

Lambton Kent District School Board

Minutes Of The Regular Board Meeting of February 9, 2016 held at the Chatham Education Centre

PRESENT:

Trustees: Chair Jane Bryce, Vice-Chair Scott McKinlay, Randy Campbell, Ruth Ann Dodman, Jack Fletcher, Elizabeth Hudie, Tom McGregor, Bob Murphy, Lareina Rising

Student Trustee Cole Anderson and Brittany McLaren

Staff: Director of Education Jim Costello, Superintendent of Business Brian McKay, Superintendents of Education, Dave Doey, Mike Gilfoyle, Gary Girardi, Taf Lounsbury and Phil Warner

Regrets: Trustees Dave Douglas and Shannon Sasseville and Superintendent Joy Badder

Recording Secretary: Trish Johnston, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer

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

#2016-37
Approval of the Agenda
Feb/9/2016
Moved by Elizabeth Hudie, seconded by Bob Murphy,
"That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting Public Session of
February 9, 2016 be approved."

CARRIED.

Declaration of Conflict of
Interest: No declarations of conflict of interest were issued.

#2016-38
Approval of Minutes
Jan/26/2015
Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Lareina Rising
"That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of
January 26, 2016."

CARRIED.

Presentations

Student Voices Equity and English Language Learners (ELL) Video presentation
Superintendent Doey introduced Itinerant Elementary Teacher for English Language Learners, Laurie Brownlee and Co-Chair of the LKDSB Equity and Inclusive Education Committee Elementary Principal Josh Alward. He explained that the idea for the video project came out of the team's support for children who are new comers to the LKDSB. Laurie explained that in her role, she completes an initial assessment with every ELL student at the elementary level throughout the district which provides students with the opportunity to tell her what they need. As part of a collaborative inquiry project, Administrators at Tilbury Area Public School and Rosedale Public School chose a couple of students and teachers at each school to participate. The Equity and Inclusive Education Committee decided to create a video to share some of the experiences from the students' perspective. The video also includes students at Chatham-Kent Secondary School. Josh Alward commented on the courage the students showed to share their suggestions on what could be done differently in our schools to welcome ELL. It is empowering to hear what the students had to offer about their experiences. Trustees viewed the video which is posted on the Board's portal with parental permission. The benefit to all students including the Syrian newcomers was noted. Director Costello commented on the number of languages LKDSB ELL students speak as their first language. Trustees thanked Laurie and Josh for their work and the work of the team.

Director of Education's
Snap Shots of Excellence
Director Costello explained that the purpose of the Snap Shots of Excellence presentation is to celebrate all the exciting things occurring across the district. He shared examples of fundraising activities for various charities and community events, international guests visiting schools, the opening of the

Flook Trail in Blenheim, Secondary High Skills Major and School-Within-A-College (SWAC) activities, international education student activities, Take Our Kids to Work placements, Remembrance Day celebrations, Anti-Bullying week activities, samples of students giving back to their communities, Habitat for Humanity Events, environmental activities, professional development activities for teachers, the Apple Distinguished Award ceremony featuring a team from Thamesville Area Central School, career open houses, holiday giving back projects, a picture of Lambton Kent Composite School graduate Dr. McCabe who successfully performed the first hand and forearm transplant in Canada, science activities, fundraising for a school in Kenya, art exhibits and Noelle's Gift Foundation donation to the Board for students in need.

Delegation

Keith Wyville thanked the Trustees for the opportunity to speak about the proposed closing of Sarnia Collegiate Institute & Technical School (SCITS). He asked Trustees to consider a series of questions in respect to the current proposal for SCITS. A copy of his presentation is attached to the Minutes. Trustee Hudie thanked Keith Wyville for his presentation.

