

PRESENT:

Trustees: Chair Jane Bryce, Vice-Chair Randy Campbell, Greg Agar, Janet Barnes (via Zoom), Ruth Ann Dodman, Dave Douglas (via Zoom), Jack Fletcher, Scott McKinlay (via teleconference), Lareina Rising (via Zoom), Derek Robertson (via Zoom)

Staff: Director of Education John Howitt, Superintendent of Business Brian McKay
Superintendents of Education Angie Barrese, Gary Girardi, Ben Hazzard, Helen Lane (via Zoom), Mary Mancini and Mark Sherman and Public Relations Officer Heather Hughes

Student Trustees: Aurora Bressette, William Locke and Lucia Shultz-Allison

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.
Chair Bryce explained the voting process for the Trustees participating electronically will follow. They will only speak when they have an objection to a vote being taken.

#2020-128
Approval of the Agenda
Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,
"That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of October 27, 2020 be approved."
CARRIED.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest
Trustee Rising announced that she had a conflict of interest with item 12 a) Appointment of Scrutineers and b) the Appointment of Trustee to the Lambton Kent District School Board.

#2020-129
Approval of the Minutes
Oct/13/2020
Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Greg Agar,
"That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 13, 2020."
CARRIED.

Business Arising
None

#2020-130
Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board
Moved by Randy Campbell, seconded Greg Agar,
"That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board."
CARRIED.

Presentations
Secondary Summer
Semester

Superintendent Mancini introduced Paul Wiersma, Secondary Summer Semester Principal and Derek Stenton, Summer Semester Program Leader, and explained that the Ministry of Education encouraged school boards to expand summer learning opportunities while recognizing that the pandemic would limit the number of face-to-face delivery options. Paul Wiersma shared some of the highlights from the semester and noted the magnitude of the enrolment this year. Usually about 1,200 students participate in the semester. This year there were close to 1,800 students who participated with 95% of them achieving their credits. He noted that for some students, they earned the last credits needed for their graduation diploma. He outlined the programs offered including Dual Credits, Specialized Summer School Program, Summer Co-op, Ridgeway Horticulture Program, and eLearning. The LKDSB was one of the very few school boards that offered summer co-op as well as a face-to-face outdoor horticulture program. Paul Wiersma explained that the eLearning courses were the biggest component of the semester. They offered full credit courses as well as upgrade courses. Derek Stenton, who is also the Principal of Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School, spoke about his role as Summer Semester Program Leader and the innovative ways secondary teachers worked with students in the eLearning courses. Via Zoom, Secondary Teacher Tim Regan shared his experiences teaching eLearning science courses. Derek Stenton explained that new this summer was the addition of educational assistants and resource teachers involvement with students. Via Zoom, Emily Colvin, Resource Teacher at Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, explained that she worked with about 20 students to help them stay on pace with their course work. All of the students earned their credits. She spoke about her work with one student to pass the Ontario Literacy Course, a component for graduation, and the support she provided to the student during their transition back to in person learning. She noted that the students' accommodations allowed them to be more successful when they took advantage of their accommodations in their Individual Educational Plan (IEP).

Chair Bryce thanked the presenters for sharing their information. Director Howitt praised the work of everyone involved in the Secondary Summer Semester. He noted that many other school boards let the pandemic situation reduce the programming provided. In contrast to that, the LKDSB staff served a greater number of students than ever before. This is an outstanding example of the work LKDSB staff do to help students succeed. Director Howitt stated that resource teachers, educational assistants, early childhood educators and other support staff continue to support students in a remote format. He also noted that Administration is reassessing methods of student assessment. Methods of determining how students demonstrate knowledge are evolving. He thanked Paul Wiersma and Derek Stenton for their work to make the Secondary Summer Semester a success and Superintendents Mancini and Sherman for their leadership.

Delegations:

None

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. Chair Bryce confirmed that no questions were received for the October 27, 2020 Board Meeting.

