

INITIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 9, 2020

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll call:

Administrative Staff Present:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown	M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education
G. Elliott	K. Burra, Director of Education
L. French	J. Douglas, Communications Officer
T. Gingrich (Vice-Chair)	S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent
B. Godkin	S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent
R. Hutcheon	A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education
K. McGregor	S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources
J. Morning	S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent
S. Ruttan (Chair)	J. Silver, Superintendent of Education
A. Putnam (Student Trustee)	K. Smith, Communications Officer
N. Quadir (Student Trustee) Regrets	C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Q. Traviss (Student Trustee)	
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	W. Moore, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

1. Welcome

Director Burra stated: “In accordance with Section 208 of *The Education Act*, and Board Policy 9, Section 2.50, under the authority invested in me as the Director of Education of the Limestone District School Board, and Secretary of the Board, I welcome everyone to the Initial Meeting of the Limestone District School Board for the term ending November 30, 2021.”

Limestone District School Board

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

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Director Burra began the meeting by reading the Acknowledgement of Territory: “The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit, and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land.”

2. Secretary to Announce Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board

Director Burra stated that as we begin a new term of office, he would like to express his appreciation to the Trustees of the Board for the important contributions they will make to public education and to the students and staff of the Limestone District School Board over this next year. There is much work to be done, and the leadership of the corporate board, through its Chair and Vice-Chair is a critical role.

Director Burra stated that it is an honour to announce the Chair and Vice-Chair for next term concluding November 30, 2021.

Trustee Ruttan was re-elected to serve as Chair of the Board and Trustee Gingrich was elected to serve as Vice-Chair. Congratulations to you both.

Director Burra asked Trustee Ruttan to assume the Chair.

3. Chair to Preside

Chair Ruttan thanked Director Burra and called the meeting to order. She called upon Superintendent Young to call the roll.

4. Roll Call

Superintendent of Business Services, Craig Young, called the roll:

Representing Countryside, Pittsburgh (District 1 & 12), and Frontenac Islands: Bob Godkin

Loyalist-Cataraqui, Collins-Bayridge and Lakeside (District 2, 3 & 4): Judith Brown

Portsmouth, Trillium and Meadowbrook-Strathcona (Districts 5, 6 & 8): Garrett Elliott

Kingscourt-Rideau and King’s Town (Districts 7 & 11): Tom Gingrich

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Williamsville and Sydenham (District 9 & 10): Joy Morning

Township of South Frontenac: Suzanne Ruttan

Townships of Addington Highlands, Central Frontenac and North Frontenac: Karen McGregor

Townships of Loyalist & Stone Mills: Robin Hutcheon

Greater Napanee: Laurie French

Student Trustee (Rural): Annika Putman, Sydenham High School

Student Trustee (Urban): Namirah Quadir (Regrets), Kingston Secondary School

Student Trustee (Indigenous): Quannah Traviss, Loyalist Collegiate Vocational Institute

5. Initial Address of the Chair

Chair Ruttan stated: “Thank you, Director Burra. It is a privilege to continue to serve as Chair of the Limestone District School Board. Thank you to my nominators, Trustees McGregor, and French, and thank you fellow Trustees for your confidence in re-electing me to this position.

I will serve and fulfill my duties as Chair with integrity and mutual respect for students, staff, each other, and the broader communities we serve.

I would like to congratulate Trustee Gingrich on being elected Vice-Chair, and both congratulate and thank other Trustees for putting their names forward, and to serve on committees, where much of the work of the Board is accomplished.

There will continue to be many uncertainties about COVID-19 as we enter 2021. The health, safety and wellbeing of students and staff will remain the Board’s top priority, not only as it relates to schools but in our own lives as well. It is important to remember the landscape of public education in Ontario is ever changing much like the world in which we live. Our responsibility is to maintain and enhance public education across our district through governance and advocacy.

As we formulate policy, approve operating and capital budgets, and monitor the Board’s Strategic Plan, we remain focused on putting wellness first; turning innovation into action; and being committed to collaboration. Student achievement and well-being remains the focus of all Board decisions.

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The responsibility for ensuring the best possible outcomes rests with everyone: families, school councils, community partners, employees, Senior Staff, and Trustees. We recognize the commitment of everyone to this end.

