
PRESENT:	
Trustees:	Chair Jane Bryce, Ruth Ann Dodman, Dave Douglas, Jack Fletcher, Bob Murphy, Shannon Sasseville,
Student Trustee	Cole Anderson and Brittany McLaren
Staff:	Director of Education Jim Costello, Superintendent of Business Brian McKay, Superintendents of Education, Joy Badder, Dave Doey, Mike Gilfoyle, Gary Girardi, Taf Lounsbury and Phil Warner
Regrets:	Trustees Randy Campbell, Elizabeth Hudie, Tom McGregor, Lareina Rising, Vice-Chair Scott McKinlay
Recording Secretary:	Trish Johnston, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer
Call to Order:	Chair Bryce called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Trustee Murphy served as Acting Vice-Chair for the Meeting.
#2016-43 Approval of the Agenda Feb/23/2016	Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Shannon Sasseville, "That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting Public Session of February 23, 2016 be approved." <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
Declaration of Conflict of Interest:	No declarations of conflict of interest were issued.
#2016-44 Approval of Minutes Feb/9/2016	Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Dave Douglas, "That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 9, 2016." <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
Business Arising	Director Costello explained that he will be contacting Jon Milos from Lambton College Enactus upon Jon's return from Zambia at the end of February 2016 for an update on the school to be constructed there with funds raised by the LKDSB Student Senate.
#2016-45 Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board	Moved by Bob Murphy, seconded by Jack Fletcher, "That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board." <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
Delegations: RDHS-Community Committee regarding the Proposed ARC Phase involving Ridgetown District High School	Susan Litwin thanked the Trustees for their time. She explained that she and Jim Brown are the Co-Chairs of the RDHS-Community Committee. She advised that the Committee was developed because they were included in the eight phases of the proposed Accommodation Reviews. Committee members include parents, community members and a Delaware First Nation representative. She acknowledged that they are not under review yet. They know that the Trustees have not acted on the recommendations or phases yet. They know that enrolment and finance are the two main factors behind the proposed ARC phases; that the LKDSB is interested in replacing schools with a high Facility Condition Index (FCI) and that status quo in South/East Chatham-Kent is not an option. She outlined the four requests of the RDHS-Community Committee. She advised that they would like the LKDSB to proceed with the ARC as soon as possible because RDHS is under a cloud. The uncertainty causes distress for students who think there is no future at RDHS. They are looking at other options rather than RDHS so the numbers at RDHS could go down. She commented that teachers may choose to look for another job as well. She commented that the vitality of the school could

be lost. She referred to the LKDSB Capital Plan and the Pupil Accommodation Report both of which do not account for the fact that the Grade 7 and 8 students are at RDHS. They are concerned that that is a misrepresentation of enrolment in the school. She suggested that the LKDSB convince the government to recognize the elementary students in the building. She encouraged Trustees, before voting to establish an ARC regarding the consolidation of the Ridgetown and Blenheim area schools, to reconsider the current proposal and ensure that the ARC is based on the best proposal possible. They do not believe it is the best. She asked Trustees, when consolidating schools in South/East Chatham-Kent, to not be limited by the framework of the past, solving the puzzle by simply moving whole pieces based on existing catchments. She asked Trustees to consider a re-design for the entire region affected (Tilbury-Chatham-Blenheim-Ridgetown). She presented maps of the proposed consolidation in Blenheim and a proposed consolidation in Ridgetown. She proposed that an alternative re-design option, closing Blenheim District High School and sending South/East Chatham-Kent secondary students to high schools in Tilbury, Chatham and Ridgetown would be more efficient and inclusive, providing all students with at least one high school option within a reasonable distance. This alternative would increase enrolment levels at multiple schools and would not require new school construction. The Board could move all W.J. Baird Public School students into Harwich-Raleigh Public School. LKDSB could seek a Capital Priorities Grant to build a K-12 school in Tilbury (instead of Blenheim) to address Tilbury District High School's very high FCI. She advised that this broad-based alternative considers enrolment, finance and student well-being. High school students at a school in Ridgetown would benefit from the completion of the Ridgetown Community Sports Field, the Board's recent investment of over \$4 million in RDHS, and its close proximity to the University of Guelph-Ridgetown Campus. The older classroom-portion of the RDHS building could eventually be replaced to reduce the school's FCI, and there is adequate room for expansion, if necessary. She commented on the current travel distances and future travel distances under the proposal for students living in Moraviantown. She commented on the relationships made with the students at Naahii Ridge Public School. She explained that the presentation is not intended to provide the complete argument for changing the consolidation proposal for the Blenheim-Ridgetown area schools and invited staff to meet with them to discuss their ideas. A copy of Susan Litwin's presentation is attached to the Minutes.

