

PRESENT:

Trustees: Chair Randy Campbell, Vice-Chair Janet Barnes, Greg Agar, Ruth Ann Dodman, Jack Fletcher, Malinda Little, Roberta Northmore, Angela Richards, Kelley Robertson, and David Shortt

Student Trustees: Alizah Ali, Tristan Nemcek, and Kobee Soney

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

Regrets: Trustee Jane Bryce

Recording Secretary: Jaime Shannon, Executive Assistant to the Director

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

#2023-21 Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Angela Richards,

Approval of the Agenda

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of December 13, 2022 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest None.

#2023-22 Approval of the Minutes Nov/15/2022

Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by David Shortt,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Annual Organization Board Meeting of November 15, 2022.”

CARRIED.

#2023-23 Approval of the Minutes Nov/22/2022

Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Malinda Little,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 22, 2022.”

CARRIED.

Business Arising Director Howitt provided Trustees with a follow-up to the temporary relocation of Brooke Central Public School students due to the necessary roof repairs at the school. He shared that the transition of students to East Lambton Elementary School, Lambton Centennial Public School, and the addition at Brooke Central Public School has gone very well, but Brooke Central Public School has not lost its identity as it continues with school activities. He thanked staff for the significant amount of work that was completed in a short period of time to support the relocation, and the Brooke Central Public School community for their patience and understanding.

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session

None.

#2023-24  
Action of the Regular  
Board Private Session be  
the Action of the Board

Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Kelley Robertson,  
“That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board.”

CARRIED.

Secondary School Survival  
Skills Summer Workshop  
for Students –  
Superintendent Barrese

Superintendent Barrese introduced Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)  
Specialists Emily Burns and Becky Drury.

ABA Specialists Burns and Drury reported that the Summer Secondary School Survival Skills Camp was open to all students in Grades 7 to 10, with the purpose of supporting students with their transition to secondary school by exposing them to the secondary school environment and routines and by building social and executive functioning skills. In the spirit of summer holidays, there was a ‘hangout’ space and games were played, and in a classroom setting, common worries and solutions for students to succeed at secondary school were covered, and resources were shared, such as a locker emergency kit, a planner, and a school map. Students participated in lunch preparation and ate together as a group, which helped them practice social skills and build connections and students participated in “The Challenge”, where they used their new skills to navigate the school and practice coping skills, and then reflected on any stress they felt during the challenge and how they managed it. Students provided feedback on their favourite and least favourite parts of the day and families provided feedback as well.

ABA Specialists Burns and Drury reported that in their role they specialize in working with top tier students with significant behaviour concerns, but work with students from all tiers.

Superintendent Barrese reported that all students who participated in the camp began school in September.

A Trustee asked how students can get connected with the camp. ABA Specialist Burns responded that a flyer went to school administrators, resource teachers, and community partners and was shared online. Superintendent Barrese added that they plan to run the camp again next summer and would like to offer it during other school breaks as well.

A Trustee noted that her son attended the camp and it helped with his transition to in-person learning after two years of virtual learning.

A Student Trustee thanked the ABA Team for the work they have done to help students transition to high school and asked if the program could be held at more secondary school locations so the students can make connections to the school they will be attending. ABA Specialist Burns responded that they would be willing to have the program at any available school. Superintendent Barrese added that they are looking at how they can link to the Social Emotional Learning Camps.

Director Howitt remarked that transition camps are one of the silver linings that came out of COVID-19 and Senior Administration will look for ways to continue the programs should the Ministry end the funding.

Delegations	None.
Questions from the Public	None
#2023-25 Tender Award – LCCVI Gym Rooftop Unit Replacement Report B-23-13	<p>Associate Director McKay reported to Trustees on a tender for Lambton Central Collegiate &amp; Vocational Institute.</p> <p>A Trustee asked if prices have leveled off in some projects. Associate Director McKay responded that this tender came in-line with estimates, but noted that estimates have increased. He added that prices are higher than two years ago due to inflation and scarcity of skilled labour in some areas.</p> <p>Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Malinda Little,</p> <p>“That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, Maaten Construction Ltd., for the Gym Rooftop Unit Replacement at Lambton Central Collegiate &amp; Vocational Institute.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>
Parent Involvement Committee Report Report B-23-14	<p>Superintendent Barrese reported on the November 21, 2022 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), which she Chaired in Director Howitt’s absence. She noted that the School Climate Survey results were presented, and updates were provided on the EQAO Provincial update, Bullying Awareness Week, and Inclement Weather. She reported there was a good discussion on the Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant.</p>
Indigenous Liaison Committee Report Report B-23-15	<p>Trustee Northmore reported on the November 16, 2022 Indigenous Liaison Committee (ILC) meeting. She relayed that Kettle &amp; Stony Point First Nation is working on addressing attendance issues in their community, they are considering dedicating a week for land-based learning, Jenna Southen is their new Indigenous Lead, and Steve Syers has resigned as principal of Hillside School. She reported that Aamjiwnaang First Nation participated in ‘Rock your Mocs Day’, the Bookkeeper donated \$2,700, the proceeds from Orange Shirt Day, for the purchase of new books for the school library, and the JK/SK class sang ‘O Canada’ in Ojibwe at the City Hall inaugural event. She noted that Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit held a Truth and Reconciliation event on September 20, 2022, which had a turnout of approximately 160 participants, and the community was able to resume its in-person Remembrance Day service with Grades 4 to 6 students from Naahii Ridge Public School in attendance. She reported that LKDSB Indigenous Lead Dallas Sinopole is working on the Board Action Plan (BAP) and Indigenous Education staff members are attending an Indigenous Leads gathering in Toronto as well as the upcoming Indspire Conference in Winnipeg. She added that 54 reports were received from school administrators.</p> <p>Superintendent Lane explained that the BAP is a template received from the Ministry of Education on an annual basis, that is completed in collaboration with four First Nation partners.</p> <p>Trustee Dodman attended the meeting at 7:37 p.m.</p>

