

PRESENT:

Trustees: Chair Randy Campbell, Vice-Chair Janet Barnes, Jane Bryce, joining virtually, Greg Agar, Ruth Ann Dodman, Jack Fletcher, Malinda Little, joining virtually, 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:

Recording Secretary: Jaime Shannon, Executive Assistant to the Director

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

#2023-15 Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by David Shortt,

Approval of the Agenda

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of November 22, 2022 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

#2023-16
Approval of the Minutes
Nov/08/2022

Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Janet Barnes,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 8, 2022.”

CARRIED.

Business Arising

Director Howitt followed-up to a question from a Student Trustee at the November 8, 2022 Board Meeting regarding payment for Indigenous Knowledge Keepers. He reported that the process discussed at the meeting is now in place and all outstanding payments have been issued.

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session

None.

#2023-17
Action of the Regular
Board Private Session be
the Action of the Board

Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

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

CARRIED.

Summer Social Emotional Learning Camps – Superintendent Barrese

Superintendent Barrese introduced System Coordinator Chris Moore, Mental Health Lead Katie Colameco, LKDSB Social Worker Karla Veens, and former student leaders in the program Sophia Barrese, Tristan Bhola, and Maddie Nemcek.

Superintendent Barrese reported that in Summer 2022, Social Emotional Summer Learning Camps were held for students across the district which supported five critical areas of focus: inclusion and belonging; student-centred approaches; caring adults; learning disruptions; and community outreach/supporting families. She noted that these areas of focus align with the Board's Strategic Priorities.

System Coordinator Moore explained that staff reported students were struggling to manage social situations and were demonstrating lagging skills regarding social interactions, play, and conflict resolution, and the camp focused on providing instruction and support to develop these identified lagging skills to better prepare the students for a full return to school in September 2022. He noted that 12 post-secondary students were employed as Caring Adults, and they were provided training from the LKDSB Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) on creating a caring and welcoming environment, how to be a caring adult, and how to provide support to students if needed.

Mental Health Lead Colameco reported that LKDSB Social workers were available at all camp locations to provide parents/guardians with information about community connections and guidance around managing situations like anxiety, family connections, sibling and peer conflict, and general family wellness. System Coordinator Moore further added that Social Workers provided parents/guardians with family time activity ideas, and various gift cards were distributed to families to encourage them to plan extracurricular outings.

Social Worker Karla Veens remarked that students were really engaged in the camp, and the free programming was a great opportunity for families. Sophia Barrese, Tristan Bhola, and Maddie Nemcek relayed that theme weeks were popular with the students, and the camp was a great opportunity for students to build social emotional skills.

A Trustee asked if there was an opportunity presented to members of the four First Nations communities to attend the camp. Superintendent Barrese responded that information on the camp was shared through the schools, to the Special Education Advisory Committee, and through Board communications. She added that many school administrators and MDT members advertised the calendar for the camp at community locations.

A Trustee asked if there is a budget available for the camp to run next year. Director Howitt responded that the funding will be available next year as it was multi-year funding.

A Trustee asked how much participation there was from virtual program students. Superintendent Barrese responded that they did not ask which school the children were from and noted that every child who attended was welcome to take part in the program.

Delegations None.

Questions from the Public None.

Supervised Alternative Learning Report B-23-07	Trustee Fletcher reported on the 2021-2022 Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee, which was composed of Trustees Greg Agar, Randy Campbell, Ruth Ann Dodman, Jack Fletcher (Chair), System Coordinator Paul Wiersma, and Community Representatives Leslie Helferty and Rosa Zamudio. He noted that LKDSB resource staff, including SAL Coordinator Dennis Meston, Student Engagement Clerk Karen Bieber, Attendance Officers Andy Collins and Lis Hoskins, Indigenous Student Re-Engagement Workers Yvette Capiou and Mary Whiteye, and secondary school principals and vice-principals, attended the committee meetings. He noted that Trustee Dodman is the new SAL Chair and encouraged Trustees to review the report.
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Update (OPSBA)	Trustee Fletcher reported that the next OPSBA Board of Directors meeting will be held on November 27, 2022 and will then meet with local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP) on November 28, 2022.
Ad Hoc Naming Committee for the Kindergarten to Grade 12 School in Forest Report B-23-08	Director Howitt reported that the initial steps are taking place to move forward with the established Ad Hoc Naming Committee for the Kindergarten to Grade 12 School in Forest, Ontario. He noted that Trustees Bryce and Fletcher were appointed to serve on the committee through a November 27, 2018 Board Motion. He added that Senior Administration will work with principals of the schools involved to collect the names of the other members of the committee, including a representative from Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. Trustees Bryce and Fletcher confirmed they are still willing to be on the committee, and there were no changes to Trustee membership requested from Trustees.
Summer Social Emotional Learning Camps Report B-23-09	Superintendent Barrese thanked Trustees for permitting the Summer Social Emotional Learning Camps presentation earlier in the meeting and relayed Trustees to the Board Report for additional information.
Correspondence	None.
New Business	None.
Trustee Questions	A Trustee noted they attended the open house meeting regarding Brooke Central School and asked for more information on the concerns parents/guardians brought forth and how Senior Administration plans to address these concerns. Director Howitt remarked that Senior Administration has made a commitment to be as transparent as possible with the school community throughout the process, and updated communications are released as promptly as possible. In response to the question, he noted there were various concerns expressed at the meeting, including the concern raised regarding the temporary relocation of Grade 6, 7, and 8 students to a secondary school, specifically regarding the boys' washroom being located on a different floor than the classrooms and the potential for interaction with secondary school students. He explained that the plan for the Grade 6, 7, and 8 students has been revised, and they will now be located at Brooke Central School. He added there are no concerns with the roof in the section of the school where they will be located, but an engineer will be brought into the school to confirm. He reported that another concern was the splitting of families and explained that there was no LKDSB school that could fit all of the students, but the plan was made to allow for the least amount of splitting of students as possible. He noted that parents/guardians asked about placing

students in a building within the community, and although consideration was given to this option, there were security concerns given the age of the students, and it was decided that keeping the students in school buildings was more appropriate. Another concern raised was not having the opportunity to visit the schools where the students will be temporarily located prior to their children arriving, and open houses have now been planned at the schools. He explained there was also concern raised about the engineer's report, and it was vocalized that a further opinion on the report should be sought. He explained that the engineer's report states there is an issue with the roof, putting the safety of students, staff, and those who visit the school at risk, and there was no choice but to move forward with the transition. He added that getting another opinion would delay the process and noted that a lawyer was consulted. He relayed that staff have risen to the challenge and have done everything they can to move the students from remote learning to in-person learning at the schools as soon as possible, and the plan is for students to be at their temporary locations on Wednesday, November 30, 2022.

Associate Director McKay explained that in emergency situations the Director and Associate Director have the ability to begin work with a contractor without having to go through the tender process, which would have taken eight weeks. He reported this situation was deemed as an emergency, so they are already working with a contractor in order to begin the work as soon as possible. He reported that there may be a supply chain issue with steel, but they will know more when they better understand the scope of the work.

Following a Trustee question, Associate Director McKay confirmed that the contractor being used on the project is Wellington Builders.

Following a Student Trustee question, Superintendent Mancini confirmed that courses that are Indigenous based are primarily M level courses, which qualify for college or university. She was not aware of any Indigenous based courses that did not qualify a student for college or university.

Notices of Motion

None.

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 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 7:56 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board