheduled Examination Day

**P** - Professional Activity Day

**B** - Board Designated Holiday

☒ Half Day

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1st Week					2nd Week					3rd Week					4th Week					5th Week										
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F						
August 2023					1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31							
September 2023								1	H	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29					
October 2023				2	3	4	5	6	H	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30	31								
November 2023						1	2	3		6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30						
December 2023								1		4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29					
January 2024				1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31								
February 2024								2		5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29						
March 2024								1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29						
April 2024				1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30									
May 2024						1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31						
June 2024				3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28											
July 2024				1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31								
TOTAL				Note: The 2023-2024 calendar provides for 195 possible school days between September 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days																														

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## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: CORPORATE SERVICES SURVEY

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 22, 2023

#### Purpose

To provide trustees with an overview of feedback received from staff related to more operational services provided to support employees. These operational departments are comprised of Facility Services, Financial Services, Human Resources, and Information Technology Services.

#### Background

In June of 2022, all Limestone employees were asked to provide feedback to different operational departments within Limestone that are relevant to their specific roles and required services. The survey was open for the month of June to collect feedback regarding positive work being done in each of the departments, and areas for improvement or growth. We received feedback from almost 600 LDSB employees representing all staff positions in Limestone.

#### Current Status

The corporate services survey provided valuable internal feedback on operational functions within Limestone including Facilities Services, Financial Services, Human Resources, and Information Technology. Results have identified both strengths and areas of growth for each operational area, as well as highlighted common themes in responses across each operational area, including the following items:

- specific, positive feedback regarding functions in each operational department;
- one-stop access to resources, information, policies, and training;
- common processes for orders and requests;
- more mentoring opportunities for employees; and
- clear communication and updates on submitted orders and requests in each operational area.

This feedback is useful in providing staff in each department with positive feedback regarding their work, and areas for potential growth to better support employees across the district.

### Next Steps

At the October 26, 2022 Board Meeting, trustees approved the areas of focus for the 2022-2023 Strategic Plan. One of the areas is Innovation 1.2 Operational Enhancements (Communications, Facility Services, Financial Services, Human Resources, & Information Technology Services). As a result, we will report on work in this area as part of the Mid-Year Update (spring 2023) and End-of-Year Report (fall 2023) for the Strategic Plan. The Operational Enhancements area of focus will allow us to look at continued growth and improvement in service to the system and be responsive to the feedback collected from staff in the Corporate Services Survey. Moving forward the plan will be to seek similar, formal feedback every 2-3 years.

### Recommendations

That this report be received for information purposes.

**Prepared and Reviewed by:** Krishna Burra, Director of Education



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: VIRTUAL SCHOOL UPDATE

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 22, 2023

#### Purpose

To provide trustees with an update on the status of Elementary Virtual School and Secondary Virtual School.

#### Background

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, all students and staff moved from in-person learning to remote learning. This learning continued through to the end of the school year in June 2020. In August 2020, the Ministry of Education released Program and Policy Memorandum (PPM) 164, outlining the requirements for remote learning.

For the 2020-2021 school year, the Ministry of Education required all school boards to offer a virtual school option for students/families. While in-person learning resumed in September 2020 for the majority of students and educators, during the 2020-2021 school year between 8%-10% of LDSB students participated in virtual learning as the model of choice. Several opportunities were provided over the course of the year for students to transition from one model to the other. Limestone was able to accommodate this flexibility to students/families by utilizing additional COVID-19 funding.

During the 2020-2021 school year, with the exception of students with significant special education needs, the vast majority of students and educators had to again move to a virtual learning model for a few weeks in January 2021 and from the middle of April to the end of the school year due to provincial direction based on the ongoing pandemic.

During the 2021-2022 school year, there was a brief period during the winter of 2022 when students and educators had to move to virtual learning. The following table displays the enrolment in elementary and secondary virtual school from the onset of the pandemic:



School Year	Elementary Virtual School Enrolment	Secondary Virtual School Enrolment
2020-2021	1600 (enrolment varied throughout the year)	1032 (enrolment varied throughout the year)
2021-2022	307	170
2022-2023	70	137

## Current Status

### Elementary Virtual School

There are currently 70 students enrolled in elementary virtual school, spread amongst 4 multi-grade classes as follows:

Grade	Enrolment
JK/SK/Grade 1	9
Grade 2/3/4	18
Grade 4/5/6	16
Grade 7/8	27

Elementary Virtual School continues to be supervised by the administrative team at North Addington Education Centre and Clarendon Central Public School. The school staff and students continue to be supported by a Learning Coach and the program team. In addition, the school is staffed with a Student Support Teacher (SST) and receives Educational Services support.

