

PRESENT:

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

Staff: Director of Education John Howitt, Superintendents of Education, Angie Barrese, Gary Girardi, Ben Hazzard, Helen Lane, Mary Mancini, Mark Sherman and Public Relations Officer Heather Hughes

Regrets Trustee Dave Douglas, Superintendent of Business Brian McKay, Brianne Machan

Student Trustees: Joining electronically Taryn Jacobs, Kate Martin

Recording Secretary: Bonnie Gotelaer, Executive Assistant to the Director

Call to Order: Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

#2022-27 Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,

Approval of the Agenda

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of February 8, 2022 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest Jack Fletcher read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.
None

#2022-28 Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

Approval of the Minutes

Jan/25/2022

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 25, 2022.

CARRIED.

Business Arising None

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session None

#2022-29 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.

Delegations None

Questions from the Public Liz Vallee submitted the following questions:
1.Recent studies have shown that masks do not work well to reduce or prevent transmission of Covid 19. Fit tested N95 masks do a better job at keeping an individual from contracting the virus (assuming they are worn correctly at all times). Given this recent information, why are our kids still forced to wear masks

(cloth, medical and other), and when are the school boards going to listen to the scientific studies and STOP mask wearing for students?

Director Howitt noted each question has a preamble and a question. Chair Campbell informed the Director to answer the question.

Director Howitt answered the question stating school boards don't make determinations around masking, this is mandated by Public Health. He noted masking guidelines can be found in the Reopening and Operating Our Schools 2021-22 document.

2. The kids have suffered enough! The Covid 19 does not harm healthy children. It is less dangerous for them than the flu. Yet schools still have kids following all sorts of restrictions. This is causing depression, suicide, suicide attempts, and decreased quality of learning. An educational expert has stated that our children will be two years behind the rest of the world and young adults going into the international workforce will be at a massive disadvantage. When will schools go completely back to normal and allow kids to have a quality education?

Director Howitt noted public health measures and restrictions are removed by the Ministry of Education as directed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Jennifer Kumpf, OSSTF submitted the following questions:

OSSTF supports fully funded and fully resourced de-streaming initiatives and recognizes the opportunity for intentional implementation to have positive outcomes for students. At board meetings earlier this year, we have heard trustees and the Parent Involvement Committee (through Director Howitt) express concerns about the shortcomings of de-streaming when it was last introduced in the 90s. As such, I ask the following questions on behalf of OSSTF District 10 in light of plans to re-introduce de-streaming for September 2022:

1. Can you provide an overview of the proactive training and additional everyday supports and resources that will be provided to staff in order to ensure diverse student needs in classrooms are met?

Director Howitt noted an inclusive list will be provided to the OSSTF President at an upcoming meeting.

Superintendent Mancini indicated the preparation for the destreamed math course began a year ago. She noted discussions with LKDSB math teachers and collaboration with math teachers from other boards across the province occurred to prepare for the change. Superintendent Mancini explained the preparation for destreaming the remainder of courses for September 2022 will follow the process outlined for the destreaming of math. She indicated communication has occurred with teachers as Semester 2 begins.

2. Will the cancellation of courses offered at the Applied level in Grade 9 result in larger class sizes?

Director Howitt answered indicating class sizes are managed in the collective agreement and the LKDSB will follow the collective agreement.

3. Will the trustees of the LKDSB write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting additional funding to ensure successful, fully funded and research-based implementation of de-streaming initiatives to support diverse student needs with equitable outcomes?

Director Howitt explained writing a letter to the Minister of Education is a process where a notice of motion occurs which requires a seconder and is approved by trustees.

