

PRESENT:

Trustees: Chair Randy Campbell, Vice-Chair Derek Robertson, Greg Agar, Janet Barnes, Jane Bryce, Ruth Ann Dodman, Jack Fletcher, joining electronically Dave Douglas, 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

Student Trustees: Brianne Machan, joining electronically Taryn Jacobs and Kate Martin

Recording Secretary: Bonnie Gotelaer, Executive Assistant to the Director

Call to Order: Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Chair Campbell read from LKDSB Procedural Bylaw 3.20: Audio or video recording devices may not be used at any meeting of the Board or its committees without the prior permission of the Chair of the Board or the Director of Education.

#2021-148
Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Greg Agar,
"That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of November 23, 2021 be approved."
CARRIED.

Trustee Bryce read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest None

#2021-149
Approval of the Minutes
Nov/9/21

Moved by Scott McKinlay, seconded by Jack Fletcher,
"That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 9, 2021."
Trustee Fletcher requested clarification if specific sectors of Specialist High School Major (SHSM) were noted by Superintendent Mancini at the November 9, 2021 regular board meeting to be included in the minutes if they had been noted. Superintendent Mancini confirmed specific sectors had not been identified at that meeting.
CARRIED.

Business Arising None

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session None

#2021-150
Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Jane Bryce,

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.

Snapshots of Excellence

Director Howitt noted the Director’s Snapshots of Excellence is a chance to display the wonderful things happening throughout the Lambton Kent District School Board. He noted activities the ‘Soctober’ event at Bosanquet Central School with the collection of 907 pairs of socks to be donated to local charities and the annual Walk for Wenjack in memory of Chanie Wenjack. He explained the Walk for Wenjack takes place each October to honour Chanie and all Indigenous children impacted by the residential school system.

Director Howitt noted the Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School Horticulture and Environmental Science classes created a space for students to plant a vegetable garden. CLASS Energy & Environmental Coordinator Taylor Maris helped Rosedale Public School students investigate what can be recycled instead of thrown in the trash. Director Howitt noted Noelle’s Gift provided donations for the purchase of healthy food and reusable water bottles for students. He explained during Treaties Recognition Week students and staff took part in curriculum activities related to honouring the original promises of the land including creation of Two Row Wampum Belts, the Gchi-Miigisaabiigan (Great Wampum Belt) and individual classroom treaties.

Director Howitt noted the importance of volunteers for extracurriculars occurring including non-sporting activities and noted this to be the case in a knitting club. Students at Queen Elizabeth Sarnia has created a knitting club. All extracurriculars require volunteers including staff.

The athletic track being constructed at Great Lakes Secondary School required some trees to be removed and the logs from the trees removed were saved and milled to provide lumber to the tech classes. He highlighted learning activities occurring in schools, students who used chalk on the exterior of the school building to display positive messages and outdoor physical activity.

Director Howitt noted the 2 +1 Project in International Education has begun and noted project involves LKDSB teachers providing online workshops focusing on Academic English development.

The Ontario Federation Secondary Athletics Association (OFSAA) chose a Chatham Kent Secondary School student’s design submitted in a provincial mascot contest.

Students at Lansdowne Public School learned about the origins of Aanishinaabe Baagaadowewin (lacrosse) and students at H.W. Burgess Public School are able to utilize a sensory path.

Vice-Chair Robertson inquired if garbage audits are being conducted across the region for all schools. Director Howitt confirmed that they will be conducted across the region including communications throughout the year from the CLASS Energy & Environmental Coordinator. Trustee Agar noted businesses in the community making efforts in recycling plastic material.

Delegations

Mr. Nick Wallace presented his report, What is the duty of a school board Trustee.

Mr. Wallace noted each slide as presented in the Agenda package with some additional comments. Mr. Wallace delivered his delegation to the Board.

Questions from the Public

Chair Campbell read LKDSB Procedural Bylaw 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 written 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; and
- c) the questioner may ask a follow-up question for clarification

Director Howitt noted there were two questions submitted by Alberto Fleman asking:

After over a year of data into the measures taken by the schools to "prevent the spread" of Covid-19. Is the school board going to or has made a risk assessment comparing the benefits and risks of measures such as masks on kids at schools and Covid-19 vaccinations?

If such an assessment exists, can it be publicly available from the LKDSB website for parents to scrutinize and review considering these measures are being enforced at the school level?

Chair Campbell indicated Director Howitt should answer questions separately.

Director Howitt indicated school board does not do medical research or risk assessments and relies on advice from the Ministry of Education, the Medical Officers of Health locally and Chief Medical Officer of Ontario.

From the LKDSB website mission statement page it is stated under "Belief statements" bullet point 3 that the board believes in "A safe and caring learning environment is strengthened by embracing diversity, and respecting self, others and the world around us." Considering that masks and covid-19 vaccines studies have shown risks associated with them such as bacterial pneumonia and myocarditis, how does the school board consider such risks as part of a "safe" learning environment and preventing kids to have an option to wear or NOT to wear a mask as "respecting self and others"?

Director Howitt noted the Chief Medical Officer of Health as well as the Medical Officers of Health of Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton reviews the data accordingly. He noted vaccines for COVID-19 vaccines are not required to attend school. Masks are an expectation under the guidance of school reopening and students in grades one to twelve students are required to wear masks. To align this in respecting self and others, the expectation to live in society is to follow rules and legislation and laws.

Mr. Wallace noted risk assessments need to be done by the school board as students are present in the classrooms to monitor risk to benefit ratio.

Point of Order by Trustee McKinlay noting he was not able to hear the question and requested it be asked.

Mr. Wallace asked if the harm being caused to children could be evaluated and continued to present his opinion.

