

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 and 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. and explained that the Board Meeting was being held via teleconference which was allowed because the Ministry of Education and the Government of Ontario introduced new legislation allowing for Board Meetings to occur electronically. Regulation 463/97 was amended by Regulation 42/20 and removes the requirement for any persons to be physically present at electronic meetings if all schools have been closed by the Minister, the Medical Officer of Health or Cabinet.
Chair Bryce explained the voting process for the electronic meeting.
Chair Bryce read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.
- #2020-73
Approval of the Agenda Moved by Brittany Jenkins, seconded by Jack Fletcher,
"That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of May 26, 2020 be approved with the addition of an oral report on the OPSBA."
CARRIED.
- Declaration of Conflict of Interest None
- #2020-74
Approval of the Minutes May/12/2020 Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Scott McKinlay,
"That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 12, 2020."
CARRIED.
- Business Arising None
- #2020-75
Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board Moved by Randy Campbell, seconded by Greg Agar,
"That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board."
CARRIED.
- Presentations: None
- Delegations:
- Questions from the Public Chair Bryce advised that members of the public may submit questions they wish to have asked at the Board Meeting by noon on the day of the meeting via email to trish.johnston@lkdsb.net. The Chair or a member of Senior Administration will answer the question at the Board Meeting if the information is immediately available or a written reply will be sent following the meeting. No questions were received.
- International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (IDAHOTB) Trustee Fletcher and Student Trustee Harris served a Notice of Motion on May 12, 2020.

Report B-20-49

Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Brittany Jenkins,

“That the Lambton Kent District School Board annually observe the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOTB) on May 17, and, in the event of a weekend or Board-recognized holiday, observe the date within schools on the next immediate school day.”

Trustee Fletcher referred to the rationale in Report B-20-49. Chair Bryce explained the need for Student Trustees to have an elected Trustee sponsor their motion to bring it to the floor. Student Trustee Harris explained that the motion comes from a personal standpoint for him as a Queer Student Trustee and he spoke about the impact Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia have on the student population. The intent of the motion was questioned whether the recommendation was for the Board of Trustees to observe the day during a Board Meeting or was the intent that the day would be widespread recognition in the schools. Trustee Rising suggested including wording that would direct Board Administration to come up with a plan to observe the day within schools. Trustee Fletcher thought there would be something happening on the day in the schools. Student Trustee Harris supporting adding clarification to the recommendation.

Director Howitt explained that if the intent was to change the motion that would be considered more than a friendly amendment and it would require a motion duly moved and seconded.

Chair Bryce confirmed that the motion could be divided but it would need a mover and a seconder, could not be debated and a majority vote to pass. Trustee Robertson stated that the motion could not be split until it was amended. Chair Bryce ruled that the motion could be divided.

#2020-76
Split the Motion

Moved Lareina Rising, seconded by Brittany Jenkins,

“That the Board split the motion after the words May 17 with wording added to the second motion for clarification. “

CARRIED.

#2020-77
LKDSB to observe the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOTB) on May 17.

Moved by Scott McKinlay, seconded by Lareina Rising,

“That the Lambton Kent District School Board annually observe the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOTB) on May 17.

CARRIED.

Director Howitt confirmed that the onus was on Administration to implement the motion and that the second half of the motion was not necessary. He referenced the other days and weeks Administration directs schools to observe and celebrate. Student Trustee Harris and Trustee Fletcher agreed that the second part of the original motion was not necessary. It was agreed that the second half of the original motion did not need further action.

Chair Bryce thanked Student Trustee Harris for bringing the motion forward.

Policy and Regulations –
Use of the Lambton Kent District School Board Logo
Report B-20-50

Director Howitt advised that the LKDSB policy and regulations on *Use of the Lambton Kent District School Board Logo* have been reviewed as part of the LKDSB cyclical review. He noted that there is significant pride in the LKDSB logo. The policy and regulations have been revised to reflect current language and strengthen the LKDSB brand. The regulations have been updated to define the modified acceptable versions of the logo to be used in specific instances, like

social media. The official colours and typography of the LKDSB are now included in the regulations. Director Howitt acknowledged the work of Public Relations Officer Hughes.

