

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 18, 2023

PRIVATE SESSION

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
<p>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)</p>	<p>K. Burra, Director of Education S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education P. Gollgoly, 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</p>
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.