

**PRESENT:**

Trustees: Chair Randy Campbell, Vice-Chair Derek Robertson, Greg Agar, Janet Barnes, Jane Bryce, Ruth Ann Dodman, Dave Douglas, Jack Fletcher, Malinda Little,

Staff: Director of Education John Howitt, Superintendent of Business Brian McKay, Superintendents of Education, Angie Barrese, Gary Girardi, Ben Hazzard, Helen Lane, Mary Mancini, Mark Sherman and Public Relations Officer Heather Hughes

Regrets Trustees McKinlay and Rising; Student Trustee William Locke

Student Trustees: Aurora Bressette and Lucia Shultz-Allison

Recording Secretary: Bonnie Gotelaer, Executive Assistant to the Director

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

#2021-53  
Approval of the Agenda Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Janet Barnes,

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of March 30, 2021 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest None

#2021-54  
Approval of the Minutes  
Feb/23/2021 Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Malinda Little,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 23, 2021.”

CARRIED.

#2021-55  
Approval of the Minutes  
Mar/4/2021 Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Derek Robertson,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 4, 2021.

CARRIED.

Business Arising None

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session None

#2021-56  
Action of the Regular  
Board Private Session  
be the Action of the  
Board

Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Janet Barnes,  
“That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the  
Board.”

CARRIED.

Delegations  
Citizens Against The  
Politicization of  
Education (CAPE)

Representative of Citizens Against The Politicization of Education  
(CAPE) Joanne Ward-laccino introduced herself and fellow CAPE  
member Carmen Gindi. Ms. Ward- lacinno read each slide in the shared  
power point package regarding Lambton Kent District School Board’s  
use of Black Lives Matter as a theme for Black History Month and  
presented the viewpoint of CAPE and their ideas moving forward in  
messaging and approach.

Questions from the  
Public

None

#2021-57  
Tender Award –  
Classroom Renovation,  
Mechanical and  
Electrical – A.A. Wright  
Report B-21-36

Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Janet Barnes,

“That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder Westhoek  
Construction Ltd. For the classroom renovation, mechanical and electrical  
upgrades at A.A. Wright Public School.”

Superintendent McKay reported that Westhoek Construction Ltd. of  
Chatham was successful for the A.A. Wright Public School classroom  
mechanical and electrical upgrades project with a bid of \$1,462,345.00.  
The total project cost is \$1,621,778.22 and will be funded by School  
Condition Improvement and Other funding.

CARRIED.

#2021-58  
Tender Award – HVAC  
Upgrades – Bright’s  
Grove P.S.  
Report B-21-37

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Malinda Little,

“That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder Agri-Urban  
Building Inc. for the HVAC system upgrades at Bright’s Grove Public  
School.”

Superintendent McKay reported that Agri-Urban Building Inc. of Dresden  
was successful for the Bright’s Grove Public School HVAC system  
upgrades project with a bid of \$865,200.00. The total project cost is  
\$949,738.01 and will be funded from School Condition Improvement and  
Other funding.

CARRIED.

#2021-59  
Tender Award –  
Washroom  
Renovation/Roof  
Recoating at Tilbury  
Area P.S.

Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Dave Douglas,

“That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder TCI  
Contracting Inc. for the washrooms renovation and roof recoating at  
Tilbury Area Public School.”

Report B-21-38 Superintendent McKay reported that TCI Titan Construction Inc. of Windsor was successful for the Tilbury Area Public School washroom renovation and roof recoating project with a bid of \$725,991.50. The total project cost is \$796,927.56 and will be funded from School Condition Improvement funding.

CARRIED.

#2021-60  
Tender Award –  
Washroom Renovations  
– Indian Creek Road  
P.S.  
Report B-21-39

Moved by Malinda Little, seconded by Derek Robertson,  
“That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, TCI Contracting Inc. for the washrooms renovation at Indian Creek Road Public School.”

Superintendent McKay reported that TCI Titan Contracting Inc. of Windsor was successful for the Indian Creek Road Public School washroom renovation project with a bid of \$747,248.16. The total project cost is \$820,261.19 which will be funded from School Condition Improvement funding.

