

PRESENT:

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

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

Regrets Janet Barnes

Student Trustees: Brianne Machan, joining electronically Taryn Jacobs and Kate Martin

Recording Secretary: Bonnie Gotelaer, Executive Assistant to the Director

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

#2021-116 Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Jane Bryce,

Approval of the Agenda

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of September 14, 2021 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Chair Campbell acknowledged the observance of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

#2021-117
Approval of the Minutes
September 14, 2021

Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Jane Bryce,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 14, 2021.”

CARRIED.

Business Arising

None

Motions Emanating from
the Regular Board Private
Session

None

#2021-118
Action of the Regular
Board Private Session be
the Action of the Board

Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

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

CARRIED.

Presentations
a) Presentation by the
Chair

Chair Campbell presented a gift of appreciation for service as Chair of the Board to Past Chair Jane Bryce.

b) Elementary Summer Programs

Superintendent Hazzard introduced Angela Cote, Jennifer Kranenburg-Schatz, Sally Parkinson and Carla Wilson who developed personalized learning for elementary students during July 2021. The learning opportunities offered to students included Primary Reading for students grades 2 and 3, Junior Math for students in grades 5 and 6, Intermediate Math for students in grades 7 and 8 and Elementary French for students in grades 2 to 5. Students participated using Google Meet video conferencing each weekday, July 5 to July 23, 2021. Each presenter noted similar successes and outcomes including the development of student confidence and achievement of personal goals. Students built on their strengths and knowledge by identifying learning goals, identifying where they were in relation to their goals and identifying actions to achieve goals. The dedication of teachers allowed the students to be comfortable in asking questions resulting in continued engagement. The presenters indicated the engagement of parents provided the opportunity to help parents understand the material their child was learning, enabling them to help their child. They noted the use of games, Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math (STEAM) activities and hands-on activities were helpful in maintaining engagement while learning.

The Camp Franco-fun summer learning experience included students from the English and French Immersion program for ten days participating in small online groups with hands-on activities including cooking, arts and culture. Jane Bryce inquired about how students become a part of the program. Superintendent Hazzard indicated elementary school principals provide names of students who would benefit from the program. He noted that Camp Franco-fun was open to all students to put their name forward. Vice-Chair Derek Robertson expressed gratitude to all to who spent a great deal of personal time working closely with students after such a difficult year. Chair Campbell thanked the presenters and their teachers. Director Howitt noted appreciation for the program and indicated parental engagement and feedback helped students in their understanding.

Delegations

None

Questions from the Public

Director Howitt noted a question from the public and would answer with input of Superintendent Girardi. Superintendent Girardi noted staff absences are tracked and acknowledged and that staff shortages are a challenge across the province. Superintendent Girardi indicated staff shortages began to occur in the end of the last school year and has continued in this school year. He noted the process of vaccine attestation continues and staff not following procedure will be asked to not return to work.

Superintendent Girardi noted professional development will take place with smaller groups to help minimize the absences that may occur due to professional development.

Superintendent Girardi indicated LKDSB has concerns much like CUPE 1238 has indicated, regarding staff shortages and continue to look for support for staff. He noted jobs are posted as well as plans have been formed in hiring occasional staff to alleviate problems. He indicated in keeping the public aware, items are dealt with at the school level with principals addressing problems. He noted principals have been effective at minimizing the issues at the school level as the board continues to work in this area.

Director Howitt noted beyond the board website where jobs are posted, the LKDSB has utilized social media to advertise openings and that word of mouth can be effective as well.

#2021-119
Staff and Volunteer
Appreciation Day
Report B-21-92

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

“That the Board observe Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Day on October 5, 2021.”

CARRIED.

Trustee Bryce noted while at a graduation she attended, a parent indicated that a teacher had made a positive difference with their child. Trustee Bryce noted the importance of teachers.

#2021-120
LKDSB Policy and
Regulations Safe
Interventions With
Students
Report B-21-93

Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Lareina Rising,

“That the Board approve the revised policy regulations on Safe Interventions with Students.”

Superintendent Barrese noted the update of wording in the policy and that items crossed out will be included in a new Administrative Procedure aiding in empowering students in being productive in their learning.

