



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 22, 2023

PRIVATE SESSION

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 (regrets for PS) 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.	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 Lloyd and seconded by Trustee Elliott. 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) – January 18, 2023

MOTION MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin and Trustee Brown 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 – Superintendent Young provided a property update.
- 5.3 Personnel Update – None at this time.
- 5.4 Labour Update – Superintendent McWilliams provided a labour update.
- 5.5 Legal Update – Superintendent Young provided a legal 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 Lloyd and seconded by Trustee Hutcheon. 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 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 S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent J. Silver, Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
Gord Taylor – Chief Executive Officer, Tri-Board, Student Transportation Services.	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

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

Chair Hutcheon called upon Trustee Elliott to provide 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. This past weekend at the NBA all-star game, Canadian singer-songwriter Jully Black sang the national anthem, and made an intentional decision to change one important lyric from, "our home and native land," to, "our home on native land." When I heard the change it felt like it was the way the anthem should be, and there are many articles and interviews praising her choice. I hope her act of courage allows for continued reflection about whose land we're really on.”

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 Tri-Board Student Transportation Services walking distance, bus size and efficiency

Chair Hutcheon welcomed and introduced Gord Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of Tri-Board Student Transportation Services. He provided the presentation for Trustees and highlighted processes, information, and tools which will aid in addressing constituent questions. Gord led Trustees through the organizational structure of the Tri-Board, and the role Limestone has in the consortium.

He presented on a variety of topics including:

- FAQs from Trustees surrounding School Bus Fleets, Driver recruitment and Pedestrian Safety
- Rider Statistics
- Inclement weather and zones
- Bus cancellation processes
- Bus service eligibility
- Bus safety training for students

Chair Hutcheon thanked Gord Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Tri-Board, Student Transportation Services 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 January 18, 2023.
- Associate Superintendent Gollogly gave a safe schools update.
- Superintendent Young gave a legal and property update.
- Superintendent McWilliams gave a Labour 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 – January 18, 2023

11.2 Education, Policy and Operations Committee – February 8, 2023

MOTION MOVED BY Trustee Godkin and seconded by Trustee Brown that the minutes, as amended, be approved. Carried.

12. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

12.1 Chair's Update

Chair Hutcheon stated “Good evening, I am going to keep things short tonight. Given the weather forecast it feels wise to take as little time as possible in hopes of avoiding bad weather and getting everyone home safely.

I will ask everyone’s indulgence tonight as I take a few minutes to recognize a day that is near and dear to my heart but is still about two weeks away. International Women’s Day. We do have a meeting that night but it’s EPOC so I will not be giving Chair’s remarks.

I bring up International Women’s Day because we’ve spent a lot of time talking about equity lately and while I believe progress has been made, we have not achieved gender equality yet. And I’ll tell you why – in 2021 in Canada, female identified people earned 89 cents per dollar earned by their male identified counterparts. I do not believe this is the case in Limestone, or in education in general, but it is the case societally. Some of that discrepancy can be explained by industry variations, for instance high paying construction jobs are more typically held by male identified individuals, but there remains no explanation for two thirds of that discrepancy. This is a significant wage gap and it’s an issue that I don’t believe many are aware of, particularly students. Now you know and knowing is the first step to change.

In the last few years, I’ve seen change in some areas – dress codes, for instance, are less apt to target female bodies and certainly the job market in general has become far less rigid in terms of jobs being gendered.

We are not at equality yet. There is hope but it will not be achieved without work. And it is work for all of us. Moving forward, it is my sincere hope and belief that we will achieve this. Equity work is hard and I know for our students, for our future, we are up for the challenge.

Thank you. And that concludes my report.”

12.2 Director’s Update

Director Burra stated: “Good evening trustees and the viewing public. It is hard to believe, but we are already a few weeks into the second half of the 2022-2023 school year. First term and first semester report cards have been sent home, secondary students are making course selections for next year, Choices at 9 programs have completed their processes, Choices at 7 programs will be making decisions soon, March Break is just around the corner, and planning is well underway for the 2023-2024 school year. Preparations for next year will continue to ramp up and we eagerly await the release of the budget for next school year that should be released by the province in the coming weeks.

As trustees are aware, we have had a full return to athletics and the ability to host fans and crowds for events for all of this school year. I would like to acknowledge the basketball and volleyball champions from last week... Frontenac SS won senior girls volleyball and senior boys basketball, and I would like to highlight the junior girls volleyball champions from Napanee... this is the first KASSA championship for a NDSS team since KASSA was created. This is a great and notable accomplishment, and fantastic for the school. I had the pleasure of attending these finals this past Wednesday and Friday evenings. The energy at the St. Lawrence gym was electric both nights. In addition, I would like to acknowledge LDSB Secondary Teacher Jon Swaine who helped coordinate the students who supported the streaming of the finals and provided play by play. Jon who teaches at Bayridge Secondary has also been acknowledged with a 2023 Aspirations in Computing Award from the National Centre for Women and Information Technology. This is a significant honour. I should also note that over the past few days, and into the coming weeks, there will be many scholarship announcements for current grade 12 students. This will be well worth keeping an eye out for on social media as outstanding Limestone students are recognized for their amazing efforts.

