

PRESENT:

Trustees:

Chair Randy Campbell, Vice-Chair Derek Robertson, Greg Agar, Ruth Ann Dodman, joining electronically Janet Barnes, Jane Bryce, Dave Douglas, Malinda Little 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, Mary Mancini, Mark Sherman and Public Relations Officer Heather Hughes

Regrets

Jack Fletcher, Scott McKinlay

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.

#2021-108
Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Vice-Chair Derek Robertson,
“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of September 14, 2021 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

#2021-109
Approval of the Minutes
June 22, 2021

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 22, 2021.

CARRIED.

Business Arising

None

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session

None

#2021-110
Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board

Moved by Vice-Chair Derek Robertson, seconded by Malinda Little,

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

CARRIED.

Presentation:
Personal Support Worker Program

Superintendent Mancini introduced Wallaceburg District Secondary School Principal Melissa Mallette and Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School Principal Derek Stenton to the meeting.

Melissa Mallette using a PowerPoint presentation, noted the Personal Support Worker (PSW) program began in 2006 and with over three hundred graduates to date. She noted the requirements of specialized teachers includes Ontario

College of Teachers (OCT) certification and a Registered Nurse or Registered Practical Nurse degree or diploma. Students must maintain seventy percent in each course for certification and can register full time in this while earning grade 12 credits. Students fulfill practicum and clinical placements locally and earn several certifications while in the program. She indicated the program was at capacity this year with students receiving a provincially funded stipend offered to all Personal Support Worker students in various education institutions across the province.

Derek Stenton presented a video featuring former student Hollie Jean from Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School who has graduated from the program. The video interview included descriptions of successes, challenges and employment opportunities.

Director Howitt noted the importance of the program and noted allocating funds to programs such as this is a challenge while balancing a large amount of vacant student spaces. He indicated program necessities are a significant cost. Director Howitt acknowledged Superintendent Mancini's success in advocating for the Lambton Kent District School Board students enrolled in the PSW program to receive the provincial stipend.

Chair Campbell thanked Principals Mallette and Stenton for the presentation.

Regrets from Scott McKinlay and Jack Fletcher were acknowledged. A welcome to Student Trustees Taryn Jacobs, Brianne Machan and Kate Martin.

Delegations

None

Questions from the Public

Chair Campbell referenced the sections in the LKDSB Procedural By-laws regarding Questions from the Public during Board Meetings.

3.16persons or groups may pose questions to the Board in accordance with the following procedure:

- a) the questioner shall submit the question either orally or in writing to the Chair of the Board;
- b) the Chair or their designate shall answer the question if the information is immediately available or send a written reply following the meeting; and
- c) the questioner may ask a follow-up question for clarification.

3.17 The Board may limit the number of questioners as it sees fit.

Director Howitt noted there was one set of questions received from Karrie Gevaert and each section of the question will be answered.

Director Howitt responded to the question where the mask mandate came from confirming the Covid 19 Health and Safety and Operational Guidance for schools 2021 – 2022 which are approved by the Chief Medical Officer of Health under the regulations made under the Reopening Ontario Act of 2020 include the mask mandate. Director Howitt noted Medical Officers of Health and Board of Trustees can consider stricter guidelines than noted in the guidance provided but cannot do less.

Director Howitt noted the next part of the set of questions asked if the school board is aware that under Health and Safety Regulations, testing must be performed to ensure safety of wearing masks/face coverings. This includes:

- a) A fitness test must be administered in order to determine baseline heart rate, respiratory function and MV02
- b) An air quality analysis is completed by a 3rd party independent organization to assess safe levels of ambient indoor air?
- c) Each mask is fitted proportionately and specifically for each person?
- d) Regular measurement of Co2 levels within the persons mask in the workplace/school setting.
- e) Regular measurement of O2 levels within the person's mask?
- f) In accordance with medical mask wearing guidelines in which sterile environments exist surgeons are recommended to change masks every 90minutes. A school environment cannot be a sterile environment and thus, masks should be changed as frequently as every 15-30minutes. Therefore, as you are being made aware of these guidelines and for the safety of our children and teachers, are steps going to be taken to ensure testing is completed as masks have once again been mandated for the 2021-2022 school year?

Director Howitt noted the source of the guidelines listed above are unknown and consulted with our Health and Safety Officer who confirmed there is no reference to these points to be followed by schools in the Ontario Health and Safety Act Guidelines. Director Howitt noted some references may refer to the health care segment which may have different regulations and noted some areas of the question refers to the N95 mask which requires fit tests. Director Howitt noted employees are provided PPE and student masks are provided by parents and are predominantly cloth.