#2020-78
Policy and Regulations on
Use of the Board Logo
Approved

Moved by Scott McKinlay, seconded Ruth Ann Dodman,

“That the Board approve the revised policy and regulations on the *Use of the Lambton Kent District School Board Logo.*”

CARRIED.

#2020-79
Policy and Regulations on
*Philosophy of Special
Education*
Report B-20-51

Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Derek Robertson,

“That the Board approve the revised policy and regulations on *Philosophy of Special Education.*”

Superintendent Barrese advised that the policy and regulations on *Philosophy of Special Education* have been reviewed as part of the LKDSB cyclical review. The policy statement has been revised to reflect the Board’s philosophy to better capture the focus for all students. The regulations were updated to reflect the current process used to engage with families and meet the needs of the whole student. The documents have been reviewed and supported by the members of the LKDSB Special Education Advisory Committee.

CARRIED.

Report on the Ontario
Public School Boards
Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Fletcher reported on the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) Directors’ Meeting. Trustees will be receiving the minutes of the meeting and noted that the items had been shared in the recent OPSBA Connects Report. They discussed the Ministry’s plan for the voluntary redeployment of school board staff to the health care sector during school closures and the ways in which the Ministry is increasing communications with school boards, including weekly meetings with school board Chairs. The mental health issues students are facing due to distance learning is a high priority for OPSBA. OPSBA is taking part in a research project with a focus on equity of access to K-12 education as a result of the pandemic. They will be sending out a survey to school boards regarding the impact of COVID-19. He noted that there are issues around WSIB in terms of money school boards have to contribute for staff compensation.

Parent Involvement
Committee Report (PIC)

Director Howitt reported on the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting held on May 11, 2020. Superintendent McKay attended and provided an overview of the budget process, priorities and how funds are generated. Budget details are not available because the Ministry has not released the Grants for Student Needs (GSN). The Parent Reaching Out Grants (PRO Grants) were not able to be spent this year due to the school closures. Directors are advocating for the funds to be carried forward into the 2020/2021 school year. Director Howitt advised that he updated the group on the Thoughtexchange survey with parents and families. Superintendents Hazzard and Mancini attended to obtain input on how the learning at home was going for students and families. He commented that he is very proud of the work staff are doing. He has received many unsolicited emails from parents/guardians about the work of staff. Director Howitt shared the new Strategic Priorities with PIC members and informed them that they would be invited to participate in a Thoughtexchange survey to provide input on how to implement them. The PIC Co-chairs participated in the teleconference with the Minister of Education. The PIC parent event has been cancelled for the spring and they are discussing plans for possible virtual events.

LKDSB Staff Supported
Student Learning during
COVID-19 School
Closures
Report B-20-53

Director Howitt updated Trustees on the ways the LKDSB staff are working to facilitate staff supported learning for students remotely on every level. They are putting in significant hours to support students.

Communications

- Launched a Thoughtexchange Survey to obtain feedback from students in Grades 7 to 12 on the continuity of learning. 1,123 students participated. Lack of motivation for various reasons was a common thought shared. Many students are thriving and enjoying the experience. Students are missing their friends. Staff are missing students.
- Communicated the Minister's announcement regarding schools remaining closed until June 30 to the LKDSB community.
- The Staff Weekly Newsletter has been well received.
- Continue to use the LKDSB website, school websites, School Messenger, Twitter and email to share important information in a timely manner continues.
- All of the communications can be found at <https://www.lkdsb.net/Board/Community/PublicHealth/Pages/default.aspx#/=>
- The LKDSB Emergency Response Committee continuing to meet.
- The Equitable and Inclusive Education Discussion Group continues to meet weekly.

Elementary Education

- Elementary Continuity of Learning Committee continues to meet.
- Elementary teachers are reaching out to each family to find their preferences for Phase 3: Remote Learning and this will be used to provide learning that meets students' needs.
- Elementary Office Hours continue to be well attended by teachers and Early Childhood Educators.
- Short teacher tip videos are being posted on social media platforms to provide ideas for educators that they can use with their students.
- Elementary principals meet twice each week to share ideas that are working well, and learn from other LKDSB staff like Information Technology, Special Education and Program.
- Continuing to work with our First Nation Partners to support students in various ways.
- Developing protocol for families to access schools to obtain students' personal belongs.