#2020-131
Appointment of
Scrutineers

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the Board appoint the Student Trustees to serve as Scrutineers for the appointment of the Trustee for the Lambton Kent District School Board.”

Trustee Robertson questioned the practice of voting secretly during an open session of the Board. Chair Bryce confirmed that this is the past practice of the Board and it follows the process outlined in the LKDSB Procedural By-laws for the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board during the Annual Operational Meeting of the Board. Chair Bryce added that she feels that the process is designed to prevent Trustees from influencing the vote of other Trustees.

Trustee Rising excused herself from the Meeting.

CARRIED.

Appointment of Trustee

Chair Bryce welcomed all the candidates who were present in the Board Room and those listening on the phones, or on the Zoom call. She thanked them for their interest in the position of Trustee representing Sarnia and Point Edward. She confirmed that all the Trustees had copies of the information they had submitted. She explained that Bevin Perdu had withdrawn her application. Chair Bryce explained the process to be followed for the selection of Trustee and advised that each candidate received a letter outlining the process. She reminded everyone that physical distancing and face masks are mandatory. Each individual will have three to five minutes to address the Board. If or when a candidate reaches 4 minutes of their address, the Director will stand so they know they have 1 minute of their time left on their address. Trustees will not be asking questions of the candidates. Director Howitt and Student Trustees will serve as Scrutineers for the voting process. Chair Bryce advised that following all the presentations, Trustees would be asked to cast a vote for the individual they wish the Board to appoint. The successful individual would need to acquire a majority vote. Subsequent votes will be held until an individual achieves a majority vote. In the event of a tie after two votes between the same individuals, the individuals shall draw lots to fill the position. A Motion would need to be moved and seconded to appoint the individual to the Lambton Kent District School Board. The individual will be provided with paperwork to be completed and the individual will need to be sworn in before the next Board Meeting. Chair Bryce asked that instead of handshakes to welcome our new Trustee to the Board, Trustees will give them a hearty wave.

Speeches of half of the Applicants

Due to COVID-19 pandemic indoor gathering restrictions, only half of the applicants were allowed in the Board Room at one time. Trustees heard speeches from Cole Anderson, Charles Archer, Matt Joosee, Lindsay Lauridsen, Janice McMichael-Dennis and Kathleen Myers as part of the first group. When the first group of candidates finished their speeches, they were excused from the Board Room and the second group of candidates entered the Board Room. Chair Bryce repeated her welcome and instructions on how the proceedings would take place. Trustees heard speeches from Wayne Pease, Meghan Realesmith, Matt Russell and Regina Stockus as part of the second group. At the conclusion of the in person speeches, Malinda Little presented via Zoom.

Trustees were provided with ballots to cast their votes. Director Howitt advised that after the first round of voting, a single candidate did not receive a majority of the votes cast. Trustees were asked to vote again for either Cole Anderson, Lindsay Lauridsen, Malinda Little, Janice McMichael-Dennis or Wayne Pease. Director Howitt announced that a third vote would be necessary for one candidate to receive a majority vote. Trustees were asked to vote for Lindsay Lauridsen or Malinda Little.

Director Howitt announced that Malinda Little received a majority of the votes. Chair Bryce thanked all the presenters for their interest in public education and the Student Trustees for serving as Scrutineers.

#2020-132
Malinda Little appointed to the position of Trustee

Moved by Randy Campbell, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

“That the Board appoint Malinda Little to the position of Trustee for the Lambton Kent District School Board effective October 27, 2020. “

CARRIED

Chair Bryce welcomed Malinda Little to the Board.

#2020133
Ballots be destroyed

Moved Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Greg Agar

“That all ballots be destroyed including the electronic ballots.”

CARRIED.

Trustee Rising re-joined the Board Meeting.

#2020-134
Annual Accessibility Report 2019/2020 Report B-20-

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the Board approve the LKDSB 2019/2020 Annual Accessibility Report.”