Report B-22-17	communities have offered paper packages to complete their classroom work and to help if there is not bandwidth to complete their work online. Trustee Rising noted the upcoming hiring of an Indigenous Graduation Coach and that Superintendent Lane had shared information regarding the Voluntary Self-Identification brochure to gather recommendations and feedback.
Special Education Advisory Committee Report Report B-22-18	Trustee Barnes reported the SEAC Committee met in a virtual format and noted a joint presentation from the Kent Interdisciplinary Support (KIDS) Team and the Community Resolution Table. Lambton College presented Community Integration through Co-operative Education (C.I.C.E.). The Alternative Learning and Life Skills Review Program Review was presented.
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Update (OPSBA)	Trustee Fletcher noted he has distributed the link regarding the Public Education Symposium (PES) and encouraged all to review for the informative workshops that may be of interest. He noted the PES presentation was very informative. Trustee Fletcher indicated discussions involving bargaining locally occurred at the Western Regional meeting.
LKDSB COVID-19 Update Report B-22-19	Director Howitt noted the significant amount of work completed and the excitement in returning to the traditional semester for secondary schools. He explained that the current grade 9 and 10 students have not had a traditional semester experience. He noted the focus on assurance and the awareness of trepidation and noted staff have done a fantastic job reassuring students. Cafeterias are open for students to eat in and there has been a return for some extracurricular activities including choirs, wind instrument ensembles and high contact sport. Dual Credit offered through local college campuses has resumed in person for Semester 2. Trustee Bryce commented appreciation for the staff displaying sensitivity for the students going back into the buildings. Director Howitt noted there are some challenges in some areas including the shift in the paradigm when parents and students have gotten very familiar with protocols and their routines. He noted there has been some advocacy to return to full extra-curricular activities as modelled in the community and that there have been changes to definitions on the online screener for staff and students for better accuracy with the Omicron variant surge.
Voluntary Demographic Student Census Report B-22-20	Superintendent Lane noted the importance of the Voluntary Demographic Student Census and explained meetings have been held in consultation with Board level committees, Information Technology (IT) Department, LKDSB Equity Team and community partners. Information regarding communication will be sent schools. She noted the Count Me In LKDSB! Voluntary Student Census will be on a dedicated page on the board website and that trustees will see the final survey. Superintendent Lane confirmed to Trustee Fletcher the questions being asked on the survey have been provided by the Ministry of Education. She noted elementary students will complete it at home with their parents/guardians and students from grades 9-12 will complete independently. Trustee Bryce asked when the survey would be available. Superintendent Lane answered the survey will be available March 1 – 25, 2022 for completion. Trustee Fletcher asked what information will be shared. Superintendent Lane noted the data shared will be aggregated data and the information does not identify students.

	<p>Director Howitt noted the final stage will include the conduction of a security test to ensure that the data is private.</p>
Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol Report B-22-21	<p>Superintendent Girardi noted the Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol report indicates the commitment to keeping students safe and supporting healthy communities. He noted due to daily contact with students, educators are well placed to discuss these issues with students. The draft version of the protocol has been developed and is under review in order to complete consultation.</p> <p>Director Howitt noted the LKDSB communities are close to international border crossings adding to the risks.</p>
Correspondence	<p>None</p>
New Business	<p>None</p>
Trustee Questions	<p>Jane Bryce asked regarding the Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols, how would a person get information and how would someone report an issue.</p> <p>Superintendent Girardi explained the draft was developed with assistance from CODE (Council of Directors of Education) and will be available on the LKDSB website. He noted this is a complex item engaging community partners to assist in providing support to students should they find themselves in a situation.</p> <p>Jack Fletcher asked for clarification on news reports regarding provincial assessments.</p> <p>Superintendent Mancini noted discussions have begun in providing fair and equitable assessments to secondary students. She noted semester 2 will be similar to semester 1 and further information will be brought forward at a future board meeting.</p> <p>Director Howitt confirmed before the Winter Break, there were kits of 5 distributed to students with directions around which days they were to use them. Students were then engaged in remote learning following the break. Once students returned in person, elementary staff and students were given a pair (RAT) Rapid Antigen Test kits to take home. After this distribution, the secondary panel then received their pairs of RAT kits. Parents had the opportunity to opt out and not receive the kits. He explained the rapid antigen tests arrived in kits of 25 and were sorted into pairs of tests as there is not a manufacturer that produces the kits in pairs. Since tests have been distributed board-wide any future distribution will be to those staff and students who require replenishing.</p> <p>Regarding the provincial assessments, Trustee Fletcher asked what the LKDSB position is on this matter.</p> <p>Director Howitt noted the OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) was written and the EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) in grade 9 math was not written in first semester due to EQAO testing is an online format and students are required to be in person. The Ministry of Education has made it possible to for boards to complete the grade 9 math at a later date. The OSSLT will be written in English in second semester as is a graduation requirement. The grades 3 and 6 EQAO will be written in person.</p> <p>Vice-Chair Robertson noted the board received questions submitted that seem to have an insinuated tone. He noted the term “traditional” was realistic. He noted that the question stated the LKDSB has not been delivering quality education and questioned if there was data supporting this opinion.</p> <p>Director Howitt noted support for the education students are receiving. He indicated all reporting required has been completed and LKDSB staff have done a great job in delivering the education.</p>

Vice-Chair Robertson noted staff have had to work under difficult conditions and commended their efforts.

Notices of Motion

None

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sarnia Education Centre and via Zoom. Everyone stay safe and stay healthy.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board