

PRESENT:

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

Student Trustees: Graysen Bathe-Minard, Darshan Shah, and Makaiyah Stonefish

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

Regrets:

Recording Secretary: Jaime Shannon, Executive Assistant to the Director

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

Chair Campbell read LKDSB Procedural By-Laws Section 3.19 *Decorum at Board Meetings*.

#2024-43 Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by David Shortt,

Approval of the Agenda

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of February 27, 2024 be approved.”

CARRIED.

In Memoriam

Chair Campbell read an In Memoriam for a learner in the Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit Credit Support and LBS program. A moment of silence was observed.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

Trustee Barnes arrived to the meeting virtually at 7:03 p.m.

#2024-44
Approval of the Minutes
Feb/13/2024

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 13, 2024.”

CARRIED.

Business Arising

Director Howitt provided an update on a Trustee question from the February 13, 2024 Board Meeting regarding *the Immunization of School Pupils Act* and the potential suspension of students. He relayed that the public health units have separated the suspension dates for elementary, which will take place on March 5, 2024, and secondary students, which will take place on March 26, 2024. He shared that the number of potential suspensions are decreasing daily, although there is still a large number of elementary students, with just under 800 in Sarnia-Lambton and just under 250 in Chatham-Kent on the list. He thanked LKDSB families for their part in reducing the numbers and LKDSB

school staff for communicating with parents/guardians and making them aware of the process. He noted that the Board must follow the direction of public health and encouraged those remaining on the list to be in touch with their local health unit as soon as possible to either report immunizations, request an exemption, or make an appointment to update immunizations, any of which are required to be removed from the list.

Following a Trustee question regarding the difference in numbers for Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton, Director Howitt explained that the Immunization of School Pupils Act was suspended by all health units in Ontario during COVID-19 and that some public health units, including Chatham-Kent Public Health, chose to restart the suspensions in the 2022-2023 school year. He relayed that Lambton Public Health chose to wait one more year, which explains the higher number of potential suspensions. He remarked that the public health units have worked collaboratively with the Board multiple weeks in advance to ensure the numbers would be reduced prior to the suspension deadline.

Motions Emanating from
the Regular Board Private
Session

Moved by Kelley Robertson, seconded by Jane Bryce,

“That the Board approve the Employment Agreement for the Director of Education as outlined in Report B-24-45.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director Howitt thanked the Board for their vote of confidence in extending his contract. He thanked the Senior Team and Director’s Office for their support and remarked that he has great pride in the work of LKDSB staff and looked forward to continuing to serve the students of the LKDSB.

#2024-45
Action of the Regular
Board Private Session be
the Action of the Board

Moved by Kelley Robertson, seconded by Malinda Little,

“That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board.”

CARRIED.

Presentation – Director’s
Snapshots of Excellence

Director Howitt presented the [Director’s Snapshots of Excellence for the period of January to February 2024](#).

Following a Trustee question, Director Howitt shared that many schools participate in submitting pictures for the Director’s Snapshots of Excellence and others are found through school social media accounts. He encouraged schools to continue to submit pictures, which can be used in LKDSB news stories, social media posts, or the Snapshots of Excellence.

Delegations

None.

#2024-46
2024/2025 Student
Trustee Appointments
Report B-24-47

Director Howitt reported to Trustees on the 2024-2025 Student Trustee election that took place at the February 21, 2024 Student Senate Meeting. He noted that the election was conducted in accordance with the Board’s Student Trustee and Student Senate Policies, Regulations, and Administrative Procedures and reported that Brynn Williams from Wallaceburg District Secondary School was elected to the position of Indigenous Student Trustee, Makaiyah Stonefish from Wallaceburg District Secondary School was elected

to the position of Student Trustee, and Ellias Ko from Northern Collegiate Institute & Vocational School was acclaimed to the position of Student Trustee. He shared that for the first time since having an Indigenous Student Trustee position in the LKDSB, the position was not acclaimed, as there were four outstanding candidates that took part in the election.

Moved by Roberta Northmore, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

“That the Board approve the appointments of Brynn Williams, Indigenous Student Trustee, Makaiyah Stonefish, Student Trustee, and Ellias Ko, Student Trustee, for the 2024/2025 school year.”

CARRIED.

#2024-47
Proposed York1
Environmental Waste
Solutions Landfill
Report B-24-48

Following a February 13, 2024 Notice of Motion, Trustee Richards provided Trustees with further information on her concerns regarding the proposed York1 Environmental Waste Solutions Landfill and its potential health or safety effects on LKDSB students and staff. She encouraged attendance at the March 1, 2024 public meeting in Dresden, Ontario.

