

PRESENT:

- Trustees: Chair Jane Bryce, Vice-Chair Randy Campbell, Greg Agar, Janet Barnes, Ruth Ann Dodman, Dave Douglas, Jack Fletcher, Brittany Jenkins, Scott McKinlay, Lareina Rising and Derek Robertson
- Staff: Director of Education John Howitt, Superintendent of Business Brian McKay
Superintendents of Education Angie Barrese, Gary Girardi, Ben Hazzard, Helen Lane, Mary Mancini, Mark Sherman and Public Relations Officer Heather Hughes
- Student Trustees: Aurora Bressette, Simon Harris and Byren Newcombe
- 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.
- #2020-19
Approval of the Agenda Moved by Scott McKinlay, seconded by Brittany Jenkins,
"That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of January 14, 2020 be approved."
CARRIED.
- Declaration of Conflict of Interest None
- #2020-20
Approval of the Minutes Nov/26/2019 Moved by Lareina Rising, seconded by Greg Agar,
"That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 26, 2019."
CARRIED.
- #2020-21
Approval of the Minutes Dec/3/2019 Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,
"That the Board approve the Minutes of the Organization Board Meeting of December 3, 2019."
CARRIED.
- Business Arising None
- #2020-22
Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board Moved by Randy Campbell, seconded by Derek Robertson,
"That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board."
CARRIED.
- Presentations: None
- Delegations: None
- Questions from the Public None
- #2020-23
LKDSB Practice Regarding Student Trustee Participation in Private Session Meetings and Distribution of Private Session Material Report B-20-04 Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Greg Agar,
"That the Board confirm the current practice of the LKDSB of not providing Private Session Board Agenda packages to Student Trustees and excluding Student Trustees from Private Session when the subject under consideration involves, individual student issues, disciplinary matters involving students and staff, personnel matters, negotiations and land negotiations."

Chair Bryce advised that the Board of Trustees regularly and cyclically reviews policy and regulations to ensure they continue to align with the Strategic Plan, Ministry Guidelines and current legislation. Occasionally Board practices are also reviewed to ensure alignment. She explained that the practice of Student

Trustee attendance in Private Session had recently been questioned and the Chair and Vice-Chair felt it warranted a review. Chair Bryce referred to the LKDSB By-law section 7 regarding Student Trustees as well as the LKDSB Student Trustee Regulations. She reviewed the practice of Student Trustees casting non-binding votes and having their votes recorded in the Board minutes. She explained the practice of the LKDSB is to have Student Trustees attend Private Session Board Meetings as per the Education Act. Student Trustees are entitled to attend meetings closed to the public with the exception of those defined in the Education Act in Subsection 55 (5) regarding clause 207 (2) (b) the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect to a member of the Board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian. Student Trustees do not receive copies of the Private Session Agenda package or Minutes. This practice has been reviewed periodically over the years and has been supported by the Board of Trustees. Chair Bryce commented on the last review and the Parliamentarian's review of the practices of the LKDSB.

Chair Bryce advised that Director Howitt surveyed some school boards regarding their practice of sharing private session information with Student Trustees and Student Trustees attendance at Private Session Meetings. The findings of the review demonstrated inconsistency from no attendance and no sharing of information to similar practices of the LKDSB.

Chair Bryce advised that a Student Trustee contacted the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) regarding the LKDSB practice. The OPSBA Executive Director confirmed that Student Trustees would be excluded as per the Education Act: "... when the subject under consideration involves, (b) the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian..." She explained that this topic was discussed at the Agenda Review Meeting on January 8, 2019 and the recommendation contained in Report B-20-04 was developed for consideration to confirm the practice of the Board.

Trustee Rising questioned if the Student Trustees could be provided with a generic private session agenda without any sensitive information and suggested rewording the recommendation to be more inclusionary. Chair Bryce advised that a generic private session agenda can be found in the LKDSB By-laws. Director Howitt confirmed that the LKDSB is consistent with the Education Act and LKDSB regulations. Chair Bryce confirmed the information that could not be shared with Student Trustees.

Moved by Lareina Rising, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

"That the motion be amended to read "That the Board confirm the current practice of the LKDSB of not providing a Private Session generic version Board Agenda as per the LKDSB By-laws packages to Student Trustees and ~~ex~~ including Student Trustees ~~from~~ in Private Session except when the subject under consideration involves, individual student issues, disciplinary matters involving students and staff, personnel matters, negotiations and land negotiations."

Trustee Robertson called point of order. The current practice of the Board is not to provide a private session agenda to Student Trustees.

Trustee Rising commented that since the generic Board Agenda for Private Session is available in the LKDSB By-laws, it is the current practice of the Board.

Trustee McKinlay advised that at this point in time, Student Trustees are not provided with anything for private session so it would be a change in practice.

Chair Bryce ruled the amendment to the motion was out of order.

Chair Bryce provided rationale for the current practice of including Student Trustees in Private Session Board Meetings and when they are excluded noting that the practice has served the Board well.

Moved by Lareina Rising, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman

“That the motion be referred back to Administration.”

MOTION DEFEATED.

Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the motion be amended to strike out negotiations and land negotiations as per the Education Act.”

Trustee Robertson commented that the issue is about risk and liability regarding the governance of the corporation. The elected Trustees are responsible and accountable for managing risk and liability. He did not support the amendment.

Student Trustee Harris commented on the section of the Education Act that requires Student Trustees to be excluded from closed meetings. He quoted the Education Act, Subsection 207 (2) (b) *the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect to a member of the Board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian*. He commented that this wording entitles Student Trustees to be present for land negotiations and negotiations.