### Secondary Virtual School

There are currently 137 students enrolled in Secondary Virtual School. The breakdown by grade is shown in the table below.

Grade	Enrolment
Grade 9	21
Grade 10	39
Grade 11	28
Grade 12	49

Grade 9 and 10 students are taking a combination of Grade 9 and/or Grade 10 credits in a [set timetable](#) with other students from LDSB, while students in Grade 11 and 12 are enrolled in credits through the Ontario eLearning Consortium (OeLC) for which LDSB is a member Board.

Secondary Virtual School is supervised by the Principal and Vice Principals of the Katarokwi Learning Centre and Alternative and Continuing Education. The school staff and students continue to be

supported by a Lead Success Teacher and Learning Program Support Teacher. Other Educational Services support is available as required.

### Next Steps

Limestone District School Board recognizes that while enrolment continues to decrease, virtual school remains an important choice for some families. As a result, LDSB will plan to staff and offer an elementary virtual school and a secondary virtual school option during the 2023-2024 school year. In March, current families with students in virtual school, and other Limestone families will have an opportunity to request placement in the virtual school for 2023-2024. The continuing availability of provincial pandemic/ learning recovery funding will be an important factor in how we can support the virtual school and maintain flexibility for students/families to transition from one model to another. The absence of continued funding for 2023-24 would impact potential structures and support for the virtual school.

### Recommendations

That this report be received for information purposes.

**Prepared by:** Stephanie Sartor, Associate Superintendent and Steve Hedderson, Associate Superintendent

**Reviewed by:** Krishna Burra, Director of Education

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**October 6th, 2022**

### Roll call:

Members:	Staff:
<p>Crystal Bevens-Leblanc Shayla Bradley Jennifer Foster Melissa Rickey Gelareh Monajemi Alejandra Zamora Susan Coleman Mark Foster Jim Jodoin Kelley Packalen Josephina Smith Christine Innocente Mandy McKinnon Laura Carter Melanie Glassford Melissa Hudson Amanda McPhee Virginia Venditti Rena Petrick Barb Murphy Rob Richer Lesa-ESS Chair Alison Bradshaw Terri M Kristin Mennie Kayley Miller Melanie Carrier Vanessa Wood</p>	<p>K. Burra, Director of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent A. Andretta, Administrative Assistant M. Christopher, ITS Systems Support Analyst</p>

Limestone District School Board

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

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

Trustees:	Guests:
Judith Brown Bob Godkin Garrett Elliott Tiffany Lloyd	

## Limestone District School Board

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

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

### **Shayla Bradley offered the land acknowledgment:**

*Before I acknowledge the lands, we're on and the stewards of that land, to place myself in relation, I was born in colonized Canada; my family is European by ancestry. I had the privilege of learning about Anishinaabe teachings and culture while living in Obishikokkang Territory for a decade before coming here, and I've had wonderful local friends who have helped me learn too. I am very grateful for what I've been taught about land, sovereignty, and culture. At the same time, I think it's imperative to acknowledge that proximity to Indignity is not Indigeneity itself. I am a settler.*

*I want to acknowledge that the Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee and to acknowledge their enduring presence on this land and the presence of Métis, Inuit, and other First Nations from across Turtle Island.*

*A land acknowledgement is a starting point -- we acknowledge the land and the people -- then what? As we talk about education and families, I encourage everyone, including myself, to think about how the Parent Involvement Committee will take action to support Indigenous Peoples, families, and communities. The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, points to education as the key to reconciliation, and that includes educating ourselves.*

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Bradley welcomed everyone and noted that while we frequently use the word parent, in this context it often refers to caregivers, kin, and guardians because families as a whole impact the education system.

She discussed what PIC is: a statutory, official board committee; a support system for parents and school advisory councils; an advisory body to the board; and a forum to support, encourage, and enhance meaningful parental involvement within schools and within the entire board. She further discussed the structure of PIC, and introduced some key people.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

Adopted

### **3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Not at this time

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

May minutes were approved by consensus.

### **5. Reports for Information**

### 5.1. Board Report: Message from Director Burra

Director Burra thanked all committee members and noted their roles are critical in this committee and partnership.

Director Burra started his presentation with an update on enrolment, noting a positive start to the year with an increase in enrolment, resumption of full K-12 learning and extracurricular activities in schools. There are about 200 students who are in remote virtual school, not including secondary students who are doing e-learning courses but in a physical school for other courses.

There is an opt-out for students and families in Grades 9 and 10 who do not feel an online course will work for them. The Ministry of Education is funding LDSB with the assumption that about 15% of students are doing e-learning, so a high number of opt-outs could create pressure.