CARRIED.

#2021-61  
Tender Award – Asphalt  
Replacement --  
Riverview Central  
School  
Report B-21-40

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Malinda Little,  
“That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, Agri-Urban Building Inc. for asphalt replacement at Riverview Central School.”

Superintendent McKay reported that Agri Urban Building Inc. was successful for the Riverview Central School asphalt replacement project with a bid of \$724,350.00. The total project cost is \$779,955.75 which will be funded from School Condition Improvement funding.

CARRIED.

#2021-62  
Tender Award – HVAC  
Upgrades and  
Renovation  
Gymnasiums – Great  
Lakes Secondary  
School  
Report B-21-41

Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Malinda Little,  
“That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, Maaten Construction Ltd. for the HVAC upgrades and renovation in gymnasiums at Great Lakes Secondary School.”

Superintendent McKay reported that Maaten Construction Ltd. was successful for the Great Lakes Secondary School HVAC upgrades and renovations in gymnasiums with a bid of \$2,395,200.00. The total project cost is \$2,624,051.25 which will be funded from School Condition Improvement and Other funding.

Superintendent McKay confirmed the renovations primarily involve HVAC upgrades and flooring replacement and will finalize interior renovations at this time.

CARRIED.

Indigenous Liaison Committee Report B-21-42	Trustee Bryce reported the Indigenous Liaison Committee met on February 17, 2021. Trustee Bryce indicated the introduction of the new Indigenous Lead. Trustee Bryce noted there have been several changes occur on each First Nation since that meeting and some items may differ from the report due to the challenges of Covid-19.
Special Education Advisory Committee Report B-21-43	Trustee Barnes reported the Special Education Advisory Committee met on February 19, 2021. Trustee Barnes indicated presentations were held in the meeting. The presentations included School Mental Health Ontario Supports, an Overview of Community Living in Chatham-Kent and the Special Education Plan items reviewed. As a result of the Ministry of Education moving the March Break to the week of April 12 – 16, the April 15, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, April 22, 2021. The next regular meeting will be held March 17, 2021.
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Update (OPSBA)	Trustee Fletcher reported all Trustees in the province have received a survey which is optional and is done through an online survey. At the Board of Director's meetings and any questions can be directed to Trustee Fletcher by email. Trustee Fletcher noted Ontario Public School Board's Association is concerned about virtual learning as a permanent option and will be reviewing from different viewpoints.
#2021-63 Audit Committee Update Report B-21-44	Trustee Douglas reported the Audit Committee had it's third statutory meeting on March 22, 2021. The agenda included the completion of some statutory reporting requirements such as: review of committee members terms, review of the external auditor performance, audit committee self-assessment and the selection of meeting dates for the 2021/2022 year, which are posted on the Lambton Kent District School Board website. The Audit Committee recommends: "That the 2021/2022 Internal Audit Plan replace Online Learning Systems audit with Device Deployment and Management audit." Moved by Dave Douglas, seconded by Derek Robertson.
Financial Report Report B-21-45	Superintendent McKay reported on the second quarter expenditures for the period September 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021.  Superintendent McKay confirmed this report period represents 50% of operating expenses that occur over twelve months and approximately 60 – 65% of the salary and benefit portion of the instructional operating expenses that occur over a ten to twelve month period.  Superintendent McKay indicated there are comments carried over from the first quarter. Supply teacher expenditures dropped during the January and February learn-at-home period and has had an increase

CARRIED.

since returning to face-to-face. Superintendent McKay stated this area has indicated there may be an increase to the end of school year. Based on the continuous change this year, this budget was increased with funding received from the province to address the challenges of this year.

Superintendent McKay noted the operations and maintenance budget has been overspent slightly with the expenditure expecting to be on budget for the school year due to additional Ministry funding.

Superintendent McKay indicated to be on track for the first two quarters and with additional Ministry funding and additional money from our accumulated surplus and noted to be optimistic in ending the year in good standing in our salary and wage area.

Superintendent McKay noted staff development budgets have been underspent due to program cancellations/deferrals and the reduction of associated expenses such as mileage and other travel costs.