Native Advisory Committee Report (NAC) Report B-16-27

Trustee Rising reported on the January 20, 2016 NAC Meeting hosted by Aamjiwnaang First Nation at Maawn Doosh Gumig Community and Youth Centre. Both Aamjiwnaang and Kettle and Stony Point First Nations are part of the Anishinabek Education Framework process in conjunction with the Ministry of Education. Last November's agreement reflects the commitment of the Province of Ontario and the Anishinabek First Nations to negotiate the terms of a new arrangement to support First Nation students' education in Anishinabek First Nation schools and provincial schools. The Delaware Nation is moving toward the establishment of a local education authority. Walpole Island First Nation is planning to implement year-round schooling beginning in August of this year. Trustee Rising updated the committee on the accommodation review process currently underway and indicated how feedback could best be provided. She also made note of the dual-liaison arrangement in place through the end of this year. The LKDSB Native Liaisons shared their plans for the second half of the year, which includes the release of online learning modules focusing on residential schools as well as treaty histories; follow-up support for grade five social science curriculum; and incorporating the use of iPads in Native Language programs, in addition to on-going classroom supports. NAC members are seeking feedback from their communities as part of the review of the LKDSB policy and regulations on Voluntary Self-identification for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students. NAC was informed that currently, a total of fifty courses involving Native Studies, Native Language, and Grade 9 Art courses will be offered this year.

Ontario Public School Boards' Association Update (OPSBA)

Trustee Fletcher shared a report from the South West OPSBA Regional Meeting held as part of the OPSBA Public Education Symposium. Discussions included priorities, hosting a Think Tank to explore where public education will be in 10 to 20 years and an OPSBA code of conduct. The next meeting will be held in Windsor April 8 (4:00 p.m.) and April 9. Trustee Murphy attended the Regional Meeting and provided a LKDSB update including the ARCs underway, the successful implementation of our iPad one to one deployment, LKDSB award recipients, international education, and the LKDSB's support for the First Nation curriculum. The Public Education Symposium was held in Toronto from January 28 to 30, 2016. Trustees Bryce, Douglas, Murphy, McKinlay and Sasseville attended. Chair Bryce commented on the workshop on the Ombudsman's new role in Education. She advised that there is a one day Ombudsman workshop in Toronto on February 25. Vice-Chair McKinlay noted that their role is not to question the policy of the board but to ensure the board follows the policy or if there is not a policy. If there is a local mediation process at any level, the Ombudsman Office

representatives will refer the person back to the local school board to go through the process prior to the Ombudsman Office commencing an investigation.

Parental Involvement
Committee (PIC) Report

Director Costello reported on the PIC Meeting held on February 1, 2016. James Clarke, Secondary Teacher and Lambton Kent Secondary School Athletic Association Coordinator, presented participation numbers for fall, winter and spring athletic activities for the 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 school years to date. The LKDSB, the French Language Public and Catholic Boards and Chatham Christian High School are members of LKSSAA. Amalgamation of the Chatham and Lambton Athletic Associations has contributed to participation levels remaining status quo. He will present to Trustees in September 2016. Ellie Fraser, LKDSB Mental Health Lead, provided background information on the 2012-2015 Mental Health Plan. PIC members were informed of the additional Professional Activity Day on April 15, 2016. LKDSB Administration, unions and staff are supporting a proposed modified calendar for the 2016/2017 school year that would have December 23 as the last day of school before the December break rather than the Ministry's proposed date of December 16. A modified calendar needs to be submitted to the Ministry for approval by March 1. PIC supported the modified proposal for the last day of school to be December 23. Director Costello updated PIC members on the Pupil Accommodation meetings as well as an update on the Syrian new comers in the LKDSB district. Information was shared on the changes to the Volunteers and Volunteer Drivers policies and regulations to be implemented in September 2016. LKDSB will partner with the SCCDSB to offer a collaborative parent event with Dr. Jean Clinton on May 2 and 3. The LKDSB will host a parent/community presentation at St. Clair Secondary School on the evening of May 2. The SCCDSB will host a parent/community event on the evening of May 3 at Ursuline College in Chatham. Principals from both boards will have the opportunity to hear Dr. Clinton on the morning of May 3. Director Costello agreed to investigate the suggestion to post the LKDSB draft school year calendar on the LKDSB website. The LKDSB Board and Ministry have yet to approve it.

#2015-39
Relocation of the April 12,
2016 Board Meeting to the
Sarnia Board Office

Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Scott McKinlay,

"That the Board move the April 12, 2015 LKDSB Regular Board Meeting from the Chatham Board Office to the Sarnia Board Office to accommodate the community in Sarnia regarding the ARC process.

CARRIED.

