



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 26, 2023

### PRIVATE SESSION

#### Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown (regrets) 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) (regrets) 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.	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

#### 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 Lloyd. 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) – March 29, 2023

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

#### 5. FOR INFORMATION

- 5.1 Safe Schools Update – None at this time.
- 5.2 Property Update – None at this time.
- 5.3 Labour Update – Superintendent McWilliams provided a Labour update.
- 5.4 Legal Update – None at this time.
- 5.5 Personnel Update – Director Burra provided a personnel update.
- 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 Godkin and seconded by Trustee Lloyd. Carried.*

## PUBLIC MEETING

### Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown (regrets) 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) (regrets) E. Jackson (Student Trustee) J. Kolosov (Student Trustee)	K. Burra, Director of Education M. Christopher, IT Programmer A. Grange, Communications Consultant J. Douglas, Communications Consultant S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources J. Silver, Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services P. Carson, Manager of Finance
Guests:	Recorder:
Kevin Reed Joanne Whitfield Tim Orpin Chris Van Luven Liv Rondeau, Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education E. Eckloff (Incoming Student Trustee) A. O'Keefe (Incoming Student Trustee) A. Wang (Incoming Student Trustee)	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

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

She began by providing 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."

### 7. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

*MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin and seconded by Trustee McGregor that the agenda, as presented, 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 English as a Second Language: Adult Non-Credit – Carrie Barr & Wendy Bonnell

Chair Hutcheon called upon Wendy Bonnell and Carrie Barr to provide their delegation. Carrie Barr began by stating “The Adult Non-Credit Program” at LDSB serves a vulnerable population in Kingston, many of whom are Newcomers to Canada and are affected by issues such as trauma, culture shock, mental health, and language barriers.

Our classes:

- 5 daytime classes ranging in levels from Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) level 0 (illiterate in their own language) to level 6
- 1 evening virtual class focusing on preparation for the Canadian Citizenship class
- Instruction includes activities geared to speaking, listening, reading and writing
- Classes prepare Newcomers for citizenship, civic engagement, and the rights and responsibilities of living in Canada

Language Acquisition:

As students improve their English language skills their ability to live successfully in society is strengthened by:

- Increased confidence to do everyday tasks such as shopping, banking, paying bills, navigating public transportation

Health, Safety and Wellness

- Self-Advocacy – ESL students increasingly learn to advocate for themselves and their families by the ability to speak with their children’s teachers, doctors, banks and other supports in the community
- The ability to live and interact successfully in Canada positively impacts the mental health of our ESL students. This builds resiliency and strengthens families, in turn, affects the success of their children in LDSB schools.

Building Community

The ESL program provides a safe and welcoming space to connect with one another and connect to the community.

- Instructors arrange for guest speakers including police and victim services, bankers, financial services
- Prior to the pandemic, ESL Day was an annual event celebrating the culture, customs and food of students’ native countries
- Instructors arrange trips to learn about the Kingston community such as historical landmarks in Kingston, City Hall, public libraries to name a few

- Many adult ESL students also have children attending school in LDSB. This increases their sense of community supports around them

#### Pathways for ESL Students

- Advanced classes focus on skills for labour market readiness and further education
- Once CLB level 6 is achieved, ESL students may register in the LBS program and work toward preparing for PLAR assessments to work toward their OSSD or generally improve their academic skills to prepare for employment
- Newcomers to Canada represent 1/3 of the Ontario Workforce (as stated by Ursula Lipski - a representative from MCCSS at the November 2020 CESBA conference)

### 9.2 Literacy Basic Skills: Adult Non-Credit – Julia Perkins & Wendy Bonnell

Chair Hutcheon called upon Wendy Bonnell and Julia Perkins to provide their delegation. Julia introduced herself and provided her delegation “The Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) Program” provides programming to adults over 19 at 3 sites in the Limestone District School Board

