

PRESENT:

Trustees: Chair Randy Campbell, Vice-Chair Kelley Robertson, Greg Agar, Jane Bryce, Ruth Ann Dodman, Jack Fletcher, Malinda Little, Roberta Northmore, Angela Richards, David Shortt

Student Trustees: Ellias Ko, Brynn Williams

Staff: Director of Education John Howitt, Associate Director Brian McKay, Superintendents of Education Angie Barrese, Emily Dixon, Gary Girardi, Ben Hazzard and Public Relations Officer Caress Lee

Regrets: Trustee Janet Barnes, Student Trustee Makaiyah Stonefish, Superintendent Mary Mancini

Recording Secretary: Bonnie Gotelaer, Executive Assistant to the Director

Call to Order: Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Campbell read Procedural By-law 3.19 Decorum at Board Meetings.

#2024-131
Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Angela Richards, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of October 8, 2024 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

#2024-132
Approval of the Minutes
Sept/24/24

Moved by David Shortt, seconded by Roberta Northmore,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 24, 2024.”

CARRIED.

Business Arising

A Trustee requested to have the expected programming available to all students report to include the number of students who have stopped attending school who may have felt they did not have access to expected supports and the number of students who have transferred from their home school to Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School.

Director Howitt confirmed the report will be provided at a future board meeting and will include data that is available.

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session

None.

#2024-133

Moved by Kelley Robertson seconded by Jane Bryce,

Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board "That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board."
CARRIED.

Delegations None.

#2024-134
LKDSB Policy Position
Description for the Director of Education and Secretary of the Board
Report B-24-117
Moved by Malinda Little, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman
"That the Board approve the LKDSB revisions to the Position Description for the Director of Education and Secretary of the Board."
Director Howitt indicated updated job title changes are reflected on the revised policy.
A Trustee asked if the policy is included in the director recruitment package outlining the job description when advertised.
Chair Campbell confirmed this would be part of the advertising package.
CARRIED.

#2024-135
LKDSB Policy and Regulations Safe Schools
Report B-24-118
Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by David Shortt,
"That the Board approve the new policy and regulations on Safe Schools."
Director Howitt reported to Trustees the document is a new policy and regulation.
Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by David Shortt to amend the policy to remove duplicated wording, to expand the LKDSB acronym to Lambton Kent District School Board and the removal of the second paragraph.
Director Howitt, in response to a Trustee question, read the changes to take place.
Superintendent Girardi acknowledged the policy statement was formed after the combining of several policies and regulations and that feedback from Trustees is appreciated and is supportive of suggested changes.
CARRIED.

Moved by David Shortt, seconded by Roberta Northmore to amend the regulation by removing the requirement that Trustee(s) for the school involved to be advised by a Superintendent as this requirement is no longer applicable.
CARRIED.

A Trustee thanked Superintendent Girardi for the new policy and regulations and commended the work that went into the document.

Chair Campbell relayed gratitude for completion of a large and important document.

#2024-136
LKDSB Policy on Use of
Board Owned Facilities
and Equipment
Report B-24-119

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Angela Richards

“That the Board approve the revised policy on Use of Board Owned Facilities and Equipment.”

Associate Director McKay noted this was reviewed as part of the LKDSB cyclical review and as part of the review it was determined this would be a policy without partnering regulations or administrative procedures and that it emphasized the importance the Lambton Kent District School Board places on LKDSB owned equipment.

CARRIED.

#2024-137
LKDSB Policy on
Responsible Use of
Technology
Report B-24-120

Moved by David Shortt, seconded by Greg Agar

“That the Board approve the revised policy on Responsible Use of Technology.”

Associate Director McKay relayed the review was completed as part of the LKDSB cyclical review and continues to reflect the philosophy of the LKDSB and highlighted the link in the board report directs to the corresponding administrative procedure.

Moved by David Shortt, seconded by Roberta Northmore to amend the policy to reflect language, that is only present in the policy, from stating morally responsible to ethically responsible.

Carried.

Ontario Public School
Boards' Association
Update (OPSBA)
Report B-24-121

Vice-Chair Robertson reported to Trustees she attended the most recent OPSBA meeting and indicated the Annual Operational Plan and Monitoring Framework for 2024-2025 is available online. She reported that Local Gov Week (LGW) for trustees to set up visits to Grade 5 and 10 classrooms is October 21-25, 2024 and if there is opportunity to speak to a civics class in January or February, the material available would continue to be valid for use.

Vice-Chair Robertson provided information regarding upcoming meetings and event dates.

Vice-Chair Robertson relayed there was discussion regarding the Code of Conduct and trustee attendance and that OPSBA is advocating changes to attendance requirements due to concerns raised by trustees.