Municipal elections are coming up, and the new group of trustees that will formulate the board will be sworn in and start their term. In the spring, the trustees invited the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte to create an Indigenous Trustee.

Director Burra noted that we are still in a pandemic and, even from the standpoint of flu season, there are ups and downs over the year, and many public health authorities are assuming there will be various waves. This is an item the board will have to monitor; at present, they are not feeling the pressures of previous periods.

It is also a labour relations year between the provincial government and unions representing workers in the jurisdiction, including CUPE, OSSTF and ETFO. The board will communicate whatever information it has about any impending job action as available.

Money was invested in secondary music programs, drama and visual arts, and to support elementary arts projects. The Limestone Learning Foundation provided roughly \$70,000 worth of books by a wide range of authors to create classroom sets that would go into every classroom for grades four to six last year. This year, similar money is being invested in K-3 classroom libraries, focusing on multiple voices supporting different equity issues and social justice issues and mentor texts to support reading and writing in the classroom.

The board has continued to invest in technology to have devices available to support learning either at home or for students face-to-face in the classroom.

Director Burra shared the LDSB strategic plan and its wellness, innovation and collaboration pillars. There will be opportunities for PIC, councils and the community to engage with a refresh or reset of that plan this year, helping focus and prioritize the board's work in terms of supporting students and serving the communities in LDSB.

The board wants every student to have hope, value and purpose as they move forward, knowing the last few years have been disruptive and inflation is infecting additional pain on families and children.

Education can open the door to different opportunities, and we need to make sure that we focus on learning to create the best possible outcomes that families and young people want.

The board is working toward professional learning with teachers and learning recovery for all. PA Days and staff meetings are a component. Release time has been a challenge because of lower occasional and relief staff numbers.

Literacy and numeracy are key priorities, as are student voice and choice. If students have more choice and voice in how they demonstrate their learning, that is highly effective in making sure they will do the best they can. The board is also encouraging risk-taking, not in terms of safety but revisiting how things have been done in the past and how that could change.

The graduation rate is around 84 to 85%, and the board's goal is to reach 90% at minimum in the next few years. They also recognize that graduation is not a likely outcome for some students as they are working on a certificate, in school to community programming, or otherwise not in secondary school working on an Ontario secondary school diploma.

The board is using a book called Street Data to explore how to reach students in the margins who are historically underserved and not successful in the system right now. They are looking at other students in the margins, and the census data will help determine needs.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission released its Right to Read report in the spring. LDSB has been doing some work already, and with the report's release, more resources will be going out to schools, learning sessions, and potentially Ministry funding.

There will be a new kindergarten to grade eight language arts and grade 9 English curriculum, and de-streaming has become a reality. Students are generally used to this as they are de-streamed from K-8. Part of the rationale for doing this is to delay that decision about whether students choose academic or applied programming, as research shows differing success rates and students who are not making informed choices.

This is not about shaming the applied pathway that existed before or a college or workplace pathway. It's about ensuring students understand the implications of their choices and that they're pursuing the opportunities they want moving forward.

There are teacher shortages in areas across the province, including technical staff such as a licensed mechanic who's also an educator who can teach auto and French teachers. Occasional support staff and educators are also a challenge to secure as wages are better in many other occupations available right now. It is a challenge for LDSB in terms of being able to provide a competitive, fair wage.

Director Burra answered various questions and provided information to meeting attendees, including that the PIC can change its name if members desire but would need to append (PIC) to the new name for organizational purposes. PIC can also provide a profile of its ideal trustee representation. Any ongoing COVID decisions, such as advising people of spiking absences or strongly recommending masks, will be data-driven. Vaping is a problem the board is very aware of, and parents can continue to reach out to administrators. The board is not considering funding security, and they know that students will go elsewhere to vape; they are focused on education around health decisions.

## **5.2. Chair Update: Shayla Bradley**

Chair Bradley thanked everyone for volunteering their time and expressed hope that they all will find value in this group.

She noted that the committee has ratified its new bylaws via an electronic process. A key change is an option to appoint one co-chair who should be finishing their two-year term if both Co-Chairs' terms are ending simultaneously.

She shared that there is an update about PRO grant reimbursements, to be provided by Ann Marie Andretta, and confirmed upcoming PIC meetings for the school year on November 17<sup>th</sup>, February 9<sup>th</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, and May 4<sup>th</sup>. There is potential for some opportunities to connect and learn in between meetings; members were asked to share subjects of interest.

Chair Bradley shared that there is a PIC Facebook group available to representatives to connect. She concluded by acknowledging her co-chair and friend Crystal Bevens-Leblanc and her work with PIC for the last three years as co-chair. Chair Bradley applauded C. Bevens-Leblanc's work in the background, dedication, tenacity and support with everything PIC does and that school councils have required.