Chair Campbell thanked Mr. Wallace.

#2021-151
Report B-21-119

Moved by Lareina Rising, seconded by Malinda Little,

“That the Board approve the 2020/2021 Annual Accessibility Report for the Lambton Kent District School Board.”

Superintendent Girardi noted the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) came into effect in 2005 directing public sector institutions to develop, implement and enforce standards for accessibility related to Customer Service, Transportation, Information and Communication, Built Environments and Employment. He noted it provides for the involvement of persons with disabilities and community partners in the development of proposed standards. He noted the 2020/2021 Annual Accessibility Report for the Board addresses measures taken to identify barriers and enhance accessibility.

CARRIED.

Ontario Public School
Boards' Association
Update (OPSBA)

Trustee Fletcher noted he had forwarded an email regarding the OPSBA Legislative Update distributed on November 19, 2021 with attachments containing a lot of information. He noted to the members there were items regarding next steps to de-streaming, a Minister to Minister child care letter, school calendar guidelines and health and safety updates to schools. He encouraged everyone to review these items. He noted to be scheduled for a meeting on November 27, 2021 and will bring updates from that meeting.

Parent Involvement
Committee Report
Report B-21-121

Director Howitt noted Superintendent Mancini provided a presentation on De-streaming, Assessment and Evaluation and Re-engagement at the Parent Involvement Committee meeting on November 8, 2021. He indicated Superintendent Hazzard presented the draft 2022-2023 school year calendar and provided an update on Math and Reading Diagnostic Assessment. Other items discussed during the Committee meeting were the inclement weather memo, School Climate Survey, Demographic Student Census and the secondary school semester two timetable. Director Howitt noted Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grant applications have been received and the next Parent Involvement Committee meeting is February 7, 2022.

LKDSB COVID-19 Update
– Student Re-Engagement
Report B-21-122

Director Howitt noted student re-engagement involved a report to the Ministry of Education with a plan that began over a year ago and is continuing. Social Workers provided exceptional support to allow for a successful beginning in September 2021. He noted the report indicates success with transition meetings for those needing extra supports.

Director Howitt noted the elementary summer reading camps utilized the Benchmark Reading Assessment. He indicated secondary program provided a team approach in re-engaging students particularly the Indigenous Support Workers, Guidance teachers, Student Success teachers to reach out to students. He noted the Student Re-Engagement team connected with over one thousand two hundred students. Re-engagement with early leavers was successful with help from community partners such as Rebound and Restorative Justice. He noted the re-engagement work and attendance referrals with all staff involved contributed to this success.

Jane Bryce noted some parents were involved in an experiment for de-streaming and some people indicated it was the worst thing they had been

through. Trustee Bryce asked for an update in the future. Director Howitt noted he and Superintendent Mancini would collaborate to provide feedback.

Report B-21-123
Pupil Accommodation
Report

Director Howitt noted the Pupil Accommodation Report has been completed and noted items such as declining enrolment and the eight thousand four hundred empty pupil spaces which is impacting programming. He noted there are ideas and considerations around facilities in this report that could be non-binding for trustees but starting points for discussions and to allow transparency to communities.

Jane Bryce thanked Director Howitt for the report and thanked him for some forward thinking in the report. A lot can change in all this time and noted it to be good reading, glad to have the report in hand and glad to have the graphic.

Correspondence

None

New Business

Trustee Questions

Jack Fletcher asked what legal advice has been received regarding the mandates directed to us from the health science board and the Ministry of Education.

Director Howitt noted legal advice is received from the appropriate law firm based on their expertise. He noted legal advice has been sought on items such as administrative procedures or signage and the LKDSB awaits legal to response to ensure the items are in line with legislation.

Janet Barnes noted Wallaceburg District Secondary School teacher Linda Nethery recently won a Wallaceburg Business Improvement Award sponsored by the Wallaceburg Chamber of Commerce.

Dave Douglas asked how many mask exemptions have been made for this school year for staff and students and is it possible to break it down into groups. Director Howitt noted 336 mask exemptions currently and noted the number changes as requirements change. This number is greater than last year but it increases in proportion with the number of students who have returned to the classroom in person. Superintendent Sherman noted its an average of five students per school with slight increases in ALLP classes and in secondary schools.

Jack Fletcher asked as follow-up in reference to the SHSM if there are any specific examples of areas that are being worked on. Superintendent Mancini noted she would bring the information after meeting with the SHSM leads. Director Howitt noted he is aware there may be a future announcement from OPSBA for an SHSM area.

Jane Bryce noted in the past that declining enrolment was a deep concern and now sees it as a serious issue. OPSBA Western Region inquired if there are concerns to be aware of. She noted Trustee Fletcher indicated that declining enrolment with moratorium has been difficult. Jane Bryce asked how we are going to manage this serious concern if the moratorium is not lifted and will programming be affected.

Director Howitt noted that there are too many schools in too many communities which is not sustainable. He indicated declining enrolment does affect programming as option programs may not be offered to ensure the delivery of compulsory courses. He noted the LKDSB continues to focus on declining enrolment and the delivery of programs.

Notices of Motion

Trustee Agar indicated a Notice of Motion:

“That there would be no pop up clinics throughout the school day because there are facilities like the Bradley Centre that could be used. Rural schools with no other possible places where Optimist to use could have clinics in schools but after school hours and parents should be required to be present when the child receives vaccine.”

Jack Fletcher indicated a Notice of Motion

“ That LKDSB will not provide plastic water bottles at our board meetings. “

Announcements

a) The Organization Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 7:00 p.m. at the Sarnia Education Centre.

b) The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m. at the Chatham Education Centre.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:27p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board