A Trustee asked if there is a time frame on the attendance decision.

Vice-Chair Robertson confirmed that trustees should continue to keep the intention to attend board meetings in person and in the meantime, virtual is supported but not preferred.

Director Howitt noted that Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) has been voicing the attendance challenge and indicated there will be clarification that would not undermine requirements legislated in the Ontario Education Act.

Indigenous Liaison
Committee Report
Report B-24-122

Trustee Northmore reported to Trustees on the September 18, 2024 Indigenous Liaison Committee (ILC) meeting, at the Sarnia Education Centre. She relayed Kettle and Stony Point First Nation has been successful in securing a cook who provides breakfast and lunch items for students.

Trustee Northmore relayed there has been progress in providing an Immersion program in kindergarten at Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit and that a summer credit program attended by 20 students between ages 12-18 years old provided a secondary school credit for 12 attendees. She explained that concern continues regarding the grade 7 and 8 bell time and that the community would like to have the bell times return to previous practice. Trustee Northmore explained that the Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit Council would like it noted that the community helped build Naahii Ridge Public School and would like input on school decisions.

Trustee Northmore noted that a new Bkejwanong First Nation Council will be elected and will be applying a strategic approach to modify positions and job descriptions and explained that the roles of Principal and Director are currently being held by one person. She relayed that over 200 students are enrolled at the school and that a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) program has been established in collaboration with the University of Western Ontario for grades 7 & 8 students. She explained that a workshop kitchen is being created to provide skills to students. She relayed that there are thirty-seven educational assistants providing support to 38% high needs students.

Trustee Northmore shared with the ILC the retirement announcement for John Howitt, Director of Education for the Lambton Kent District School Board. She relayed that explanation was provided to the committee regarding Trustee Code of Conduct and attendance, that she attended the Indigenous Trustees Council with the Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) and had opportunity to meet Education Minister Jill Dunlop who indicated the desire to have a regeneration of the Indigenous Advisory Committee.

Trustee Northmore relayed that Indigenous Lead Dallas Sinopole discussed the Board Action Plan (BAP) and that community visits to Bkejwanong First Nation and Kettle and Stony Point First Nation will provide opportunity to discuss the BAP initiatives in more depth. She explained that Director Howitt provided explanation of Education Perfect.

Trustee Northmore relayed that Superintendent Dixon reported that four of five permanent graduation coaches have been hired, that schools are developing School Learning Plans with goals concerning Indigenous education, attendance, literacy, numeracy, anti-oppression and graduation rates and that an updated boundary map has been requested to allow Kettle and Stony Point to provide clarification to Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS).

Trustee Northmore reported that the next ILC meeting will be October 16, 2024 at Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit.

A Trustee asked if there was external funding in the building of Naahii Ridge Public School and are there other schools in that situation.

Director Howitt indicated any information regarding external funding would be presented to the community involved prior to being presented to the Board.

Special Education
Advisory Committee
(SEAC) Report
Report B-24-123

Trustee Little reported to Trustees at the September 19, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting topics for presentations were discussed and the 2023-2024 Special Education Plan Checklist was shared and reviewed by members.

Trustee Little reported that the committee received correspondence regarding transportation of students with special needs. She explained that the committee discussed the work of Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS) for students with special needs and no action was taken regarding the correspondence received.

Trustee Little relayed the next SEAC meeting is October 17, 2024 and all are welcome to attend.

LKDSB Operational Plan
2024-2025
Report B-24-124

Director Howitt relayed the 2023-2024 plan was shared at the last board meeting and explained that many goals included in the LKDSB Operational Plan 2024-2025 are part of multi-year goals and that it contains some additional new goals.

2023-2024 Provincial
Assessment (EQAO)
Results
Report B-24-125

Superintendent Hazzard reported the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments were administered during the 2023-2024 school year. He noted the assessment focused on Primary (Grade 3), Junior (Grade 6), Grade 9 Mathematics and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy (OSSLT) EQAO and that assessments took place at various times throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

Superintendent Hazzard reported that students of the Lambton Kent District School Board achieved at the same rate or improved at a greater rate than the provincial average in all indicators on a three-year trend. The highest level of improvement for the LKDSB was Grade 9 Mathematics which improved 10% from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024. He relayed the results indicate the positive impact education workers including educational assistants, early childhood educators, teachers and support staff have on student success.

Superintendent Hazzard noted that on each indicator the LKDSB students improved at the same or a greater rate than the provincial average since digital assessments were launched based on a 3-year trend and that long-term focus continues while continuing to close the gap with provincial averages.