Special Education  
Advisory Committee  
Report  
Report B-23-16

Vice-Chair Barnes reported on the November 17, 2022 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting. She noted that a letter from Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board was discussed, and Administration was asked to provide information to the committee at the next meeting.

Ontario Public School  
Boards' Association  
Update (OPSBA)

Trustee Fletcher provided Trustees with an update from the OPSBA Board of Directors Meeting and Advocacy Day, including staffing changes, a masking report, and a motion moved by OPSBA to engage with the Ministry of Education in conversations around the role of the Student Trustee. He reported that as part of Advocacy Day, he met with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Bob Bailey and Jennie Stevens and provided them with a handout listing the main concerns of the Board, such as the moratorium on school closures.

LKDSB Pupil  
Accommodation Report  
Report B-23-17

Director Howitt reported that the LKDSB Pupil Accommodation Report is presented to the Board annually. He explained that the Ministry's Pupil Accommodation Review process is lengthy, so the amount of funding approved by the Ministry at the planning stages of the project does not match the cost of the project in the final stages of the project. He added that the number of students the project is planned for can also change in this time frame. He shared that the Minister of Education has indicated a new Pupil Accommodation Review process will be brought forward in the 2023-2024 school year which will address these challenges. He noted there is a proposed plan in place for Pupil Accommodation Reviews in order to address empty pupil spaces in LKDSB schools, but the moratorium on school closures the Ministry currently has in place impacts the ability to move forward with the plan. He explained that empty pupil spaces impact school programming.

Associate Director McKay thanked staff for their support in preparing the Pupil Accommodation Report. He reported that the LKDSB has an enrolment of 22,275 students, including 300 students in the Ministry-required virtual learning program, and there are 6 elementary schools with populations under 150 students and 3 secondary schools with populations under 400 students. He noted that the LKDSB is considered a declining enrolment board as enrolment has decreased by 1,678 (7.23%) students since the 2012-2013 school year but the decline has softened, and enrolment increased by 519 students from the 2020-2021 to the 2021-2022 school year. He reported that the Board has 7,761 empty pupil spaces, which is the equivalent to eight large secondary schools, and the overall capacity for the Board is 74.16%.

Associate Director McKay explained that a revised Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline was put in place by the Ministry in 2018, and a moratorium for school closures shortly followed while the guidelines were reviewed by the provincial government. He added that school boards no longer receive top-up funding to operate schools.

Associate Director McKay reported on the Capacity Levels within the Board and noted that schools that are running above 100% utilization have portables onsite. He reminded Trustees that the Board was successful in receiving Ministry funding for a two classroom and daycare addition at Errol Village Public School, which has a percentage capacity of 133% and two portables onsite. He explained that once the addition is completed the percentage capacity will decrease to 100% and the portables will no longer be needed.

Associate Director McKay explained that the LKDSB receives grant funding on an annual basis for capital repair and maintenance on school facilities, projects which are prioritized based on school need and condition. The capital needs and condition of the school is used to calculate the Facility Condition Index (FCI), a common facilities management benchmark which compares the total cost of required capital work in LKDSB schools against the replacement value of those same schools. He explained that the cost to build a secondary school, which is listed as \$16 million, is a number provided by the Ministry, and it would actually be closer to \$40 million to build a new secondary school. He noted that Tilbury District High School, Blenheim District High School, John McGregor Secondary School, and Ridgetown District High Schools are included in the proposed Pupil Accommodation Review list as consolidation of four secondary schools into one, and they have the highest FCI numbers for secondary schools. He explained that capital projects continue at schools listed within the proposed Pupil Accommodation Review phases.

Associate Director McKay explained that the School & Site Information Summaries found within Appendix A include specific information about each school within the Board.

