

PRESENT:

Trustees: Chair Randy Campbell, Vice-Chair Derek Robertson, Janet Barnes, Jane Bryce, Ruth Ann Dodman, Dave Douglas, Jack Fletcher, Malinda Little, Scott McKinlay, and Lareina Rising

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

Regrets Trustee Greg Agar and Student Trustee Aurora Bressette

Student Trustees: William Locke and Lucia Shultz-Allison

Recording Secretary: Jaime Shannon, Executive Assistant to the Director

Call to Order: Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#2021-18 Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Derek Robertson,

Approval of the Agenda

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of January 12, 2021 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.
None

#2021-19 Moved by Malinda Little, seconded by Janet Barnes,

Approval of the Minutes
Nov/24/2020

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 24, 2020.”

CARRIED.

#2021-20 Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Jane Bryce,

Approval of the Minutes
Nov/30/2020

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of November 30, 2020.”

CARRIED.

#2021-21 Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Jane Bryce,

Approval of the Minutes
Dec/3/2020

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Annual Organization Board Meeting of December 3, 2020.”

CARRIED.

Business Arising None

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session None

#2021-22 Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board

“That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board.”

CARRIED.

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| Presentation to Past Chair of the Board Jane Bryce | Chair Campbell acknowledged Past Chair Jane Bryce for her contributions and commitment to the Board and thanked her for her work as Chair of the Board over the previous two years and for her continued work as Trustee. A presentation with a gift will take place at the next in-person Board Meeting. Trustee Bryce thanked Chair Campbell and remarked that she loves to serve in any way she can. |
| Delegations | None |
| Questions from the Public | None |
| #2021-23 Report of the Striking Committee Annual Trustee Committee Assignments Report B-21-03 | Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Jack Fletcher, "That the Board approve the Trustee Committee Assignments for the period from December 3, 2020 to December 7, 2021 as outlined in Report B-21-03." <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p> |
| #2021-24 LKDSB Regulations on Display of Flags Report B-21-04 | Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Derek Robertson, "That the Board approve the revised regulations on Display of Flags with the word week removed from Section 10 and 10.1" Director Howitt reported that a review of the regulations on Display of Flags was warranted after questions were received from the public on the etiquette and protocol of flying the National Flag. He explained that COVID-19 pushed back the revision of the regulations, which allowed time for considerable consultations. He thanked Superintendent Lane for consulting with nearly fifty organizations, including the Indigenous Liaison Committee, and reaching out to the four First Nations. Director Howitt reviewed the rules for flying the National Flag of Canada from the Government of Canada's website. Director Howitt remarked that currently most schools have a single flagpole, so when a second flag is added it is necessary that it be flown on the same flagpole as the National Flag. In the next five years all LKDSB schools will have a second flagpole added that do not already have one. Director Howitt informed Trustees that there was an error in the Regulations under 10 and 10.1, and the word "week" should be removed in both sections to include "month" only. Director Howitt confirmed there were concerns brought forth at the June 23, 2020 Board Meeting regarding schools being asked to remove Pride Flags after one week. At the time, this decision was made to ensure a consistent practice across the LKDSB and there were community concerns that the Pride Flag was not being flown properly in relation to the National Flag. To clarify, Section 10 of the regulations now states that the Pride Flag should be flown for the month of June. Section 10 now also provides discretion for principals on flying other flags. Director Howitt confirmed that flags, other than the National Flag, can be flown for a maximum of one month. |

Director Howitt confirmed that the Indigenous Flag would have prominence if it were flown on a second flagpole with the Pride Flag. It would be flown at the same level as the National Flag. He suggested further consultation with the First Nations communities would be needed regarding their interest in having the Indigenous Flag flown in the month of June for Solidarity Day.

Superintendent Lane confirmed that further consultation with each of the four First Nations would be needed regarding flying the Indigenous flag on school flagpoles.

CARRIED.

Indigenous Liaison
Committee Report
Report B-21-05

Trustee Rising provided a report from the Indigenous Liaison Committee (ILC) meeting held on November 18, 2020. She thanked Superintendent Lane and her team for providing the platform to allow the meetings to continue during the pandemic.