Director Howitt continued to read the next portion of the question:
Of interest, I found a coronavirus update from LKDSB dated 2020-02-03. In this update it says CK Public Health and Lambton Public Health are "not advising the wearing of masks. Please do not send your child to school wearing a mask. If your child is ill, please keep them at home. Public Health agencies are not recommending the wearing of medical masks, as doing so heightens anxiety, and may in fact increase the risk of infection in your child. The Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario agrees that masks are not helpful to wear in community settings."

Director Howitt noted this demonstrates growth in understanding the knowledge and science and in advancing in understanding the pandemic. The Lambton Kent District School Board continues to follow the guidance of the Ministry of Education and local and Chief Medical Officers of Health. Director Howitt noted the first known case in Canada had been announced just a few days before the recommendation to not wear masks. Students were advised to not wear masks as it created anxiety with other students. Director Howitt noted that six weeks after this message was sent, the pandemic was declared on March 11, 2020. Director Howitt acknowledged a potential concern for kindergarten students who may touch their mask frequently causing their hands to be wet and therefore could transfer germs.

Director Howitt noted the final part of the question regarding medical procedures being done in LKDSB schools. He noted there are medical procedures occurring in our schools on a regular basis for diabetes, where insulin is given and performed by registered health care professionals. Vaccinations that occur in schools aligns with past practices of our Board including vaccines regularly given to students. The COVID-19 vaccination clinics occur at the end of the school day.

#2021-111
Schedule for Regular
Board Meetings
Report B-21-85

Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Jane Bryce,

"That the Board approve the Regular Board Meeting Schedule for the period December 2021 to December 2022."

Director Howitt referred to the report with proposed meetings listed from December 2021 to December 2022.

CARRIED.

#2021-112
LKDSB Regulations on
Display of Flags
Report B-21-86

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Lareina Rising,

"That the Board approve the revised regulations on Display of Flags."

Superintendent Lane noted the regulations required updating as the Federal Government has recognized September 30 as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The update includes information regarding secondary locations of flags should the flagpole not be accessible.

CARRIED.

#2021-113
LKDSB Policy and
Regulations on
Communication and Social
Media
Report B-21-87

Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Jane Bryce,

"That the Board approve the revised policy and regulations on Communications and Social Media."

Director Howitt noted the LKDSB completes a cyclical internal audit of policies and regulations, and further clarification was needed in the Communication and Social Media policy and regulation.

Trustee Rising asked if there was a requirement to have a social media account. Director Howitt noted some Trustees have social media accounts and have identified themselves in their bio in the social media account that they are an LKDSB Trustee. He noted there are specific guidelines when sharing information or opinions online from the perspective of a Trustee.

Trustee Rising asked a follow-up question if Trustees should have a different dedicated account as a Trustee and a personal account. Director Howitt confirmed this update is in reference to accounts that are dedicated or are predominant accounts with activity from the perspective of being a Trustee. There are practices for speaking on behalf of the Board. A Trustee wouldn't be able to speak on behalf of the Board on a Social Media account.

Trustee Bryce asked when trustees identify themselves as a trustee and in the event the trustee is not speaking on behalf of the Board but "likes" something, is that considered an action a Trustee should not make, particularly when the Trustee has a disclaimer in their bio.

Director Howitt confirmed whenever he speaks on social media, he treats it as if he is the Director of the Lambton Kent District School Board and is very cautious in retweeting and liking posts. Director Howitt noted this is the same expectation of all employees including Trustees of the Lambton Kent District School Board. Director Howitt noted what is said in social media could be a headline in a newspaper or other media.

Trustee Douglas noted the regulations appear to be staff use of Board issued social media but asked the intent of item number ten.

Director Howitt confirmed the inclusion of this point was to include Trustees in the social media policies where they previously weren't mentioned in the LKDSB community. He noted there could be social media posts by any LKDSB employee that may be questioned or a Trustee that may lead Trustees to address to the Code of Conduct. The audit recommended the role of Trustee to be visible in the regulation.

Trustee Douglas requested a recorded vote.

Chair Campbell confirmed it would be an oral vote:

Vice-Chair Robertson noted that this has to do with interpretation. Exercising professional discretion and propagating political views are different than propagating hate or speaking out in a manner that could be disrespectful. Speaking out could be supporting a political party and in doing so in a professional manner should not be interpreted as board decision.

Jane Bryce noted that in the Code of Conduct that a Trustee needs to be clear they are not speaking on behalf of the Board.

Director Howitt read the recommendation and a recorded vote followed.

