

Regular Board Meeting Minutes Limestone District School Board

February 12, 2020

A regular meeting (Business) of the Limestone District School Board was held in the Barry O'Connor Board Room at the Limestone Education Centre, 220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, Ontario, on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

Private Session

Present:

Trustees: J. Brown
G. Elliott
L. French (Vice-Chair)
T. Gingrich
B. Godkin
R. Hutcheon
K. McGregor
J. Morning
S. Ruttan (Chair)
J. Crook (Student Trustee)
A. Putnam (Student Trustee)

Staff: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education
S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning for All
D. Rantz, Director of Education
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness and Assessment
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

Guest:

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

MOTION: To move into Private Session.

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor, seconded by Trustee Morning. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Elliott declared a conflict as his wife is a teacher with the LDSB.

Trustee Godkin declared a conflict as his daughter is an occasional teacher with LDSB's co-terminous Boards.

Chair's Update

No update at this time.

Director's Update

No update at this time.

Action Items

- (a) Board Minutes – January 15, 2020
- (b) Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) – January 29, 2020

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin, seconded by Trustee Elliott, that the minutes listed in Action Items, Private Session, as distributed, be approved. Carried.

For Information

- (a) Personnel Update (Item (a) on Agenda)

No update at this time.

- (b) Safe Schools Update.

A Safe Schools update was provided.

- (c) Property Update (Item (c) on Agenda)

No update was provided.

- (d) OPSBA Update (Item (d) on Agenda)

An OPSBA update was provided.

- (e) Labour Update (Item (e) on Agenda)

A labour update was provided.

- (f) Legal Matter (Item (f) on Agenda)

A legal update was provided.

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 McGregor, seconded by Trustee Elliott. Carried.

The Board moved into Public Session at 6:00 p.m.

Public Meeting

Trustees: J. Brown
G. Elliott
L. French (Vice Chair)
T. Gingrich
B. Godkin
R. Hutcheon
K. McGregor
J. Morning
S. Ruttan (Chair)
J. Crook (Student Trustee)
A. Putnam (Student Trustee)

Officials: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education
J. Douglas, Communications Officer
S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning for All
D. Rantz, Director of Education
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness and Assessment
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education
K. Smith, Communications Officer
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

Guests: E. Welsh, Archivist
J. Whitfield, KCVI – Teacher-Librarian

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Chair Ruttan stated:

"Good evening.

The Board of Trustees would like to remind members of the gallery that this is a regular corporate meeting of the Limestone District School Board. Our meetings are open to the public, but they are not public meetings. The public is welcome to attend and observe.

The Board reminds members of the gallery to be attentive, mindful and respectful of Trustees, staff and students who will be sharing reports and presentations. The Board shares this reminder again because a few individuals continue to speak amongst themselves during presentations and reports from Trustees, including the Student Trustees. It is distracting and disrespectful. And with that, this meeting is called to order."

Chair Ruttan read 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.”

Adoption of Agenda

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor, seconded by Trustee Gingrich, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Elliott declared a conflict as his wife is an employee of the Board.

Trustee Godkin declared a conflict as his daughter is an occasional teacher with LDSB's co-terminous Boards.

Private Session Report

Trustee French made the following statement:

In Private Session the Trustees received a Safe Schools, Labour and Legal Matter update. No motions or actions came from these updates.

Chair's Update

Chair Ruttan stated:

“The consultation for the government's annual Grants for Student Needs funding, which represents the bulk of school boards' operating funds, has just wrapped up. The Ontario Public School Boards' Association has provided significant input to the government on many issues facing public education. One of the key areas, for which Limestone continues to advocate, is more supports and resources in special education funding, given the unique complexities of student needs.

Trustees will hear additional updates through Trustee French's OPSBA update later in the agenda.

Trustees value their role as advocates for a strong public education system, and through the Ontario Public School Boards' Association we continue to do so during these challenging times of labour disruption. We understand that this legal strike action is not directed at the Limestone District School Board; rather this is a strike targeted at the government, and we respect people's rights in this regard. We remain hopeful that negotiations can continue, and an agreement can be reached soon at the central bargaining table.