### **5.3. Trustee Update-Trustee Brown**

Trustee Brown shared an update from the last EPOC meeting, the final meeting for this term of trustees. The meeting included a report dealing with the equity action plan and its monitoring system. Trustee Brown heard from Umoja that representation matters, and asked about Black teachers in classrooms.

Another report dealt with the summer programs including summer credit programs, literary campus support, applied suicide training, intervention skills, and Gould Lake outdoor education. Trustees discussed bylaw amendments required to add an Indigenous Trustee, the Board Student Transportation Banking Agreement, and smudging in schools.

### **5.4. Board Update: Associate Superintendent Gollogly and Administrative Assistant Ms. Andretta**

Patty Gollogly, Associate Superintendent of Safe and Caring Schools, shared that she is happy to be working together with PIC again this year, along with Ann Marie Andretta, administrative assistant for PIC. They work together to get any communication to schools and parents about PIC.

Ann Marie Andretta shared information about PRO Grant reimbursement. The first step for reimbursement is to ask your principal or vice-principal for their purchasing cards. Most principals have a board VISA card. Also, the office administrator, office manager or the budget clerk will have a board VISA as well. If there is something that you need to purchase immediately with your own debit card or your credit card, you can bring in your receipts and get a reimbursement from the non-board funds within the school which is the school council funds. Then the office administrator or budget clerk can submit the proper reimbursement form that they need to get the funds back to the school. This will close the gap of the waiting period for payment.

### **5.5. Indigenous Education Advisory Committee**

No Report



## **5.6. 2SLGBTQIA+ Focus Group**

Chair Bradley shared that the 2SLGBTQIA+ focus group is essentially a subcommittee of PIC and explained its formation. Last year the group tackled issues like gender-neutral washrooms, access to information and resources, gaps in support, and making the board's human rights incident reporting tool more effective. We also marched in Napanee and Kingston Pride.

There's still work to do but we feel like we are all moving in a good direction.

It's a new year with new people, and we'd love to figure out goals and gaps once again. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. online. You can email the LDSB PIC Co-Chair's Gmail address to get on the list.

S. Bradley thanked parent chair Constance Carriere-Prill for her work leading the committee for the past year. On top of all the other amazing things she does every day, she's in law school now, so she had to step back from chairing this year.

## **6. Reports for Actions**

None currently.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

Not at this time.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1. Elections**

S. Bradley said there were no nominations for the co-chair position. Because PIC can operate with just one chair under our bylaws, we will move forward without that spot filled and ask again for expressions of interest. PIC will try to hold an election at the November meeting.

S. Bradley reminded that the role of the first-year chair is to learn and prepare and that she is happy to help anyone interested throughout the year, so they feel ready to take on the incumbent, second-year chair role next school year. C. Innocente read the description of the first-year chair's role.

Because PIC still needs a second-year chair this year, P. Gollogly asked to appoint S. Bradley under the new bylaws allowing for this situation. There was no opposition from the membership. C. Bevens-Leblanc will move to the past chair position.

### **8.2. Best Practices**

The committee will discuss best practices at the next meeting in November.

## **9. Next Meeting - Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

## **10. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.**



## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### November 17th, 2022

#### Roll call:

Members:	Staff:
Crystal Bevens-Leblanc Shayla Bradley Jennifer Foster Melissa Rickey Gelareh Monajemi Alejandra Zamora Susan Coleman Mark Foster Jim Jodoin Kelley Packalen Josephina Smith Christine Innocente Mandy McKinnon Laura Carter Melanie Glassford Melissa Hudson Amanda McPhee Virginia Venditti Rena Petrick Barb Murphy Rob Richer Lesa-ESS Chair Alison Bradshaw Terri M Kristin Mennie Kayley Miller Melanie Carrier Vanessa Wood	P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent A. Andretta, Administrative Assistant M. Christopher, ITS Systems Support Analyst Suche James, Vice Principal Lauren McEwen, Secondary Teacher

#### Limestone District School Board

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Trustees:	Guests:
Judith Brown Bob Godkin Tiffany Lloyd	

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Shayla Bradley offered the land acknowledgment.

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Adopted

**3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Not at this time

**4. Delegation/Presentation**

**4.1 Calvin Park/LCVI Prioritizing Equity**

Vice Principal Suche James and Lauren McEwen spoke to PIC about the equity work that is happening at Calvin Park and LCVI. Their efforts are based on student and staff voice-driven data and include bystander intervention, allyship and micro-aggression education, anti-hate and anti-bullying education, and inclusion in school and classroom culture. Both students and staff have a responsibility to learn and do these things.