Jack Fletcher indicated some school situations result in trustees being contacted and noted advice on communicating with parents would be helpful to all trustees. Director Howitt noted behaviour is a form of communication and that parent engagement is very important. He stated when parent engagement is not part of the solution, the board has the ability to intervene and do what is best for the child to assist them in their learning, while consistently trying to build a relationship to bring all adults together to support the student.

Jack Fletcher asked if there is a point where the principal gets involved since learning gets disrupted. Director Howitt noted there is a team that is able to help in situations where learning may be disrupted.

Superintendent Barrese noted a Safe Interventions workshop could be held for trustees to help in conversations with parents. Lareina Rising noted the training would be beneficial to educate the Board trustees and senior management. She noted addressing the student’s point of view would be of benefit as students could be trying to manage anxiety and other mental health barriers.

Director Howitt noted this is an area targeted for growth. He noted the pandemic has provided opportunities to be aware and to understand the value of restoring mental health and well-being.

Superintendent Barrese noted it is very difficult to separate behaviours from mental well-being and noted learning can be done regarding phases and practices that can be put in place to be caring, supportive adults.

Director Howitt noted Superintendents Lane and Girardi will be part of a Ministry of Education project with a goal to reduce suspension rates with an approach from an equity lens.

Malinda Little commented the removal of the items doesn’t take away from the interventions but instead are adding to it. She noted to be pleased that the tools are being added.

CARRIED.

#2021-121

Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Malinda Little,

Easement Agreement with
City of Sarnia – Hanna
Memorial Public School
Report B-21-94

“That the Board, as per section 194(3)(a) of the Education Act, declare land, as described in Appendix A of the attached agreement, as surplus to the board’s needs. Be it resolved that the LKDSB grant an easement to the City of Sarnia under the terms and conditions set out for a 20-year period as permitted by Section 1.1(1) of Regulation 444/98.”

Superintendent McKay noted the LKDSB received a request to provide access to LKDSB property to complete a community trail system project being planned by the City of Sarnia. The City of Sarnia has indicated this non- motorized trail would be used for walking, cycling and other active lifestyle activities. He confirmed this would be of no cost to the Board and all costs, including insurance, would be the responsibility of the City of Sarnia.

He confirmed this will not impact Hanna Memorial Public School during the 20-year agreement period and LKDSB retains ownership of this property.

Jane Bryce noted appreciation for the Board working with the City of Sarnia in a project that will help the community.

CARRIED.

#2021-122
2021 / 2022 Internal Audit
Plan
Report B-21-95

Moved by Vice Chair Robertson, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the Board approve the 2021/22 Internal Audit Plan.”

Superintendent McKay noted committee members finalized their recommendation of the 2021 – 2022 Internal Audit Plan and the audit will be conducted by Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Derek Robertson noted that internal audits are important as part of the Strategic Planning Process.

CARRIED.

Special Education
Advisory Committee
Report
Report B-21-96

Derek Robertson noted that the SEAC report on behalf of Janet Barnes. He noted the meeting was held on September 16, 2021 and the next meeting would be October 14, 2021.

Operational Plan
Report B-21-97

Director Howitt noted the LKDSB Operational Plan was developed containing goals aligned with the Strategic Priorities. He noted the plan is outlined to relate goals to one or more Strategic Priorities and identifying the responsible Superintendent(s). Action steps are identified to reach the goal with expected outcomes listed. He noted that the pandemic restricted some abilities to achieve all goals and that many goals are multiple year goals. He indicated there has been progress with the multi-year goal in moving toward higher graduation rates with a continued commitment and focus in this area.

Director Howitt noted a goal regarding the ability for secretarial staff to have mobile access has been completed and will not be included in next year’s Operational Plan.

Director Howitt noted demographic data will enable the board to have an understanding of gaps that may exist for some students and will aid in providing student support. He indicated in the upcoming Operational Plan there will be items noting this data and actions that will be taken. He indicated there will be continued forward movement in Inclusive Diversity and that a Climate Survey will be implemented across the board in the month of October.

Trustee Bryce noted one of the duties of a Trustee is to open and close schools and questioned how this looks in the future.

