
PRESENT:	
Trustees:	Chair Elizabeth Hudie, Acting Vice-Chair Tom McGregor, Jane Bryce, Randy Campbell, Ruth Ann Dodman, Dave Douglas, Jack Fletcher, Scott McKinlay, Bob Murphy, Lareina Rising (via teleconference)
Student Trustee	Elisabeth Guthrie and Evan Rogers
Staff:	Director of Education Jim Costello, Superintendent of Business Brian McKay, Superintendents of Education, Gary Girardi, Helen Lane, Taf Lounsbury, Mark Sherman and Phil Warner and Heather Hughes, Public Relations Officer
Regrets:	Vice-Chair Scott McKinlay, Trustee Shannon Sasseville, Superintendent of Education Angie Barrese
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. Chair Hudie read an in Memoriam for Elementary Student Ronny Betterley. A moment of silence was observed.
#2018-37 Approval of the Agenda Feb/13/2018	Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Dave Douglas, "That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting Public Session of February 13, 2018 be approved." <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
Declaration of Conflict of Interest:	None
#2018-38 Approval of Minutes Jan/30/2018	Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman, "That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 30, 2018." <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
Business Arising	None
#2018-39 Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board	Moved by Tom McGregor, seconded by Jane Bryce, "That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board." <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
Presentation:	Chair Hudie presented Past Chair Bryce with a gift as a token of the Board's appreciation for serving as Chair of the Board for the past 3 years. She noted that Trustee Bryce has served a total of 5 years as Vice-Chair and 5 years as Chair during her term as Trustee.
Questions from the Public	None.
Secondary School Well-Being Committees Report B-18-22	Moved by Dave Douglas, seconded by Jack Fletcher, "That the Board draft a policy on well-being committees in all secondary schools."
#2018-40 Policy on Secondary School Well-Being Committees	Trustee Douglas provided a definition for the term well-being. Well-being is that positive sense of self, spirit and belonging that we feel when our cognitive, emotional, social and physical needs are being met. It is a proven fact that students who have strong relationships and a positive sense of self are most

likely to reach their full potential and thrive. He noted that in the LKDSB's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy it states "Student mental health is inextricably tied to student engagement and academic achievement." He referenced the Ministry's Mental Health and Addictions strategy and noted that promoting well-being is also one of the four interconnected goals of *Achieving Excellence*, Ontario's renewed vision for education. He commented that the creation of a policy on well-being committees would not only show the Board's support for students but would also bring full circle the commitments to student achievement and their well-being. Trustee Douglas advised that currently, eleven of the twelve LKDSB secondary schools have a well-being committee. The exception is John McGregor Secondary School (JMSS). The intent of this policy is to ensure each school has a well-being committee and that no school falls between the cracks. He shared the data from the 2017 Ontario Student Trustee Association survey that showed that 70% of the students agreed or strongly agreed that every school should have a well-being committee. He referred to the pertinent sections of the Education Act on school boards' responsibility for student achievement and effective stewardship of resources that are outlined in Report B-18-22. Trustee Douglas stated that he felt that the creation of a policy to ensure that every school maintains a well-being committee would be a huge step for the LKDSB. The creation of a policy would also ensure that students have the ability to perform the work at the grassroots level where it is most needed. The policy would give these committees a greater importance and recognition and could lead to more collaboration and direction.

Student Trustee Rogers advised that as a student leader, he is proud to be able to bring this passion of his to the table. He commented that well-being is an intricate and sensitive topic. He commented on the challenges he has faced and observed others facing related to their well-being. He referred to data that shows that many students feel that not enough is being done. He commented on the opportunity to have the voices of students heard and to help drive meaningful change. He explained that he is very passionate about students and their well-being and that well-being needs a collaborative approach.

Trustee Bryce commented on the importance of a grass roots approach to any school committee.

Director Costello commented that he was of two minds on the issue. He explained that he was glad to see the issue come forward in terms of awareness and particularly glad to see that the report has been co-written by Trustee Douglas and Student Trustee Rogers. The LKDSB wants student voice in the decision making process. Director Costello explained that his concern is that the issue at hand is not within the scope of Trustee work. It is an operational issue and not one related to Trustee governance. He referred to Bill 177 and the LKDSB Procedural Bylaws regarding Administration being responsible for the day to day operation of the school system. He sees this as an operational issue. The Board cannot compel all schools to have a committee. He noted that 11 of the 12 secondary schools do have committees in place. He referenced the Ministry's document *Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario*. It has four goals - Achieving Excellence, Ensuring Equity, Promoting Well-Being and Enhancing Public Confidence. He explained that because these are so broad in scope and clearly articulated, they do not require any specific Board policy or regulation to insure implementation. He explained that well-being is defined by the Ministry as involving both students and staff and this Motion does not address staff. He shared that the LKDBS does have provisions in place to support staff wellness. He explained that having a policy does not