Questions from the Public

Mary Ethier referred to the questions posed by Keith Wyville during his delegation to Board at the February 9, 2016 Board Meeting in Chatham and asked what was the process for selecting community representatives to serve on the ARC and for selecting students to serve on the ARC.

Superintendent Girardi explained that the task was given to school principals. The selection is usually done by working with the schools councils and student councils. Parent, student and community members are individuals who are involved in the school and active within the school community. This was the approach taken with the four schools involved in the current Accommodation Reviews.

Jim Brown referred to the information provided to the Board by the RDHS-Community Committee and stated that there was more information they needed to consider prior to making any decisions and questioned what would the process be after tonight regarding the information received from the Committee.

Director Costello advised Mr. Brown to provide the additional information to himself and Superintendent Girardi and it would be reviewed by prior to making a recommendation to Board.

Mr. Brown asked if they would review the information and decide not to include

RDHS in an ARC and report back to the Committee prior to an ARC being called. Director Costello advised that this would not happen. Administration has not decided an order for the remaining proposed Accommodation Reviews. The current proposals are visions based on the data that is available now but things could change. Administration would have to present an Initial Staff Report to the Board which would have to be approved by the Board to commence future Accommodation Reviews. Director Costello noted that Susan Litwin's report was well done and that the information would be considered.

2016/2017 School Year
Calendar

Superintendent Lounsbury advised that the draft 2016/2017 school year calendar was posted on the LKDSB website. She explained that Administration is requesting a modified calendar that would include a change in the Christmas Holiday. On the proposed modified calendar, the last day of school would be held on December 23 rather than December 16. This proposal is supported by the coterminous school board, unions, administrators and members of the Parent Involvement Committee. Many other school boards are requesting the same calendar. The Ministry deadline for submission of modified school calendars is March 1, 2016.

The following charts outline the possible organization of this calendar.

Statutory/School Board Designated Holidays:

September 5, 2016	Labour Day
October 10, 2016	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
December 26, 2016 to January 6, 2017	Christmas Break
February 20, 2017	Family Day
March 13 to 17, 2017	March Break
April 14, 2017	Good Friday
April 17, 2017	Easter Monday
May 22, 2017	Victoria Day

Possible P.A. Days:

Friday, September 30, 2016
Friday, October 28, 2016
Friday, November 25, 2016
Friday, February 3, 2017
Friday, April 28, 2017
Friday, June 9, 2017
Friday, June 30, 2017

Secondary Exam Days:

Friday, January 27 – Thursday, February 2, 2017
Friday, June 23 – Thursday, June 29, 2017

EQAO Dates:

Grade 3 & 6 Testing	May 23 to June 5, 2017
Grade 9 Math -1 st Semester	January 16 to January 27, 2017
Grade 9 Math -2 nd Semester	June 5 to June 16, 2017
OSSLT	March 30, 2017

#2016-46
2016/2017 School Year
Calendar Approved

Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Dave Douglas,

“That the Board approve the 2016/2017 School Year Calendar and that this calendar be forwarded to the Ministry of Education for approval as required.”

Student Trustee McLaren clarified the examination dates. In response to Trustee Murphy's question regarding the benefits to students for the altered Christmas

break, Superintendent Lounsbury explained that in the past feedback from parents and teachers indicated a preference for the students to be off the week after the holidays opposed to the week before. Teachers believe they have more opportunity to address required curriculum while working in some of the various holiday observances.

CARRIED.

Ontario Public School
Boards' Association
Update
(OPSBA)

Trustee Fletcher reported on the February 19 and 20, 2016 OPSBA Directors' Meeting. He shared the agenda from the meeting with Trustees. Syrian new comers to Canada were discussed. The Ministry of Education has produced a guide for parents/guardians - *Guide to Pupil Accommodation Reviews*. Feedback is being obtained on the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act. Trustee Fletcher found the First Nation Director's report was very interesting. The OPSBA Director's passed a motion to open every OPSBA board meeting with an acknowledgement that the meeting is being held on traditional territory. He commented on sensitivity training for staff and trustees. He encouraged Trustees to read the EQAO assessment information, item 17 2.6 on the OPSBA Agenda he shared.