- Funded by MLITSD
- Our clientele represents the underserved members of the community affected by socio-economic and other inequities including disrupted education, trauma, learning disabilities, mental health, generational poverty and in some cases incarceration, just to name a few

#### Within LDSB

- LBS provides an opportunity to re-engage students who have left school without achieving their OSSD
- Reduces barriers to learning by providing a safe, welcoming space with
- individualized instruction where learners work at their own pace
- Provides a pathway for adult ESL students who wish to enter secondary credit and pursue further education
- LBS includes learners who have a range of barriers to learning (persons with a disability, Newcomers, visible minority)

#### Across Ontario

- A goal of the LBS program is to reduce the number of Ontarians accessing Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs by increasing their literacy and employment skills to enter the workforce

#### Importance of Literacy:

Literacy skills are strongly related to successful employment outcomes. Canadians with low literacy skills are more than twice as likely to be unemployed than those with higher level literacy skills. Educational attainment is strongly related to employment. In 2016, only 55% of Canadians ages 25 to 64 who did not complete high school were employed. Conversely, the employment

rate was 82% for those who had obtained a college or university credential.  
([www.communityliteracyofontario.ca](http://www.communityliteracyofontario.ca))

Instruction:

- Competency based – Instructors teach across various competencies to help adults in develop and apply communication, numeracy, interpersonal and digital skills to achieve their goals
- The LBS program serves learners who successfully transition to employment, secondary credit, post-secondary education, apprenticeship, and increased independence
- Instructors assist students in preparing for PLAR assessments in order to be granted through credit the compulsory courses they may be missing. Instructors also help students prepare a Senior Equivalent Credit Application (SECA) in order to be granted senior equivalent credits

Positive Outcomes:

- Reduces barriers to learning
- Discuss the partnership with credit in LDSB
- Highlight next steps for many LBS students and provide real examples

### 9.3 ESL Secondary Programming -Andrea Loken

Chair Hutcheon called upon Andrea Loken to provide her delegation. She stated “I am Andrea Loken, president for the Teachers’ Bargaining Unit of the OSSTF Limestone District 27. I am speaking on behalf of ELL and ELD teachers about the importance of adult, non-credit programs to the high school ELL population.”

The Limestone Board has long been interested in recruiting fee-paying international students to this Board. This has enriched our secondary school communities and enabled new learning opportunities for both the international students and the teachers and education workers. However, over the last number of years, many newcomers to Canada have arrived in our community from Syria and Ukraine, for example, and have highlighted the essential importance of the adult ESL and Literacy programs at LEC.

Many of the high school aged newcomers to Canada attend LCVI, a central location. Many are refugees and have experienced significant trauma. Some have no formal schooling. They need tremendous support both for their learning and for their mental health. They arrive into an already stressed system that has minimal supports for the wide range of needs. Nevertheless, teachers embrace these students and do everything they can to prepare them to be productive contributors to our society and help them fulfill their dreams. The challenges are monumental. There are 2 main ways the adult programs support these students in their learning:

- Whole family support: When families arrive and none of them speak English, the school-aged children benefit immensely from having their parents learning English and/or getting the skills they need to provide security for their families. Parents that are learning English alongside their children, may be able to support their children in school with homework help. They can become functional to conduct general communications with the school, making life easier for everyone.
- Support upon “graduation”: High school students may become too old to attend secondary school, but may still need skills in order to complete their credits. The Adult non-credit programs are able to bridge that gap, preparing students for completion of credits in an adult, self-directed program.

In each of the cases, the adult programming at LEC provides some stability to families and individuals, easing the burden of mental health stressors. The mental health challenges of people displaced from their homes, trying to get established in a new country cannot be overstated. We need to maintain and support the programs at LEC delivered by the Instructor members. A future area of development needed is in the area of adult FOR CREDIT programs which the non-credit programs would also support.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues. I hope I have made you aware of the vital importance of the non-credit programs to our school community.