Greg Agar – yes

Ruth Ann Dodman – yes

Dave Douglas – no

Malinda Little – yes

Lareina Rising – yes

Janet Barnes – yes

Jane Bryce – yes

Derek Robertson - yes

Randy Campbell -yes

Brianne Machan- yes (non-binding)

CARRIED.

Indigenous Liaison Committee Report
Report B-21-88

Lareina Rising presented the Indigenous Liaison Committee Report. Trustee Rising noted the virtual meetings have provided a great way to connect with administrators across the Board. Trustee Rising indicated Eelünaapéewii Lahkéewiit elected Denise Stonefish as Chief.

Trustee Rising noted the extended program offering a grade 1 student to remain in the Aamjiwnaang community is an example of utilizing the opportunity for Reverse Tuition.

Summer 2021 Program – Statistics and Results Report
Report B-21-89

Superintendent Sherman reviewed the report noting the Summer Program has expanded courses offered. Superintendent Sherman indicated students were supported through a team effort including teachers, resource teachers and educational assistants noting the team effort aided in student success. He noted some students were enrolled to gain credits prior to entering secondary education.

Superintendent Sherman noted a new program offering, NEC 101 Integrated Arts.

Director Howitt recognized the team approach and recalled staff stepped up to continue teaching over the summer even after a difficult online year due to the pandemic. The students were engaged, and all staff made a difference for these students.

Ontario Public School Boards' Association Update (OPSBA)

Director Howitt noted on behalf of Trustee Fletcher the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) executive meeting will be held September 25,

LKDSB School Startup
September 2021
Report B-21-90

2021 and he would attend remotely. It was noted Paul Wiersma, System Coordinator Alternative and Continuing Education has been attending regularly.

Director Howitt indicated the Lambton Kent District School Board elementary and secondary schools have reopened with a return to full-time, in class learning with required COVID-19 safety measures. He noted the LKDSB extracurricular program schedule will be released to move forward and the LKDSB is prepared to respond to changes as necessary.

Director Howitt noted virtual learning was developed to provide stability in the classrooms by limiting movement between programs. Secondary students are in a modified semester with four courses being divided, noting Week One will have two courses and Week Two will have two different courses until February 2022.

Director Howitt noted four hundred thirty-four elementary and three hundred twenty-five secondary students are in virtual programming.

Director Howitt acknowledged the immunization policy mandated by the Government of Ontario and the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Staff were required to provide an attestation regarding their vaccination status through Our Training Room on the staff portal. The mandatory disclosure policy announced by the Chief Medical Officer of Health requires staff who are not fully vaccinated to complete rapid antigen tests. LKDSB employees submit their results using Our Training Room. Director Howitt explained employees who are not fully vaccinated will be required to submit verification of negative test results at least two times per week. Employees who have become fully vaccinated after they have completed their initial disclosure will be able to submit a second disclosure through Our Training Room.

The percentage of vaccinated staff will be posted on the LKDSB website and updated at minimum every month. Currently 81.4% staff report they are fully vaccinated. Some employees have chosen not to disclose, and some employees are on leaves of absence.

Director Howitt noted Hepa filters are being delivered to every classroom in the Lambton Kent District School Board. He noted Ventilation Measures are reported on the LKDSB website.

Trustee Bryce congratulated Director Howitt on such a smooth startup and expressed appreciation for the effort put in by the Director, Superintendents and all staff.

Director Howitt confirmed immunization disclosure confidentiality was a concern. To protect the privacy of employees, the system used is the system that was designed for staff to complete Staff Criminal Offence Declarations. Employees who require rapid antigen testing kits have received communication enabling them to receive their kits while protecting their privacy.

Superintendent Girardi noted privacy has been a significant item to consider as an employer and is a topic of conversation with union partners and that the Board has worked very hard to keep this a confidential matter.

Director Howitt confirmed that the Lambton Kent District School Board has not had a major breach of privacy of Human Resources records.

Correspondence

None

New Business

None

Trustee Questions

Ruth Ann Dodman inquired about the possibility that King George VI Public School, Chatham could be the recipient of a larger gymnasium.

Superintendent McKay indicated the Ministry of Education received an application from the Lambton Kent District School Board with King George VI Public School listed as a priority through the Capital Priorities program. He confirmed that a gymnasium does not fit the Ministry's criteria at that time and will continue to pursue funding for this project.

Ruth Ann Dodman noted the school community has indicated to be willing to assist the LKDSB in moving forward.

Notices of Motion

None

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sarnia Education Centre.

Director Howitt Thank all Trustees for their patience with the new board room audio visual capabilities.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board