Moved by Angela Richards, seconded by Roberta Northmore,

“That LKDSB Administration provide input during the consultation phase regarding concerns for student and staff safety due to the York1 Environmental Waste Solutions Ltd. landfill expansion in Dresden, Ontario prior to the March 16, 2024 deadline.”

A Trustee asked if Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS) will be included in the consultation process. Director Howitt responded that consultations have already started with the Manager of Transportation and he has provided his input on how the number of trucks that would potentially be on the road would impact student busing.

Director Howitt relayed that he will follow the recommendations of the motion, but there are pieces in the preamble of the report that the Board is not in a position to comment on, such as health and medical concerns, and would be more appropriate for public health or emergency services for the municipality to provide input on. He encouraged those in the Dresden community to provide input based on their own research.

CARRIED.

Ontario Public School
Boards' Association
Update (OPSBA)

Vice-Chair Robertson reported that she will be representing the Board at the OPSBA Board of Directors Meetings on March 1 and 2, 2024. She relayed that she will provide Trustees with an update following this meeting and will provide more information on the April 6, 2024 Regional Meeting when it is available.

Student Senate Report
Report B-24-49

Student Trustee Shah reported that the third Student Senate meeting of the 2023-2024 school year took place on February 21, 2024 at Wallaceburg District Secondary School with Wania Noor and Student Trustees Bathe-Minard and Shah Chairing the meeting. He relayed that the Student Trustee election for the 2024-2025 school year was held, which began with words from Dallas Sinopole, Indigenous Lead. He noted that the next meeting, the Budget Presentation with Associate Director McKay, will be held on May 6, 2024 at the

Chatham and Sarnia Education Centres.

Correspondence None.

New Business None.

Trustee Questions A Trustee asked for a status update on the construction project at Rosedale Public School. Associate Director McKay responded that the tender package was planned to be out by the end of March 2024 with the recommendation to Trustees by the end of the 2023-2024 school year and the construction to begin in the summer of 2024. He noted there have been delays, but timelines are being moved forward on quite aggressively. He explained that his team has been working with the City of Sarnia on site plan approval, and that it is a complex project with new bus lines and tarmac areas which is an added process in site plans and approvals with the city.

Chair Campbell exited the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Vice-Chair Robertson took over the role of Chair in his absence.

A Trustee relayed that she has spoken with two parent/guardians who suggested an addition to the Student Verification form and a regular Report for Board Information related to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice, and asked for feedback on the suggestions on behalf of the parent/guardians. Director Howitt responded that he had an opportunity to review the correspondence and appreciated the suggestions. He explained that data is necessary to understand who students are and to ensure there are no student groups being disadvantaged. He reminded Trustees there was a student census completed in the 2021-2022 school year, which was required by the Province and had questions determined by the Province for all age groups. He noted there was concern around the appropriateness of the questions for certain grade levels, which resulted in the census not being completed by a large number of families. He noted that the expectation was that the survey for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students would be completed by parent/guardians and the survey for Grades 7 to 12 students would be completed by students. The low participation rate meant the data did not meet a level of reliability from a statistical perspective, but it did show the level of diversity that exists in the LKDSB. He relayed that having very clearly defined data for equity deserving groups, especially those protected through the Ontario Human Rights Code, is valued, and that the LKDSB is committed to collect the data again, even without a mandate from the Ministry of Education. He reported that work has already been done to see what is needed for better participation and explained that the process may be revised to include more age-appropriate questions and a designated participation time for secondary students. He explained that student census data is highly confidential, and is not stored the Student Information System, and can only be accessed by a very limited number of staff. He noted that asking for data on the student verification form, which is sent to each household annually, could not be used to ask questions as they are seen by too many people to be considered confidential, and it is important families feel safe to fill the forms out for Safe Schools purposes. He noted there is an opportunity to self-identify as Indigenous on the form, which is due to a requirement by the Ministry of Education for funding purposes and remarked that it would be important to have data on all protected grounds of the Ontario

Human Rights Code. He explained Board Meeting agendas are governed through the LKDSB Procedural By-laws, and if Trustees wanted a standing report, it would be a change through the By-Laws. He noted that Superintendents can bring a report at any time, and the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice team has been reporting to Trustees regularly. He added that Trustees made Inclusive Diversity a new Strategic Priority at the last Strategic Priority planning session and continue to act on it. He remarked that Superintendent Dixon is working very closely with the advisory groups and will bring more information to the Board along the way.

