

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 25, 2021

PRIVATE SESSION

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott L. French T. Gingrich (Vice-Chair) B. Godkin R. Hutcheon K. McGregor J. Morning S. Ruttan (Chair) T. Duncan (Student Trustee) S. Johnson (Student Trustee) Regrets B. Roy (Student Trustee)	K. Burra, Director of Education S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	W. Moore, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

1. MOTION TO MOVE INTO PRIVATE SESSION

MOTION: To move into Private Session.

MOVED BY: Trustee Elliott and seconded by Trustee Brown. Carried.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Godkin declared his daughter is an occasional teacher with two other public boards and on the occasional list with LDSB. Trustee Elliott declared his wife is an employee with the LDSB and is a member of ETFO.

3. Action Items

3.1 Board Minutes – None at this time.

4. For Information

4.1 Safe Schools Update – No update.

4.2 Property Update – No update.

4.3 Labour Update – No update.

4.4 Legal Update – No update.

4.5 Personnel Update – Superintendent McWilliams provided a personnel update.

4.6 OPSBA Update – None at this time.

5. REPORT TO PUBLIC SESSION

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

MOTION: That the Board rise and report, and that any resolutions, be made public.

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

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott L. French T. Gingrich (Vice-Chair) B. Godkin R. Hutcheon K. McGregor J. Morning S. Ruttan (Chair) T. Duncan (Student Trustee) S. Johnson (Student Trustee) Regrets B. Roy (Student Trustee)	M. Baumann, Manager of Finance K. Burra, Director of Education 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. Senior, Admin Assistant, Producer J. Silver, Superintendent of Education K. Smith, Communications Officer C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	W. Moore, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

Chair Ruttan welcomed everyone to the Regular Board Meeting of the Limestone District School Board of Trustees. This meeting is a virtual meeting due to some construction at the Board Office.

Chair Ruttan called upon Trustee Morning to present the Acknowledgement of Territory. Trustee Morning stated: “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. I have profound respect for their traditional wisdom that I came to know more intimately from my school district postings in the southern interior of B.C. The Stein River Valley, an important watershed and ecosystem protected by the Lytton and Mount Currie native bands, was to be destroyed

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for a logging road. In challenging the provincial government, the Elders vowed it a sacred trust passed on by their ancestors, and that in return, the river nurtures us. It took 10 years, but they prevailed. That passion for the health of Mother Earth may not always win, but our native knowledge keepers from all over Turtle Island and our children are telling us we must continue to try.”

6. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

7. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Trustee Elliott declared his wife is an employee of the LDSB and a member of ETFO. Trustee Godkin declared his daughter is an occasional teacher with two other public boards and on the occasional list with LDSB.

8. PRIVATE SESSION REPORT

Trustee Hutcheon stated that in Private Session earlier this evening, Superintendent McWilliams provided a personnel update.

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

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

9.1 Regular Board Meeting of June 16, 2021

MOVED BY Trustee French and seconded by Trustee Elliott that the minutes as presented be approved. Carried.

10. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

10.1 Chair's Update

Chair Ruttan stated: “Limestone is ready to welcome students to their first day of classes on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Staff will begin this new school year with a Professional Activity

Day on Friday, September 3rd.

We look forward to a more typical school routine with the return of extra-curriculars, sports, field trips and the return of music and arts programming with some restrictions in place.

Limestone schools will continue with the various safety protocols in place, that are familiar, adhering to Public Health and Ministry guidelines. In fact, Facility Services staff have been busier than ever over the summer, not only with the typical school repairs and renovations, but also with ventilation systems inspections and improvements, which will continue into the coming months.

On behalf of Limestone Trustees, I would like to acknowledge the incredible effort of all staff who have continued to work over the summer break, and especially over the last weeks, to ensure plans would be in place for a safe return to in-person learning.

I would also like to acknowledge our communities and education partners for the confidence you have shown and expressed to the Board. We want the return to school to be safe and successful for everyone. We will continue to work hard to ensure our communities have confidence in public education and Limestone.

And finally, I would like to formally welcome Limestone's incoming Student Trustees for the 2021-2022 school year. We value and welcome the contributions you will make at the Board level, representing the students of Limestone.

Welcome, Student Trustee Breanna Roy, who serves as the Indigenous Student Trustee, and Student Trustee Tanesha Duncan, representing Limestone's urban student, along with Student Trustee Shana Johnson, the rural Student Trustee. We look forward to hearing your regular updates, and student feedback throughout the course of the year.

Limestone schools will be open next welcoming new students and assisting returning students for a new school year. I hope that our students have a super first day on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. That concludes my report."