Superintendent Girardi outlined the composition of the LKDSB Accessibility Committee. He explained that the LKDSB 2019/2020 Annual Accessibility Report describes the measures that have been taken during the 2019/2020 school year to identify barriers and enhance accessibility for individuals who work, learn and participate in the LKDSB environment. He advised that the LKDSB Annual Accessibility Plan has been reviewed by the members of the LKDSB Special Education Advisory Committee. Chair Bryce noted the membership and the acronyms used in Education included in the report.

CARRIED.

Special Education
Advisory Committee
Report
Report B-20-102

Trustee Barnes reported on the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on October 15, 2020. SEAC members reviewed and approved the LKDSB Annual Accessibility Plan for 2019/2020. A summary of the number of out-of-school suspensions issued from 2015 through to 2019, and reported by exceptionality, was shared with the members of SEAC. Superintendent Barrese noted that the number of suspensions issued last year were lower, mainly due to the school closures.

Parent Involvement
Committee
Report B-20-103

Director Howitt reported on the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meeting held on October 19, 2020 via Microsoft Teams. It was the first meeting of the year. Director Howitt advised that Tracey Machan is returning for the second year of her two-year term as Co-Chair and Melissa Hewitt will serve as the Co-Chair for a two-year term. He noted that this is a great group of people committed to the LKDSB.

PIC members were informed of the plans for another School Climate Survey in the spring and they were asked to provide feedback around the communication process and on the previous survey; what went well and areas that can be improved on in terms of process. He shared that the previously scheduled presentation with Dr. Karyn Gordon was rescheduled to a Zoom webinar on November 17 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

LKDSB Update on Face to
Face and Learn at Home
Program Report B-20-104

Director Howitt explained that Administration is highlighting a different aspect of the face to face and Learn at Home program at each Board Meeting. The report at the November 10, 2020 Board Meeting will be on the process followed once a positive COVID-19 case occurs. Director Howitt advised that on October 13, 2020 Administration reminded school communities that the process for families to transfer students between face to face learning and Learn at Home model (or vice versa) would occur on November 16, 2020. This information was posted on the Board and school websites and families/students were asked to contact their home school to be placed on a waitlist. Students who were not seeking a change in learning plans did not need to inform their school. The deadline to request a change in the learning program was Thursday, October 22, 2020 at noon. After this deadline, students would be added to new waitlists to be accommodated, if possible, later. From October 23, 2020 and November 2, 2020, the Administration will be meeting with individual schools and union representatives to coordinate the movement of students and staff to accommodate the decisions of families. This fluctuation of student enrolment may cause teaching and education support worker duties to change to accommodate the increase or decrease in enrolment. Staff and students affected will be notified as soon as possible prior to the start date of November 16, 2020. Director Howitt advised that the number of families moving their children from one delivery model to the other are manageable. Administration will share the numbers when everything is finalized. Approximately 600 students are changing their mode of program delivery.

Director Howitt confirmed that Administration is not planning to declare any teachers surplus. There may be a need to hire some staff to manage the collapsing of some classes and the expansion of others. Chair Bryce congratulated the team on their work.

Secondary Summer Semester Report B-20-105	Superintendent Mancini advised that the Secondary Summer Semester Report is a supplementary report to the presentation that took place earlier in the Board Meeting. She advised that the LKDSB delivered its largest summer program allowing close to eighteen hundred students to take credit courses. Chair Bryce expressed appreciation for the LKDSB being able to assist so many students.
Notice of Motion	Trustee Robertson served a notice of motion: "That the Board amend the current practice of the Board which allows the use of secret ballots during any open session meeting of the Board."
Announcements	The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Chatham Education Centre. Chair Bryce congratulated Executive Assistant Johnston on her retirement and thanked her for her years of service to the Board.
Adjournment	There being no further business of the Board, Chair Bryce declared the Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board