Elementary schools are celebrating the 100th day of school this week. It is wonderful to see teachers sharing how they have incorporated this theme into the curriculum via school Twitter accounts.

This week many schools are also celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Week. At LCVI, for example, School to Community students have planned candy grams, bake sales, and staff versus student volleyball games to promote kindness. Kindness has a profound effect on both our physical and mental well-being. We will be following along these acts of kindness with the

hashtag, LDSBeWell, and kindness matters. It is important to remember that we do not have to agree on everything to be kind to one another.

There is exemplary teaching and learning that happens every day in Limestone because of the collaborative and caring relationship of our educators, support staff, administrators, families and Trustees who work together to support our students – our reason for being.

It is indeed unfortunate that a few individuals continue to request a governance review of the Board of Trustees despite thorough discussion by this Board, and a report coming forward tonight concerning the potential retainment of an integrity commissioner. This small yet vocal group of people continue to deliberately spread misinformation and false statements, putting the integrity and hard work of all those in Limestone at risk.

The role of the Trustee is to contribute to the Board as it carries out its mandate to achieve its mission and goals related to student success and the development of an improved learning environment.

It is time for us to get back to this work. It is time to focus on what is most important - student achievement and well-being – and direct our collective energy, expertise and time toward supporting this worthy mission.

And that concludes my report.”

Director's Update

Director Rantz stated:

“Good evening.

I welcome the many teachers, education workers and members of the public in the gallery tonight who are here in support of our work to nurture student achievement and well-being.

It is a challenging time for all of us - students, staff, and families - as rotating strikes continue across the province. It can be especially tough for teachers and education workers who find themselves on the picket line rather than where they want to be – where they would rather be – in their classrooms supporting their students.

During my conversations with staff on the picket line, I hear firsthand how they feel supported by us and they are proud to be Limestone educators and support workers who care deeply for their students and the future of public education. Our Senior Staff and I continue to check in with them and monitor their well-being.

We respect that it is the job of the unions to represent and defend the interests of their members. Teachers and education workers have a demanding and important job – giving our students a rich educational experience with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they need to succeed in life.

We remain hopeful that an agreement can be reached soon at the central bargaining table and we will continue to share information with students, families and staff in as timely a manner as possible.

Semester 2 is under way for our secondary students, and they are settling into their new courses, programs and pathways.

Recently, at the 95th open house of the Building Construction Internship Program, I had the privilege of talking with students about the valuable skills they are learning and will carry with them as they continue into apprenticeships or the workplace. I am proud of the multiple pathways Limestone provides its students. These learning opportunities are important, and we continue to advocate for rich and diverse course options through our respective professional organizations.

Limestone secondary students performed extremely well at the recent DECA provincial competition. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. Students from KCVI, LCVI, Bayridge and Frontenac Secondary Schools were among the 6,000 young leaders participating in this business case study competition. Almost one third of KC's 67-strong delegation, as well as one LCVI student, have qualified for the international competition to be held in April in Nashville, Tennessee. This is a significant achievement. The Limestone team captured many other medals, awards and top-10 finishes. Overall, an amazing DECA performance. I am confident the students, their teachers and families are very proud.

This is the success our students can have every day when the focus is on teaching and learning.

And, that concludes my report, Madame Chair."

Presentation: Kingston Secondary School – KCVI/QECVI Memorabilia

Superintendent Burra introduced KCVI Teacher-Librarian J. Whitfield and Archivist E. Welsh, two members of the KCVI/QECVI Legacy Project Committee. Archivists E. Welsh and J. Brown were hired for the project and are supported by the KCVI Bi-Centennial Fund, a City of Kingston Heritage Grant, and the Young Canada Works program.

The Committee will work to uncover and document the histories of the first two public high schools in Kingston through their document and artifact collections, disperse some of this collection in accordance with current museum and archive standards, create exhibit spaces in the new school and digital collections that help our students and the public appreciate the histories of these two schools and their contributions to Kingston, Ontario and Canada, and to ensure that whatever is kept will be stored or displayed in accordance with conservation best practices.

An inventory of KCVI and QECVI documents and artifacts is under way. Once completed items will be selected to keep for the school collection, or disbursement to other museums.