Trustee Rising noted the impacts of COVID-19 on the First Nations, including closures in Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit and Bkejwanong. With rising cases she noted there may be further reports of closures.

Trustee Rising reported there will be a local offering of the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program, which allows individuals to complete teacher training in their communities. She remarked that it will be a great opportunity for those who do not have the means or desire to attend Teachers' College to complete their teaching certification and could help provide more Ojibwe and Lenape teachers. She noted that Indigenous Lead Minogiiizhgad is helping to support the language program by teaching in Quadmester 2.

Special Education
Advisory Committee
Report
Report B-21-06

Trustee Barnes provided a report on the November 19, 2020 and December 10, 2020 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meetings. She directed Trustees to the information included in the report and remarked that the LKDSB staff are incredible.

Student Senate Report
Report B-21-07

Student Trustee Locke reported on the December 16, 2020 meeting of the Student Senate. This was the second meeting of 2020-21 school year and the Student Senate Mental Health Project, School Climate Survey and the Student Trustee elections for the 2021/2022 school year were discussed.

Director Howitt confirmed that Student Senate representatives are nominated by school administrators and there are two representatives from each school. He directed Trustees to the Policy, Regulations, and Administrative Procedure on Student Senate and Student Trustees.

Student Trustee Locke confirmed that you do not need to be a member of Student Senate in order to become a Student Trustee.

Ontario Public School
Boards' Association
Update (OPSBA)

Trustee Fletcher reported that the Public Education Symposium will be held on January 28, 2021 and encouraged Trustees to attend. He asked Trustees who attend to report the highlights at a future Board Meeting. He noted that the Minister of Education would be speaking at the event.

Trustee Fletcher reminded Trustees of the workshops available through OPSBA and encouraged them to read the information and news articles they receive.

Parent Involvement
Committee Report
Report B-21-08

Director Howitt reported on the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meeting held on November 30, 2020. He remarked that the committee is a great group and he really enjoys meeting with them. He noted that a change made since the report was written is that the Kindergarten registration process will likely need to be revised from a face-to-face setting. He said the team is reflecting on what a remote version will look like.

LKDSB Director's Annual
Report
Report B-21-09

Director Howitt presented the Director's Annual Report for 2019/2020. He thanked the team for developing the report. The report is organized into sections based on the LKDSB Strategic Priorities and reflects the important work done during the 2019/2020 school year. The 2019/2020 school year started in the face-to-face world and shifted to remote learning. With the shift to remote learning there has been an increase in parent/guardian engagement in student learning. He noted many examples throughout the report that evidenced how the Strategic Priorities are being achieved.

The Director's Report will be submitted to the Ministry of Education and posted on the LKDSB website by January 31.

Director Howitt remarked that all staff are absolutely part of the success of LKDSB students.

Chair Campbell thanked everyone involved for an excellent, impressive, and informative report.

LKDSB Update on Face to
Face and Learn at Home
Program
Report B-21-10

Director Howitt explained that a themed report is brought to each Board Meeting, which began with the reopening of schools and now continues with the work within schools in a COVID-19 environment. The theme of the January 12, 2021 report was the remote learning plans put in place by the LKDSB.

On December 21, 2020 the Ministry of Education announced that students would not return to face-to-face learning following the Winter Break. He explained that remote learning expectations are different than they were in the Spring of 2020, as the Ministry is now expecting about 75% of the school day to be synchronous. Examples of synchronous learning include whole group, one-on-one, or small group instruction. This higher expectation places different demands on families as sharing of devices among siblings may no longer be possible. To help with this, the number of devices lent to families increased from 2,000 to 5,000.

On January 12, 2021, the Ontario government announced a provincial State of Emergency and stay-at-home order. By January 20, 2021, the Chief Medical Officer of Health will advise the Ministry of Education on whether the LKDSB will be permitted to resume in-person instruction on January 25, 2021.