LCVI and Calvin Park's efforts reach different groups of students.

Indigenous students are being engaged inside and outside of the school, and different days of importance are honoured. There are images of Indigenous leaders around the school and language learning.

The GSA voiced a desire for more gender-neutral bathrooms, gender-neutral change rooms and communication around preferred names and pronouns. Days of observance should be integrated in school assemblies and announcements. All-gender public health education and a queer sports and social club are being introduced, an initiative that came in part from PIC and Associate Superintendent Gollogly's efforts.

Students identified bullying as an issue and had workshops with Andrea Barrow and anti-bullying training at Queen's University. There is peer-to-peer mentorship happening with younger students in elementary feeder schools.

Calvin Park has a social justice club and they are exploring the human rights code. They are addressing hate in the social media world.

LCVI has the biggest population of newcomers, mostly Muslim. There is a prayer room for the students that can be private and blocked off, so they are comfortable having prayer at school. Staff are coordinating Friday prayers at the school so students don't have to leave and miss class. This is all student-driven.

LCVI is building classroom communities with curriculum and life skills. Kids are learning English but also getting credit in some of their compulsory courses. Partnerships with KEYS and ISKA also help make connections.

S. James and L. McEwen answered various questions from those in attendance.

## 5. Reports for Information

### 5.1. Chair Update: Shayla Bradley

Chairs Bradley stated:

“First off, thank you all for being here as volunteers and as engaged caregivers. Participating in, and standing up for public education is important. Canada’s public schools have been at the top of global assessment scales for a long time. We need to keep it that way, and our work with the PIC is part of that.

I want to congratulate and welcome all the trustees for the 2022-2026 term, many returning, some new. They all select their committees on Monday. On that note, I want to thank Trustee Brown and Trustee Godkin for being PIC’s trustee and alternate for the last year.

We held a chair’s workshop earlier this month. Thank you to everyone who attended. The recording and some information have gone out to chairs.

PIC chairs from across the province have been invited to a consultation with the Ministry of Education next Tuesday. At this point, we have not heard exactly what it’s about. Hopefully, we will get more specific questions with enough time that I can bring them forward to you for feedback.

You may hear more about this from Patty, but I want to reiterate some of the messages from the Director and Public Health around RSV, COVID and influenza in our schools. We are all being urged to mask in indoor public settings, including schools, stay up to date on vaccines, screen for respiratory symptoms, stay home when sick, and clean our hands and surfaces. Our local hospital system and the regional children’s hospital in Ottawa, CHEO, are asking people to do all this too. It’s important that we give kids as much protection as possible right now.

I know that hearing scary information about hospital capacity and children’s health and school absences can be a lot, on top of uncertainty while our valuable CUPE education workers negotiate and coming into colder weather and more darkness. If you feel stressed or worried you are not alone; I am certain you can look around this room and find someone who feels similarly.

I want to remind everyone that there are resources and supports for mental health and well-being, both for our students and for ourselves.

If you google Limestone Community Mental Health & Addictions Supports, you will find a board list to get you started. AMHS-KFLA — addiction and mental health services Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington — has a 24-hour crisis line.

For kids, I can tell you that the Maltby Centre will move quickly if you're in crisis and can help you chart a path out for your child.

We won't have another meeting until February, so until then, please keep connected with PIC and one another whenever you need help or a listening ear. We're all here for one another and for Limestone students."

### **5.2. Trustee Update: Trustee Brown**

Trustee Brown stated: "Good evening, Everyone! It sure is wonderful to be able to speak in person, Last night's meeting was preceded by a social time. Treats served were prepared by the Lancer culinary Arts Class from LCVI under the supervision of teachers Ian Montgomery and Andrew Kirby.

The formal art of the meeting began with LCVI students performing some of the songs from Momma Mia - a production to be presented in December from the preview we heard it is a treat you will not want to miss. We were strongly encouraged to buy tickets for \$15.

This was followed by the installation of the new Board of Trustees, and we were thrilled to add the Indigenous Trustee, in the person of Kelly Maracle. Other trustees are Garrett Elliott, Bob Godkin, Robin Hutcheon, Kelly Lloyd, Karen McGregor, Joy Morning, Jim Neill, Suzanne Ruttan and me, Judith Brown. The election for the Chair and Vice Chair followed. Robin Hutcheon was elected Chair and Bob Godkin Vice-Chair."

### **5.3. Board Update-Associate Superintendent Gollogly**

Associate Superintendent Gollogly stated: "I would like to welcome Casey Walters Gray, RN, BNSc Public Health Nurse School Health Team.

