

# Lambton Kent District School Board 2020-2021 Director's Annual Report

## Message from Director Howitt

The Director's Annual Report provides an overview of the Lambton Kent District School Board's (LKDSB) initiatives and achievements during the 2020-2021 school year to support student success. This year marked the launch of the LKDSB Strategic Priorities 2020/2021- 2025/2026. In the first year of implementation, LKDSB Senior Administration published the 2020-2021 Operational Plan outlining the goals, action steps and outcomes in alignment with the Strategic Priorities.

In the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, LKDSB began with in-person learning in September 2020 and later transitioned to remote, teacher-led learning for a temporary period in January 2021 and for an extended period beginning April 19, 2021 and continuing for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. The global pandemic continues to have an impact across the province and the education sector is not immune. Whether students were engaged in learning in-person or in a remote setting, I am proud of the exceptional efforts of staff, parents/guardians and community members to support student achievement and well-being, and the safe operation of schools.

As we move forward, we continue to focus on improving outcomes for students and supporting success and well-being. We remain committed to Fostering Success for Every Student Every Day.

[Listen to Director Howitt's full message](#)

### LKDSB by the Numbers

Number of schools: 62

Number of employees: 3,387

2020-2021 Operating and Capital Budget: \$315.17 million

Total Enrolment 21,740

Elementary 14,526

Secondary 7,214

## Student Achievement and Well-Being

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, elementary and secondary schools supported student learning and provided a specific focus on supporting mental health and well-being. In alignment with the Ministry of Education's direction to focus on the fundamentals of math, LKDSB implemented the new math curriculum for Grades 1-8. LKDSB continues to allocate resources and provide professional development opportunities to increase learning and competency in this area. During the 2020-2021 school year, 88 per cent of Kindergarten-Grade 8 classrooms used a 'number talk' strategy for student(s) to express mathematical thinking and share the 'math strategies' that work best for their understanding. This strategy was implemented during in-person and remote learning. Secondary math teachers and curriculum leaders engaged in professional learning on the use of evidence-based instructional strategies.

During remote learning periods, LKDSB educators used a [variety of online learning tools](#) to deliver effective programming for students.

### **Virtual Learning at Home**

During the 2020-2021 school year, LKDSB established a Virtual Learn at Home Elementary School and a Virtual Learn at Home Secondary School for students who were engaged in remote, teacher-led learning. Real-life learning was a significant focus, as digital platforms mean video conferencing can go anywhere – from the students’ kitchen or backyard to virtual field trips and guest speakers. The virtual learning format also allowed for greater engagement with parents/guardians in student learning. The administrative teams engaged with families, adapted plans, and ensured that our students learn in new ways in this virtual environment.

### **Graduation Rates**

Preliminary data for 2015-2016 cohort

Four year rate: 71.7% (up from 67.7)

Five year rate: 80.5% (up from 77%)

In 2020-2021, all secondary schools identified potential graduates with incomplete Community Involvement Hours and developed plans to address the graduation requirement.

### **EQAO Assessments**

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments for the 2020-21 school year were cancelled, including the Ontario Secondary School Literacy (OSSLT) Test, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and related school closures. The literacy requirement for students graduating in the 2020-2021 school year was also waived.

### **Professional Development to Support Student Learning**

- Elementary school staff participated in ‘where to next’ feedback professional learning focused on remote and in-person learning with international author John Hattie.
- Elementary and Secondary Program Teams provided on-demand webinars to support educators with using remote learning tools.
- [LK Launch 2021](#) virtual conference was held August 23-27, 2021 and provided professional learning in the areas of Indigenous Education, inquiry-based pedagogy, language learning and math leadership.
- Training to support the implementation of ASPEN Student Information System.
- Secondary math teachers and curriculum leaders engaged in professional learning on the use of evidence-based instructional strategies.
- All staff participated in Ministry of Education Equity and Inclusive Education training. Principal support sessions were held for delivering staff sessions on Human Rights and Equity in Education: Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination.
- Book Studies and after-school workshops on Equity and Inclusive Education topics, such as race, anti-oppression, gender identity, Indigenous Education, International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, etc. were provided throughout the year.

## **Exploring Career Pathways**

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs are offered at all 12 secondary schools. During 2020-2021, LKDSB students were enrolled in over 600 dual credits with Lambton College in Sarnia and # dual credits with St. Clair College in Chatham/Windsor. Both programs have a retention rate of approximately 87 per cent, with a 91 per cent success rate. More than 15 LKDSB students from Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School in Sarnia and Wallaceburg District Secondary School in Wallaceburg graduated from the [LKDSB Personal Support Worker program](#) in June 2021. The Personal Support Worker Program consists of more than 700 hours of theoretical and experiential hands-on learning through clinical (co-op) work placements in the healthcare field. Students enrolled in the program earn credits toward their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and the Personal Support Worker Certificate concurrently. Students graduating from the LKDSB Personal Support Worker Program are industry-ready and able to support a growing need in the community for health care supports.