#### **9.4 Legacy Wall and Book of Remembrance – Joanne Whitfield & Kevin Reed**

Director Burra introduced Kevin Reed, former KCVI Teacher and the first Indigenous Education lead for Limestone. He acknowledged his instrumental involvement in the creation of the Wall of Remembrance which remembers the young men, and one young woman, who joined the military services while they were students at KCVI during WWI and WWII. Kevin presented the Book of Remembrance to Trustees in its online format. Director Burra thanked Kevin and invited Joanne Whitfield, Teacher Librarian at KCVI, to present the Legacy Wall collection. She took Trustees through her journey of collecting, preserving, and curating the history of KCVI-QECVI. With the creation of the Legacy Committee, historical artifacts and documents were catalogued and exist today in the format of a public online repository as well as in a visual representation as the Legacy Wall displayed at KSS. Director Burra once again expressed his gratitude to Kevin and Joanne for their efforts in making these projects possible. Chair Hutcheon thanked the presenters and called upon Trustees for questions.

#### **9.5 Indigenous Languages Program – Superintendent Gillam & Vice-Principal Rondeau**

Superintendent Gillam introduced Vice-Principal of Indigenous Education, Liv Rondeau to

present on the Indigenous Languages Programming offered at Limestone DSB. Liv highlighted to Trustees the importance of preserving, revitalizing, and promoting Indigenous Languages. She presented examples of LDSB students who are learning Kanyen'kéha and Anishinaabemowin, and acknowledged that students at Granite Ridge Education Centre are learning Algonquin language as well. Chair Hutcheon thanked Vice-Principal Rondeau for this important work and asked Trustees for questions or comments.

## 10. PRIVATE SESSION REPORT

Trustee Godkin stated that earlier this evening during Private Session:

- The minutes were approved from the Regular Board Meeting (Private) of March 29, 2023.
- Superintendent McWilliams provided a Labour update which resulted in a motion being passed.
- Director Burra provided a Personnel 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 – March 29, 2023

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

## 12. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

### 12.1 Chair's Update

Chair Hutcheon shared her report: 'Good evening.

I would first like to thank Vice Chair Godkin for taking the Chair at our March meeting. Over the March break I gave myself a concussion at work. My symptoms were mild, yet I have continued to feel their effects even still. The day of our last meeting I was quite certain I could not make it through an entire meeting without crying and while I could have soldiered on, if there's one thing I've learned over the last few years it's that it's okay to ask for help. And it is a privilege. Not everyone can ask for help. Not everyone has someone they can turn to. I am privileged in



that I have family and community and colleagues around me that I can turn to in moments of need. This is my privilege.

Privilege is not always financial. It can be found in the people and the love we have around us; it can be found in the culture that surrounds us; privilege comes to us in many ways. Those of us sitting around these tables tonight are privileged. By virtue of being here; being tasked with making decisions that impact children, decisions to make things the best they can be for children, we are privileged.

And as we move forward, having entered budget season, and as we set priorities in our planning, I hope we remember this. I hope we remember, like Spiderman, that with great power comes great responsibility. It is incumbent on us to recognize and remember the advantages we do have and to keep things in perspective when we make decisions. To remember to bring forward the voices that do not have family, that do not have community, that do not have homes; that do not have our privilege.

We are here to serve; to serve all students; to make the playing field as level as we can. When we take care to remember our privilege and the value of every story regardless of where it comes from, we can craft and take part in a future to be proud of.

Thank you.'

## **12.2 Director's Update**

Director Burra stated "Good evening, Trustees and the viewing public. I have a number of updates for this evening's meeting. Early last week, the Ontario Government provided Grants for Students Needs and Priority/Partnership Funding to school boards. This information is vital for our planning purposes in preparing for the 2023-24 school year. I know Superintendent Young and Manager Carson, and their teams, continue to work around the clock to unpack the funding and the local implications in Limestone. Along with the funding announcements, the government also tabled legislation, The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023 which has now gone through 2nd reading and is in committee. This proposed legislation has a number of implications for school boards and the government is consulting on a number of the potential changes.