As outlined in Board policy “...Trustees serve large constituencies, and fulfilling the representational role is challenging. A democratic system entitles everyone to a voice but does not ensure that everyone will always be content with decisions that are made. Although a Trustee must serve their community as an elected representative, their primary task is to act as a member of a corporate board, and to be accountable for the collective decisions of the Board and the delivery and quality of educational services.”

Trustees of this Board will continue to advocate for public education through our membership in the Ontario Public School Boards Association, and by working collaboratively with staff and our communities to ensure students have expanding opportunities, in all pathways, to help them achieve success and well-being. As we begin a new term, we must all be committed to working collaboratively to meet these objectives, together.

In closing, I would like to extend my appreciation to staff, families, and Limestone’s school communities, for the outstanding work on behalf of our students this past year.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

6. Report of the Committee of the Whole Board (Caucus) Meeting of December 9, 2020

Trustee Gingrich presented the report of the committee of the Whole Board (Caucus) Meeting held on December 9, 2020:

Audit Committee

- (1) Trustee French
- (2) Trustee Elliott
- (3) Trustee Ruttan

Awards Committee

- (1) Trustee Elliott
- (2) Trustee Gingrich
- (3) Trustee McGregor
- (4) Trustee Ruttan (Alternate)

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Special Education Advisory Committee

- (1) Trustee Godkin
- (2) Trustee McGregor
- (3) Trustee Brown (Alternate)

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee

- (1) Trustee Brown
- (2) Trustee Morning

Parent Involvement Committee

- (1) Trustee Hutcheon
- (2) Trustee Godkin (Alternate)

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Supervised Alternative Learning

- (1) Trustee Morning
- (2) Trustee Ruttan (Alternate)

Expulsion Hearing Committee/Disciplinary Hearing Committee Pool

The following Trustees indicated that they would like to be placed in the Expulsion Hearing Committee/Disciplinary Hearing Committee Pool:

- (1) Trustee Elliott
- (2) Trustee Godkin
- (3) Trustee McGregor
- (4) Trustee Hutcheon (Alternate)
- (5) Trustee Ruttan (Alternate)

Food Sharing Project

- (1) Trustee Gingrich
- (2) Trustee French (Alternate)

MOVED by Trustee Gingrich that the report of the Committee of the Whole Board (Caucus) meeting of December 9, 2020, as presented, be adopted. Carried.

7. Director's Update

Director Burra stated: "Good evening Trustees and viewing members of the public.

While this year has been dominated by COVID-19 and the implications for schooling... both in a face-to-face format and virtually, it has been remarkable to see how students, staff, and families have adapted to our current reality. As noted earlier this fall, the health of Limestone schools are directly influenced by the overall health of the communities our schools serve. As we see cases start to climb locally, naturally people become more concerned about safety and exercising caution. While a vaccine potentially provides some light at the end of the tunnel at some point in 2021, there have been remarkable achievements and success stories during these challenging times. While safety and wellness have had to be the priority, learning is happening. The daily efforts of bus drivers, teachers, ECEs, EAs, custodians, ITS staff, maintenance staff, clerical staff, and administrators have been inspiring to see on a daily basis. I think it is fair to say that everyone is looking for the light at the end of the tunnel, and it is important to find light in the positive stories we can see in schools and in the system on a daily and weekly basis as Limestone serves students and families.

I would like to highlight some very recent, system-level positive stories. First, the Limestone Learning Foundation provided a \$100,000 dollar donation to the Food Sharing Project in acknowledgement of the significant food security concerns we see in schools and the broader community. Second, as a system, Limestone staff donated over \$50,000 dollars to the 2020 United Way campaign. Third, we launched our first student census with equity-based data collection two weeks ago. This has been a system-wide focus and the data will help point us forward. We look forward to sharing data from the census starting later this school year. And fourth, as you know the closure of KCVI and move to KSS is imminent. Understandably the conclusion to this journey has resulted in a range of emotions. Given the significance of schools in the lives of students, staff, and communities, these emotional responses, or combinations of responses, are entirely understandable. Like at least one song says... "each new beginning is some other beginning's end" certainly ring true in describing the KSS journey over the past few years. The end result is Kingston Secondary School, and there is no question that this fabulous building will effectively serve students and the community for decades to come. The school and grounds will provide a full range of programming to serve any, and all, secondary students, regardless of the students' graduation pathway. Kingston Secondary School will also of course house Module Vanier. At the end of my update, we will share a newly released drone tour of Kingston Secondary School. I would also like to

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acknowledge student Trustee Quadir for her assistance in supporting the drone tour for students that was released last week and helped support student visits to KSS.

