

**PRESENT:**

- Trustees: Chair Elizabeth Hudie, Vice-Chair Scott McKinlay, Tom McGregor, Jane Bryce, Randy Campbell, Ruth Ann Dodman, Dave Douglas (via teleconference), Jack Fletcher, Tom McGregor, Bob Murphy, Lareina Rising (via teleconference) Shannon Sasseville
- Student Trustee Elisabeth Guthrie and Evan Rogers
- Staff: Director of Education Jim Costello, Superintendent of Business Brian McKay, Superintendents of Education, Angie Barrese, Gary Girardi, Mark Sherman and Phil Warner and Heather Hughes, Public Relations Officer
- Regrets: Superintendents of Education Helen Lane and Taf Lounsbury
- Recording Secretary: Trish Johnston, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer
- Call to Order: Chair Hudie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
Chair Hudie read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.  
The Board observed a moment of silence in honour of the Humboldt Hockey Team tragedy.
- #2018-61  
Approval of the Agenda  
Apr/10/2018  
Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,  
"That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting Public Session of April 10, 2018 be approved."  
CARRIED.
- Declaration of Conflict of Interest: None
- #2018-62  
Approval of Minutes  
Mar/27/2018  
Moved by Randy Campbell, seconded by Jane Bryce,  
"That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 27, 2018."  
CARRIED.
- Business Arising: None.
- #2018-63  
Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board  
Moved by Scott McKinlay, seconded by Jack Fletcher,  
"That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board."  
CARRIED.
- Delegation:  
King George VI Public School, Chatham, School Council regarding the Gymnasium  
- Jennifer Vandeborn, School Council  
James Sparks, School Council Representative from King George VI Public School, Chatham, presented on behalf of the School Council regarding the need for a new gymnasium for the school. He provided an overview of the school which opened in 1949. He reviewed the LKDSB projected enrolment data from 2017 to 2027 which demonstrates a steady increase that would lead to the school being over capacity. He presented a gym size comparison for the schools in Chatham-Kent noting that the King George VI Public School gym is the smallest and that it cannot accommodate all the students in the gym at one time. He commented on the impact the inadequate gym has on the students noting that the gym inhibits King George VI Public School's ability to fully adopt the LKDSB Engagement Model. He commented on the fact that the size of the gym requires staff to make modifications during gym classes. He applauded staff for their efforts to make it work. The limited size requires the school to host drama

and arts based events offsite. He concluded by stating that the school will need more classroom space in the future and proposed that the LKDSB invest in a 3500 square foot gym with a stage for the school to put it on par with other schools.

Trustee Sasseville thanked James Sparks for the presentation and the data in the report and questioned why the Parent Council believed the school was getting a new gym. James Sparks explained that they had been informed that a new gym had been on the LKDSB capital priorities list but had not made the cut in the past. They were not given a date for a new gym.

In response to Trustee Dodman's question about the need for a larger gym based on the enrolment data in the report, James Sparks explained that a 3500 square foot gym would be the minimum requirement and confirmed that the data in the report was taken from LKDSB reports.

Questions from the Public

None.

Ontario Student Trustees'  
Association(OSTA)  
Student Platform  
Report B-18-38

Moved by Dave Douglas, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,

"That the Lambton Kent District School Board unreservedly endorse the Ontario Student Trustees Association Student Platform, and that the Lambton Kent District School Board communicate the endorsement to the Minister of Education and all School Boards across the Province."