Trustee Question

Trustee Hudie referred to the Meeting of Sarnia City Council where the possibility of designating SCITS as a heritage building was discussed and questioned the impact on the ARC process. Superintendent Girardi confirmed he met with the representatives from the Sarnia Heritage Committee and they did indicate that they would be pursuing having SCITS designated as a heritage site. Superintendent Girardi is gathering information on the process and waiting for written direction from the Heritage Committee on what they plan to do next. Superintendent McKay commented on the implications for the Board if SCITS were to be designated as a heritage site. The designation could impact cost and timing on any repairs to the building. The LKDSB would have to comply with regulations enforced by the designation which could impact capital costs and increase timelines. The Heritage Committee would need time to ensure the proposed work was within the heritage requirements. Superintendent McKay confirmed that if SCITS was designated a heritage site and open, the LKDSB would have to review any plans with the Heritage Committee to ensure that the LKDSB plans were consistent with the heritage

features of the building including construction materials. The architecture would need to preserve the look as well as the actual construction products. The Heritage Committee could oversee the process to ensure the direction of a project maintained the heritage requirements of the project. He confirmed that the Heritage Committee could impact the timelines of a project as well as cost if it were to receive heritage designation. Superintendent McKay will obtain clarification regarding the Board's responsibility if SCITS was declared a heritage site and the Board voted to close the school.

In response to Trustee Rising's question about how Administration is going to ensure that the ARC members are able to evaluation all proposed options received from the community, not just Administration's, Director Costello explained that a question and answer section has been created on the LKDSB ARC website. As much information as possible is posted on-line. Two working ARC Meetings have been added to allow more time for the ARC Members to work through the information presented, consider the alternative proposals, look at all the data and provide Administration with feedback. After Administration receives the ARC members' feedback, Administration will present the Final Staff Report to the Board for information. There will be opportunities for delegations on the report at the April 12, 2016 Board Meeting. Trustees will be asked to vote on the Final Staff Report at the April 26, 2016 Board Meeting. The Final Staff Report may be amended by Administration based on feedback from ARC members and the public delegations. The working ARC Meetings are for the ARC members only. Members of the Public may attend as observers. The dates, times and locations are posted on the LKDSB website.

Director Costello will contact Enactus Lambton College to obtain an update on the status of the school being built in Zambia, Africa. The 2014/2015 Student Senate project raised \$10,000 to help build the school. Lambton College raised \$10,000 as well for the project. Early construction pictures were shared in September 2015.

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2016 at the Sarnia Education Centre beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Reconvene to Private Session

The Board Reconvened to Private Session.

Reconvene To Public Session at 9:20 p.m.

The Board Reconvened to Public Session at 9:20 p.m.

#2016-40
Motions Emanating from Regular Board Private Session

Moved by Scott McKinlay, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

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

CARRIED.

Adjournment
9:21 p.m.

There being no further business, Chair Bryce declared the meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board

Presentation to the Feb. 9, 2015 LKDSB Trustee Meeting Presenter: Keith Wyville, Sarnia, ON

Good evening Chair Bryce, Vice Chair McKinlay, Trustees, Director Costello, Superintendents, Staff

My name is Keith Wyville.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this evening about the proposed closing of Sarnia Collegiate Institute & Technical School, locally know as SCITS. I do want to acknowledge the patience of staff and Trustees who have thoughtfully responded to my questions and comments regarding the South Sarnia Secondary School consolidation issue.

I am here tonight, as a homeowner and 35 year resident of one of the older parts of Sarnia - the 'south-end.' This is the historic part of the city in which Sarnia Collegiate Institute & Technical School (SCITS) is located. This part of Sarnia has been experiencing creeping urban blight over the past few years. A hospital in the area has closed and sits boarded up. A public elementary school sits closed on three acres of land and was sold for \$50,000. A once vibrant business community (Mitton St.) now shows evidence of decay with several boarded up buildings. On the plus side, this part of the city offers affordable housing. Older residents are leaving, moving to apartments while younger couples with young families are beginning to move back into the neighbourhood again.

The 'south-end' neighbourhood in which SCITS is located, is also the closest neighbourhood to 'downtown', an area that has also faced

challenges but has most recently been in the process of rejuvenation due to a major influx of projects aimed at revitalizing the downtown. SCITS has been an anchor to the 'south-end' - I might suggest, even to the city over the years. I have often described the proposed closing of SCITS as 'the final gutting' of our south-end neighbourhood.