Superintendent McKay stated due to PPE and related cleaning supply purchases, savings in other budget areas will help to offset these extra costs.

Superintendent McKay noted significant IT purchases have been made and have used some provincial funding to procure and are using some funds in reserves to help balance these costs.

Superintendent McKay continued to report there were higher grass cutting costs due to cutting grass later in the year, which lessened the amount of snow removal and less salt used. Superintendent McKay indicated there was an increase in snow removal expenses in salting of parking lots. Sidewalks and parking lots are well cleared to help reduce the number of slips, trips and falls.

Superintendent McKay referred to the Appendix shared as a resource and indicating the continuous tracking of all budgets versus actual concerns and is making adjustments to ensure the board's 2020 – 2021 expenditures are within current funding levels.

Chair Campbell thanked Superintendent McKay for the financial report.

#### LKDSB Update on Asymptomatic Testing

Director Howitt noted the asymptomatic testing is done to determine if people who have no symptoms are Covid-19 positive. Asymptomatic testing is not intended for families who have been in close contact and have been isolated or is someone who is symptomatic.

Director Howitt indicated two sessions have been completed in Lambton County where 1,600 people were invited with 108 (7%) people attending. Director Howitt indicated this met the mandated provincial requirement of

5% testing of our schools per week. The asymptomatic testing sites are not exclusive to schools, anyone from the public is able to attend. Director Howitt noted the positivity rates are unknown as the results are reported to the province by the vendor and is blended into public health data.

Director Howitt noted CLASS has been able to provide an organized approach due to their extensive knowledge of schools within the region. CLASS has provided the description of the testing sites, schedules and maps of the locations to help families. Families have the ability to attend at any time but are encouraged to attend as the schedule has outlined using surname initials in time slots available.

Director Howitt confirmed there is a link to access the CLASS website on the Lambton Kent District School Board website. Invited school communities receive a letter with information as well as the link to access the CLASS website.

Reporting Under the  
Public Salary Disclosure  
for 2020  
Report B-21-46

Director Howitt indicated in accordance with the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act, organizations that receive public funding from the Government of Ontario are required to disclose the names, positions, salaries and taxable benefits of employees who were paid a salary of \$100,000 or more.

Director Howitt indicated the report disclosing the Record of Employees' 2020 Salaries and Benefits for the Lambton Kent District School Board filed in accordance with the Public Sector Salary Disclosure.

Director Howitt confirmed there are conversations in multiple sectors in changing the threshold. The Lambton Kent District School Board will continue to report as per its legislated responsibility.

Director Howitt confirmed there are 441 staff listed.

Introduction – Energy &  
Environmental  
Coordinator (CLASS)

Kent Orr indicated many successful accomplishments with the Lambton Kent District School Board with respect to conservation initiatives and upgrades to facilities and realizing appropriate incentives to support projects. Continuing on this progress, CLASS will be looking forward at opportunities for greater engagement with school communities, looking at occupant behaviour to create additional opportunities for overall efficiencies and overall stewardship. Kent Orr introduced Taylor Maris as the Energy & Environmental Coordinator.

Superintendent McKay reported there has been a continuation of the single use plastics motion in the reduction of use. The single use plastics initiatives under the Energy & Environmental Coordinator's leadership have grown significantly as well as a much bigger and expanded environmental action plan for the Board.

Taylor Maris indicated there will be a much more detailed action plan in place for environmental committees with quarterly meetings to address environmental issues within schools. The goals of the environmental committee would include identifying environmental issues in the school as well as provide solutions. The environmental committee would include students to be global stewards. Grade level topics for a new initiative “Taylor Talks” with students include alternative energy sources, waste reduction, water conservation and treatment, ecosystem protection and electric vehicles.

Environmental procedures and management to support the Board’s policies to set the standard for environmental commitment for every school in use of resources and in waste management.

Superintendent McKay confirmed committee members could be selected this spring and provide the committee members information regarding topics needing to be addressed. The members of the committee can provide ideas and initiatives along with the Energy & Environmental Coordinator to help set the mandate which will involve reporting back to Trustees.