Student Trustee Guthrie explained that at the beginning of January, OSTA released a Student Platform. Titled *A Turning Point in Education*, OSTA-AECO has built a platform that reflects three fundamental pillars of a successful educational experience: Student Wellbeing, 21st Century Learning, and Equitable Access to Opportunity. She explained that within the three pillars, OSTA-AECO has developed 16 policy recommendations that will ensure Ontario's education system continues to improve while addressing urgent barriers to a quality education. Over 9,000 students from 62 District School Boards in Ontario took part in a provincial survey. It featured questions about a range of educational issues and its results solidified the foundation of the Student Platform. Recommendations include mandatory first aid, CPR, self-defense, and mental health training for students, increased per pupil funding for guidance counsellors and a call for more guidance counsellors across Ontario, ensuring the co-op credit becomes a M level (university/college preparation) course, legally enshrining the right for students to form a well-being club, council or committee in their schools, updating the funding formula to reflect school boards' transportation needs, and better mental health supports in schools. Trustees viewed the associated OSTA video that was created at the OSTA conference in February and outlines the platform priorities.

Trustee Bryce thanked the Student Trustees for their work noting that Student Trustee Guthrie was featured in the OSTA video. She noted that the Motion in Report B-18-38 was different from the Notice of Motion served at the March 27, 2018 Board Meeting by the inclusion of the word unreservedly and questioned the meaning in this context. Trustee Douglas explained that it meant without any doubt or full support. Trustee Bryce shared other definitions for the word. She suggested that Trustees need to look at what is important to the LKDSB and how the OSTA platform relates to the LKDSB Vision, Mission and Belief Statements and suggested a different word than unreservedly would be more appropriate. She referenced the transportation component of the OSTA platform and commented that, if additional funding was provided, she would prefer to invest in a shorter walk distance for primary

students rather than a ride home from a basketball game.

Trustee Sasseville questioned the use of the word unreservedly and commented on investing in CPR training versus another need. She commented that without further analysis she could not support such a broad reaching motion. She commended the efforts of the Student Trustees noting the items are important but need to be compared to the LKDSB strategic plan. Trustee Campbell asked for a definition of the term self-defense as it was written in the OSTA platform. He did not support the use of the word unreservedly. Student Trustee Rogers commented that self-defense is not just physical. It is a broad interpretation that includes other things like how a person conducts themselves on social media and suggested that individuals could come together to develop it.

Trustee Fletcher advised that he would be more supportive if the word unreservedly was removed. He commented on the importance of the document and noted that it does not necessarily mean every item in the document would be adopted by the government. The document shows the government what is important to students and that school boards support the document.

A friendly amendment was suggested to remove the word unreservedly from the Motion.

Vice-Chair McKinlay commented that it was a strong statement with the word unreservedly included. He suggested replacing the word with the word support. He noted that there were some things in the OSTA platform that would be mandatory and he had a problem with some of the items. He commended the Student Trustees for compiling the information.

Student Trustee Guthrie advised that she did review the LKDSB Belief Statements when developing the report and provided references to the specific Belief Statements. She commented that she did not think by supporting the Motion that the Board is saying that it supports every recommendation. The Board would be giving general support for the OSTA platform. She supported changing the word unreservedly to support.

Trustee Murphy suggested revising the Motion to include the statements from the OSTA platform conclusion which would see the LKDSB acknowledge the OSTA platform as a meaningful step towards bridging the gap between adult decision-makers and the students they serve.

Student Trustee Guthrie confirmed that she changed the wording in the recommendation included in Report B-18-38 from the Notice of Motion to include the word unreservedly.

Student Trustee Rogers commented on the number of students across the province who provided input into the OSTA platform. He explained that they tried to take the general ideas and these are the items students feel are important. He noted that each region has different needs. He agreed to using the word support in the Motion.

Trustee McGregor commented on his concerns with the use of the word unreservedly and preferred the word support in the Motion. He noted that some of the items in the OSTA platform are nice to do but are not very practical.

In response to Trustee Bryce's question on the intent of the distribution of the letter to all school boards or public school boards, Student Trustee Guthrie explained that public and Catholic students worked on the document and they are not issues that can be divided on a religious line as they are universal

themes. Trustee Douglas advised that the intent was for the letter to be sent to the Minister of Education and publicly funded school boards. He commented that the term self-defense in the document could also cover conflict resolution and other measures to help students to not resort to violence. He explained that the intent of the letter is not to say that the Board agrees with every word in the document but that they are good ideas and should be discussed at the senior level of the Ministry.

