

PRESENT:

- Trustees: Chair Randy Campbell, Vice-Chair Derek Robertson, Janet Barnes, Jane Bryce, Ruth Ann Dodman, Dave Douglas, Jack Fletcher, Malinda Little 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 Trustees Greg Agar and Scott McKinlay
- Student Trustees: William Locke, Aurora Bressette and Lucia Shultz-Allison
- Recording Secretary: Bonnie Gotelaer, Executive Assistant to the Director
- Call to Order: Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- #2021-93  
Approval of the Agenda Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Lareina Rising,  
"That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of June 8, 2021 be approved."  
CARRIED.
- Chair Campbell read a statement acknowledging the painful truth of Residential Schools in Canada and expressed deepest condolences to families and communities for the tragic loss of lives.
- Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.
- Declaration of Conflict of Interest None
- #2021-94  
Approval of the Minutes  
May/25/2021 Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Malinda Little,  
"That the Board approve the amended Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 25, 2021."  
CARRIED.
- Business Arising None
- Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session None
- #2021-95  
Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,  
"That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board."  
CARRIED.
- Presentations: Secondary Student Art, Chatham Kent Schools Trustee Dodman explained that she was presenting the awards for the Chatham Kent Students to the Board. The student artists will receive a \$100.00 cheque for agreeing to lease their piece of art to the LKDSB for one year. The student art

will be displayed in the Chatham Education Centre for the 2021/2022 school year as a reminder of the work of the students. Director Howitt acknowledged the students were in attendance and each student spoke to their piece.

Trustee Dodman presented the three pieces of art selected and commented on each piece and thanked the students for their submissions.

- Agnese Boscaini described her piece to help her when feeling lonely by creating a beautiful, whimsical, and creative world using coloured pencils.
- Kylie Shaw created a painted mural in hope that it would radiate fun, happy and youthful feelings being inspired by Dr. Seuss' fun style.
- Laila Stewart used oil pastels to reimagine the Nike of Samothrace being inspired studying Greek and Roman Art History.

Director Howitt indicated the Sarnia Education Centre Student Art will be presented at the next Board meeting. Chair Campbell thanked Trustee Dodman for the presentation and thanked the students for their work.

Delegations

None

Questions from the Public

None

#2021-96  
Budget Report  
Report B-21-73

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Jack Fletcher,  
"That the Lambton Kent District School Board approves the 2021 – 2022 School Year Budget presented in the amount of \$318, 532, 233.

CARRIED.

#2021-97  
Virtual School Alignment  
of Ministry of Education  
Grants For Students  
Needs Funding

Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,  
"That it is recommended that the Lambton Kent District School Board, in order to align with Ministry of Education GSN funding, designate McNaughton Ave Public School as the location for the LKDSB virtual elementary school and designate Lambton Kent Composite School as the location for the LKDSB virtual secondary school and that the full geographic area of the board be the catchment area for the virtual elementary and secondary school."

CARRIED.

Superintendent McKay indicated there are three 2021 – 2022 Budget binders. They are the 2021 – 2022 School Year binder, the Supplementary Budget binder which includes Ministry memos and the School Budget binder providing detailed school and central program information.

Superintendent McKay advised that the total Provincial Education funding for the 2021/2022 budget year is projected to be \$25.6 billion (2020-21 - \$25.5 billion), an average of \$12,686 (2020-21 - \$12,534) per pupil.

Superintendent McKay noted the Board's revenue forecast is based on the Ministry of Education Grants for Student Needs (GSN) education funding model which generates the board's operating and school renewal grants.

Superintendent McKay noted the finalized detailed revenue forecast by each of the GSN Grant categories and summarized the Board's total revenues comprised of the following:

- GSN Operating Grants = \$257,922,704.
- GSN Facilities Renewal / Financing Grants = \$24,286,411.
- Tuition Fees from Indigenous & Visa students = \$4,687,608.
- Ministry Funding provided in addition to the GSN = \$831,340.
- Ministry Funding – Covid-19 Supports = \$2,727,400.
- Other Capital, Rental, Interest and misc. revenues = \$2,227,899.

- School Generated Funds = \$6,000,00.
- Ministry Funding of Capital Amortization = \$17,268,401.
- In-year draw from accumulated surplus (former reserves) = \$2,580,470.

Superintendent McKay outlined the key Provincial Education Funding Updates.