The five display case at the Kingston Secondary School will house exhibits on:

- Journey to becoming KSS
- History of Education in Kingston
- Athletics at KCVI and QECVI
- Arts at KCVI and QECVI
- Military- How were Ontario secondary schools part of the war effort? What were student militias?

Examples of some of the items that have been catalogued were shared.

The Chair thanked the presenters for their hard work.

Section A – Matters Requiring Action at the Meeting

1. Consent Agenda

- (a) Board Minutes – January 15, 2020
- (b) Reports from All Committees:
 - i) Special Education Advisory Committee – January 22, 2020
 - ii) Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee – January 14, 2020
 - iii) Education, Policy & Operations Committee – January 29, 2020

MOTION: That the Consent Agenda of February 12, 2020, as presented, be approved.

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor, seconded by Trustee Gingrich. Carried. Trustee Morning opposed.

2. Routine Matters

- (a) OPSBA Report – Trustee French

Trustee French stated that there will not be a Board of Directors meeting until next weekend.

There is much advocacy happening with OPSBA, including a submission to the Standing Committee on Finance. The report emphasized a focus on priority funding, school accommodations and mental health.

Meetings have been happening and media statements have been released regarding the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) consultation, and OPSBA's position on hiring practices and class sizes.

- (b) Report from Student Trustee(s)

Trustee Crook:

"Good evening, everyone.

These past few weeks I have had the opportunity to attend the Climate Action Committee meeting where I represented the students' perspective on the use of funding for climate action projects within Limestone schools. I then took what we discussed at that meeting and asked InterSchool Council members for their thoughts on the projects and what climate action may already be occurring in their schools. They thought the program would be very beneficial to Limestone schools and would like to know if the Limestone Learning Foundation would still like to offer a \$1,000 grant to InterSchool Council if we were to divide the money evenly among the urban and rural high schools.

I have also continued my work as Co-Chair for the OSTA-AECO Advocacy Working Group in creating a handbook about IEPs – Individualized Education Plans – which will allow students with IEPs to have a better understanding of what supports are available to them. We are currently speaking with students who have IEPs about their knowledge of their IEP and how it has benefited them in their learning. Statements from these anonymous students will be used in the handbook. I am looking forward to getting to work with the members of the Advocacy Working Group in person again at our upcoming conference which will take place next weekend.”

Trustee Putnam:

“Hello, everyone.

Yesterday Trustee Crook and I chaired the first InterSchool council meeting of 2020! We used most of our meeting to discuss ideas for our upcoming InterSchool event. We made a decision about the general make up of our event, and we are so excited to continue planning so that we can present the event to the students. We will be running a multi-activity event where teams from schools can compete for points in each station with the winner collecting the most by the end of the event. These teams will have the opportunity to create team names and themes which will drive the spirit of the event. The exact activities for the event are yet to be narrowed down but some possibilities are bocce ball, dodgeball, spike ball, charades, kahoots, and floor hockey. All of the InterSchool Council members are so excited for this event and we are anticipating it will be well received by students. The event will most likely take place during either the last week of April or the first week of May.

We now also have a date for the 2020 Limestone Student Trustee election which will take place on May 4, 2020. Trustee Crook and I will soon begin to raise awareness among students about our roles as well as the new Indigenous Student Trustee role and encourage them to apply if they are interested. The application for Indigenous Student Trustee will mirror the process for the Urban and Rural Student Trustees. We will share more updates on this in coming meetings.

With so many great things happening across Limestone schools, we are excited to sit around this horseshoe and refocus our efforts on student needs. Thank you!”

3. Reports for Information

a) Indigenous Education Program Update

Superintendent Burra stated that Initiatives related to Indigenous Education are reported to Trustees through the Strategic Plan twice per year, and at different times during the term of the Board. During the past year, the following reports were provided:

- Strategic Plan Updates: 2018-19 Mid-Year on May 29, 2019 at EPOC; and 2018-19 End-of-Year at the November 13, 2019 Board Meeting.