Let me remind you of a few things about SCITS. SCITS has the largest auditorium in the city. It is the only auditorium in any Lambton County school. (seating approx. 850-860) This auditorium is regularly used by SCITS drama classes, music classes, and Phys. Ed. dance classes. It is also rented by community groups, making the auditorium a source of revenue. Yet, it was conspicuously missing from the list of quote, 'spaces' in the original SCITS School Information Profile, page 1. Incidentally, the library, cafeteria, and even the track shed were among the 'spaces' that did make that list. *(In a recent development, the auditorium was added to the list due to work at the ARC, according to the LKDSB, ARC, FAQ site.)* As well, SCITS has the only swimming pool in any city school. Its architecture is massive, solid, and stately. No other school in Sarnia can make these claims, as most are products of the 1960's 'box-school' building spree to accommodate baby boomers.

All schools have the same maintenance and repair issues. The LKDSB has done a commendable job of maintaining these buildings. Is SCITS more expensive to operate? Of course, but it has more amenities (auditorium, pool, etc.), and it is a larger building than most.

Most recently administration has proposed closing SCITS, and within a couple years, moving the SCITS students to St. Clair High School, promising greater opportunities for students. The fate of the SCITS building will be determined 'later.'

I have a bias. I want to see SCITS remain open; however, I am also a realist. Sometimes it is inevitable that schools close, amalgamate, or new schools are built. I can accept this reality. But, like everyone in

this room, we want to make sure the decision is the right one, at the right time, and the right procedure is followed.

1. As we are all aware, an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) has been established to review Administration's proposal: Close SCITS and combine the students with those at St. Clair High School. It is my understanding that the Ministry of Education Guidelines outline the establishment of ARCs including who should be on them. Included on the ARC should be representatives of the affected student bodies, representatives of the community, parent representatives and others. Now, the following question is not intended in any way to cast negative thoughts against current ARC members. In fact, I commend them for their volunteer service and hard work. The following question is strictly about 'process.'

I am curious as to what the involvement of the community was in selecting the community reps. I also wonder what process was involved in selecting student reps.

2. It is my understanding that the decision to close SCITS was based in part on the age and condition of the school. These factors, among others, were used to 'quantify' the condition of the school. The result was, SCITS lost out to St. Clair. In my opinion, after looking at both schools (albeit from the street), I would be very concerned that something in the data was not correct. The SCITS structure appears much more solid, with little evidence of deterioration, whereas the St. Clair structure being a typical 1960s era structure, appears to be a building 'with an expiry date.' Are there issues involved with the maintenance and operation of the SCITS facility? Yes. Are there issues involved with the

maintenance and operation of the St. Clair facility? Yes. Are these problems the same problems common to any large building? I would suggest that answer is also 'yes'.

3. The Administration is presenting the Trustees with one proposal via the ARC process: Close SCITS and combine the student populations at St. Clair High School. I would suggest that more than one proposal could be developed for the ARC and Trustees to consider. For example, some interesting suggestions I have heard proposed by members of the public include, but are not limited to:
 - Close St. Clair and move all students to SCITS
 - Keep both schools open and incorporate grade 7s & 8s into each
 - Convert St. Clair into an elementary school and send all secondary school students to SCITS, thus saving the cost of a newly proposed elementary school in Sherwood Village, the same neighbourhood St. Clair High School currently serves.
4. Finally, would it not be prudent to request that Administration include with any proposal which may result in a school closure, a projection of either the costs, or revenues, expected when disposing of the closed properties?

In summary, in respect to the current proposal, I would ask the Trustees to consider:

- Are you satisfied that the impact on the 'south end' community has been given sufficient consideration?
- Are you satisfied that the members of the ARC have been selected objectively?

1. Are you satisfied that the data used is objective and accurate?
2. Are you satisfied that one proposal is sufficient?
3. Are you satisfied that there is no need to extend the scope of any proposal to include costs or revenues expected in disposing of closed school properties?
4. Are you satisfied that closing SCITS is the only option?

Thank You, Keith Wyville