While the days have been long over the past few months, it is hard to believe it is almost the middle of December and planning is already underway for 2021-2022. That being said, the desire for a break on the part of most students and staff is palpable in schools. With ten sleeps to the holiday break for Limestone students and staff, I would like to take the opportunity to extend our appreciation to the system, and all staff, for all of the dedicated and significant work completed under challenging circumstances in 2020. With that, I would also like to extend Seasons Greetings to all. That concludes my comments for this evening. Thank you.”

8. Routine Matters

8.1 OPSBA Report

Trustee French advised that the Board of Directors held a virtual meeting on November 28, 2020, at which time education policy and program issues were discussed in public session. Trustee French provided some highlights:

- Following a revocation of Regulation 274/12: Hiring Practices, a consultation with school board trustees and staff, a submission regarding the interim PPM on School Board Teacher Hiring Practices on November 16, 2020.
- OPSBA passed a motion to hire an external third party to conduct an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Audit to determine the best approach to combatting systemic racism and oppressive practices introspectively within its own organization with an expected outcome of determining best practices, strategies, and approaches to advocate and support an inclusive organization and to support its school boards with regard to anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism. The external third party is to report back to the OPSBA Board of Directors regularly about the progress of the audit and provide a final report with recommendations.
- A number of important B and SB memos have been released since the last Board of Directors meeting and these can be accessed on the Ministry website.
- The Provincial Budget was released on November 5, 2020 and an overview is available on the OPSBA website.
- OPSBA’s Indigenous Trustees’ Council met virtually on December 3, and some of Limestone

Trustees also participated in this meeting.

- The final sitting day before the winter recess is December 10, 2020, with MPPs returning on February 16, 2021.
- OPSBA sent a letter to the government regarding Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act 2020 (Budget Measures) and the Association has begun to solicit feedback from its members about next year's Grants for Students' Needs Funding. Many boards continue to experience unexpected costs due to COVID-19 and the safe return to school for both students and staff. The government's Student Transportation Advisory Committee will be meeting soon to discuss procurement.
- An overview of recent media activity as well as OPSBA's future advocacy and awareness plans was provided.
- Phase III of the French Second Language Labour Market Partnership Project has continued, and partners are engaged to support and facilitate action plans related to the recommendations and next steps in the Phase II report. Phase III ends on January 31, 2021, and a full report will be available by March 2021. Three additional pan-Canadian projects have been approved by the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage: (1) Development of an French Second Language Teacher recruitment guide for English Language School Boards; (2) French Language Assessment Resources; and (3) Supporting Principals to Address Challenges in Hiring and Retaining Qualified FSL Teachers.
- An EQAO Advisory Committee meeting was held virtually. She noted that prior ministry announcements indicated there would be no primary or junior EQAO assessments in the 2020-2021 school year; no OSSLT requirement for students graduating in the 2020-2021 school year; and, the Ministry has issued a Request for Bids to procure a vendor to build a modernized online assessment system to be used for subsequent administration of all assessments.
- The Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health members continue to share resources and materials to help to support students, families, and staff, that struggle in the COVID-19 pandemic. School Mental Health Ontario continues to expand its support to school boards and resources can be found on their website.
- A comprehensive submission, based on consultation with school board staff, developed jointly by the Education Program and Policy Development Work Teams was given to the Minister of Education regarding PPM 164: Requirements for Remote Learning. The submission is posted on the OPSBA website.