- Indigenous Education Budgetary Information: 2019-20 Preliminary Operating Budget/Revenue on June 12, 2019; and Quarter One Interim Financial Report on January 29, 2020 at EPOC.
- Indigenous Representation on School Boards: May 29, 2019 at EPOC; and August 28, 2019 at EPOC.
- Indigenous Voice at the Board Level: September 25, 2019 at EPOC
- Strengthening Indigenous Voice at the Board Level: October 30, 2019 at EPOC (Policy)

Annually in the fall, staff responsible for Indigenous Education programming in Limestone seek feedback and input from the Indigenous Education Advisory Council. Using the feedback and input, staff operationalize initiatives within the required parameters provided by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry requires funding to be utilized in four areas: i) Supporting Students, ii) Supporting Educators, iii) Engagement and Awareness Building, and iv) Using Data to Support Student Achievement.

Funding from the Ministry for Limestone comes from three primary sources: i) First Nations, Metis, and Inuit (FNMI) Studies Courses at the secondary level generate funding based on the number of students granted credits; ii) GSN grants focused on Indigenous Education which are protected funds; and iii) if applicable, depending on the year and provincial initiatives, Priority/Partnership Funding (PPF).

Financial information related to Ministry funding is shared with the Indigenous Advisory Education Committee (IEAC) in the fall. For 2019-20, this information was shared at the last IEAC meeting on November 28, 2019.

Board staff continue to support a wide range of initiatives as outlined in the September 25, 2019 EPOC report, including the following: support and coordination for Indigenous Family Network (IFN) events, supporting an Indigenous Language pilot in a handful of schools, Indigenous Student Leadership/Cultural activities, professional learning for teachers (K-12), supporting community Indigenous Language revitalization projects for families, the Graduating Indigenous Student Leadership Award, support for Elders or Knowledge Keepers to work with schools or classes across Limestone, land-based programs including Gould Lake Outdoor Centre, tutoring support for students, and collection of student and family voice, among others.

A sub-group from the Indigenous Education Advisory Council continues to work on draft Terms of Reference to transition the Council into a formal Board Committee. In addition, a process is being developed to ensure an Indigenous Student Trustee will be selected simultaneously as part of the student trustee selection process this spring. Policy edits will be provided upon completion of both processes.

It should be noted that we face some current constraints as it relates to labour action which may impact our ability to support professional learning for staff over the course of the 2019-20 school year.

A Trustee asked for clarification on the funding amount of \$800,000 from the report and the previously shared Indigenous Funding amount of \$2.4 million. It was clarified that the difference is the salary equivalent of 13 or 14 FTE educators.

A Trustee asked what the feedback from IEAC was on the funding. Superintendent Burra replied that it is an ongoing process to collect feedback.

A Trustee asked how the Board measures the overall impact of the course(s) instruction and initiatives. Superintendent Burra replied that the results are hard to gauge precisely due to the differences in self-identifying and anonymously identifying as an FNMI student. The Board reviews student achievement, and feedback from various sources, including surveys to identified families. Senior Staff are always working to ensure they are supporting staff, students and families.

A Trustee asked if there are statistics on graduation rates for Indigenous students. Superintendent Burra clarified that the cohort fluctuates year to year, but that there has been growth in the school areas that have Indigenous teachers and support staff in place. Re-engagement is incredibly important to ensure ongoing student success.

Indigenous student graduation rates vary from 5-15% versus non-Indigenous students.

It was clarified that the funding received by the Board for the FNMI Studies Courses at the secondary level is based on all students who achieve credits not just Indigenous students.

It was asked what it would look like for the Board if the student re-engagement and success position is lost. Superintendent Burra replied that the Board would have to build this work into the overall Indigenous education budget, from the per pupil amount

A Trustee asked if there are Indigenous teachers that teach these courses. Superintendent Burra answered that the Board has not conducted a staff survey to have an accurate number of all identified staff, though they are aware of some staff who self-identify. The Board also has a number of teachers who have trained to be able to deliver the Indigenous courses.

For LDSB staff, self-identification is voluntary, informal identification at this point.

A Student Trustee stated that she recently completed the Understanding Contemporary FNMI Voices course, which was taught by a non-Indigenous teacher. The course was delivered in a very respectful, knowledgeable way and introduced her to texts she would never have found if she had not taken the course.

A Trustee asked that as the Board offers more courses in Indigenous education are more students self-identifying. Superintendent Burra replied that the recent student voice sessions raised the need for these type of courses for students to see themselves in the curriculum.