Secondary Education

- Created an SHSM website to support students by providing opportunities for certifications, experiential learning and reach ahead opportunities
- Many secondary schools are honouring graduating students in creative ways – for example creating virtual PowerPoint presentations, collecting and posting inspiring grad messages, etc.
- Many secondary schools are hosting virtual athletic banquets as well as finding other ways to honour athletes
- Planning underway to provide Grade 8 to 9 transition opportunities for students entering Grade 9. These include Google Classrooms and Virtual Grade 8 – 9 Information Nights.

- Summer Dual Credit Program through Lambton College supports continued credit attainment for students
- Distribution of second round (May 4 – May 29) of paper-based learning materials for students
- Letter to secondary parents outlining continuity of learning supports and a reminder to get in touch with school principal for support
- Continue to work with English Language Learners to support their needs.
- Continue to work with First Nations partners to support students.
- Developing protocol for students to access schools to obtain their personal belongs.
- Launched a Thoughtexchange on May 15 for secondary students to provide feedback on continuity of learning.
 - asked students “As we continue with learning at home what are your challenges, successes, questions and/or suggestions?” We had about 700 secondary students participate.
 - The feedback they provided told us a few key things:
 - A weekly plan should be posted each Monday so students can plan out their week (many of them are working in addition to being in school)
 - Too much work is being posted for students to complete
 - Learning at home is challenging for many reasons – lack of motivation, too many distractions, lack of timely support and feedback, lack of peer support, addition responsibilities at home, etc.
 - Graduating students are feeling a sense of loss because they did not know when they left school on March 13 that they would not be returning to school before the end of the year.
 - We value student input and are acting on this feedback! Teachers have been asked to post a weekly plan of activity for each course so students can schedule their week. Many teachers are surveying their students regularly to gauge how long it is taking students to complete assignments and tasks in their courses, and they are adjusting the workload in response to student input. Also, teachers and support staff are providing student support through office hours, email and phone calls. Students are encouraged to reach out to teachers, guidance counsellors or Principals if they need additional support. And finally, school staff are working diligently to find creative ways to celebrate the accomplishments of graduating students. Graduating students should not be disadvantaged because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Supporting Exceptional Students

- The revised Identify, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) process is progressing well.
- The Preschool Intake process is in progress to welcome our new Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) students to the LKDSB.
- Transition planning to support Grade 8 students moving to secondary school continues.

Mental Health Supports

- LKDSB Mental Health Leader and Manager of Psychology are being trained on the newest provincial suicide protocol.
- Social workers and psychologists are providing office hours.

Distribution of Devices to Students

- Phase 3 of distribution of devices to students planned.

Summer Learning

- The LKDSB annually offers summer learning programs for students. Administration had plans in place to offer summer programs. With the Minister of Education's announcement on May 19, 2020 Administration will be expanding program offerings. A summary of plans to date was shared. Potential for face-to-face but more likely online. Planning to flex between the two models as required. New programs are being offered like courses to upgrade credits.

Director Howitt advised that both the local Medical Officers of Health have signed off on the LKDSB protocol for students to pick up their belongs that were left at schools. School health and safety inspections will be completed this week to allow for school staff to go into the schools next week to organize student belongs. There is an approved protocol for this process as well. Families will be required to sign up to attend their school at a specific time to retrieve the items.

Director Howitt explained that graduation ceremonies for Grade 12, 8 and some 6 students are being organized at the school level. Superintendents Hazzard and Mancini are working with the principals. Principals are obtaining input from students, families and staff. The goal is to recognize the students in June. For secondary students this would be followed up with some sort of ceremony in the fall. Ideas continue to evolve.

Director Howitt confirmed that the annual June Employee Recognition Evening had been cancelled due to the school closures. He sends cards to all retirees and schools are looking to celebrate the retirements in some way.

Trustee Questions

Director Howitt confirmed that the Ministry of Education is looking at options for the reopening of schools in September 2020. He explained that the Ministry of Education cannot make the decision to open schools for September in isolation. The Ministry of Health in consultation with the Provincial and Local Medical Officers of Health make decisions to ensure the health of all residents. This will be very provincially coordinated but regionally directed. The LKDSB may be able to control teaching and learning but will have no control over how or when schools reopen. Administration is planning for all possibilities and will customize the situation as much as possible.

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held electronically on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Bryce declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board