

PRESENT:

Trustees: Chair Randy Campbell, Vice-Chair Janet Barnes, Jane Bryce, 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, joining virtually, Ben Hazzard, and Mary Mancini, and Public Relations Officer Heather Hughes

Regrets: Superintendent Helen Lane

Recording Secretary: Jaime Shannon, Executive Assistant to the Director

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

#2023-28 Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,

Approval of the Agenda

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of January 10, 2023 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

#2023-29
Approval of the Minutes
Dec/13/2022

Moved by David Shortt, seconded by Angela Richards,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 13, 2022.”

CARRIED.

Business Arising

None.

Motions Emanating from
the Regular Board Private
Session

None.

#2023-30
Action of the Regular
Board Private Session be
the Action of the Board

Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Roberta Northmore,

“That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board.”

CARRIED.

Delegations

None.

Questions from the Public

None

Student Senate Report
Report B-23-21

Student Trustee Nemcek reported on the December 19, 2022 Student Senate meeting. He relayed that Superintendent Lane provided Student Senators with an overview of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and discussed strategies to ensure student voice is heard; Superintendent Barrese shared the School Climate Survey results; and a discussion took place around the review of the

Student Senate Policy, Regulations, and Administrative Procedure and consideration for changing the structure of the committee to allow a Student Trustee to Co-Chair the committee with a Student Senator. He added that the Student Trustee election for the 2023-2024 school year will be held on February 13, 2023 at Wallaceburg District Secondary School and Student Senators were encouraged to promote the Student Trustee positions and to apply if interested.

A Trustee asked if there was an update on the school in Africa that the LKDSB contributed to building. Director Howitt responded that this was a project that took place prior to him being with the LKDSB but would follow up on this. A Trustee noted that the project was in conjunction with Lambton College.

Ontario Public School
Boards' Association
Update (OPSBA)

Trustee Fletcher reminded Trustees that OPSBA's Public Education Symposium will take place from January 26 to 28, 2023 and noted that he will not be attending the February 24 and 25, 2023 Board of Directors meeting, but relayed that Trustee Robertson will attend.

Special Education
Advisory Committee
Report
Report B-23-22

Superintendent Barrese reported to Trustees that at the December 15, 2022 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting there was a presentation on working with community agencies who will support some LKDSB students after they graduate and the nomination and appointment process for SEAC was outlined. She noted that the meeting was held virtually due to inclement weather, so the Public Consultation and Parent Engagement agenda item was deferred to the next in-person meeting and that the election for Chair of the committee will take place in January 2023.

LKDSB Director's Annual
Report
Report B-23-23

Director Howitt presented the Director's Annual Report and explained that the report is submitted annually to the Ministry of Education by posting it on the LKDSB website by January 31. He noted that the report covers September 2021 to August 2022, and it is organized by the LKDSB Strategic Priorities.

Director Howitt relayed that the Director's Annual Report is to be brought to Trustees at the first business meeting in December, but past practice has been to present the report at the first meeting in January since the only meeting held in December was the Board Organization Meeting, which is not a business meeting. He explained that since the Board Organization Meeting is now held in November, there is an opportunity for the report to be presented in December. The Trustees did not provide a request to change past practice.

Director Howitt remarked that many programs took place in 2021-2022 to support student transitions following the remote learning period, in part due to additional Ministry funding, and noted that Senior Administration hopes to continue this programming as much as possible due to its positive impact on students and families. He added that the LKDSB received \$919,900 for tutoring support from April to August 2022 as part of Ontario Ministry of Education's learning recovery funding.

Director Howitt reported that the four-year and five-year LKDSB graduation rates are lower than the provincial average and remarked that Senior Administration is focused on addressing this. He explained that three out of 10 students who begin Grade 9 with the LKDSB do not graduate after four years and two out of 10 students who begin Grade 9 with the LKDSB do not graduate

after five years, and there are students who are not graduating due to incomplete community service hours. He remarked that ensuring students graduate is the responsibility of the LKDSB and the community as a whole and early interventions are necessary.

Director Howitt reported that the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) provincial assessments were administered in a new mode of delivery and new assessment model in 2021-2022 so LKDSB results can not be compared to previous years, but when compared to provincial results, the LKDSB was below the provincial results in all areas. He remarked that the LKDSB remains focused on increasing student mathematics and literacy achievement.

Director Howitt highlighted Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs for secondary schools, summer programming opportunities for students, and programs through Adult & Continuing Education.

Director Howitt highlighted the work in anti-oppressive education, which aligns with the Board's Strategic Priority of Inclusive Diversity. He shared the challenges and resistance by a relatively small number of people related to this work and gave examples of attempts by that group of people to distract from the necessary work to support safe, welcoming, and inclusive learning and working environments.

Director Howitt reported that capital projects throughout the Board continue to be a focus for Senior Administration, as the LKDSB has many older buildings. He noted there was significant funding for ventilation and HVAC systems during the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant funds originally budgeted for these types of projects could be used in other projects. He reported that LKDSB staff participated in the Green Team Initiative to help educate, inspire, and empower school communities to become more environmentally friendly. He explained that this was an initiative in partnership with the coterminous school board under the leadership of Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services' (CLASS) Energy & Environmental Coordinator.

A Trustee asked how the Board can help students develop a better understanding of equity, diversity, and inclusion and noted that they did not understand how the LKDSB could have lower graduation rates than most of the province.

Director Howitt clarified that the LKDSB does not have the lowest graduation rates in the province, but both the four- and five-year rates are lower than the provincial average. He suggested Trustees review the LKDSB Operational Plan for initiatives in place to help support graduation rates. He relayed that Superintendent Mancini has begun the process of completing exit interviews for students who did not graduate, to help with understanding as to why these students did not graduate, and an employee will be hired in secondary to look at students who did not have four credits after Grade 9 and students who do not have their community service hours completed in Grade 11. He added that feedback has shown there is a lack of connection with a caring adult, and noted that students who may be at risk should be recognized early to ensure they become engaged. He noted that Trustees would be updated on supports for students through workshops, reports, and presentations. He remarked that

students need food, shelter, and safety before anything else and provided the example of nutrition programs, which are run to ensure that the need for food is taken care of. He relayed that student safety needs to be treated the same way as the need for food and supports need to be provided to ensure students feel safe at schools.

A Trustee noted that historically, Board culture was that the onus was primarily on students to graduate and commended the Director and LKDSB staff for working towards changing this culture and providing supports to help students graduate.

A Student Trustee noted that students have lacked motivation since the COVID-19 pandemic, and suggested secondary schools adopt a model similar to the Chatham Kent Secondary School Awards, which recognize students for various achievements, such as “continuous improvement” and “strength of character”, in order to help motivate students. Director Howitt thanked the Student Trustee for the suggestion and noted that it would be shared with secondary school administrators at a future meeting.

Following a request from a Trustee for ideas on how secondary students could achieve the required 40 hours of community service, Student Trustees shared that it is difficult to balance academics and community involvement in Grades 11 and 12, so it would be beneficial if students became more involved in the community in Grades 9 and 10.

Chair Campbell thanked Director Howitt for the informative and in-depth report.

Correspondence	None.
New Business	None.
Trustee Questions	None.
Notices of Motion	None.
Announcements	The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at the Sarnia Education Centre at 7:00 p.m.
Adjournment	There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board