10.2 Director's Update

Director Burra advised Trustees and the viewing public, that renovations are taking place at the Board Office. This gradual work is to improve the audio/visual experience for participants and viewers, and to improve our ability to support virtual professional learning. The past 18 months has demonstrated the importance and efficiency of virtual meetings, provided the right equipment is in place. This will support the work of the Trustees and better aid the

system in supporting virtual and/or hybrid learning.

Director Burra began his update, “Good evening. It is hard to believe that school will begin in just under two weeks as we enter the third school year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. While there is the usual excitement for all students, families, and staff with the approaching school year, we are cautiously optimistic that we will have a better school year than experienced during the past 18 months.

As was shared with Trustees at last week’s Special Board Meeting, staff continue to refine plans for the return to school on September 7, 2021. While much work has been done, there remain a few items on which we are awaiting confirmation from the Ministry of Education and Public Health. More information will be provided in several reports being presented tonight. And undoubtedly, there will be further updates as the year proceeds. Remaining flexible will continue to be critical.

We have shared a new ‘frequently asked questions’ section on the board website, and we continue to update this as new information is received or amended. We hope to release a family quick reference guide later this week to help prepare families and students for back to school.

Today and tomorrow, staff have had, or will have, the opportunity to participate in rich professional learning as part of the 2021 LDSB Summer Institute. These voluntary sessions were open to all staff. Two keynote sessions focused on creating more equitable outcomes for students and an interactive session on supporting your own well-being and how that impacts the climate of a classroom and the behaviour and emotional health of students. Afternoon sessions targeted to education staff included topics ranging from anti-Black racism resources, empowering students in math, phonological awareness, writers’ workshops, engagement in core French, student mental health, and transitioning from Google Classroom to Minds Online. Thanks to the staff who volunteered to organize and support this learning event.

Tonight marks the first official Board meeting for our incoming Student Trustees. Welcome again to Urban Trustee Tanesha Duncan, Rural Trustee Shanna Johnson, and Indigenous Trustee Breanna Roy. We look forward to working with you and keeping student voice at the forefront around the horseshoe.

I would also like to recognize former Student Trustee Namirah Quadir on her Youth Volunteerism Award from the City of Kingston. Namirah was lauded for her work as a dedicated advocate for social justice and mental health as a Student Trustee and in the

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community. Congratulations to Namirah for her efforts. We are so proud to have you represent Limestone at home and away.

Finally, as we count down to the start of the new school year, I want to remind everyone that the best indicator for the health of our schools is the health of our community. Local community health circumstances directly impacted Limestone schools last year and will continue to be the primary indicator of the pandemic's impact on schools moving into 2021-2022. As a community, as individuals and collectively, we must do our utmost to ensure schools remain safe and open. Schools provide much more than learning for the youngest members of the community. Students need to be in school to support their learning, but also to support their social development, community connections, and to provide a regular routine. We all must continue to do what we can to ensure schools remain open. Supporting and prioritizing children and youth mental health and well-being will be critical this fall because schools are part of an essential, wider circle of community of support for young people. Thankfully, based on statements from local Public Health authorities related to local vaccination rates and low case counts, we are well positioned to open schools safely.

Despite the challenges of the past 18 months, I thank students, families, staff and our broader school communities for their past and future efforts to help us support students as best we can through our evolving circumstances. We have overcome significant obstacles in the last two school years, and undoubtedly our collective efforts will be required to surmount any potential challenges that lie ahead. We appreciate your continued resilience and support.

That concludes my report Madame Chair.”

11. REPORTS

11.1 FOR ACTION – None at this time

11.2 FOR INFORMATION

11.2.1 Interim Reporting – Third Quarter 2020-2021

Manager Baumann advised that the 2020-2021 Interim Financial Report for the third Quarter is being presented in a similar format as the 2020-2021 operating budget, indicating the amount spend by expenditure category. As at Quarter 3, \$196 million of the \$261 million operating budget has been spent, or 75 per cent. This amount aligns with the 75 per cent spending level

reported last year. The Board expects to end the 2020-2021 fiscal year in a surplus budget position.

Chair Ruttan thanked Manager Baumann for her report and called upon Trustees for questions.

11.2.2 Ventilation and HVAC Improvements to Address COVID-19

Superintendent Young indicated, that as outlined at the Special Board Meeting of August 18, 2021, the Ministry invested to improve ventilation in schools, and for Limestone this included a delivery of 820 HEPA filtration units and \$49,000 in funding. These units will be installed in schools without mechanically supplied and filtered fresh air, as well as all Kindergarten rooms, regardless of the type of ventilation system servicing that room. Limestone has also ordered another 30 larger HEP units in order to meet the gymnasium ventilation guidelines, as set out by the Ministry and to be in compliance with the requirements set out in Memo 2021:B14.

On August 16, 2021, the Ministry of Education released Memo 2021:B16 Standard Ventilation Measures Report, which includes added reporting measures that will be required of school boards regarding the: board's ventilation strategy; ventilation investments; and school-level ventilation and filtration measures. Boards are required to make the information on their websites effective September 3, 2021.