guarantee better implementation. Director Costello advised that there are many different initiatives in place in the secondary schools. Principals, students and School Councils are highly attuned to the issue of mental health and noted the need for them to have flexibility to address the issues in a way that best suits their school community. He shared examples of successful school based projects and Student Senate projects and encouraged a “bottom up” approach to solutions and structures and not “top down” from the Board. Director Costello encouraged Trustee Rogers to talk to the Principal of JMSS about forming a well-being committee at JMSS. He commented on the Ministry sponsored online School Climate Survey conducted by the LKDSB every two years. Over 80% of LKDSB students and staff participated in the latest one. The LKDSB Mental Health Lead and Manager of Psychological Services conduct feedback sessions at each school to share the school results. Members of the school student council are involved in the sessions. The Student Senate has made mental health their theme for the last three years. The members have worked with the LKDSB Mental Health Lead on various projects to support students. He commented on supports in place in the schools and the various clubs that operate in secondary schools to support student well-being. He commented on the LKDSB community partnerships that exist to support student well-being. Director Costello commended Trustees for wanting to make student well-being a priority and assured Trustees that it is a priority. He explained that a Board mandated committee is not necessary to insure implementation of the provincial well-being strategy.

Trustee Bryce stated that she believes that every school is a separate unique community, and that a grass roots driven approach is required for this very important issue. She commented on her experience as a Trustee and governance at the Board table. Trustees set vision and Administration takes the vision and implements it.

In response to Trustee Campbell’s question on whether or not other school boards have implemented a policy like this, Director Costello commented that he was not aware of any and acknowledged that there could be because many school boards do not follow the separation of governance as well as the LKDSB.

Trustee Fletcher commented on supporting the Motion but not getting involved in the operational side. He commented that the Motion underlines how important the Board believes this topic is. He acknowledged the work being done noting that well-being goes beyond mental health. Trustee Fletcher stated that he believed that the Motion was necessary to show that the Board supports the concept of a well-being committee in every school. It tells everyone that the Board knows there is an issue.

In response to Trustee McGregor’s question, Director Costello confirmed that it was the mandatory nature of the Motion that was problematic. Director Costello suggested that a policy on the Mental Health Strategy would be more appropriate rather than mandating schools to form well-being committees. It would be difficult to implement as the Motion is written.

In response to Trustee Murphy’s question, Director Costello explained that the difference between the proposed committee and School Council is that the Education Act mandates that each school establish a School Council and school boards are mandated to have Parent Involvement Committees and Special Education Advisory Committees. There is nothing in the Ministry’s Mental Health Strategy that says school boards or schools must have a well-being committee.

Student Trustee Guthrie commented on the importance of mental health to youth. She advised that at Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School (NCVIS) the Student Council is the well-being committee. They bring in guest speakers and plan events to support students. She commented that it would be impossible to say that a well-being committee, no matter how broad, would be the answer or the one correct way to advance the issue. She supported a school by school approach.

Trustee Dodman commented on the importance of being on top of mental health issues in schools and noted that schools are different. She commented on conversations at Student Senate Meetings about young people with mental health issues. She commented on the need for a place in each school for students to go for help and the fact that the work with students is ongoing and working well.

Student Trustee Rogers stated that he was approaching this from a non-JMSS point of view. He explained that he had spoken to the Principal of JMSS and the Principal felt that other school committees do enough. He advised that other school boards do not have a similar policy. He commented on the topic of operational versus governance and shared data on some school boards policies, including the LKDSB. He stated that approval of the Motion would reinforce the LKDSB's commitment to student achievement and well-being.

Superintendent Sherman commented on his experience as Principal at JMSS noting that every school is unique and should be able to determine how to embrace it. Schools need flexibility to meet their own needs.

Trustee Fletcher commented on his respect for the work of Senior Administration noting the Motion underlines the work being done. He does not think there needs to be a lot of regulations so there can be a grass roots approach. Passing the Motion would demonstrate that this is very important. Trustee Rogers referenced LKDSB Belief Statement 4 and commented that if formalized, the committee could reach out to community groups and involve the school council. They are trying to create meaningful change at the grass roots level.

Trustee Douglas suggested creating a one sentence policy without any regulations to let the principals decide how to implement it.

Trustee Douglas requested a Recorded Vote.

Chair Hudie commented on the importance of student well-being and mental health and referenced the sections of the LKDSB Mission, and Belief Statements as well as the Strategic Plan that emphasize the importance of student well-being.

Recorded Vote:

Non-Binding Vote

Evan Rogers	Yes
Elisabeth Guthrie	No

Binding Vote

Lareina Rising	Yes
Dave Douglas	Yes
Jack Fletcher	Yes
Randy Campbell	Yes
Elizabeth Hudie	No

Ruth Ann Dodman	Yes
Tom McGregor	No
Bob Murphy	No
Jane Bryce	No

CARRIED.