Grade 11 and 12 students are engaged in SHSM Programs, including construction, health & wellness, hospitality, manufacturing, arts & culture, transportation, horticulture, information, and agriculture.

## **Summer Learning**

During July 2021 there were several learning opportunities for students to lift their learning as the Summer Learning Program grew significantly. The student learning opportunities focused on Primary Reading, Junior Math, Intermediate Math, and Elementary French. The learning took place online with Google Meet video conferencing, and the learning was hands-on, relevant, and supported schools across the district. [Read a report on the 2021 Elementary Summer Programs \(page 50\).](#)

Secondary Summer Semester Despite the pressures involved with responding to the COVID-19 impacts on the education field, LKDSB continues to be a leader in offering an expanded Summer Learning Program for its own students in both face-to-face settings and online. Working with the Ontario E-Learning Consortium (OELC), it has also provided online learning opportunities for students from other boards. In total, 1,022 students completed the program and were supported by 99 staff members. This does not include the social workers or graduation coaches who also supported students during the summer. [Read the report here \(page 20\).](#)

## **Supporting Positive Transitions to School**

LKDSB Multidisciplinary Teams provided support to schools and administrative teams to help promote welcoming school environments, a sense of belonging and connections with caring adults. In August, schools provided Junior and Senior Kindergarten students transition supports before school began. More than 150 educators, including Teachers and ECEs, signed up for seven hours each to support JK and SK students entering school.

LKDSB elementary and secondary schools participated in transition work to support all students, including students with significant special education and mental health/well-being needs. The project involved one Educational Assistant, 68 elementary educators and 61 secondary educators. LKDSB Social Workers supported students and families throughout the summer months and this support was extended to include school teams as part of our Transition project. Families, students and school teams have reported that students benefited from this support and experienced success. [Read more about the](#)

[transition supports here \(page 48\)](#). Additional information about mental health and well-being supports for students, parents/guardians and caregivers is [available here](#).

## Equity and Inclusive Education

An Inclusive Diversity Newsletter was initiated in November 2020. This monthly newsletter provides information and insights into current issues and topics, as well as highlights the work that is being done with students and staff across the system. Secondary English Curriculum Leaders embarked on a critical review of literature resources currently used in Grade 9-12 English courses to support anti-oppressive and anti-racist perspectives.

### **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia**

As supported by LKDSB Trustees during the May 26, 2020 Board Meeting, LKDSB joins organizations globally in recognition of [the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia \(IDAHOTB\)](#) on May 17 to celebrate sexual and gender diversities and draw attention to the discrimination and violence experienced by LGBTQ+ people. This date will continue to be observed within LKDSB schools annually. Information and workshops for staff were provided prior to the recognition of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

### **Black History/African Heritage Month**

Black History is annually celebrated during the month of February, but the role of African Canadians in our history and society is embedded in LKDSB curriculum throughout the year. In recognition of [Black History/African Heritage Month](#), LKDSB is committed to recognizing the historically erased role of Black Canadians in our history and society and its focus for February 2021 was Black Lives Matter.

## Building Trusting Relationships

### **Indigenous Education**

In partnership with the four First Nations within its catchment area, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit (Delaware Nation), Kettle & Stony Point First Nation, and Bkejwanong (Walpole Island) First Nation, LKDSB is building capacity and encouraging further understanding and education about Indigenous ways of knowing, world views and histories. LKDSB is committed to promoting the success and well-being of self-identified Indigenous students. [Information was shared throughout the system](#) regarding the tragic discovery of unmarked graves at the sites of former residential schools and the ongoing intergenerational trauma and harm caused by the residential school system and settler colonialism. As an education system, we know that we play an important role in promoting and supporting Indigenous rights, histories, knowledge, cultures, and perspectives.

LKDSB recognized Orange Shirt Day on September 30, 2020 to acknowledge and honour the survivors of residential schools, as well as the children and young people who never returned home. LKDSB commemorated [Treaties Recognition Week](#) on November 2-6, 2020 to promote education and awareness about treaty rights and treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Ontario. On June 21, 2021, LKDSB recognized [National Indigenous Peoples Day](#) and celebrated its 25th anniversary through events and activities encouraging students and staff to learn more about the diversity of Indigenous culture and history.