A Trustee asked what help is in place to support parents and guardians of FNMI students. The Board has an Indigenous Family Network that invites families to various events monthly, and it has solicited feedback through surveys on a possible Indigenous parent council. The Board's Indigenous Education leads also engage with families and advocate with them to bridge any gaps.

A Trustee asked if smudging is allowed on Board properties. Superintendent Burra replied that it is allowed and does happen regularly, and the Board ensures it is done by someone from the Indigenous community.

b) Integrity Commissioner

Superintendent Young stated that there are currently five Boards in the province that utilize the services of an integrity commissioner. Four of the boards retain the same integrity commissioner as a consultant and one board shares the services of an integrity commissioner with a neighbouring municipality.

The Integrity commissioner is usually accountable to and reports directly to the Board of Trustees. An integrity commissioner's primary responsibility is usually to investigate and assess complaints regarding possible breaches of the Trustee's code of conduct. The integrity commissioner's responsibilities may also include:

- opinions on Board policy
- educational programs on ethics and integrity issues
- maintain files on inquiries and complaints

Integrity commissioners often have a legal designation and extensive experience in arbitration, mediation, labour relations and human rights. The fees for this type of experience and expertise is typical to that of senior lawyers in a large law practice.

For an integrity commissioner retained as a consultant, the fee may include a retainer with fees for billable hours for work completed.

It is difficult to estimate the exact cost to Limestone DSB for the services of an integrity commissioner as it is the number of complaints and the complexity of the investigations that will be the cost drivers in the equation. For a cost comparison, York Region DSB released an information report on October 22, 2019 detailing the 2018-2019 costs of its integrity commissioner at approximately \$121,000. Should Limestone DSB wish to engage the services of an integrity commissioner, the expected hourly rate could vary between \$275 - \$500 per hour.

A Trustee commented that the potential cost is overwhelming.

A Trustee asked if the Board looked at sharing the City of Kingston's integrity commissioner. Superintendent Young replied that he did not investigate that option, as he had not been directed to do so. He noted that it is a very different scope from the municipal to education sectors.

A Trustee stated that York DSB is not comparable in size to LDSB. It is a bigger school board with more trustees, and it would not seem to be helpful to compare the costs against what LDSB might incur. Superintendent Young noted that the scope of the commissioner's work is usually focused on complaints.

The Director clarified that York DSB has 12 Trustees as compared to LDSB's 9. It is larger in terms of the number of students.

Superintendent Young stated that 76% of York's fees were for formal investigations.

It was clarified that TDSB shares its Integrity Commissioner with a municipality.

A Trustee stated that he would like to receive more in-depth information. It was further noted that at the recent OPSBA Public Education Symposium a number of boards indicated they

are looking at using an integrity commissioner. A request was made for other options, such as a mediator.

A Trustee noted that the cost is an hourly rate, which isn't affected by the size of the Board or number of Trustees. It was further stated that they are very concerned about taking money away from students for Trustee behaviour management, as would happen in the case of paying for an integrity commissioner's fees. The Board has recently received communication from the Ombudsman and a legal opinion and both have confirmed they believe LDSB is in compliance with its policies.

A Trustee stated that the cost of an integrity commissioner was also discussed at the Public Education Symposium, and expressed that they felt it was the cost of doing business in the modern age.

4. Reports Requiring Decision

a) Selection Process for New Director of Education

Chair Ruttan stated that the Selection of the Director of Education is outlined in Policy No. 17 and as part of the process the Board will select a Consultant to assist in organizing the screening and selection process. The Consultant should have a proven track record in hiring senior management in the education sector.

The Director's Selection Committee shall review, rank and short-list candidates to be interviewed by the Board. The Selection Committee shall consist of the Committee of the Whole and the Consultant.

The Consultant will be responsible for:

- The in-service training of the selection committee in all aspects of the selection process;
- Assisting the selection committee on the most appropriate form of advertising;
- Preparing the advertisement and initiating the advertisement process;
- Assisting the selection committee with ranking and short-listing candidates;
- Contacting and arranging the interview schedule for short-listed candidates;
- Preparing interview questions that can be used to determine the skills, knowledge and personal characteristics of candidates;
- Assisting the selection committee in determining the successful candidate.