Accommodation Review
Committee Updates

Superintendent Girardi advised that the first Working ARC Meeting for the Sarnia South Secondary Schools was held at the Sarnia Education Centre on February 16 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The second public ARC Meeting is scheduled for March 8 at SCITS. Superintendents will be meeting with the staff from SCITS and SCSS this week. Public tours of SCSS took place on February 22. Tours will take place at SCITS on February 24. He reviewed the discussion items from the first Working ARC Meeting. There was good dialogue amongst the members on reflections on the first Public ARC Meeting, secondary program options, examination of suggested alternative proposals (status quo, SCSS and SCITS move to a Grade 7 to 12 model, consolidation at SCITS and turning SCSS into an elementary, closure of additional Sarnia secondary schools for a new consolidated school, LKDSB Initial Staff recommendation to close SCITS and move all the students to SCSS). At the conclusion of the discussions, ARC members chose to continue discussions on consolidation of all the students at either SCITS or SCSS at the next Working ARC Meeting.

Superintendent Girardi reported that the first Wyoming Area Schools Working ARC Meeting is scheduled for February 29, 2016 at Wyoming Public School and the second one will be held on March 31 at Wyoming Public School. Meetings with staff from both schools have been scheduled. The public walking tour for Wyoming Public School will be held on March 9 and the tour for South Plympton Public School will be held on March 10. The second Public Meeting will be held on March 23, 2016. ARC members will reflect on the first Public Meeting, review options (status quo, LCCVI becoming a Grade 7 to 12 school model, consolidating at South Plympton and closing Wyoming and the LKDSB Initial Staff recommendation to consolidate at Wyoming and close South Plympton).

Chair Bryce commented on the question and answer section on the LKDSB website for both Accommodation Reviews and commended staff on the detailed answers provided to the questions. She noted the inclusion of pictures demonstrating various conversions of gymnasiums into classrooms on the Wyoming Area Schools ARC site.

Trustee Question

Trustee Fletcher referred to the tragedy that occurred in Pickering on February 23 involving the stabbing of students by a student. Director Costello commented on the support offered to the students and staff of the Durham District School Board through their Director. On behalf of the LKDSB, he has expressed concern for the

students and staff.

#2015-47
Letter of support for
Durham District School
Board

Moved by Fletcher, seconded by Dodman

“That the Board send a letter of compassion and support to the Durham District School Board for what they are going through at this time of sorrow.”

CARRIED.

Trustee Douglas referred to the proposed funding request for \$14M to consolidation the students from SCSS and SCITS at SCSS and questioned how much it would cost to consolidate all the students at SCITS. He questioned if the Ministry would provide funding and how much longer the LKDSB could utilize SCITS.

Superintendent McKay explained that the Board would have to apply to the Ministry for a similar amount of funding to consolidate students from SCSS and SCITS at SCITS. The main difference in calculating the success of the application is the schools' FCI. In the grant application calculations, the Ministry looks at the FCI and compares it to the Ministry's threshold of 35%. SCSS's FCI is approximately 40% and SCITS's FCI is approximately 60%. SCITS's larger FCI is a consideration on the potential success of the grant application if the students were to be moved to SCITS. During a meeting Superintendent McKay had with Ministry representatives, they looked at both FCI numbers in the grant application process. The grant application scored higher for locating all the students at SCSS. The grant application score for moving all the students into SCITS was favourable but not as favourable a score as moving all the students into SCSS. There is an element of risk for grant applications. Historically, the Ministry receives about four times as many applications as there is funding available for. The consolidation of students at SCITS meets the Ministry's base line matrix but does not score as high as a consolidation at SCSS. The Ministry will not provide school boards with the information on their risk calculations. This is dependent on the number of applications they receive and how the Ministry scores the applications.

Superintendent Girardi commented that they are working on compiling 40 year long-term capital forecasts for both buildings to share with ARC members at the March 21 Working Committee Meeting. The associated financial costs will be shared at the meeting as well. The most recent asbestos reports and associated costs will be shared as well as costs associated with accessibility. The event costs for SCITS are \$52M and event costs SCSS is \$34M.

Announcements

The next Sarnia South Secondary Schools Public ARC Meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2016 at Sarnia Collegiate Institute & Technical School (SCITS), 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The next Wyoming Area Schools Public ARC Meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2016 at South Plympton School, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on March 29, 2016 at the Sarnia Education Centre, 7:00 p.m. (5th Tuesday)

The April 12, 2016 Regular Board Meeting will be held at the Sarnia Education Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment
8:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Chair Bryce declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.