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- The OPSBA's annual Public Education Symposium will take place virtually on January 28, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Keynote speakers and workshop topics will be available soon and will include a focus on kick starting anti-racism efforts within public institutions and systems, governance in a pandemic, community engagement, and Indigenous education.
- Trustee French indicated she will serve a third term as Canadian School Boards' Association President, and Carolyn Broady, Chair of the SD45 (West Vancouver) Board of Education, will serve as CSBA Vice President. The CSBA has released its annual report. ACEPO has also recently joined the Association.
- The National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education will take place July 6, 2021, with CSBA Congress immediately following on July 7 and 8. Both events will be virtual and are being organized and hosted in collaboration with the Canadian Association of School System Administrators and promises to be unique and interactive. Please hold those dates.
- A report from the K-12 SDC Committee was brought by committee member and OPSBA Executive Council member Donna Edwards. A final report from the committee will likely be released in the coming months for consultation with stakeholders.
- Ontario Educational Services Corporation Executive Director Ted Doherty provided OPSBA with an update on program offerings for school boards.

9. Reports for Information

9.1 Director's Annual Report

Director Burra stated that in keeping with the requirements under *The Education Act*, the Director of Education must report annually on the Board's multi-year strategic plan via the Director's Annual Report. In Limestone, typically the Director provides progress on the Board's strategic goals and actions twice a year, through a mid-year report in May and a year-end report in November. This year, due to the COVID-19 extended school closure, only a year-end report was presented to Trustees in November 2020.

The Strategic Plan Year-End Report is provided within the online Director's Annual Report along with stories from the 2019-2020 school year that highlight some of the initiatives supporting the Board's strategic pillars of Wellness, Innovation and Collaboration.

The Director's Annual Report can be reviewed online. The report will be submitted to the

Ministry of Education in compliance with the January 31, 2021 deadline.

10. Business Arising

10.1 Motions brought forward as Notices of Motion at the November 11, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

(1) Moved by Trustee Brown and seconded by Trustee French, that as part of the continued strategic plan progress aligned within the Wellness Pillar, section 2.2 Equity and Inclusion, the Board requests LDSB staff undertake to engage the Black community in Limestone DSB, be it in consultation or an ongoing caucus to be formed similar to the Indigenous Education Council, to provide input and advice on actions to address racism in our schools, and barriers to equitable experience.

(2) Moved by Trustee Brown and seconded by Trustee French, that following the planned survey, the Board requests staff update Trustees on the plan for use of racialized achievement data for Limestone DSB students, with a focus on the results of Black and Indigenous students, to inform strategies to improve their experience and learning outcomes.

Chair Ruttan indicated that these motions would be separated out and called upon Trustees to provide any questions or comments on the first motion.

MOTION: That as part of the continued strategic plan progress aligned within the Wellness Pillar, section 2.2 Equity and Inclusion, the Board requests LDSB staff undertake to engage the Black community in Limestone DSB, be it in consultation or an ongoing caucus to be formed similar to the Indigenous Education Council, to provide input and advice on actions to address racism in our schools, and barriers to equitable experience.

MOVED BY Trustee Brown and seconded by Trustee French.

Chair Ruttan called the question.

Roll call vote.

The non-binding recorded vote was as follows:

YEAS: Trustee Brown, Trustee Elliott, Trustee French, Trustee Gingrich, Trustee Godkin, Trustee Hutcheon, Trustee McGregor, Trustee Morning, Trustee Putnam, Trustee Ruttan, Trustee Traviss (11)

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1)

The binding recorded vote was as follows:

YEAS: Trustee Brown, Trustee Elliott, Trustee French, Trustee Gingrich, Trustee Godkin, Trustee Hutcheon, Trustee McGregor, Trustee Morning, Trustee Ruttan
(9)

NAYS: (0)

The motion was carried.

Chair Ruttan called upon Trustees to provide any questions or comments on the second motion.

MOTION: That following the planned survey, the Board requests staff update Trustees on the plan for use of racialized achievement data for Limestone DSB students, with a focus on the results of Black and Indigenous students, to inform strategies to improve their experience and learning outcomes.

MOVED BY: Trustee Brown and seconded by Trustee French.

Chair Ruttan called the question.

Roll call vote.