Trustees will remember that last month senior staff shared some highlights of the upcoming student equity census report focused on disparities based on race and religion. This report will be released publicly tomorrow, and as indicated previously, it clearly identifies we continue to have critical work ahead of us to ensure all students positively experience school while

continuing their learning journeys. As I indicated last month, this data is very important in understanding the student experience in Limestone and, like all data, this data will provide guidance to us moving forward but also be the start of further conversations about the data to fully understand it and create meaningful change. Experiences of the data and the report will vary and, in many cases, will be individualized based on personal experiences. As a reminder, it should also be understood that the upcoming report is the second of several reports that will be forthcoming in the months ahead. The report we will be sharing tomorrow, and I anticipate this will also be the case for future reports, calls for action and change, and there is no denying that work lies ahead to ensure students see themselves in Limestone.

This evening there are three reports on the agenda: Interim Financial Reporting for the 2nd quarter, the mid-year update for the Strategic Plan, and an overview of funds raised from the QECVI and KCVI chattel.

In terms of a couple of very recent updates, I am pleased to inform trustees that the school year calendar that you approved last month has also been confirmed by the Ministry. This information will be shared with families later this week. In addition, yesterday, over 2000 LDSB secondary students viewed a virtual presentation by Dr. Robin Handley-Dafoe that was focused on resilience and mental health. Preliminary feedback has been extremely positive. And we look forward to several other Limestone Learning Foundation supported student engagements in the coming weeks.

And finally, I wanted to share with trustees and the viewing public that the province released the theme for Education Week next week: Education for a Brighter Future. I think this is a worthy theme because we have been focusing attention on the notion of hope, and the power of education for social change and mobility. There are many societal pressures and challenges that are having a negative impact on many members of the communities we serve, and particularly on children and youth. All Limestone schools need to be a source of hope for the children and youth we serve. This must continue to be the focus of our efforts.

Thank you, that concludes my report, Chair Hutcheon.”

## **13. REPORTS**

### **13.1 OPSBA Report – Trustee McGregor**

Trustee McGregor provided her update:

- The Annual General Meeting is open for registration.

- The Labour Relations Symposium starts Thursday April 27, 2023
- Elections for the new Eastern Regional Chair and other positions. The due date for nominations is May 9, 2023.

### 13.2 Student Trustees' Report

Student Trustee Kolosov read her report: "Good evening, everyone, It is my pleasure to introduce to you, the new student trustees for the 2023-24 school year. Ava Jean O'Keefe was elected to be the Rural Student Trustee. She is a grade 11 student from Sydenham High School and is very active in her school and community as she is a member of the student council and has worked in South Frontenac for years. This has provided her with the ability to reach many students and has also provided an understanding of the different experiences' students face. Ava Jean's collaboration, positivity and hard work ethic make her an amazing fit for this position.

The newly elected Indigenous Student Trustee is Emily Eckloff. Emily is a grade 12 student attending LaSalle Secondary School and will be returning next year for grade 13. She has a passion for a variety of different arts, and she has been involved in the Indigenous Leadership circle for several years. Emily has held several leadership positions in her work in the past and has gained the important experience and skills, such as leadership and communication, that will help her make a positive difference in this position.

Andrea Wang is a grade 11 student from Kingston Secondary School and is the upcoming Urban Student Trustee. She is passionate about the balance between sports, community, and school! She plays for the Kingston Rock Volleyball Club, and in her spare time, enjoys tennis with friends. She is very active in her community and is the current grade 11 representative of KSS and was the grade 10 rep last year. Andrea is also engaged in many other clubs at her school, such as an exec on DECA, Athletics, Relay for Life and a general member of chess, cross country, and harmony. Andrea's adaptability, passion, collaborative and communication skills make her a great addition to our team.