Trustee Rogers noted that other school boards had formally endorsed it and asked what the requirements were for having correspondence placed on the LKDSB Board Agenda. Director Costello explained that, as per the LKDSB Procedural By-laws, correspondence addressed to the Chair or Director requiring Board action will be placed on the Board Agenda.

Trustee Rising suggested that the Motion be changed to indicate that the Board unreservedly support our student trustees to advocate on behalf of their peers and that the Board endorse the student platform.

Student Trustee Rogers requested recorded vote.

Vice-Chair McKinlay explained that an amendment to a Motion cannot completely change the intent of the Motion.

Student Trustee Rogers withdrew his request for a recorded vote.

MOTION DEFEATED.

Moved by Lareina Rising, seconded by Dave Douglas.

“That the Board unreservedly support our student trustees in their desire to support student voice and advocate on the behalf of students and support the OSTA platform and that the Lambton Kent District School Board communicate the support to the Minister of Education and all school boards across the province.”

It was agreed to change the wording from student to student voice.

Trustee Murphy advised that he was not willing to support the Motion and suggested going with the statement included in the conclusion of the OSTA platform which would see the LKDSB acknowledge the OSTA platform as a meaningful step towards bridging the gap between adult decision-makers and the students they serve.

Student Trustee Rogers requested a recorded vote.

Non-Binding Vote

Evan Rogers	Yes
Elisabeth Guthrie	Yes

Binding Vote

Lareina Rising	Yes
Dave Douglas	Yes
Tom McGregor	No
Ruth Ann Dodman	No
Randy Campbell	No
Jack Fletcher	No
Bob Murphy	No
Jane Bryce	No
Shannon Sasseville	No

Scott McKinlay Yes  
Elizabeth Hudie Yes

MOTION DEFEATED.

#2018-64  
Ontario Student Trustees'  
Association(OSTA)  
Student Platform

Moved by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

“That the Board unreservedly support our student trustees in their desire to support student voice and advocate on the behalf of students. The LKDSB acknowledges the OSTA platform as a meaningful step towards bridging the gap between adult decision-makers and the students they serve and further that the LKDSB communicate the acknowledgement to the Minister of Education and all government funded school boards across the province.”

CARRIED.

Special Education  
Advisory Committee  
(SEAC) Report  
Report B-18-39

Trustee Fletcher reported on the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 22, 2018 at Wallaceburg District Secondary School. He advised that SEAC members heard an excellent presentation from Superintendent Lane, International Education Coordinator McCabe and Indigenous Lead, Mnogizhgdad on the LKDSB's work to ensure equity and support diversity throughout the LKDSB, the LKDSB International Education Program and work being done to support English Language Learners. They shared data that showed there is a 20% spread in achievement between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students and that staff are working to understand the gap and close it. Trustee Fletcher commented on the various updates provided by the SEAC Associations noting the Community Living Wallaceburg event. Superintendent Barrese advised that the Board had been invited to be part of a Provincial Project called 'Everyday Mental Health in the Classroom' that is being developed in cooperation with the Mental Health ASIST and other partners. LKDSB elementary teachers have been invited to participate in the project to provide feedback that will help redesign the project. The goal of the project is to help educators across the province to support mental health and wellness in their classrooms. It is not intended to be an add on or unit of study but strategies to use when needed in the classroom. Superintendent Barrese advised that the LKDSB Chatham-Kent Options program for developmentally delayed students has been recognized by the Ministry as a leader in the province. Administration applied for and received a grant to replicate the Options program in Sarnia Lambton. Students enrolled in the program attend St. Clair College in Chatham 2 days a week and a community co-op placement 2 days a week. The program provides the students with skills to be productive citizens in their communities. Chair Hudie invited all Trustees to attend a SEAC Meeting to learn about the wonderful things going on across the district.