	<p>Director Howitt noted that revised Pupil Accommodation Review policy and regulations will continue to be developed as the current version was created under a different government structure. Director Howitt acknowledged empty class spaces limits programming and the extended period of time the moratorium has been in place has contributed to the difficulties.</p>
<p>Ontario Public School Boards' Association Update (OPSBA)</p>	<p>Jack Fletcher noted the recent Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) board meeting was well attended with a summary sent to members. He noted discussion took place regarding vaccination of staff and refusal of vaccinations. He noted OPSBA has been working on copyright legislation and the responsibility for payment. He noted viewing presentations including Equity, Inclusion and Diversity and impacts on organizations and COVID-19 in Ontario.</p> <p>Jack Fletcher indicated OPSBA is developing a Specialist High School Major (SHSM) Education Worker program.</p>
<p>LKDSB Student Transition Plan Report B-21-98</p>	<p>Director Howitt noted the report involved every superintendent at some level, encompassing and recognizing re-engagement of students. Director Howitt explained the report indicated various strategies utilized to help students from junior kindergarten to grade 12. Student supports including educators, educational assistants, social workers, student support officers, Indigenous re-engagement workers, attendance officers and early childhood educators helped in the transition for all students. He noted connection with families was a key component in a smooth transition.</p>
<p>Elementary Summer Programs Report B-21-99</p>	<p>Superintendent Hazzard noted the graphs in the report illustrated the increase and the ability to deliver and promote student learning. He noted small groups worked well online and the increase in the amount of schools participating due to the program being delivered virtually. He indicated the parental engagement was very strong and helped parents understand their child's curriculum. Superintendent Hazzard noted the program relies on funding and that Administration is awaiting notice regarding future funding of the Summer Learning Program.</p>
<p>Correspondence</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Trustee Questions</p>	<p>Jane Bryce asked how things are progressing in the Wheatley area community and how is the community doing?</p> <p>Director Howitt noted the school is outside the evacuation zone and bus routes were arranged for students who would have needed to walk through the zone affected. He indicated the LKDSB reached out to the community to provide a site at the school for residents to pick up items and he noted parents are reaching out if they have particular needs.</p> <p>Jack Fletcher asked if there is an update on in programming while having police presence in the schools.</p> <p>Director Howitt noted this has been a topic in the press and that the LKDSB does not have that kind of system in place with police being present in our schools. He noted police presence in LKDSB schools is being reviewed and that there has not been a recommendation to bring this forward.</p> <p>Jack Fletcher noted that as a volunteer in a community agency, police were invited as guest speakers for specific topics.</p>

Director Howitt noted that police presence in a school does not affect each student equally and there is a need to ensure understanding of this.

Jane Bryce asked Superintendent McKay about summer projects being completed across the board.

Superintendent McKay indicated there have been challenges completing all of the projects that had been approved including window replacement at the Sarnia Education Centre and that there will be a great deal of work needing completion in the coming months with tenders coming forward for the summer of 2022.

Jack Fletcher asked for clarification on the process when a school has more than one COVID-19 case in a school.

Director Howitt stated guidance to COVID-19 is posted on the board website and provides details in each step of the process and the involvement of public health.

Notices of Motion

Director Howitt noted changes to be made to the by-laws and will be addressed by Chair Campbell.

Director Howitt served Notice of Motion regarding Section 1.07 and Section 12.2 of the LKDSB Procedural By-laws.

1.07 "Majority" means more than fifty percent. **"Two thirds (2/3) majority" means equal or greater than 66.7% of the Trustees of the Board present and voting.**

12.2 The Code of Conduct applies equally to the Chair of the Board. In the case of an allegation of a breach of the Code by the Chair, wherever a process requires action by the Chair, it shall be modified to read the Vice-Chair of the Board. ~~Each year~~ **When necessary, two alternate Trustee(s), the past Chair and one (or two if required) Trustee(s) chosen by lot,** shall be chosen ~~by the Board~~ to be used when the circumstance warrant that one or both Trustees are needed in place of the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Board to carry out any of the duties required under this Code of Conduct and Enforcement. In no circumstance shall the Trustee who brought the complaint of a breach of the Code of Conduct be involved in conducting any Formal Inquiry into the complaint

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Chatham Regional Education Centre. Stay healthy and safe.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board