

PRESENT:

Trustees:	Chair Jane Bryce, Vice-Chair Randy Campbell, Greg Agar, Janet Barnes, Ruth Ann Dodman, Dave Douglas, Jack Fletcher, Brittany Jenkins, Lareina Rising and Derek Robertson
Staff:	Director of Education John Howitt, Superintendent of Business Brian McKay Superintendents of Education Angie Barrese, Ben Hazzard, Mark Sherman and Public Relations Officer Heather Hughes
Student Trustees:	Aurora Bressette, Simon Harris (via teleconference) and Byren Newcombe
Excused:	Trustee Scott McKinlay
Regrets:	Superintendents of Education Gary Girardi, Helen Lane and Mary Mancini
Recording Secretary:	Trish Johnston, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer
Call to Order:	Chair Bryce called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Chair Bryce read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.
#2020-43 Approval of the Agenda	Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Brittany Jenkins, "That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of February 25, 2020 be approved." <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
Declaration of Conflict of Interest	None
#2020-44 Approval of the Minutes Feb/11/2020	Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Greg Agar, "That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 11, 2020." <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
Business Arising	None
#2020-45 Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board	Moved by Randy Campbell, seconded by Lareina Rising, "That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board." <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
Presentations:	None
Delegations:	None
Questions from the Public	Chair Bryce referenced the sections in the LKDSB Procedural By-laws regarding Questions from the Public during Board Meetings. 3.16 persons or groups may pose questions to the Board in accordance with the following procedure: a) the questioner shall submit the question either orally or in writing to the Chair of the Board; b) the Chair or his/her designate shall answer the question if the information is immediately available or send a written reply following the meeting; and c) the questioner may ask a follow-up question for clarification. 3.17 The Board may limit the number of questioners as it sees fit. Carol-Lee Halcovitch, ETFO representative, referred to letters that other public school boards had sent to the Minister and asked if they would hear a motion

from the Board directing the Board to write a letter to the Minister to support public education.

Chair Bryce advised that on May 15, 2019 the LKDSB sent a letter to the Minister of Education with copies to the Premier, Deputy Minister of Education, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), the three local MPPs and the LKDSB Trustees. She stated that the letter speaks about the impact the proposed funding cuts would have on the LKDSB, noting the impact on rural schools with small populations and larger urban schools. The letter noted the need for all communities to have access to highspeed internet and the opportunities extracurricular activities provide for students. The LKDSB has advocated for students and staff.

Chair Bryce also shared that LKDSB Administration wrote to the Deputy Minister and provided information on the negative impacts the funding changes would have on the LKDSB. The impact of the projected reduction in elementary staffing, secondary staffing and central staffing was shared and the concerns about secondary program.

In response to Carol-Lee Halcovitch's follow up question, it was confirmed that the LKDSB did not receive a letter of response.

Debi Arseneau, CUPE representative, asked if it was possible to make decisions about weather related school closures earlier in the morning. Chair Bryce explained that decisions are made as early as possible based on weather and road conditions. Director Howitt advised that there are three types of cancellations – cancellation of buses with schools remaining open, schools closed to students but open for staff and a system closure. He indicated that the information needed to make informed decisions about bus cancellations and/or school closures is not usually available any earlier in the morning. Decisions are made as soon as all the information is available.

Appointment of the
Student Trustees for the
2020/2021 School Year
Report B-20-23

Director Howitt advised that the Student Senate met at Wallaceburg District Secondary School on February 24, 2020 and elected the three Student Trustees to serve on the Board for the 2020/2021 school year. The election was conducted in accordance with the Board's Student Trustees and Student Senate policies, regulations and administrative procedures. Candidates for the Student Trustee position submitted application packages. Each candidate delivered a brief presentation to the Student Senate outlining their interest in the position and following the presentation had an opportunity to respond to questions from the committee members.

Director Howitt announced that Aurora Bressette, from Lambton Central Collegiate & Vocational Institute, was acclaimed to the position of Indigenous Student Trustee. He advised that William Locke from John McGregor Secondary School, and Lucia Schultz-Allison, from Northern Collegiate Institute & Vocational Institute, were elected to the position of Student Trustee.

#2020-46
Election of Student
Trustees for the 2020/
2021 School Year

Moved by Lareina Rising, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,

“That the Board approve the election of Aurora Bressette,
Indigenous Student Trustee and, William Locke and Lucia Schultz-
Allison Student Trustees, for the 2020/2021 school year.”

Director Howitt confirmed that the elections are conducted during a Student Senate Meeting with just the members of the Student Senate in the room. Chair Bryce congratulated Student Trustee Bressette for being acclaimed for the 2020/2021 school year.

CARRIED.

#2020-47
Tender Award – GLSS
Roof Restoration
Report B-20-24

Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

“That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, Bullock & Sons Roofing for Great Lakes Secondary School Roof Restoration in roof areas E, E1 and F5.”

Superintendent McKay reported on the tender opening for the roof restoration project at Great Lakes Secondary School (GLSS). The project cost of \$496,909.65 will be covered by the School Condition Improvement funds. He explained that this is the first time the LKDSB is using this type of roofing technology. It involves pouring a product into the roof membranes for about half the cost. It will be used on the north west section of the building. Superintendent McKay confirmed that the LKDSB is not the first company to use this product. The company has experience with the new technology. Superintendent McKay explained the components of the design fees and confirmed that an Architect would be on site during the project.

CARRIED.

Student Senate Report

Student Trustee Bressette reported on the Student Senate Meeting held on February 24, 2020. In addition to the Student Trustee elections, Student Senators discussed plans for sharing information regarding the School Climate Survey and mental health supports. The project is coming along well. The members of the Student Senate received booklets on mental health to share with their Principals. The next meeting is on March 9, 2020 to talk about the project further.