- Continued Covid-19 Funding Supports – The Ministry will continue to provide funding supports for boards during the 2021-22 school year to support the safe operations of schools. This funding will continue to be temporary in nature. While boards were provided with potential full year funding allocations, boards were instructed to only include half of the funding in the Estimates budget.
- Covid-19 Supports Included in the GSN – The Ministry is providing a total of \$25.0 million in funding for costs related to the Covid-19 outbreak directly from the GSN funding. This funding is divided between a \$10.1 million investment for mental health supports and a \$14.9 million investment to support technology-related costs. The LKDSB allocations within the GSN funding is as follows:
  - i. Mental Health Supports - \$128,660
  - ii. Technology Supports - \$147,516
- Recent Immigrant Supplement – One-time funding, within the ESL Allocation, will be provided to supplement ESL supports for recent immigrant students. The LKDSB allocation for 2021-22 is \$216,101.
- On-Line Learning – An adjustment to the secondary pupil foundation benchmark will occur for the 2021-22 school year based on a differentiated funded average class size for online and in-person learning. The adjusted benchmark is based on the assumption that approximately 8% of secondary students will take 1 online course during the 2021-22 school year.
- Enhanced Accountability Measures:
  - i. Indigenous Education Grant and the Program Leadership Grant (PLG) – Enveloping provisions for the Indigenous Education Grant already in place at the LKDSB. The Indigenous Lead position will be fully funded through the PLG for 2021-22. This funding was split between the PLG and the Indigenous Per Pupil Amount.
  - ii. Library Staffing – Reporting requirements are introduced for boards not fully utilizing this funding for library programs and supports. A multi-year plan will be required when all funding is not being used in this area.
- Salary benchmarks adjusted by 1% to reflect central agreement settlements. This increase also impacts non-statutory benefit funding by employee group.
- Student Transportation – No increases to the funding envelope as the Ministry is currently conducting a review of student transportation. This change will place pressure on this budget item for the LKDSB. CLASS is responsible for this budget and will face challenges in maintaining increasing costs within the 2020-21 funding amount.
- 2% increase to the non-staff portion of the Plant operations benchmark to support commodity price increases.
- Transfers between GSN sections – The following funding programs are being moved to different areas within the GSN. No changes are expected with the funding amounts.

- i. Parent Engagement Allocation – Moving to the School Foundation Grant from the School Board Administration and Governance Grant.
- ii. Capital Planning Capacity Allocation – Moving to the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant from the School Board Administration and Governance Grant.
- Transfers to the GSN – The following funding programs, previously provided through transfer payment agreements will be transferred to GSN funding beginning in 2021-22:
  - i. Specialist High Skills Major
  - ii. After School Skills Development Programs
  - iii. Integrated Services for Northern Children – no impact to LKDSB
  - iv. Curriculum and Assessment Implementation.

Superintendent McKay explained that the Ministry provides School Condition Improvement (SCI) and Renewal Capital Improvement Funding to keep schools in good operating condition in order to provide a safe and healthy learning environment, ongoing investments are required for repair and renewal work. The Ministry is continuing to invest \$1.4 billion dollars in the School Renewal and School Condition Improvement programs for the 2021-22 school year. The Board also received approval for the new K-12 school in Forest. This capital grant is not included in the 2021-22 capital budget as the Board is still involved in land acquisition before proceeding with the design and construction of the school. The total LKDSB capital budget for the 2021-22 school year will be \$20.03 million which includes the School Condition Improvement and School Renewal allocations.

Superintendent McKay confirmed the Re-engagement Support funds will support students in both the virtual school and in-person models. This will be to help identify and help students to re-engage.

Director Howitt noted the LKDSB appointed a Re-Engagement Lead as required by the Ministry of Education. Director Howitt further stated early reading assessments and early mathematics focus have already been in process. There will also be a component of attendance re-engagement for students who may have disengaged either through exiting the Board for Home Schooling or lack of attendance. He noted re-engagement plans will be finalized over the summer months to be submitted to the Ministry of Education in the fall.

Superintendent McKay confirmed the Parent Engagement allocation will be distributed to the Parent Councils as well as an allocation to Parent Involvement Committee.

Superintendent McKay noted if surplus funds are not used, the focus becomes a large capital planning item as opposed to an item such as salaries due to the instability of the allocation and it not being sustainable. He explained transportation funds have not been increased by the Ministry of Education and expect to be able to remain within budget restrictions.

Superintendent McKay indicated there is an additional amount of \$128,660 in Mental Health Supports. Superintendent McKay noted GSN transfers remain the Finance Department's responsibility to monitor. Superintendent McKay indicated retirement gratuity funds provided by the Ministry of Education to school boards will be phased out after the 2022 – 2023 school year. He explained boards will be responsible to complete the retirement gratuities to those who remain eligible. To ensure the retirement gratuities are not a burden, the monies will be available to these staff as they retire.