A Trustee asked how a gymnasium renovation could be prioritized once the moratorium has been lifted by the Ministry and provided the example of the King George VI Public School (Chatham) gymnasium. Director Howitt clarified that a gymnasium renovation would be considered a capital project, which do not need the moratorium to be lifted in order to take place. He relayed that the King George VI Public School (Chatham) gymnasium has been a capital request for a number of years, but the Ministry has indicated funding for gymnasium upgrades would not be approved, as they are focusing on schools that require additional classroom or daycare space. He explained that a request to use LKDSB money to fund the project was not approved. He added that the moratorium is not allowing the Board to reduce empty pupil spaces where Trustees deem appropriate and potentially building new schools. He remarked that the Pupil Accommodation Review process is difficult, but it results in state-of-the-art facilities with improved programming and conditions at the school for students and staff, as evidenced by the outcomes at Plympton-Wyoming Public School and Great Lakes Secondary School for example. He explained that once the moratorium is lifted, Senior Administration will likely bring multiple reviews to Trustees. He added that newer schools would help draw population to the area and help the communities grow and thrive.

A Trustee asked if portables are reused at other facilities within the Board. Director Howitt responded that portables are used in as many locations as possible until they are prohibitive to repair, and seven portables will be purchased for Rosedale Public School to allow for a shorter renovation project, which will then be moved to other facilities once they are no longer needed there. Associate Director McKay added that the lifespan of a portable is about twenty years, and there is an estimated 12-month lead time to purchase a portable. He added that purchasing from other school boards when there is availability is a consideration.

A Trustee asked when the moratorium is expected to be lifted. Director Howitt responded that from what the Minister has shared, the new process for school builds is expected in 2023, which he believes may bring a new process around

school consolidations. He explained that the Ministry accepts capital funding requests annually and provided the example of the funding for the addition to Errol Village Public School.

Budget Meeting Schedule  
for the 2023-2024 School  
Year  
Report B-23-18

Associate Director McKay reported to Trustees on the budget meeting schedule for the 2023-2024 school year, which includes meetings to guide the budget development process.

Secondary School Survival  
Skills Summer Workshop  
for Students  
Report B-23-19

Superintendent Barrese noted the Secondary School Survival Skills Summer Workshop for Students Board Report complemented the presentation provided to Trustees earlier in the meeting. She remarked that funding was received from the Ministry of Education through the projects of Re-engagement and Reading Assessment Support and Summer Transitions to allow for the workshops to take place for students during July and August 2022.

Correspondence

None.

New Business

None.

Trustee Questions

A Trustee asked for the recent attendance numbers that relate to the cold, flu, or other communicable diseases. Director Howitt responded that Senior Administration tracks absences on a daily basis, but they are not tied to a specific reason. He explained that the data that day showed 12.73% absences across the Board, which is a decline from a peak in mid- to late November 2022. He further explained that these numbers are shared with the local Medical Officers of Health, who were not alarmed by the numbers, and are better than those seen in other communities, especially those with dense populations. He noted that Bluewater Health has reported they are not seeing significant paediatric admissions, and are receiving admissions from other areas. He noted he will be meeting with the local Medical Officers of Health next week and will ask if the numbers have peaked in either area of the Board.

A Trustee asked what the response has been for staff and students in regard to voluntary masking. Director Howitt responded that those who choose to wear a mask are not stigmatized, and there have been no reports of bullying or conflict for any students choosing to wear one. He added that masks continue to be provided for staff and students should they wish to wear one. The Student Trustees confirmed that they have not seen any negativity towards those who choose to wear a mask at school.

A Trustee reported there have been a number of school boards which have withdrawn police services in their schools and asked for Senior Administration's current thoughts on police presence in schools. Director Howitt noted that it is important to realize that policies on police presence in schools look different across boards, so media coverage may not show a fair comparison to the policies of the LKDSB. Superintendent Girardi responded that the LKDSB has a working relationship with the three police services within its catchment area, and there is a police protocol that all parties sign. One and a half years ago, concerns were raised and Senior Administration reviewed the services police provide in schools and consulted with mental health staff and the coterminous board. He noted that there is a good process in place, but they recognize there are areas for

improvement. He added there are a wide variety of areas that involve the local police forces in order to keep LKDSB staff, students, and schools, safe.

A Trustee asked if there has been an increase in reported bullying and violence incidents and what role progressive discipline policies have. Superintendent Girardi responded that violence and reported incidents are tracked through the Safe Schools Reporting form and reported that the numbers decreased during the pandemic, but data has suggested there has been an increase. He explained that 3,000 incidents have been submitted since the Board moved to an online reporting form, and all incidents are investigated. He reported that the Safe Schools department works closely with student wellness supports, the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee, and elementary and secondary program departments, to assess the situation and provide supports, which could include discipline. He noted that a lawyer from Hicks Morley LLP provided all-day training for LKDSB staff who complete investigations in order to improve how investigations are conducted. He added that LKDSB union partners are involved in data monitoring as well, an item negotiated with CUPE 1238.

A Trustee asked why there was a shift away from the United Way fundraising campaign. Director Howitt clarified that the United Way continues to be one of the main charities the Board advertises, along with Noelle's Gift and the nutrition programs, but it has moved away from payroll deductions as the data showed low employee participation. He explained that staff are encouraged to donate to the charities directly.

Notices of Motion

None.

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at the Chatham Regional Education Centre at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

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Chair of the Board

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Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board