Director of Education's
Entry Plan

Director Howitt explained that his Entry Plan began in August 2019. He outlined his Entry Plan goals: understand the LKDSB context through visits, questioning and listening to the voices of its community; learn about LKDSB processes and structures; establish rapport and trust; understand strategic directions and what they look like in action; become aware of current challenges; model open, transparent and candid conversation; familiarize staff and community with who he is and how he leads; and determine expectations for him as Director of Education.

He shared the guiding questions he asked of the individuals/groups he met with. He met with Trustees, Student Trustees, Superintendents, Managers, Supervisors, the Four First Nation Chiefs and/or Education Officers, local Members of Provincial Parliament, Mayor and Chief Administrative Officers of Sarnia and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, local Union Presidents, Principals and Vice-Principals. He also sent an email out to all staff inviting feedback and visited all LKDSB schools and Adult Learning Centres.

Director Howitt summarized the information he received through his consultations and grouped it into themes:

- Student Focused
- Staff
- Innovative
- First Nation awareness/respect/focus/initiatives
- Community
- Governance
- Inclusive

He expanded on his findings under each theme.

He noted that everyone is focused on students, regardless of their role in the LKDSB.

Director Howitt summarized the challenges he heard into themes:

- Accommodations & Enrolment
- Meeting student needs
 - Indigenous / Exceptional Pupils / High needs
 - All learners
- Financial pressures
- North / South
- Succession Planning

He expanded on his findings under each theme.

He commented that the north south issue is not evident in the Board Offices or during Board Meetings. Trustees and Senior Administration focus on all students. He noted that the divide is more evident further out from the Board Offices. Some practices date back to pre-amalgamation and may need to be reconsidered.

He outlined the priorities identified:

- Reduce excess space
- Retain students and reverse declining enrolment
- Focus on students
- Innovate
- Relationships / Morale
 - First Nation
 - Staff
 - Community

Director Howitt commented on what he learned were the expectations of him as Director of Education:

- Celebrate the good work of the LKDSB
- Open door / Accessible
- Innovate & solution based
- Stay attuned to Provincial trends
- Open communication and be visible
- Focus on learning / academics
- Honesty

Director Howitt shared his reflections:

- Extreme pride
- Welcoming
- Giving back is a norm
- Learning is visible - student and staff
- We will need to be intentional in addressing the north/south issues
- Diversity is an area we need to learn and understand better
- Partnerships are working
- Very strong senior team and Director's office staff who champion our work and are passionate about our students
- "You are going to love it here..." – and I do!

He noted that there is a narrow definition of diversity and inclusion that needs to be expanded and provided an example.

Director Howitt outlined next steps which include communicating back to the community, developing the LKDSB Strategic Plan (priorities and developing and implementing operational goals) and monitoring the success towards the operational goals. He shared that the LKDSB Vision was clear and evident everywhere and that everyone was living the LKDSB Mission. He saw evidence of adults supporting students.

In response to Student Trustee Newcombe's question about Classrooms of the Future, Director Howitt explained that implementation started two years ago, and four secondary schools have been equipped. These are collaborative spaces arranged in small group learning areas with access to technology. Plans are in place to expand to five more secondary schools.

In response to Student Trustee Newcombe's question about the time frame for eliminating the north and south divide, Director Howitt advised that the first step was to identify it and name it and start working towards addressing. Discussions have started at the Senior table. Staff need to question if it is necessary to still have representatives from the north and south or to maintain the wording in all situations. The two Board Offices contribute to the problem but building an office in a central spot or relocating to a centrally located school is not an option.

Trustee Robertson thanked Director Howitt for his presentation and noted it was helpful for first term Trustees. He commented on the north south piece and diversity and suggested that examples be provided to Trustees at the Strategic Planning session to help guide discussions.

Chair Bryce commented that Trustees are elected from different regions of the district and Student Trustees are elected from areas/regions of the district (north/south) to ensure fair student representation of the district.

Trustees thanked Director Howitt for his Entry Plan Report.

Financial Expenditures
2019/2020 School Year to
November 30, 2019

Superintendent McKay presented the summary of the financial expenditures for the period September 1 to November 30, 2019. For this reporting period the expenditure categories are tracking well against the budget with any identified variances due to timing differences in spending. He noted that last year the snow removal account was over budget and this year it is the grass cutting account. Superintendent McKay noted that school generated funds are showing on the financial report for the first time.

Trustee Question

Trustee Robertson referred to the question from the public regarding the LKDSB letter to the Minister and the lack of a response.

#2020-48
Board to send another
letter to the Minister re
concerns with funding
changes

Move by Derek Robertson, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

"That the LKDSB send a similar piece of correspondence to the Minister of Education that expresses the LKDSB concerns in a manner similar to the May 19, 2019 correspondence and ask for a response."

CARRIED

Announcements

Trustee Fletcher announced that the OPSBA documents Teacher Supply and Demand Report and Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium April 2020 would be shared with Trustees via email. He advised that he would be providing an electronic report as well on the OPSBA Board of Directors Meeting.

Trustee Fletcher reminded Trustees of the OPSBA Regional Meeting scheduled for March 28, 2020. The LKDSB is hosting Trustees from Avon Maitland, Bluewater, Greater Essex County and Thames Valley District School Boards as well as the John McGivney Children's School Authority. The meeting will be held at Tecumseh Public School in Chatham. He encouraged Trustees and Student Trustees to attend.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m. at the Sarnia Education Centre.

The Trustee Strategic Planning session is scheduled for March 6, 2020 beginning at 8:30 am. Director Howitt advised that information would be sent to Trustees to review prior to the event as well as a copy of the Director's Entry Plan.

Adjournment
8:12 p.m.

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Bryce declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board