This week is Transgender Awareness Week. It raises awareness about the continued adversity that trans people face in our society, and work to counter anti-trans hate with education and allyship and holds space connected to using education to break the stigma associated with gender expression.

November 21 to 25, 2022, is Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Limestone will recognize Thursday, November 24, 2022, as a district-wide Pink Shirt Day.

The Student Human Rights incident and Complaint mechanism will allow the Board to monitor, track, and respond to human rights incidents and complaints that involve Limestone students in a fair, timely, and consistent manner and ensure that appropriate response, resolution, and support

are provided. This complaint mechanism consists of Administrative Procedure 367: Student Human rights Incident and Complaint and the Student Human Rights Incident and Complaint Form available online. Complaints can be submitted using this form.

Our high schools have students who are currently training to become Youth Facilitators for an Anti-Bullying program. Youth Facilitators will deliver a three-hour workshop to grade 6 to 8 classes at their respective feeder schools. Students have completed day one of training and are in the process of completing day two and will be ready in December to visit classes.

Things continue to be interesting in our worlds. Unfortunately, it appears central talks between the government and CUPE have hit an impasse. Consequently, CUPE has provided five days' notice to put themselves in a legal strike position and have announced that a full withdrawal of services will occur on Monday, November 21st.

While time remains for a fairly negotiated settlement to avert this job action, we need to prepare for potential school closures on Monday and beyond. Families will need to prepare contingency plans for the duration of any school closures. We will of course communicate information as we receive it, and like an inclement weather day, this may mean having to update families and staff as late as Sunday evening or Monday morning regarding the status of schools for November 21.

With more seasonal weather upon us, people will be spending more time indoors and, as a result, public health authorities are concerned about the spread of several illnesses and the impact on hospital capacity for pediatric emergencies. As many of you are aware, Monday morning, Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, provided an update to the public indicating he is strongly recommending masking in all indoor public settings, including in schools and in childcare settings.

As the risk of illness increases, Dr. Moore recommends everyone getting back to practicing the basics that we know work to help prevent the spread of illness:

- Mask in indoor public settings, including schools and childcare settings due to the additional risk of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), COVID-19, and influenza (flu).
- Stay up to date with your vaccines.
- Screen daily for respiratory symptoms.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Always practice good hand hygiene and regularly clean surfaces (which is especially important for RSV and flu viruses).

Although student and staff absences go up and down throughout the school year, we have experienced a recent uptick in both student and staff absences due to illness at some sites. Limestone continues to work closely with KFL&A Public Health in monitoring student absences

related to illness. A version of this dashboard was posted on our website during the spring of 2022. We are again making the Student Absence Reporting Dashboard available to support our school communities with information about student absences due to illness in Limestone schools. This work has been supported by KFL&A Public Health guidance. This concludes my report.”

#### **5.4. Indigenous Education Advisory Committee**

No Report

#### **5.5. 2SLGBTQIA+ Focus Group**

S. Bradley stated: “We had our second meeting in October.

If you go to the board website and find Families - Equity and Inclusion - Student and Family Resources you will see the resources supporting trans rights and gender-confirming care that the group had put together last year. We have a few more ideas, but it’s an excellent start, and we’re thrilled to see that information out there for students and families.

We plan to introduce ourselves to the new board, share our report from last year and ask for an update when the time is right for that. When budget submission time comes, we may have a few ideas.

Trustee Godkin highlighted that Rainbow Health Ontario is hosting a virtual panel Nov. 24 from 2-4 pm on Zoom discussing current and future issues in 2SLGBTQ health care. Go to [rainbowhealthontario.ca](https://rainbowhealthontario.ca) to find it.

Continuing to scan through board policies, procedures and practices and draw attention to areas that may need a view through a human rights lens; the more people we have looking at things from different perspectives the greater the insight is.

We decided we are meeting in December, as we have a new board and want to get a meeting in where we can invite everyone. That will be Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. online.”

### **6. Reports for Actions**

None currently.

### **7. Unfinished Business**

Not at this time.

### **8. New Business**

#### **8.1. Best Practices-Where PIC Fits**

Christine Innocente shared a presentation showing how PIC and school councils fit into the education system, so all have a shared understanding. The presentation outlined the appropriate



mechanism for bringing issues forward in the board hierarchy, depending on the issue. It highlighted the various responsibilities and roles of people and organizations within the education system and the board.

As another best practice, Chair Bradley highlight that hybrid meetings are something councils can and should do, and the Ministry of Education encourages it. The board has said that school councils should have the tech they need to make it happen. If you find that is not the case, your principal should reach out.

### **Renaming PIC**

Chair Bradley reminded that at the first PIC meeting of the year, the Director said that we can rename the Parent Involvement Committee to something less parent-centric if desired.