Vice-Chair Robertson acknowledged the Chatham Kent Secondary School Improv Team, who won the Improv Team Award and is moving on to the national competition. She noted that teacher Karen St Peter-Catton founded the team in 2004 and has coached since its inception.

A Trustee asked if there was an update on the hiring of Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) qualified technical teachers as he noted in the past these positions have been difficult to fill. Director Howitt responded there are shortages in the education sector in all areas across the province, especially in Northern Ontario and remote communities, and for specialized areas. He provided the examples of staffing for Indigenous Language classes, Technical Studies classes, French Language classes, and Educational Assistants. He relayed that there are a variety of means to assist with these challenges, such as hiring an OCT qualified teacher to work with an Indigenous speaker in an Indigenous Language classroom, there are letters of permission, and actively recruiting in these areas. He noted that it is affecting program in some cases with the cancelation of a course, an unqualified teacher delivering the course, or changes in staff mid-semester. He relayed that these challenges may become a larger issue if retirees are not permitted to work more than 50 days as they have been the last few years during the occasional teacher shortages. He remarked that Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent are incredible communities to live in and noted that any vacancies are posted on the Apply to Ed website.

Notices of Motion

Director Howitt served Notice of Motion, "That the Board approve the following changes to the LKDSB Procedural By-Laws."

SECTION 3 REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

3.1 Except as set forth in the following sections, the Regular
Regular Monthly Meetings of the Board shall be held on the second
Meeting Dates and fourth Tuesday in each month [of the school year](#)
commencing at 7:00 p.m. unless such Tuesday shall fall on
a Public holiday in which case, the Board shall meet at the
call of the Chair on any evening at the same hour within
eight (8) days. [In the month of the Organizational Meeting of
the Board \(see by-law 2.2\) there will be only one business
meeting of the board, and it will be held on either the second
or fourth Tuesday of the month.](#)

3.14 Delegations Any person from the community or community group who may wish to address the Board on issues of concern to the education system shall give seven business days' notice electronically or in writing to the Secretary of the Board or designate and shall indicate the matter or issue they wish to speak to and provide an electronic or printed copy of their presentation with their request. Requests received without supporting documentation will not be considered. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Director of Education will review all requests at the Agenda Review Meeting prior to the Board Meeting and determine if the request will be placed on the Board Agenda and if so whether the topic is for the Public agenda or Private Session (see by-law 3.13 Meetings in Private Session). [The submitted presentation materials, whether placed on the Board Agenda or not, may be shared with elected Trustees prior to the Board Meeting along with the Board Agenda package but will not be included as part of the Board Agenda package or posted publicly. At the Chair's discretion, legal advice may be sought prior to sharing the presentation materials.](#) Individuals or groups may be limited to one presentation to the Board on a given topic in a school year. Delegations should address the concern identified in the presenters' application. If materials presented differ substantially from the written submission, the Chair has the right to rule the presentation out of order. At the conclusion of the delegation presentation, Trustees may ask questions of clarification.

3.17 Presentations An employee or employee group may make a presentation to the Board relating to a specific issue, matters of general interest to the Education system and matters of information to Trustees. Individuals or employee groups requesting permission to appear and speak before the Board or a Committee of the Board must submit their request and their materials in writing to the Secretary of the Board at least seven [working business](#) days' prior to the meeting.

SECTION 15 PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

15.4 The Director's Performance Appraisal Report shall be considered by the Board, in private session, at any one or more of its meetings and the Board shall receive the report and deliver a reply [prior to the beginning of at the first Board Meeting of the](#) next school year which shall include the following:

- a) concerns of the Board with respect to the implementation of Board policy and Strategic Plan;
- b) concerns with respect to the implementation of Ministry policy;
- c) matters which shall be addressed by the Board

- and/or legislations or Board Committees within the ensuing school year;
- d) other matters in reply to the Director's Performance Appraisal Report as may be appropriate.

Announcements Director Howitt announced that the Board is recognizing Staff Appreciation Day On March 1, 2024, as per Board Motion passed at the September 26, 2023 Board Meeting.

Director Howitt announced that Bonnie Gotelaer will begin as Recording Secretary at the March 26, 2024 Board Meeting as she will be filling in for Jaime Shannon's leave of absence.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 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 8:08 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board