The Consultant may also be asked by the Selection Committee to conduct reference checks of short-listed candidates, assist the Superintendent of Business in contract development and provide debriefing sessions for unsuccessful candidates.

There are a number of executive search firms in the province that specialize in recruitment of school board senior staff, including a director of education. The scope of the services provided by these firms includes the responsibilities listed under the Consultant above, together with a guarantee that the placed candidate will perform as expected. If the placed candidate's performance is unsatisfactory, usually within the first year, the executive search firm will replace the candidate at no additional cost.

Proposed Timeline:

Regular Board Meeting Minutes Limestone District School Board

February 12, 2020

February 2020	Staff to issue Request for Proposal
March 2020	Board to select Consultant
March 2020	Consultant to draft advertisement
March/April 2020	Advertisement posting period
April/May 2020	Rank and short-list candidates
May 2020	Conduct candidate interviews & reference checks
June 17, 2020	Recommendation of successful candidate to Board
August 2020	New Director of Education to start

In keeping with Broader Public Sector procurement directives, a formal Request for Proposal process should be initiated to obtain proposals from executive search firms.

MOTION: That staff begin the Request for Proposal process for selection of an executive search firm.

MOVED BY: Trustee French, seconded by Trustee Brown.

It was clarified that Trustees would be involved in the approval of the employment contract for the new Director.

It was clarified that Student Trustees are not involved in the process.

A Trustee inquired how many directors are retiring this year. Director Rantz replied that there are at least 5 who will be retiring. She suggested that getting the RFP out quickly is the best avenue to ensure the Board is able to select its ideal candidate.

It was confirmed that the selection process would involve meetings separate from Board meetings.

It was confirmed that the Board would be reviewing recent hires and what consultant firms were used, as well as how successful the candidates were.

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 Ruttan, Student Trustee Crook, Student Trustee Putnam (11)

NAYS:

ABSENT:

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:

ABSENT:

The motion was called and carried (9:0).

b) 2020-2021 School-Year calendar

Associate Superintendent Gillam stated that the Ministry template for the 2020-2021 calendar was received by LDSB in the middle of January 2020.

In January and February of 2020, LDSB parents and community partners (day cares, municipalities, public health, business associations, etc.) will be invited to provide survey input to the Associate Superintendent on the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar options.

The following information is used by the three boards in the Tri-Board Student Transportation Consortium prior to bringing possible calendar options to stakeholders for feedback:

- Student achievement is the primary consideration for all calendar decisions and options.
- Adding holidays to a calendar after this year of labour unrest was not an option for any of the three Boards.
- Using the three Professional Development days that are previously unassigned for teacher development and the improvement of practice. This directly correlates to student achievement.
- Avoiding Professional Development days on Mondays.
- Ensuring that Second Semester starts on either a Friday or Monday.
-

Information from other Boards around Eastern Ontario was also used in the formation of the available options for Limestone, Hastings and Prince Edward and Algonquin:

- Ottawa Carleton and Catholic – PA Day on August 31, students start September 1.
- Renfrew Public and Catholic – PA Day on September 1, students start on September 2.
- Upper Canada District School Board – PA Day on September 1, students start on September 2.

One calendar was discussed where a Board is looking at starting on September 8. They will be using two Professional Development days and a holiday prior to the school year starting. They will also have a Wednesday Professional Development day in February as the semester turn around date. As previously mentioned, using two Professional Development days prior to school starting is not something that our three Boards are willing to explore, due to the impact on student achievement

Facilitated by the Associate Superintendent of Safe and Caring Schools, Limestone stakeholders met on January 22, 2020, to provide input. Stakeholders represented Trustees (Trustee Ruttan), parents (PIC chair), unions, federations, non-union groups, human resources, and administrators. For those stakeholders unable to attend the meeting in person, they were able to submit their information electronically.

Option 1 is the preferred option of both the Hastings and Prince Edward District and Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic school boards. At this point, it appears that the calendar decision will go to the ALCDSB and HPEDSB Board of Trustees during the month of February 2020 so that the calendar can be provided to the Ministry of Education by the March 1 deadline.

