

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

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 Student Trustees Alizah Ali and Kobee Soney

Student Trustees: Tristan Nemcek

Recording Secretary: Jaime Shannon, Executive Assistant to the Director

Call to Order: Director Howitt called the Annual Organization Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m. and explained that as per the LKDSB Procedural By-laws Section 2.3 and the Education Act Section 2.8, the Director presides over the meeting until a Chair of the Board is elected.

Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement Director Howitt read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Director Howitt advised that the official returns of the election of the Trustees for the Board have been received from the various Municipal Clerks as well as notice from the First Nation partners and the Declarations of the Office and the Oaths of Allegiance pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act have been completed and filed. He congratulated all Trustees on being elected or appointed to the position of Trustee to govern the LKDSB. He remarked that it was a new beginning for the Board, but the focus on the Board's Mission, *Fostering Success for Every Student, Every Day*, will continue. He relayed to Trustees that the guidance and direction they provide through the LKDSB Vision, Mission, Strategic Priorities, and Policies and Procedures resonate with LKDSB staff who work directly with students. He thanked Trustees for their service to LKDSB students over the next four years.

Director Howitt noted that since the last Organization Meeting, challenges brought forth from COVID-19 continued, but activities have now returned to schools. He remarked that the *Right to Read* report released by the Ontario Human Rights Commission highlighted the importance of early intervention to support the ability to read for primary students, which will continue to be a significant focus for the LKDSB, and strategies recommended in the report will be implemented. He added that LKDSB Graduation rates and test measures all demonstrate that our students need support to meet and exceed provincial averages. He commented that COVID-19 is not gone and will continue to present challenges, but student academic outcomes and well-being must have equal billing to ensure student success.

Director Howitt remarked that he is very proud of the work of LKDSB staff, who consistently put students first, and is awed by the achievements of LKDSB students. He thanked the Associate Director, Superintendents, and Director's Office staff for their work and focus on students, and for supporting staff so they can support students. He noted this connection is similar to Trustees, who through governance set the conditions for Senior Administration to

operationalize the Strategic Priorities they put before them through staff for students.

Performance by the Great Lakes Secondary School Jazz Band

Superintendent Hazzard introduced Derek Stenton, Principal of Great Lakes Secondary School and welcomed the Great Lakes Secondary School Jazz Band and teacher Chitra Dath.

Greetings – Superintendent Lane

Superintendent Lane brought greetings with poem *Teach the Children* by Jon M. Nelson and welcomed the new Board of Trustees.

#2023-01  
Appointment of Student Trustee Scrutineers

Moved by David Shortt, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the Board appoint Student Trustee Tristan Nemcek to serve as Scrutineer for the Annual Organization Meeting.”

CARRIED.

Director Howitt invited Trustees to submit nominations for the position of Chair of the Board for the term November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023. He explained the process for election of the Chair.

#2023-02  
Nominations for Election of the Chair of the Board

Moved by Greg Agar,

“That Randy Campbell be nominated to serve as Chair of the Lambton Kent District School Board.”

CARRIED.

#2023-03  
Nominations Closed for Election of Chair of the Board

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

“That the nominations for Chair be closed.”

CARRIED.

Trustee Campbell allowed his name to stand.

Election of the Chair

Trustee Campbell was acclaimed to the position of Chair of the Lambton Kent District School Board and assumed the Chair position.

Address of the Chair

Chair Campbell addressed the Board. He thanked Trustee Agar for nominating him for Chair of the Lambton Kent District School Board and welcomed new Trustees Northmore, Robertson, Richards, and Shortt. He noted that students should always be put first in decision making and it was important to keep an open mind on issues and respect others’ opinions. He thanked LKDSB staff for everything they do to keep schools open, safe, and a secure learning environment for all involved. He noted that a significant concern moving forward is declining student enrolment and aging buildings. He remarked that he looked forward to serving as Chair for a third year.

Chair Campbell invited Trustees to submit for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board for the term November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023.

#2023-04  
Nominations for Vice-Chair of the Board

Moved by Greg Agar,

“That Janet Barnes be nominated to serve as Vice-Chair of the Lambton Kent District School Board.”

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#2022-05 Nominations Closed for Election of Vice-Chair of the Board	Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Malinda Little, "That the nominations for Vice-Chair of the Board be closed." Trustee Barnes allowed her name to stand.	CARRIED.
Election of Vice-Chair	Trustee Barnes was acclaimed to the position of Vice-Chair of the Lambton Kent District School Board and assumed the Vice-Chair position.	
Address by the Vice-Chair	Vice-Chair Barnes thanked Trustees for their support and remarked that she looked forward to serving as Vice-Chair of the Board.  Chair Campbell invited Trustees to submit nominations for the position of Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Delegate for the LKDSB.	
#2023-06 Nomination for OPSBA Delegate	Moved by Janet Barnes, "That Jack Fletcher be nominated to serve as the LKDSB Delegate to the Ontario Public School Board's Association."	
#2023-07 Nominations Closed for OPSBA Delegate	Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Angela Richards, "That the nominations for the LKDSB Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association be closed." Trustee Fletcher allowed his name to stand.	CARRIED.
OPSBA Delegate	Trustee Fletcher was acclaimed as the LKDSB Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.	
#2023-08 Nominations for Election of OPSBA Alternate	Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, "That Kelley Robertson be nominated to serve as the LKDSB Alternate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association."	
#2023-09 Nominations Closed for OPSBA Alternate	Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Malinda Little, "That the nominations for the LKDSB Alternate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association be closed." Trustee Robertson allowed her name to stand.	CARRIED.
Election of OPSBA Alternate	Trustee Robertson was acclaimed to the position of LKDSB Alternate for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.  The Striking Committee retired to meet and confirm Trustee's Board Committee appointments for the upcoming year.	
#2023-10 Report of the Striking Committee B-23-01	Moved by David Shortt, seconded by Angela Richards, "That the Board approve the Trustee Committee Assignments for the period from November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023, and for the period November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2026 for the Audit Committee and Special Education	

Advisory Committee only, as outlined in Report B-23-01.”

CARRIED.

#2023-11  
Appointment of Signing  
Officers of the Board  
Report B-23-02

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Angela Richards,

“That, for the term of November 2022 to November 2023, the Board appoint John Howitt, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board and Brian McKay, Associate Director – Corporate Services and Treasurer of the Board as its official signing officers.”

CARRIED.

#2023-12  
Appointment of Legal  
Counsel for the Board  
Report B-23-02

Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Malinda Little,

“That, for the term of November 2022 to November 2023, the Board appoint the legal firms of: (a) Hicks Morley LLP and (b) Harrison Pensa LLP as its official legal counsels to conduct business.”

Associate Director McKay noted an error in the address for Harrison Pensa LLP on the report.

CARRIED.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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Chair of the Board

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Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board