Following the Winter Break, administrators and office staff reported to work in order to answer phone calls and organize device distribution to students. With the stay-at-home order, schools who do not have self-contained students learning face-to-face will be closed. For schools who do have self-contained students learning face-to-face there will be one administrator and one clerical staff in the building in order to ensure safety plans can be carried out. Staff supporting students in self-contained classrooms, who cannot be accommodated through remote learning, have been included in the Ministry's list of essential workers and these classes can continue face-to-face in schools. About 40% of students in these classrooms are attending in-person. Teaching

Staff and Education Workers must work from home during the remote learning period, unless they are unable to deliver quality remote instruction/program. Custodial and Maintenance Staff will continue to work their regular work schedule at their work locations. Board Office Staff will work from home unless otherwise directed by their Manager/Supervisor. Board Offices will be closed to the public.

Director Howitt noted that guidance is taken from the local Medical Officers of Health and direction from the Province and provided to the Chair and Vice-Chair in order to make decisions on the location of Board Meetings. He noted that the January 26, 2021 and February 9, 2021 Board Meetings will fall within the State of Emergency timeline so will most likely be held virtually.

The Ministry will be providing further information on enhanced screening, mandatory masking for Grades 1 to 12 students, requirements for outdoor masking, and steps to reduce congregating of students before and after school upon return to face-to-face learning.

Director Howitt noted that the well-being of staff and students is a major concern, and there are supports available for anyone struggling. Students and staff are encouraged to reach out to their principal. Staff are making a great effort to connect with students and ensure they are engaged throughout the day. Director Howitt thanked Superintendents Barrese and Girardi for their work in supporting student well-being.

Director Howitt thanked staff for their efforts to make program effective for LKDSB students.

Director Howitt confirmed that not all families can manage the Ministry expectation of synchronous learning. The LKDSB purpose is academic achievement but this can not be achieved without well-being, healthy children, and supportive families. The Board will do its best to provide what is expected from the Ministry of Education and families will know what works best for them.

Director Howitt confirmed that the curriculum includes Daily Physical Activity and Physical Education. Superintendent Hazzard added that activity breaks are part of the elementary school day and teachers are offering different challenges and opportunities for fun outdoor activities and pausing during the day for Daily Physical Activity, and Physical Education teachers are continuing to engage in their work. Superintendent Barrese noted that teachers are organizing breakout rooms where students can connect socially. Social Workers have set up Google Classrooms for students to connect and participate in well-being activities. Social Workers and Clinicians have had opportunities to drop into classrooms to connect with students and Educational Assistants and teachers have created virtual sensory spaces for students. Superintendent Mancini reported that there are many hands-on and active courses in secondary schools and Physical Education courses and physical breaks for students are in place in the virtual setting. There is a continued focus on activity as an important part of student achievement and well-being.

Director Howitt confirmed that Senior Administration provides regular communication and updates to staff and meets government announcements with rapid communication in order to help alleviate anxiety in staff. Resources for mental health and well-being supports are included in the Director's newsletter,

which is released every second Thursday. A message prior to the Winter Break referred to well-being and encouraged staff to reach out to colleagues that may be withdrawn. It was noted in the message that staff would not be called into work during the holiday if remote learning were to occur. The LKDSB is very conscious of staff well-being. Superintendent Barrese acknowledged that it has been a challenging year and the extent to which staff have needed to adjust in order to do what is best for students and families has been appreciated. The Board works with School Mental Health Ontario and shares well-being strategies to support students, which staff can benefit from as well. It is a collection of working together, supporting one another, and sharing strategies that are good for all to project a positive well-being.

Supervised Alternative Learning Summary for 2019/2020
Report B-21-11

Trustee Fletcher reported on the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Summary for the 2019/2020 school year. He highlighted the second paragraph of the report, which explained the SAL program, and noted that of 342 credits, 55 were earned. He said that every credit earned is a bonus as the students in the program are going through really difficult times. He added that the SAL meetings have been formalized and now include a Chair, which he has had the privilege of serving in the position.

Superintendent Sherman said that he really appreciates the Trustees on the committee, as they are supporting students to achieve credits. He remarked that Trustee Fletcher has done an excellent job as the first Trustee Chair of the committee and meeting the needs of students.

Correspondence

None

New Business

None

Trustee Questions

None

Notices of Motion

None

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The location is to be determined.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board