Trustee Douglas spoke in favour of the original motion. Trustee McKinlay noted that negotiations and land negotiations are financial in nature and supported excluding the Student Trustees. He advised that he is excused from Private Session during CUPE negotiations because his daughter is a member of CUPE. He supported the current LKDSB practice.

Trustee Rising commented that as per the specific parameters in the Education Act, it does not sound like Student Trustees need to be excluded for negotiations and land negotiations. Trustee Barnes questioned if the LKDSB was in compliance with the Education Act. Director Howitt clarified that the Board put a regulation in place that complies with the Education Act and goes further than the Education Act. He commented on the results of the survey he conducted with some Directors of other school boards. Some do not include the Student Trustees in private at all. Some do include the Student Trustees during negotiations and land negotiations and others follow a practice similar to the LKDSB practice.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT DEFEATED.

Moved by Lareina Rising,

“That the motion be amended to strike the words current and land negotiations and negotiations.

Trustee Robertson noted that the Board had already discussed and voted on this amendment. Chair Bryce concurred and clarified that the LKDSB Student Trustee Regulations reference the Education Act, not the LKDSB By-laws.

#2020-24
Call the Vote

Moved by Randy Campbell, seconded by Dave Douglas,
“That a vote be called on the original motion.”

CARRIED.

A recorded vote on the main motion was requested.

Non-Binding Vote

Student Trustee Harris	No	
Student Trustee Bressette	No	
Student Trustee Newcombe		Abstained

Binding Vote

Janet Barnes		Yes
Jack Fletcher	No	
Greg Agar		Yes
Dave Douglas		Yes
Ruth Ann Dodman	No	
Brittany Jenkins	No	
Lareina Rising	No	
Derek Robertson		Yes
Scott McKinlay		Yes
Randy Campbell		Yes
Jane Bryce		Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

#2020-25
LKDSB Policy on *In Grade Retention of Students*
Report B-20-05

Director Howitt advised that the LKDSB policy *In Grade Retention of Students* had been reviewed as part of the LKDSB cyclical review. The policy statement continues to reflect the philosophy of the LKDSB. Changes are not recommended.

Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Janet Barnes,

“That the Board approve the review of the policy on *In Grade Retention of Students*.”

Director Howitt clarified that in-grade retention means repeating the same grade.

CARRIED.

#2020-26
LKDSB Policy and Regulations on *Provision of Accessible Student Transportation Services*
Report B-20-06

Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,

“That the Board approve the review of the policy and revised regulations on the *Provision of Accessible Student Transportation Services*.”

Director Howitt advised that the LKDSB policy and regulations on the *Provision of Accessible Student Transportation Services* have been reviewed as part of the LKDSB cyclical review. The policy statement still reflects the philosophy of the LKDSB. Changes to the policy are not recommended. The regulations were updated to reflect the current practice. The Manager of Student Transportation Services provided input on the proposed revisions.

Director Howitt confirmed that this policy and regulations deal only with accessible student transportation. The Ontario Human Rights Code requires school boards to make exceptions for students with accessibility issues. Superintendent Barrese explained the provisions in place to accommodate students throughout the school year.

CARRIED.

#2020-27
LKDSB Policy on
*Donations, Sponsorships
and Partnerships*
Report B-20-07

Moved by Scott McKinlay, seconded by Randy Campbell,

“That the Board approve the review of the policy on *Donations, Sponsorships and Partnerships.*”

Director Howitt stated that the LKDSB policy on *Donations, Sponsorships and Partnerships* had been reviewed as part of the cyclical review. Changes are not recommended to the policy statement. It continues to reflect the philosophy of the LKDSB. He noted that Administration may be making changes to uniform sponsorships as part of the *Advertising* regulations.

CARRIED.

#2020-28
Tender Award – Roof
Guard Rails
Report B-20-08

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, Elric Contractors of Wallaceburg Inc. to supply and install roof guard rails at twelve schools.”

Superintendent McKay presented the tender report for the installation of guard rails at twelve schools. The cost of \$131,710.06 will be covered by the School Renewal budget. He confirmed that safety regulations have changed resulting in the need to install guard rails.

CARRIED.

Indigenous Liaison
Committee Report
Report B-20-09

Trustee Rising reported on the November 27, 2019 Indigenous Liaison Committee (ILC) Meeting held in the Harriet Jacob Center at Wallaceburg District Secondary School (WDSS). She commented on the great opportunity the meetings provide for information sharing presentations. She noted the presentation provided by the Principal of WDSS on the Grade 7 to 12 program including student achievement data regarding reading, writing and math. Trustee Rising clarified the reference in the report to students being removed from a course after 15 consecutive days absence without contact. Staff and the community do a lot of work to support students prior to this step. The staff and community offer help and supports to students.

Special Education
Advisory Committee
Report
Report B-20-10

Trustee Barnes reported on the Special Education Advisory Committee Meetings (SEAC) held on November 21 and December 12, 2019. She commented on the quality of the presentations provided to the members of SEAC. Topics included Social Skills Program, Trauma, Student Transportation and Special Education Law.

LKDSB Director’s Annual
Report
Report B-20-11

Director Howitt presented the Director’s Annual Report for 2018/2019. He thanked the team for developing the report. The report reflects the incredible work done during the 2018/2019 school year. It outlines the activities undertaken to achieve the LKDSB strategic priorities as well as ongoing efforts to enhance student achievement and wellness. He noted the examples of engagement throughout the report. The Director’s Report will be submitted to the Ministry of Education and posted on the LKDSB website by January 31.

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 7:00 p.m. at the Sarnia Education Centre.

The Parent Involvement Committee is hosting an evening with Life Coach, Dr. Karyn Gordon on April 30, 2020. The location has yet to be determined.

Adjournment
8:36 p.m.

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Bryce declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board