Trustee Questions

Trustee Bryce commented on the excellent delegation provided by King George VI Public School and asked where the gym was on the LKDSB capital priorities list. Superintendent McKay confirmed that the gymnasium was at the top of the gymnasium capital priorities list and had been for number of years. He explained that the project competes with other priorities and noted that the LKDSB focus has been on supporting capital requirements for the school consolidations recently. School boards are only allowed to submit a number of capital requests to the Ministry each year. The project has been discussed every year as part of the capital projects list but has not been brought forward to be submitted for

possible funding. He advised that the gym is the smallest in the LKDSB system and suggested that it be discussed further during the 2018/2019 budget planning sessions. He reminded Trustees that there is now only one opportunity each year in September to submit projects to the Ministry for capital funding. Announcements are made in January.

In response to Trustee Rogers's question about how much can schools go above the on-the-ground capacity (OGT), Superintendent McKay explained that schools go over on the capacity frequently which requires portable classrooms to be placed onsite. If a school is consistently running over capacity, school boards can apply to the Ministry for funding for permanent classroom additions. The Ministry will look at the entire community and may suggest boundary changes rather than provide funding for new permanent classrooms. He advised that Administration continues to monitor the schools that are over their OTG.

Trustee Murphy referred to the link between student wellness and student achievement and commented on the rumours circulated on social media about a shooting threat to take place on April 6, 2018. He asked if the threat had negatively affected student attendance on April 6 and what strategies work well to sustain attendance during those circumstances. Director Costello commented on the overall impact the inappropriate use of social media in schools had on the schools. The irresponsible fictitious posts impacted students' safe feeling at school which impacted attendance and student achievement. Superintendent Girardi confirmed that the incident from last week moved quickly through the social media. Administration worked as quickly as possible with local police to ascertain if the information was accurate and to alleviate concerns. This social media post originated in a school under the jurisdiction of another school board. The social media post directly impacted three LKDSB secondary schools over three days and two others by Friday, April 6. He shared that the student absenteeism rate at one of the schools doubled on April 6. He advised that the best defense is communication with parent/guardians and the good relationship between the police and school boards. Principals monitor their social media sources. He advised that a number of students and parents/guardians came forward with information to help Administration coordinate discussions. Administration worked with the local police services on communications issued to the communities. He confirmed that it is a parents'/guardians' choice to keep their child home based on information available. He confirmed that the absenteeism rate for students at a particular school were 18% on March 23 and 38% on April 6 and that the rates returned to normal on April 9.

Student Trustee Rogers referred to the funding of arts programs and questioned how the Board would ensure that arts are offered equally going forward. Director Costello commented on the Chatham Rant and Rave website comment that was full of speculation and inaccuracies and confirmed that CKSS had no intention of dropping its music program or the annual musical production. Director Costello confirmed that People for Education is a strong voice for education in the province. He noted that the Ministry has shifted the required allocation of instructional minutes over the years with the recent focus on math and literacy. People for Education recently pointed out the shift and encouraged the Ministry to not forget the arts. He commented that in the LKDSB schools, there are significant co-curricular and extracurricular arts programs for students. Administration is thankful for the generosity of staff and volunteers who share their artistic talents outside of instructional time.

In response to Trustee Bryce's question about the Board providing discretionary funding to schools to purchase the copyrights to plays/musicals, Superintendent McKay explained that the legislation has changed over the years. The LKDSB now has a copyright license that covers all schools and allows schools the copyrights to plays/musicals etc.

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at the Sarnia Education Centre.

John N. Given Public School will be holding a farewell open house on May 5, 2018.

Tecumseh Public School is hosting a craft sale on May 5, 2018 to raise money for the Noelle's Gift Foundation.

The LKDSB district wide focus on the April 27, 2018 Professional Activity Day is Indigenous Education.

Adjournment  
8:50 p.m.

There being no further business, Chair Hudie declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Chair of the Board

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Director of Education and Secretary of the Board