Some ideas that have come forward include Family Advisory Committee or Family Involvement Advisory Committee. There does not seem to be a strong feeling in any direction. Chair Bradley asked representatives to consider so PIC can discuss in February.

### **8.2. PRO-Grant Funding**

Chair Bradley shared that there is general parent engagement funding and PRO Grant funding. PRO Grant funding is for initiatives that address local caregiver needs and/or remove barriers that prevent caregivers from participating and engaging fully in their children's learning and educational progress.

PRO grants are funded at \$1500 + \$500 per school this year. LDSB does not typically have every school apply for these grants so PIC is going to offer up to \$1000 for each applicant again.

Grants can fund things like anti-racism and anti-oppression initiatives, food sovereignty and environment (community gardens); mental health and well-being (workshops on student and family mental health), physical health and wellness, targeted resources to meet specific parent needs, 2SLGBTQIA+ initiatives, STEM (e.g., in-person learning nights), cyber-literacy, literacy supports for parents to help their children.

The application will be going out very soon. Councils will have until mid-December to apply. They will have until mid-May to make the project happen. They will need to report by the deadline which will be in June.

PIC struck a subcommittee to review grant applications.

### **8.3. Co-Chair Trial Run**

Chair Bradley noted there was still no interest in anyone being a co-chair. This year is manageable but next year the rotation falls apart as there will be no second-year chair and the Education Act

precludes more than two consecutive terms of chairing. If anyone is interested in taking on the role as a trial run to understand the logistics before signing on for a full two years, that is an option. She offered a reminder again that the first-year co-chair's job is just to learn.

## **9. Next Meeting**

Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2022

### PUBLIC MEETING

#### Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
T. Lloyd K. McGregor	<p>Present:</p> <p>S. Henderson-Todd, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children H. Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University) Z. Rogers, Community Living Kingston</p> <p>Regrets:</p> <p>C. Carriere-Prill, Member-at-Large C. Norwich-Stevenson, Member-at-Large C. Tooley, Down Syndrome Association Kingston L. Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario</p>
	Staff:
	<p>M. Blackburn, Principal of Educational Services J. Lalonde, Special Education Program Coordinator L. Conboy, Mental Health Lead W. Fisher, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator S. Gillam, Superintendent, Learning for All J. Grasse, Vice-Principal of Educational Services C. Snider, Special Education Program Coordinator T. Vail, Special Education Program Coordinator A. Ward, Special Education Program Coordinator</p>
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	J. Senior, Administrative Assistant

Limestone District School Board

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## 1. WELCOME

Superintendent Scot Gillam called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Principal Michael Blackburn read the 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.”

## 2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Superintendent Gillam called for nominations for Chair of SEAC.

Trustee McGregor nominated herself.

Superintendent Gillam called for nominations two additional times. Hearing none, the nominations were closed.

Trustee McGregor was acclaimed as Chair of SEAC for the session of December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023.

Chair McGregor assumed the Chair.

Chair McGregor called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of SEAC.

Andrea Martin nominated herself.

Chair McGregor called for nominations two additional times. Hearing none, the nominations were closed.

Andrea Martin was acclaimed as Vice-Chair of SEAC for the session December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023.

## 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

*MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd that the agenda be approved. Carried.*

#### 4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None at this time.

#### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### 5.1 SEAC Minutes – November 9, 2022

*MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd that the November 9, 2022, SEAC Minutes be approved.  
Carried.*

#### 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None at this time.

#### 7. EDUCATION SERVICES UPDATE

##### 7.1 Presentation - Building our Vision for the Future, Enhancing Special Education Services in Our District, 2022-2023 Monitoring Document

Principal Michael Blackburn and Vice Principal Jenn Grasse presented a report illustrating the indicators of success in key areas of focus under the four Big Ideas of the Special Education Services Monitoring Document.

1. **Reallocation of Resources:** Restructuring supports, services, teams, and programs to meet the changing needs of students and schools and to equitably distribute resources.
  - **Key area of focus:** Enhancing – Expand the collection of role-specific data to inform the allocation of resources, supports and services. Foster a data culture of inquiry and reflection.
  - **Indicators of Success:**
    - Collaboration with Data Research Analyst.
    - Data collection tools developed with all Affinities.
    - Currently collecting service/support data.
    - Program evaluations and monitoring of student progress.
    - Collaborative exploration of system and team data.
    - Street Data resource and an Inquiry Mindset.