Superintendent Hazzard relayed that Grade 3 Reading increased by 3%, Grade 3 Writing remained consistent to the previous EQAO and Grade 3 Mathematics increased by 3% and explained that these improvements highlight the board's continued focus on strengthening foundational skills.

Superintendent Hazzard relayed that Grade 6 Mathematics saw a 9% improvement and is in an upward trajectory. He explained year over year of

improved scores are evident and due to students seeing themselves as learners, confidence has increased.

Superintendent Hazzard reported the LKDSB saw a 10% improvement in Grade 9 Mathematics from the previous year (2022-2023), marking the highest rate of improvement among all medium and large boards across Ontario and that this improvement underscores the board's commitment to enhancing students' mathematical skills and knowledge at the high school level. He explained that this indicates that 150 more LKDSB students were able to achieve at this higher level and that more LKDSB students can take that with them as they move through their learning career pathways.

Superintendent Hazzard reported OSSLT results are in an upward trajectory and the gap is getting smaller and smaller and are a graduation requirement.

A Trustee expressed thanks for the learning supports students are receiving to help continue growth and improvement.

A Trustee asked if the learning supports can be duplicated in schools to help drive improvement.

Superintendent Hazzard indicated that educators working in the classrooms allow for those students who need support to be identified much like the priority classrooms and that there has been an increase in the number of priority schools at the secondary level.

A Trustee asked how the momentum will continue.

Superintendent Hazzard indicated are key elements are advocacy and modeling and to continue to share the positive impact.

A Trustee commended all teachers and staff to close the gap in reading and writing and literacy and asked how students achieving at levels one and two could improve.

Superintendent Hazzard explained that there has been noticeable progression as students continue to shift towards provincial average. He explained that EQAO values the level 3 or 4 as 100% but does not value students less than level 3 and that there are a lot of students currently at level 2.9 or slightly lower and their results do not get counted.

The Trustee followed up with thanks noting the discrepancy, which doesn't truly reflect where students are at academically with the provincial average, and that there is progression of students which is very positive for the LKDSB.

Director Howitt noted seeking a sustained long-term plan in stead of a quick fix has been the method for LKDSB and that sustained improvement and not initiative jumping takes longer and thanked trustees for the patience in allowing the LKDSB to build capacity with a greater number of staff.

A Trustee expressed thanks for the information that was well received at the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and asked if the Ministry of Education has

taken interest in what the LKDSB is doing and could that affect additional funding.

Superintendent Hazzard noted the framework that the LKDSB has been working within is the same for districts across the province. He indicated the approach has been unique to the LKDSB and the methodical approach has been shared with other districts. He explained the work is earnest and the method has been kept consistent.

A Trustee asked if results Grade 9 students receive are included in their final grade.

Superintendent Hazzard confirmed that it is an action that the Grade 9 assessment be included in the final grade for the student.

Director Howitt relayed that Grade 9 math is unique as it is measured in first and second semester and is not trailing data.

Superintendent Hazzard indicated a great amount of practice occurred and activities were shared with staff members that provided practice assessments.

A Trustee acknowledged the benefit of sustained change and asked if the techniques would continue to be funded and how it will be sustained.

Director Howitt relayed the 3-5-year funding for priority schools has been lobbied and articulation regarding what LKDSB supplementary staff are doing has been advocated with ministry representatives.

A Trustee voiced concern with staff turnover and supports for new teachers in continuing these supports for students.

Director Howitt confirmed that the LKDSB has valuable mentoring, and the New Teachers Induction Program (NTIP) is very helpful along with collaboration from colleagues in schools to transfer knowledge across classrooms.

Superintendent Hazzard noted the use of Heggerty with phonemic awareness has been effective and resources from teachers is shareable which helps support students. He continued to explain that this information is shared with faculties of education to help them understand the new practices occurring in schools.

Correspondence

None.

New Business

None.

Trustee Questions

A Trustee asked if there was a delegation being brought to board. Director Howitt confirmed a delegation was approved at Agenda Review and will be presented at the October 22, 2024 board meeting.

A Trustee asked if any LKDSB schools have Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

Associate Director McKay confirmed in Errol Village Public School, H.W. Burgess Public School and Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School there are sections in the roof areas that contain RAAC. He reported that it has been reviewed and subject to inspection as part of the maintenance completed on all LKDSB roofs. He stated engineering consultants have not brought any concerns forward after inspecting and that all information from inspections are provided to the Ministry of Education and noted any changes that would occur would be subject to using LKDSB funding.

Notices of Motion

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on October 22, 2024 at the Sarnia Education Centre at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board