Superintendent Young reviewed the operational changes with Trustees, and well as, the capital projects under taken for the school year. He did note that until the unit ventilator installation in classrooms is complete at The Prince Charles School, HEPA filter units will be used in all classrooms.

In compliance with 2021:B16, the board will post the standard Ventilation Measures Report on its website effective September 3, 2021. These reports will include the School Board Ventilation Strategy, School Board Investments and the School Dashboard.

Chair Ruttan thanked Superintendent Young for his report and called upon Trustees for questions.

11.2.3 September 2021 School Re-entry - Update

Director Burra indicated that changes have occurred since the last School Re-entry Report was provided last week, so Senior Staff will provide an update on virtual school, vaccination

protocol, school vaccination clinics, potential hybrid learning scenarios and anticipated further updates.

Associate Superintendent Sartor stated that Principal John Mooney and Vice-Principal Jamie McCullough are excited to be leading the Elementary Virtual School. Since the writing of this report, registration has increased slightly by approximately 10 students. The school currently remains at eight classes, all with split grades at this time. Once registration closes and classes are formed, families will receive communication related to pertinent next steps such as technology pick up, where required.

Associate Superintendent Hedderson noted that as of today there are 141 students registered in Secondary Virtual School, with a few additional students having expressed an interest this week. After registration closes, students will be placed on a wait list, and will be considered for entry for the next three quadmester dates. The job ads for Secondary Virtual School closes August 26 and interviews will follow shortly to ensure that staff are placed to help welcome students back to school on September 7, 2021. The Administrative team at the Katarokwi Learning Centre and Alternative Continuing Education will supervise Secondary Virtual School this year, under the leadership of Principal Bryan Lambert, Vice-Principal Steve Ward and Acting Vice-Principal Mike Payne. Principal Lambert and Vice-Principal Ward have been working collaboratively to plan next steps for Secondary Virtual School and to prepare communication for students and families to go out at the end of next week.

Superintendent McWilliams stated that the government announced on August 17, 2021 the implementation of an immunization disclosure protocol that applies to all publicly-funded school boards. All staff must submit a formal attestation by September 7, 2021, indicating whether they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, including proof of vaccination, which would be the actual receipts that they received after each dose. Individuals who choose not to be vaccinated, must participate in a Ministry of Education session about COVID-19 vaccination. Additionally, these individuals will be required to complete regular COVID-19 testing, at least once per week as directed by the provincial guidance. So, this protocol not only applies to our staff, but it also applies to frequent school visitors including bus drivers, placement students, volunteers, trustees, third party contractors and other professionals who deliver services to our schools. Currently HR and ITS staff are working closely together to develop a seamless automated process to collect and store this information in a secure format and anticipate having that application finalized by Friday. Superintendent McWilliams advised that boards will

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be required to share aggregated depersonalized statistical information regarding vaccinations with the Ministry by September 10, 2021 and post this same data on their websites on a monthly basis starting on September 15, 2021. As this continues to evolve, Trustees will be updated when information becomes available.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly noted that Limestone continues to work closely with KFL&A Public Health, and they indicate that 76 per cent of eligible students have received a first dose of the vaccine and 61 percent have received a second dose. KFL&A Public Health has very strategically planned for the mobile pop-up clinics, targeting areas that have had a low uptake of vaccinations. This has included Granite Ridge Education Centre, Napanee District Secondary School, Bayridge Public School, and there are clinics planned for Molly Brant and Odessa Public schools. Should vaccination clinics be required for the start of school the board will work with KFL&A Public Health to ensure the school day is not interrupted.

Director Burra wanted to highlight three potential hybrid learning scenarios where Limestone's purposeful delineation between in-person teaching and learning, and virtual teaching and learning may be challenged.

If Limestone experiences a significant surge in requests among families for virtual learning after school has started and elementary reorganization has been completed, we are unable to contemplate an additional reorganization of staffing in the system. Therefore, the only way we would be able to accommodate significant movement between learning models would be if hybrid learning was utilized.

Given outbreak protocol and management distinguishes between vaccinated and unvaccinated students and staff, when a positive case is identified in a Grade 7-12 class, unvaccinated students and staff will have to self-isolate for 10 days. The continuation of programming for those students during self-isolation would need to be effectively supported, and hybrid may be the best option under those circumstances.

Given the significantly lower number of secondary students currently enrolled in Secondary Virtual School, and the very small number of compulsory credits in Grades 11-12, hybrid learning may be required to support educational pathways for some students.