Notable details of the proposed 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Option 1 are:

- The school year starts on Monday, August 31 for staff only (PA Day). Students begin Tuesday, September 1.
- There are seven PA days in total (August 31, September 25, November 20, January 29, April 30, June 4 and, and June 25).
- Two PA days are required for elementary reporting: January 29, and June 4.
- Semester 1 runs from August 31 to January 29 inclusive. Semester 2 runs from February 1 to June 25.
- Each semester consists of 97 school days.

MOTION: That the Trustees of the Limestone District School Board receive and approve Option 1 for the School Year Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented with Appendix A.

MOVED BY: Trustee Morning, seconded by Trustee Gingrich.

It was confirmed that there would be additional transportation costs to the Board if it deviates from the proposed calendar.

It was clarified that the 61% of survey respondents were in favour of option 1. The respondents were comprised mostly of parents.

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 Ruttan, Student Trustee Crook, Student Trustee Putnam (11)

NAYS:

ABSENT:

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:

ABSENT:

The motion was called and carried (9:0).

c) Appointment of Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) member 2029-2022

Associate Superintendent McDonnell stated that the Statutory Membership Requirements for SEAC are: Ontario Regulation 464/97 2 (1) states that "Every district school board shall establish a special education advisory committee that shall consist of (a) one representative from each of the local associations that operates locally with the area of jurisdiction of the board, as nominated by the local association and appointed by the board"; and 2 (2) "The board shall not appoint more than 12 representatives under clause (1)" and 5 (3) "A person is not qualified to be nominated or appointed under section 2, 3 or 4 if the person is employed by the board."

The following organizations are currently represented:

1. Family and Children's Services, Frontenac Lennox and Addington
2. Community Living Kingston and District
3. Autism Ontario Kingston
4. Down Syndrome Association of Kingston
5. Lennox and Addington Resources for Children
6. Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston
7. Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario
8. Association for Bright Children of Ontario

Easter Seals Ontario has sent a letter of nomination for Candace Roberts for representation on the LDSB SEAC. Easter Seals has been represented in past terms on the LDSB SEAC.

MOTION: That the Board appoint Candace Roberts as the SEAC member representative for Easter Seals.

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin, seconded by Trustee McGregor.

A Trustee asked if the committee is still trying to replace a member-at-large. It was confirmed that the Board has been working on filling the open membership spots. It has advertised the openings a number of times over the past few months, but has not had any applicants. The committee is working on goals to help solicit new members.

The Motion Carried.

5. Notice of Motion

None at this time.

Section B - Information

1. Internal Reports and Other Communications

None at this time.

2. External Reports and Other Communications

None at this time.

3. Communications Referred to Committee

None at this time.

4. Requests for Reports and/or Information

A Trustee requested a second report on an integrity commissioner, suggesting additional options be explored, including an ombudsman.

A Trustee requested the report include an inquiry to the City of Kingston on sharing their integrity commissioner.

Trustee Ruttan asked for a vote on the request for an additional integrity commissioner report.

The non-binding recorded vote was as follows:

YEAS: Trustee Elliott, Trustee Godkin, Trustee Hutcheon, Trustee Morning (4)

NAYS: Trustee Brown, Trustee French, Trustee Gingrich, Trustee McGregor, Trustee Ruttan, Student Trustee Crook, Student Trustee Putnam (7)

ABSENT:

The binding recorded vote was as follows:

YEAS: Trustee Elliott, Trustee Godkin, Trustee Hutcheon, Trustee Morning (4)

NAYS: Trustee Brown, Trustee French, Trustee Gingrich, Trustee McGregor, Trustee Ruttan (5)

ABSENT:

The motion was called and failed (4:5).

A Trustee requested a report on the status of Trustee professional development (PD) expenses. It was asked that this report go to the next EPOC meeting.

It was suggested that Trustees should engage in a discussion on a policy for going forward on the use of Trustee PD funding.

The request carried.

5. Other Business

None at this time.

6. Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Limestone District School Board of Trustees will take place on March 25, 2020 at 6 p.m.

7. Other Special Meetings/Events

See agenda listing.

8. Adjournment

Chair Ruttan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Trustee Hutcheon, seconded by Trustee Brown, that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.