A central theme connecting the reports coming forward this evening and engagements that will be occurring in the coming weeks is feedback and voice. As we plan and continue to look for areas of improvement, collecting voice and actively engaging with a range of stakeholders is an essential component of our work as a public education system. Tonight, trustees will hear feedback as it relates to the school year calendar for 2023-2024, as well as thoughts on exploring the possibility of a fall break in the future. In addition, trustees will hear the general feedback we collected from board staff as it relates to operational components of board

operations in Financial Services, Facility Services, Information Technology Services and Human Resources. As trustees are aware from our committee meeting earlier this month, there will be active engagement as part of the Special Education review. In addition, in the coming weeks we will be engaging with families regarding the virtual school for 2023-24, the budget consultation, and the strategic plan. This voice and feedback is critical to ensure that we are being responsive and consistently looking for areas of improvement. A position open to learning is required at the system level and in every school and classroom across Limestone. There is always room for improvement, and as Maya Angelou so wisely stated, “when you know better, do better.” We are all on a learning journey and missteps will occur on route, but the important focus needs to continue to be on learning in these situations, growing, and focusing on the needs of each student. This is what education is all about, and as a system we must live by, and model, these words and expect the same of all staff. This also includes the need for us to consistently be responsive and open to feedback. Given the continuing need for us to focus on equity, inclusion, Indigenous education, and ensuring the protection of all protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code, this stance is critical.

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

13. REPORTS

13.1 OPSBA Report – Trustee McGregor

Trustee McGregor provided her update:

She will be attending the OPSBA Director’s meeting on Friday and will bring back a report for the next Board meeting.

13.2 Student Trustees’ Report

Student Trustee Kolosov stated: “The student trustee elections results have been confirmed with Andrea Wang from KSS accepting the role of Urban trustee, Ava O’Keefe from Sydenham HS agreeing to assume the role of the Rural trustee, and Emily Eckloff from LaSalle SS taking on the role of the Indigenous student trustee for the 2023-24 school year. We are planning to have a welcome meeting at our next interschool council in March to introduce the new trustees in person and gradually begin integrating them into the work that we do. I have already connected with Emily and spoke about how we can work together to ensure a smooth integration and transition into this new role so that she is well prepared and can hit the ground running when she officially starts in the role as the new Indigenous student trustee. The plan is to have Emily get involved in the activities and the initiatives to learn about them and attend one or two

board meetings and interschool council meetings. I will also introduce and include her into the Indigenous network at the next OSTA-AECO meeting where she can attend and participate in our meeting discussions that are focused on student engagement and Indigenous cultural initiatives that we run within our respective school boards.

Last week, Mohammed and I went to Ottawa for the Board Council Conference, which is part of the Ontario Student trustee Association. As part of professional development at the conference, we learned how to effectively formulate our opinions and present them at Board meetings and public venues. We participated in mock debates and presentations about how to effectively present our opinions and arguments regarding proposed motions. We also participated in discussions with student trustees from other school boards about our respective board's achievements, challenges and initiatives to highlight certain achievements and share best practices so we can adopt them at different school boards across the province. For example, I found it very important and timely to talk about the student trustee elections that we just finished for the student trustee positions in our organization. We discussed how other school boards use case study components during student trustee elections to assess candidates' leadership skills and ability to solve problems as well as effectively communicate and work with others. We also discussed that the majority of school boards in the province run their student trustee elections with both the trustee candidates and the voting committee members being present in person during the elections. Following these practices will be helpful for our school board to consistently select student trustees who can demonstrate their leadership and their ability to work as part of a team and tackle real-life issues in a collaborative fashion."

13.3 Reports for Potential Action

13.3.1 School Year Calendar

Chair Hutcheon noted that at this time, the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar template has not been communicated from the Ministry of Education so this report will be for information purposes only. Associate Superintendent Gollogly stated that since her last update from the February 8, 2023, Education, Policy, and Operations Committee, consultation between the three lead boards with stakeholder groups has been ongoing.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly indicated an increase in survey participation from the previous year and shared the survey results with trustees.

Chair Hutcheon thanked the Associate Superintendent Gollogly and called upon trustees for comments or questions.

13.4 Reports for Information

13.4.1 Corporate Services Survey

Director Burra took trustees through the feedback from the Corporate Services survey. He stated the focus this survey was on operations including facility Services, Financial Services, Human Resources and Information Technology Services. Approximately 600 Limestone staff responded to the survey. Some of the common themes across the board include

- General desire to have a central place to access information
- Common processes for making Order Requests
- Mentoring and training opportunity needed
- Service Request communication

Director Burra commented on the value of the feedback from the survey. This data assists with making improvements and addressing staff needs. There are plans to repeat the survey again in the future.

Chair Hutcheon thanked Director Burra and asked trustees for questions.

13.4.2 Virtual School Update

Associate Superintendent Sartor introduced the report and stated that the Ministry of Education mandated that virtual school be offered as an option for the 2022-2023 school year. She reinforced that virtual school continues to be supported by the Program Team and the learning coaches and students are supported by the school and educational services staff. She noted that virtual school continues to be an important choice for students and families in LDSB. Associate Superintendent Hedderson highlighted that there are plans to offer both elementary and secondary virtual school for the 2023- 2024 school year. In March there will be an opportunity for families to request placement in virtual school.

Chair Hutcheon thanks Associate Superintendents Sartor and Hedderson for their report and called upon trustees for questions.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

15. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION

None at this time.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None at this time.

19. COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

19.1 Parent Involvement Committee Meeting – October 6, 2022

19.2 Parent Involvement Committee Meeting – November 17, 2022

19.3 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting – December 14, 2022

20. FUTURE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

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 Morning and seconded by Trustee Godkin that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.