Director Burra noted that Limestone does anticipate that updates will be required during the

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school year on the following:

- (i) Logistics for COVID testing for staff and other groups who are not vaccinated;
- (ii) Public Health parameters for some curricular and extracurricular activities;
- (iii) Provincial School Testing Pilot program focused on providing rapid tests to vaccinated students/staff who are symptomatic but have been in contact with a positive case;
- (iv) Community Use of Schools Guidelines; and,
- (v) Further information on whether LDSB can anticipate the other \$1.5 million of COVID funding.

Chair Ruttan thanked Senior Staff and Director Burra for their report and called upon Trustees for any questions.

11.2.4 Masking Information

Director Burra noted that the purpose of this report is to provide additional information on masking for Trustees. Masking has been identified as a key mitigating strategy to reduce the spread of COVID-19, trying to maximize the safety of the wearer, and as well, those around them. As Trustees are aware, for this year, the Ministry's operational guidance mandates masking indoors for all students from Grades 1-12 and for all staff as well. This also applies to any other visitors or groups entering the school. In terms of the August 2020 motion, Limestone has 'expected' and 'encouraged' masking for Kindergarten students as well. In all cases there are expectations that the Ministry does require masking exemptions with other potential accommodations for students or staff who are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons or special needs. He noted that students are to provide their own masks for school. All schools have been provided with additional masks to support students who are unable to provide a mask, lose a mask, or require a replacement during the day.

Medical masks (surgical/procedural) are provided by the school board for all employees. These masks are provided directly by the Ministry of Education to school boards.

Director Burra provided some additional information on the N95 respirator masks and other respirators. He indicated that one of the staff concerns around the adoption of the current motion before Trustees, is that it is something beyond the realm of expertise of senior staff, that could necessarily be managed and monitored effectively. Loosening or opening the

masking options, while very well intended in terms of what some people are saying about the efficacy of surgical masks versus other masks, would likely create other challenges and confusion, as we would be unable to verify or monitor that the purchases are products approved from Canada Health.

Chair Ruttan thanked Director Burra for the report and asked Trustees to hold their questions, unless these are clarifying questions. These questions can be brought forward when the motion related to masking is discussed, which will occur further in agenda.

11.3 OPSBA REPORT

Trustee French indicated that there was a release from the Student Trustees' Association on Student Representation across Canada, and this may be of interest to Trustees. The Board of Directors will be meeting on September 24-25, 2021, and she will be able to provide a full report following that.

11.4 STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT – None at this time.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12.1 Delegation to the Board – Opening Schools Regionally

Director Burra confirmed that Chair Ruttan wrote to the delegations outlining the circumstances and this item is more of a housekeeping item so Trustees are aware that this matter had been followed up on.

13. NEW BUSINESS

- 13.1 Notice of Motion from the Special Board Meeting on August 18, 2021, brought forward by Trustee Elliott: "That LDSB educators and education staff be allowed to provide their own Health Canada approved respirator, if desired, when that respirator is listed on the Health Canada website. They must put on and take off all respirators as described by the CCOHS (see figure 2). Any educator or education staff who wishes to wear the Ministry-provided medical masks will continue to have masks provided to them."

Chair Ruttan asked Trustee Elliott to read his motion.

Chair Ruttan called upon Trustees for comments or questions.
The question was called.

MOTION: That LDSB educators and education staff be allowed to provide their own Health Canada approved respirator, if desired, when that respirator is listed on the Health Canada website. They must put on and take off all respirators as described by the CCOHS. Any educator or education staff who wishes to wear the Ministry-provided medical masks will continue to have masks provided to them.
MOVED BY: Trustee Elliott and seconded by Trustee Godkin.

The motion was defeated.

- 13.2 Notice of Motion from the Special Board Meeting on August 18, 2021, brought forward by Trustee Elliott: “That the Limestone District School Board write a letter endorsing the Ontario Public School Board’s Association’s statement of August 17, 2021, that the government act as quickly as possible to update the Immunization of School Pupils Act to determine whether COVID-19 should be added to the compulsory vaccination list.”

Chair Ruttan asked Trustee Elliott to read his motion.
Chair Ruttan called upon Trustees for comments or questions.
The question was called.

MOTION: That the Limestone District School Board write a letter endorsing the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association’s statement of August 17, 2021, that the government act as quickly as possible to update the Immunization of School Pupils Act to determine whether COVID-19 should be added to the compulsory vaccination list.
MOVED BY: Trustee Elliott and seconded by Trustee French. Carried.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

- 14.1 Letter from Shayla Bradley, École East Kingston Elementary School SAC Chair for information.

15. NOTICE OF MOTION

None at this time.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Hutcheon stated that the Chair of the Parent Involvement Committee wanted to acknowledge the work of the Director and Superintendent Gillam around the Land Acknowledgement and the way in which we have approached that and displayed on our website.

17. COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

18. FUTURE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

19. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor and seconded by Trustee Gingrich that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.