Kent Orr confirmed there are plans to launch “Taylor Talk” programs in conjunction with Earth Day with Superintendent Hazzard later in April, 2021.

Superintendent McKay confirmed there would be consultation with Superintendent Lane in including the First Nations communities and confirmed appreciation for the suggestion to include a Trustee on the committee.

Director Howitt thanked the presenters and shared optimism in the future with our students in caring about the earth and the community they live in.

Correspondence                      None

New Business                        None

Trustee Questions                      Superintendent Lane confirmed there have been incredible scenes in the media. The theme for Black History Month included the importance of knowing the past, understanding Black history as it pertains to the Canadian experience and celebrating heritage and being proud of Black heritage. Trustees have been forward thinking in championing anti-oppressive education.

Superintendent Lane noted recognition for Lambton Kent District School Board students in their need to understand what is happening around them as well as current conversation around racism in an age-appropriate way in how it affects themselves and their peers.

Superintendent Lane indicated Lambton Kent District School Board has the responsibility to tie the past with the present and prepare students with the critical conversations that they need, to enable them to understand to move forward as they are the leaders of our Board.

Director Howitt confirmed ideas for Black History Month are decided by a committee including the Lambton Kent District School Board's Inclusive Diversity Consultant.

Director Howitt confirmed there is concern around online learning. Director Howitt added that items noted in the media regarding online learning has the potential to have Lambton Kent District School Board students leaving our board to attend independent courses through TVO and not eLearning. Director Howitt indicated LKDSB will maintain responsibility of these students and graduation rates.

Director Howitt indicated space and supervision of learning for students who are attending independent online learning through TVO will continue to be the responsibility of the Lambton Kent District School Board.

Director Howitt noted the courses offered by the Lambton Kent District School Board in eLearning allow students to remain tied to their current school. Director Howitt expressed concern in school capacities particularly in smaller schools and noted eLearning has enabled students to continue to attend these smaller schools.

Director Howitt noted OPSBA has been very active in their response to what the government has proposed. Superintendents Mancini and Girardi have been providing OPSBA with concrete scenarios to assist in demonstrating the impact to our students with the model. Under the proposal, students make their course selections. Lambton Kent District School Board can have eLearning courses; however, this is managed by TVO. The students make their course selections under the proposal and the options that our students have chosen are shared. TVO will inform, based on demand, what courses the Board is expected to offer and if they are not offered the students could move over to a different board. The fee is paid by the board for the course or the student would cross-register in a different board while still being in our schools. TVO will reconcile financially at the end of the year.

In the Kindergarten to Grade 12 model, there is parental interest in virtual schools continuing past this school year. This option is being explored as a program choice. Pandemic remote learning will be necessary in the fall for families who exercise that choice or who live in a household with medically fragile members. There will be a model for virtual learning shared with families and a deadline of April 21, 2021 for parents to express their intention for their child to attend virtual school. Parents will have opportunity to ask questions prior to making their choice.



Superintendent Lane confirmed there has been a lot of work done, particularly in the background to support our students and staff. Book studies and workshops for teachers and support staff were provided in the summer of 2020. There has been the formation of a black student voice group and are well supported by faculty. An Inclusive Diversity Consultant has been hired and has worked with elementary and secondary providing guidance and professional development with staff. The creation of a google classroom with an online resource inventory gives the ability to select materials that are best used at the grade level being taught. In addition, our Board was successful in an application with the Ministry to conduct a culturally, responsive and relevant pedagogical inquiry. Currently three Sarnia schools are involved to learn from the students what is important to them in feeling safe in their schools. Information regarding the International Day to Elimination of Racial Discrimination has been added in the newsletter that Director Howitt has created to all LKDSB staff. The Inclusive Diversity Consultant distributes a monthly newsletter with different themes.

Superintendent McKay confirmed there has not been budget information provided by the Ministry which means the upcoming meeting in April will be cancelled. Budget information will be shared with Trustees when available.

Notices of Motion

“That the LKDSB advocate for our staff and students by sending a letter to the minister of education, calling on the province to allow vaccine choice.”

Announcements

There may be a need for a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at noon by teleconference.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The location is to be determined.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

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Chair of the Board

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Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board