

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, Student Trustees Kate Martin and Taryn Jacobs

Student Trustees: Brianne Machan

Recording Secretary: Bonnie Gotelaer, Executive Assistant to the Director

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

#2022-23
Approval of the Agenda Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Jack Fletcher,
"That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of January 25, 2022 be approved."

Chair Campbell noted item 12 a) from the Agenda will be removed.

CARRIED.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest None

#2022-24
Approval of the Minutes
Jan/11/2022 Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Derek Robertson,
"That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 11, 2022."

CARRIED.

Business Arising Director Howitt noted the start date for the next term of Trustees has been changed to November 15, 2022 which will require a date change in the Organizational Board Meeting. He noted there will be LKDSB Procedural By-law revisions brought forth to trustees to include the new date.

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session None

#2022-25
Action of the Regular
Board Private Session be
the Action of the Board

Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Jane Bryce,
"That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board."

CARRIED.

Delegations

Questions from the Public

Chair Campbell read LKDSB Procedural By-law 3.16 In addition to the foregoing, persons or groups may pose questions to the Board in accordance with the following procedure:
a) the questioner shall submit the question either orally or in writing to the Chair of the Board;
b) the Chair or their designate shall answer the question if the information is immediately available or send a written reply following the meeting
c) the questioner may ask a follow-up question for clarification.
Chair Campbell read LKDSB Procedural By-law 3.17 The Board may limit the number of questions as it sees fit.
He noted two questions submitted by Jolene Wellington, with the first question having two sub-questions and the second with five sub-questions.
Chair Campbell requested Director Howitt to read and respond to Question 1 and both sub-questions and to read and respond to the first two sub-questions of Question 2.

Director Howitt read question 1.

1) In regards to Trustee Fletchers motion to stop providing water bottles at the in person meeting to the board to help the environment I was wondering

a) What was the number of for and against votes?

Director Howitt noted LKDSB Procedural By-law 7.20 indicates the yeas and nays are not recorded in the minutes unless a recorded vote is requested at the time of voting.

b) Can you revote or have this motion submitted again?

Director Howitt noted the question submitted will be read and responded to and noted the narrative included with the question would not be read due to specific names being mentioned. He answered the question stating no, there would not be a reconsideration for 12 unless there is unanimous consent by all Trustees present or in writing for those absent as stated in LKDSB Procedural By-law 7.15

Director Howitt read question 2.

2) In regards to Trustee Bryce's questions at the end of the last meeting about the mandate and health questions from the public: Director Howitt responded to her questions noting that that he had many opportunities to share the publics questions with people of the Health and Education sectors that make the changes. My questions are:

a) Have you, Director Howitt shared any of our concern and information to the people in the Education and Health sectors that have powers to make change?

Director Howitt confirmed concerns and information from both sides of opinion are discussed with Medical Officers of Health. He noted the Medical Officers of Health, local MPPs and cabinet Ministers for Health and Education receive communication from the public voicing their concerns and views. He noted in preparation to return to face to face learning, both sides and points of view of masking for kindergarten students were presented to the Medical Officers of Health for guidance.

- c) Director Howitt, you claim that there are other people asking for stricter rules yet I haven't seen any of these peoples concerned enough to present them at the meetings. My question, can you please share our information with the Health and Education sectors where you have a unique opportunity to have an audience with them. We are doing a lot of research and presenting to you in hopes that we can inspire others to understand the volatile nature of the rules being or threatening to be imposed on our children.

Director Howitt noted he is an educator he respects the role of public health seeking their guidance as this is their expertise.

Ontario Public School
Boards' Association
Update (OPSBA)

Trustee Fletcher noted the Public Education Symposium being provided by OPSBA and that members of the board can access the presentations and attend the western regional meeting being held after the Symposium. He noted this was for all members including student trustees.

Chair Campbell noted regrets from Trustee Greg Agar and Student Trustees Kate Martin and Taryn Jacobs.

LKDSB COVID-19
Update Report
Report B-22-13

Director Howitt noted in the beginning of return to face to face, the Ministry of Education offered short-term remote learning for those families who were reluctant to return. This was a short-term option and approximately four hundred twenty-five students took part in this asynchronous learning format. He noted there are approximately eight hundred students in the full year remote learning program.

Director Howitt indicated LKDSB staffing shortages noted in the report have not resulted in school closures. He stated the COVID-19 school screener has increased the amount absences and the absences are not due to people not wanting to come to work. He indicated the absence rates are spread very evenly across the board and schools are being very flexible to cover vacancies while maintaining safety.

Director Howitt made reference to the Rapid Antigen Tests that have been distributed to elementary and staff. Families had the option to opt out of receiving the Rapid Antigen Tests. He indicated that seventy percent of schools have less than one percent of families opting to not receive the Rapid Antigen Tests and that no schools are over ten percent of families opting out. He noted secondary students will be receiving their kits which are being sorted and packed by students who will gain volunteer hours.

Director Howitt noted the first semester for secondary students is complete. He noted the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Minister of Education are encouraging schools to offer vaccination clinics during the school day and have requested consent forms to be sent home to every family to allow for children to be vaccinated without the presence of their parents. He noted the LKDSB will not hold elementary school clinics during the day and that they will be held after

school hours and will follow local public health guidance indicating children ages 5-11 must have parents present for vaccination.