2. **Professional Learning:** Provide ongoing and relevant professional learning to a variety of staff in order to build capacity to meet the needs of diverse learners in an inclusive learning environment.
  - **Key area of focus:** Continuing – Embed Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles in professional learning opportunities.
  - **Indicators of Success:**
    - UDL Sharepoint resource development.
    - Tier 1 support and capacity building.
    - Intentional professional learning – Student Support Teachers (SST) and Learning Program Support (LPS) Teachers.
    - Targeted school support through PA Day learning.
    - Instructional coach – alignment of strategies and supports.
    - De-streamed instructional support.
3. **Strengthening Partnerships and Leveraging Supports:** Strengthen and enhance partnerships with families and community partners to leverage supports and maximize student learning and well-being.
  - **Key area of focus:** Continuing – Communicate and collaborate with students, families, staff, and community partners to gather voice and lived experiences.
  - **Indicators of Success:**
    - Special Education Plan Review (Thought Exchange platform to gather all voices)
    - School Climate Data and Student Census.
    - Limestone District School Board Workforce Census Data.
    - Equity Committee Survey and ongoing feedback.
    - Staff Feedback – Professional Learning Sessions
    - Community Partner Collaboration and Sharing.
    - School based professional development with classroom educators.
4. **Learning for All:** Support the implementation of differentiated, precise and research-based instructional strategies to support the learning and well-being of all students.
  - **Key area of focus:** Continuing – Collaborate with Program Team/Curriculum Department to implement literacy and numeracy supports and interventions.
  - **Indicators of Success:**
    - School-based professional development with classroom educators.
    - Collaborative planning and design of admin ‘Leading Literacy in Limestone’, and SST/LPS course and meetings.
    - Current project – Math and Special Education.

- Program Team collaboration for EA profession learning.
- Early Years collaboration and team planning.
- Monthly program team meetings.

Chair McGregor called upon SEAC Members for questions regarding the 2022-2023 Monitoring Document.

## 7.2 Student Story – Bringing the Monitoring Document to Life

Special Education Program Coordinator Ash Ward presented a student story to demonstrate the way that our Monitoring Document is being applied and helping in a student's journey.

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

**8.1 Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board** - Letter to Minister of Education requesting that the Ministry of Education consider providing the option to extend the time students with differing abilities have to remain or continue in Secondary School beyond year 7 and beyond age 21, dated October 14, 2022. Provided for information.

**8.2 Durham District School Board** - Letter to Minister of Education regarding the Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding, dated November 22, 2022. Provided for information.

## 9. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

None at this time.

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS – Administrative Report: Superintendent's Report

### A. Ministry Updates:

#### Collective Bargaining

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the government of Ontario have reached an agreement on a new contract. This agreement covers many staff in LDSB, including Educational Assistants (EAs), Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), custodial staff, and office staff. Bargaining will now shift to the teacher bargaining units which include the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF). Our Professional Student Services Personnel (PSSP) staff will also be included in the OSSTF negotiations.

## **B. Educational Services Update:**

### **Mental Health Lit**

On November 10, 2022, Mental Health Lead Laura Conboy attended School Mental Health Ontario's (SMHO) Knowledge and Implementation Series to share implementation tips for [MH LIT: Student Mental Health in Action](#) lesson plans in a School to Community (STC) classroom. This four-part, ready-made lesson plan series to help support secondary students' mental health and well-being was modified in collaboration with an Ernestown Secondary School STC educator and co-delivered with the Mental Health Lead. Lessons focused on mental health and mental illness, signs of mental health problems, strategies to support mental health and well-being, and how/where students can access help for themselves and their friends, when needed.

### **SMHO Youth Suicide Prevention/Life Promotion Modules**

Both Mental Health Lead Laura Conboy and Superintendent Scot Gillam attended the SMHO Knowledge and Implementation Series on Thursday, December 8, 2022. This particular session was focused on Youth Suicide Prevention/Life Promotion Modules. Our panel presentation focused on the revamping of the Suicide Protocol as well as the learning module that was added to all staff training at the beginning of each school year.

### **SEAC Presentation List**

- December 2022 - Monitoring Report and Student Story
- January 2023:
  - District Programs and Teams Learning Disabilities (LD)
  - District Autism Classes (DAC)
  - District Learning Centres (DLC)
  - Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECP)
  - School to Community Services (SCS)
- February 2023 – Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Inclusion
- March 2023 - Monitoring Report and Transition Planning
- April 2023 - Mental Health
- May 2023 - Budget and TriBoard SEAC
- June 2023 - Monitoring Report and Student Stories

Principal Mike Blackburn shared an update to the Special Education Review regarding timelines for gathering input from students and families as well as staff and community partners. Also shared was a demonstration of ThoughtExchange for gathering this information.



## 11. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

*MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd that the meeting adjourn. Carried.*

*The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.*