Direct Howitt confirmed school administration in the McNaughton Avenue Public School and Lambton Kent Composite School virtual school sites will be

responsible for all students on the register in both face-to-face students and virtual students. School staff will be placed as necessary in alternate school locations.

Indigenous Liaison  
Committee Report  
Report B-21-74

Trustee Rising acknowledged the Indigenous Liaison Committee Report. Trustee Rising noted Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit had re-elected their Chief and several councillors. Kindergarten remains closed and learning packages have been delivered. Aamjinwnaang opened the Kindergarten for in-person learning with one virtual student participating in land-based education including Sugar Bush Module, Fishing Module and the Three Sisters Gardening. Kettle and Stoney Point First Nation had attempted a re-opening but had a spike in Covid-19 cases causing them to close. They provided learning packages for the students. Trustee Rising thanked Superintendent McKay and Director Howitt for presenting to the communities and answering budget questions. Trustee Rising noted the Board Action Plan has items planned to utilize funding and the Indigenous Teacher Education Program (ITEP) training for Indigenous teachers is in process with hopes to retain local teachers from this program. She discussed sharing best practices in virtual learning, both full-time and intermittent virtual to see what could be carried forward and best practices that have benefitted students. Trustee Rising noted twenty-four schools submitted reports with more schools across the Board being engaged and noted these reports provide information of the events occurring in schools to the Indigenous Liaison Committee.

N Ontario Public School  
Boards' Association  
Update (OPSBA)

Trustee Fletcher noted an upcoming Board of Director's Annual General Meeting and Western Regional Meeting June 11 and 12, 2021.

LKDSB Covid-19 Update  
Report B-21-75

Director Howitt noted guidelines will be provided to school Boards by the Ministry of Education to allow planning to prepare help for return to school. He indicated there is anticipation of a face-to-face learning environment with current safety protocols in place, following Public Health guidelines. Director Howitt noted some disengagement by students due to the Ministry of Education's announcement of remaining in remote learning for the rest of the 2020 – 2021 with a larger impact in elementary than secondary. He explained the expectations of outdoor graduation ceremonies of all students is desirable but not possible. Director Howitt noted graduation from secondary school as well as celebrations of the completion of transition grades in elementary school will occur. Schools have been creative in planning outdoor celebrations following Public Health guidelines and noted these graduations and celebrations cannot move indoors in inclement weather. Following guidance and all safety protocols from the Ministry of Health, there will be central drop off of materials for secondary schools. Elementary school homerooms may be invited to an outdoor activity and collect their personal belongings. Director Howitt confirmed the recommendation for the outdoor activity be limited to no more than ninety minutes and playground sizes will dictate how many homerooms can be at the school at the same time. Director Howitt noted transportation is a concern in following Inclusive Diversity – Champion anti-oppressive education as outlined in the Strategic Priorities. Trustee Bryce thanked all staff and parents in helping students through this year and noted the importance for students to conclude their school year with their peers.

Director Howitt confirmed there are supports for students in credit upgrades or recovery and courses offered in Summer School. There is funding outlined in the budget to help with study skills and mental health supports. Superintendent Sherman noted the summer programs including Reach-Ahead programs, eLearning courses, Horticulture summer course and several re-engagement strategies such as planning ahead of the school year for. Superintendent Mancini noted there will be opportunities to aid in the transition for students beginning secondary school and credit recovery during the school year working with Student Success teachers. Superintendent Barrese noted plans for the summer include resource teachers and educational assistants will be available to students completing credits and upgrade courses in the summer semester. Students will have access to supports in the summer semester and social workers will be providing services through the summer months. There will be transition supports available to students in returning to school. Student Trustee Locke indicated a newsletter distributed to families explaining all supports would be helpful for students.

Correspondence

None

New Business

None

Trustee Questions

Director Howitt noted families were emailed and it was shared in the media that April 21, 2021 was the deadline to make decisions regarding their intent to register for virtual learning or face-to-face learning. Director Howitt confirmed there will not be a survey for parents to complete. Registration in elementary is 350 students with 300 students enrolled in remote learning.

Notices of Motion

Tuesday June 15 5:00 pm. Inviting Board Committees. It will be virtual.  
None

Announcements

Director Howitt noted the workshop for Board Committees will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. and will be virtual.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 22, 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 9:02 p.m.

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Chair of the Board

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Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board