Jane Bryce asked if instructions for Rapid Antigen Test kits are offered in different languages.

Director Howitt noted instructions are sent in english and french as well as a newsletter informing of links for different languages. A video is available to show how to administer the tests.

Jane Bryce asked if the instructions reflect how to dispose of the used tests.

Superintendent McKay noted the instructions state to dispose as per biohazard protocol. He confirmed the test is not recyclable and the quantity of fluid that has been sent in the kits households does not constitute the amount to be considered biohazardous fluid. He noted any items identified as a biohazard are disposed of as appropriate for biohazardous waste.

Jane Bryce noted the instructions should indicate the tests were not recyclable.

Financial Report 2021-
2022 School Year
Expenditures, September
1 – November 30, 2021
Report B-22-14

Superintendent McKay noted the first quarter expenditures for the period September 1 to November 30, 2021. He highlighted items in relation to salaries and wages, employee benefits, supplies and services, capital expenditures and fees and contractual services. He noted some staff development has been pushed back but will begin to see expenditures in this area. He noted capital expenditures are typically reported during the summer and due to scope and size, there have been projects continue during the first quarter. During budget preparations access to the first half of COVID-19 funding was allowed by the Ministry of Education. The second half of the funding can be accessed in the second half of the school year.

Dave Douglas asked what the budget increase for supply teachers was.

Superintendent McKay noted that a revised budget for supply teachers was almost 8.6 million which is over what is the typical normal budget line. He confirmed that the overage is being supported by temporary COVID-19 funding.

2021-2022 Revised
Estimates Update
Report B-22-15

Superintendent McKay reported on the revised estimates budget and noted there have been some budget changes utilizing temporary COVID-19 funding. He highlighted the increased total revenue has increased by \$5,647,804 due to the increase in school enrollment by 300 students and the inclusion of a full year of COVID-19 funding. He highlighted the Revenue Grant Category includes Pupil Foundation, School Foundation, Special Education, Language, Cost Adjustment & Teacher Q&E, Transportation, Pupil Accommodation – School Operations, Indigenous Education and Support for COVID-19 Outbreak Grants. He noted the additional funding due to the increased enrolment is used for additional staffing and support resources, school operations support, transportation, special education, mental health and re-engagement.

Director Howitt noted it was a complex first quarter and with changes in funding.

Rosedale Public School
Capital Project
Report B-22-16

Superintendent McKay shared the complete and full modernization of Rosedale Public School. He reported this project will impact all areas of the school with changes to the school's interior design improving the layout of classrooms and increasing the amount of natural light into the school. He noted this project will be ongoing during the school year with no breaks from the beginning to completion of the project which is expected to be completed in 24 months. Construction will occur in phases to ensure safety of students and staff. Students will occupy portable classrooms when there is active construction in their portion of the school. Superintendent McKay indicated the JK/SK classrooms will be reconfigured to provide dedicated interior washrooms. He reported primary,

junior and intermediate classrooms will be fully renovated as well as all school washrooms. He noted the school office will be relocated next to the renovated entrance to allow better access. The learning commons will include improvements to natural lighting and provide a fully accessible, multi-functional learning environment and noted a new STEAM lab will provide a hands-on learning space for students.

Superintendent McKay indicated tender results will be brought forward to Board Trustees. Superintendent McKay displayed site plan layouts and school layouts and described the areas. He noted the façade of the building will be refreshed and indicated the parking lot will be redesigned with a bus loading zone separate from parking areas.

Jack Fletcher asked if a baseball diamond would be included.

Superintendent McKay noted there are plans to include a ball diamond, it is not indicated in the preliminary drawings.

Dave Douglas noted the large amount of traffic congestion at the end of the day and appreciates the new design. Trustee Douglas questioned how LKDSB was getting funding for this project.

Superintendent McKay noted this will be LKDSB capital funding due to the school is being renovated and the actual space is not expanding.

Director Howitt noted the project completed consecutively in 24 months has cost savings and communication has occurred with parents in the community.

Correspondence

None

New Business

None

Trustee Questions

Trustee Fletcher asked if absences would be reported by schools regarding COVID-19 cases and if students are learning at home during COVID-19 are marked present?

Director Howitt noted school boards have never confirmed cases of COVID-19. He indicated the LKDSB has shared public health data about schools and that public health determines confirmed cases. He noted there is no requirement stating parents are to notify the school board of a positive test result. Director Howitt noted the number of students and staff getting PCR tests has decreased significantly. He noted provincially public health is no longer required to provide confirmed case data to school boards. He indicated this is due to inconsistencies in storing, testing and reporting and it would be irresponsible to share incomplete or inaccurate data. The LKDSB continues to follow the guidance of public health. The LKDSB continues to provide information and links located under the Covid-19 Advisory tab on the Board website where there are links to access summaries of students and staff not present at school. He noted this does not provide the reason for absence which could include illness, bereavement, vacation and parent approved absence.

Trustee Little asked if the numbers in the summaries include students who have opted to stay home for short term learning? Director Howitt indicated these numbers do not include students in short term remote learning. He indicated some students who are directed to isolate are well enough to participate in short term remote learning but are not registered in the choice of short-term remote learning.

Notices of Motion

None

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Chatham Regional Education Centre and via Zoom.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board