The non-binding recorded vote was as follows:

YEAS: Trustee Brown, Trustee Elliott, Trustee French, Trustee Gingrich, Trustee Godkin, Trustee Hutcheon, Trustee McGregor, Trustee Morning, Trustee Putnam, Trustee Ruttan, Trustee Traviss (11)

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1)

The binding recorded vote was as follows:

YEAS: Trustee Brown, Trustee Elliott, Trustee French, Trustee Gingrich, Trustee Godkin, Trustee Hutcheon, Trustee McGregor, Trustee Morning, Trustee Ruttan
(9)

NAYS: (0)

The motion was carried.

11. External Reports and Other Communications

11.1 Correspondence from the Corporation of the Township of Central Frontenac, dated November 11, 2020, to Krishna Burra, Director of Education, re: Correspondence regarding Tri-Board RFP for bus service.

11.2 Correspondence from the County of Frontenac, dated November 26, 2020, to Krishna Burra, Director of Education, and the Board of Trustees re: Frontenac County Council Meeting – November 18, 2020 – Motions, Notice of Which has Been Given – Correspondence regarding the Tri-Board RFP for Bus Service.

11.3 Correspondence from Hastings Prince Edward District School Board, dated November 26, 2020, to the Honourable Stephen Lecce regarding Transportation RFP – Tri-Board Student Transportation.

Chair Ruttan indicated that the correspondence on the agenda was brought forward to allow Trustees to speak to this matter if they wished to do so. There was much discussion amongst Trustees about the timing of the RFP during a pandemic, and whether or not the RFP can be deferred or rejected by Tri-Board Student Transportation Services, a consortium that provides service to all school boards in the region. Staff replied that Tri-Board must follow provincial legislation.

Chair Ruttan clarified that school boards have no power to halt an RFP process as it is legislated. She suggested Trustees could write a letter in support of community concerns about the RFP process.

Director Burra explained there are timelines that must be followed and cautions that any deferral could affect future delivery of transportation. The Board must ensure the process is in place for the next school year to make certain transportation will be available.

Director Burra stated that there could be significant legal implications, that should be discussed in Private Session, before Trustees decide on any course of action.

12. MOTION TO MOVE INTO PRIVATE SESSION

MOTION: To move into Private Session.

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin and seconded by Trustee French. Carried.

13. 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 the resolutions, as noted above be made public.

MOVED BY: Trustee French and seconded by Trustee Godkin. Carried.

14. PRIVATE SESSION REPORT

Vice-Chair Gingrich indicated that there was a legal discussion, but no decisions were made.

15. External Reports and Other Communications (Cont'd from Item 11)

Chair Ruttan asked that Trustee go back to item (11) External Reports and Other Communications. She noted that the correspondence received from our municipal partners referred to the Tri-Board Student Transportation's RFP process.

Trustee McGregor brought forward the following motion:

MOTION: That given the current pandemic and its financial implications for many small businesses, including small bus operators, we request that the Chair write a letter reflecting the community concerns with respect to the Tri-Board plan to proceed with an RFP for student transportation services. We do understand that in the absence of any legislative or regulatory changes, or the granting of an exemption or deferral, Tri-Board is required to proceed with a competitive procurement process.

MOVED by Trustee McGregor and seconded by Trustee Godkin.

Roll call vote.

The non-binding recorded vote was as follows:

YEAS: Trustee Brown, Trustee Elliott, Trustee French, Trustee Gingrich, Trustee Godkin, Trustee Hutcheon, Trustee McGregor, Trustee Morning, Trustee Putnam, Trustee Ruttan, Trustee Traviss (11)

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1)

The binding recorded vote was as follows:

YEAS: Trustee Brown, Trustee Elliott, Trustee French, Trustee Gingrich, Trustee Godkin, Trustee Hutcheon, Trustee McGregor, Trustee Morning, Trustee Ruttan
(9)

NAYS: (0)

The motion was carried.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Gingrich stated that in light of the generous donation from the Limestone Learning Foundation, in the amount of \$100,000 to the Food Sharing Project, in support of Limestone students, he wondered if a letter from the Chair, expressing the Board's gratitude, could be provided. Chair Ruttan indicated she would be pleased to do so, and noted that as the LLF intentionally expanded their mandate, in order to support well being as one of their strategic goals, the generous donation was possible.

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.