At this month's interschool council meeting, we welcomed Andrea, who assumed the role of the urban student trustee early since Student Trustee Elshrief has stepped down from the position. Both Student Trustee Jackson and I introduced Andrea to the school representatives at the meeting and we both look forward to working with Andrea for the remainder of the school year. This will be a great opportunity to pass on the knowledge and experience that we have gained working in our roles as student trustees.

We discussed different initiatives that are taking place at each school in the coming months. There are many different activities scheduled for students to participate in before the summer months.

This season is very busy for KASSAA sports, such as frisbee, soccer, rugby and track and field. Napanee DSS is planning a pajama day, La Salle Secondary is hosting exchange students from France, KSS is hosting their spring dance, open barbeque, and diversity dinner, LCVI is hosting spirit days such as “retro day”, and how to celebrate the upcoming Jewish/Asian heritage month in May. There are many more events planned at the rest of our school locations. Schools are also celebrating Earth Week and organizing clean up workshops around their school area/community. Several schools are in the midst of finalizing the preparation for their annual school carnivals/fun days, which can include ice cream, bouncy castles, face painting and other exciting activities.

Today we officially kicked-off the Knowledge-sharing program. Although it is a busy time for students, the program mentors and mentees had a chance to connect with one another, discuss the plan for the program, speak with Danka, our guest community knowledge-keeper, share some food and of course do some drumming with the Grandmother drum, which is always one of my favorite things to do. This was a great way to start off this year’s program. We are looking to have another get-together as a team before the end of the year to wrap-up the program and celebrate our new connections and learnings that we have made over the past year together.”

Chair Hutcheon thanked Student Trustee Kolosov for her report.

### **13.2.1 Student Trustee Elections 2023-2024 – Director Burra**

Director Burra reviewed the Student Trustee Elections report which describes the process and timing that has occurred as governed by Policy 9 – Student Trustees. He formally invited Student Trustee Wang to take her seat at the Board table in the place of Urban Student Trustee Elshrief who stepped down from his position.

### **13.3 Reports for Action – None at this time.**

### **13.4 Reports for Information**

#### **13.4.1 Interim Financial Reporting QT2 2022-2023**

Superintendent Young welcomed Manager Paula Carson to present the Interim Financial Report on Quarter 2 for 2022-2023. She reviewed the operating expenditures in Appendix A with

Trustees.

Chair Hutcheon thanked Manager Carson for her report and called upon Trustees for questions.

#### **13.4.2 Strategic Plan Monitoring Mid-Year Update**

Director Burra introduced the report on the Mid-Year update as it relates to the strategic plan. He reminded Trustees that the Areas of Focus have been consolidated to eliminate overlap. This adjustment was approved in the fall of 2022. Director Burra invited Senior Staff to the podium to present highlights within each of the Wellness, Collaboration, and Innovation pillars.

Chair Hutcheon thanked Director Burra and the Senior Team and invited Trustees to ask any questions.

#### **13.4.3 KC/QE Chattel – Associate Superintendent Hedderson**

Associate Superintendent Hedderson began by introducing his update and referenced a report from the November 26, 2021 Education, Policy and Operations Committee which outlined steps for the sale of remaining chattels from QECVI and KCVI. He reiterated that the proceeds from the chattel sale are to be returned to the same communities which are now amalgamated at KSS. \$85 thousand dollars was raised through the public sale which will go towards restoration of a significant Canadian flag, school improvements for the KSS community that enhance student experience, and bursaries for students in financial need.

Chair Hutcheon thanked Associate Superintendent Hedderson and asked Trustees for questions.

### **14 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Delegations from the March 29, 2023 Regular Board Meeting - No further action is required.

### **15 NEW BUSINESS**

### **16 CORRESPONDENCE**

None at this time.

### **17 NOTICE OF MOTION**

None at this time.

## **18. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None at this time.

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

**19.1** Parent Involvement Committee Meeting – February 9, 2023

**19.2** Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting – March 22, 2023

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

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 Lloyd and seconded by Trustee Godkin that the meeting adjourn. Carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.