Indigenous Liaison
Committee Report
Report B-18-23

Trustee Rising reported on the January 24, 2018 Indigenous Liaison Committee (ILC) Meeting held at the Maawn Doosh Gumig Community & Youth Centre at Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Trustee McKinlay served as Chair for the Meeting. Delaware First Nation representative Zandra Bear-Lowen announced that the meeting would be her last with ILC as the Education Representative with Delaware First Nation and Brent Stonefish will take on this role in the interim. Walpole Island First Nation representative Mark Aquash indicated that Walpole Island First Nation is in the process of hiring a Director of Education. The LKDSB MISA Lead presented data on Graduation Rates, Credit Accumulation and Attendance. The Board level data included students who self-identified as First Nation, Metis or Inuit. For most small group specific data, First Nation representatives were reminded that, with proper consents in place, individualized conversations with school administration would help provide more specific information. Further information is being requested about achievement rates for those taking Indigenous courses, and designing student surveys to gain more insight into mental well-being and self-esteem of Indigenous students. ILC members were informed that the LKDSB approved the position of an Indigenous Student Trustee who will be elected by self-identified students and will begin the position in the 2018/2019 school year. Information was also shared on the Ministry funding for a new Kindergarten to Grade 12 School in Forest and funding for upgrades to Tecumseh Public School in Chatham. ILC members were informed that the LKDSB had completed an application for the Indigenous Languages fund and received three First Nation letters of support and verbal support from one First Nation. Information on the professional development plans to support Native Language teachers, the implementation of the Lenape language at CKSS for second semester, and tentative plans for the April 27, 2018 System P.D. Day, which will focus on Indigenous Education, was shared. Trustee Rising commented on the LKDSB multi-part Board Action Plan that needs to be submitted to the Ministry of Education and noted that the First Nation Representatives are working to complete the sign off components. She referred to the plans to develop the Terms of Reference for the ILC.

Student Senate Report

Student Trustee Guthrie reported on the Student Senate Meeting held on February 12, 2018 via teleconference. The main topic of discussion was the school projects planned to take place at each school between now and Education Week in May. She shared some of the student voice school focused topics noting that the schools are planning creative and engaging events. Student Trustee Guthrie advised that Director Costello extended an invitation to the Student Senators to join Trustees for dinner and dialogue prior to the Board Meetings on April 10 and 24. Information on the new Indigenous Student Trustee position was shared at the meeting and the Student Trustee election process was discussed. Student Trustee elections will take place at the Student Senate Meeting on April 24 at Wallaceburg District Secondary School. Student Trustee Rogers commented on wanting further conversation on the election process.

Parental Involvement

Director Costello reported on the Parental Involvement Committee (PIC)

Committee (PIC) Report	Meeting held on February 5, 2018. The LKDSB Technology Enriched Learning Plan (TELP) was discussed relative to the reduction in Ministry grants for the project. TELP is a one-to-one iPad project for students in Grades 7 to 10. Administration is conducting an online survey on options for the project. Over 700 responses have been received to date. Members of PIC provided feedback from their respective School Councils. Members of PIC were excited over the funding the LKDSB received for the four capital projects. Members of PIC provided input on the draft 2018/2019 school year calendar. The revised LKDSB School Council policy and regulations were supported by PIC members. Superintendent McKay will share 2018/2019 budget information with PIC members at the May Meeting. In response to Trustee Fletcher's question about the TELP survey results, Director Costello confirmed that the majority of the feedback was anecdotal and will be considered as part of the deliberations. The general ideas will be shared with Trustees. In response to Student Trustee Rogers' question regarding year-round schooling, Director Costello confirmed that year-round schooling had not been discussed during his tenure and confirmed that some school boards are considering shortening the time off during the summer months.
Financial Report 2017/2018 School Year Expenditures to November 30, 2017 Report B-18-24	Superintendent McKay presented the financial expenditures for the first quarter, September 1 to November 30, 2017. This period represents about 25% of operating expenses that occur over the school year and approximately 30 - 35% of the salary and benefit portion of the instructional operating expenses that occur over a 10 to 12-month period. He explained the variance due to the salary portion payout of the OSSTF remedy. The Ministry has not yet provided the LKDSB with the funding to cover the cost. He advised that delays have occurred with the switch to the employee benefit trusts. All staff groups will be on the benefit trust plans next year. He explained the over expenditure in Board Administration was due to the implementation cost of the School Cash On Line Project and savings in other areas would cover this cost. Implementation is behind schedule with a new target date of April 2018. He stated that overall for this reporting period, the expenditure categories are tracking well against the budget with any identified variances due to timing differences in spending.
Trustee Questions	Trustee Bryce referred to the media reports about Ontario Catholic school boards enrolling more non-Catholic students to increase enrolment in their schools and asked for the Director's comments on the topic at a future meeting and the impact on the LKDSB schools.
Announcements	The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at the Sarnia Education Centre. Chair Hudie encouraged Trustees to attend Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School's pasta dinner on February 15, 2018.
Adjournment 8:28 p.m.	There being no further business, Chair Hudie declared the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board