## **Student Senate**

Student Senators worked closely with the Student Trustees to provide a broad perspective on issues that face students in LKDSB schools. Student mental health is an ongoing focus for the Student Senate. During the 2020-2021 school year, Student Senators created [videos](#) to share social-emotional information and supports from School Mental Health Ontario.

## **Parent Involvement Committee**

The LKDSB Parent Involvement Committee meets four times annually and involves parent/guardian representatives from Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton school communities, as well as Public Health representatives, Trustees and LKDSB Administration. School Councils also provide an important connection between school staff, parents/ guardians, Home and School Associations and other parent/guardian groups that may be active within the school community. On November 17, 2020, the LKDSB Parent Involvement Committee hosted an online conference with Dr. Karyn Gordon. The topic was Building Confidence and was attended virtually by 166 participants. LKDSB received a lot of positive feedback about the content and the virtual platform, which allowed many families to participate.

Throughout the school year, LKDSB shared academic and COVID-19 related updates with parents/guardians through its [website](#) and by direct messaging by phone and email.

## **Safe Schools**

LKDSB continues to work with Chatham-Kent and Lambton Public Health, law enforcement and legal officials to support schools with health promotion; education and awareness; bullying awareness and prevention; cyber safety and responsible digital citizenship; and promoting safe and healthy school communities.

## **Staff Newsletter**

To stay connected with LKDSB staff throughout the school year, the Director's Office distributed a Staff Newsletter to communicate information, resources and professional development opportunities to staff.

## **Business and Operations**

### **2020-2021 Budget**

LKDSB is committed to fiscal responsibility and sustainability, while also maintaining quality educational programming and positive learning experiences for students. LKDSB had a total operating and capital budget of \$315.17 million in 2020-2021.

#### [LKDSB 2020-21 Budget](#)

- Salaries \$190,364,161
- Supplies Services/Other \$44,965,969
- Benefits \$32,281,206
- Capital Projects/Equipment \$27,060,009
- Amortization and School Generated \$20,502,083

## **Capital Improvement Projects**

The Business Department implemented Questica capital planning module for use by the Plant and Maintenance department to track capital projects. Chatham Kent Secondary School The renovation and expansion project is ongoing and will improve school facilities and upgrade equipment, as well as expand the cafeteria, refresh the façade and expand the busing zone. Great Lakes Secondary School Construction on the new addition, which includes an auditorium, Indigenous Learning Centre and music rooms was completed in the 2021-2022 school year. Wallaceburg District Secondary School The new student hub supporting before- and after-school programs includes a lounge and kitchen space, three private offices for use by community organizations and consultants, and a food, clothing and supplies pantry. Outside, there is a new hard surface play area with a basketball court, four square courts, shade structure and an equipment shed.

[Read the 2021 Capital Plan](#)

[See a list of LKDSB Capital Projects](#) - Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

## **Technology to Support Student Learning**

To support the transition to remote learning during the school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, families were invited to register to borrow devices to use at home to access learning and Information Technology staff prepared the devices for elementary and secondary students based on requests. Distribution of devices to students continued throughout the school closure period on an as needed basis. To support the mobility of school secretarial staff, laptops were provided to school secretarial staff to enable remote working capabilities. There were no impacts to the student device ratio as a result of meeting this distribution.

## **Student Information System Implementation**

The LKDSB Information Technology Department led the implementation of the new ASPEN Student Information System in the 2020-2021 school year. This is a central piece of software for school boards that is required to generate report cards, register attendance, provide demographics, etc. Staff have been provided with ongoing training on the new ASPEN system.

## **Contract Negotiation**

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, contract negotiations continued to be an ongoing focus for LKDSB, including Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO); Occasional Teachers of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario; and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF). Collective agreements were ratified with ETFO Lambton Kent Teacher Local in December 2020 and OSSTF District 10 in November 2020. Contract negotiations remained ongoing for the Occasional Teachers of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario during the 2020-2021 school year.

## **Health and Safety**

The health and safety of students, staff and visitors to LKDSB buildings is a top priority. LKDSB is committed to openness and transparency regarding the health and safety of its facilities. Annual staff health and safety training includes: first aid training; ladder training; slips, trips and falls; asbestos

awareness; and mould awareness. Health and safety procedures from the Ministry of Education and LKDSB, including COVID-19 procedures, were provided to staff to support the safe operation of schools.

## **Our Schools**

### Elementary Schools

- A.A. Wright Public School
- Aberarder Central School
- Bosanquet Central Public School
- Bridgeview Public School
- Brigden Public School
- Bright's Grove Public School
- Brooke Central Public School
- Cathcart Boulevard Public School
- Colonel Cameron Public School
- Confederation Central School
- Dawn-Euphemia Public School
- Dresden Area Central School
- East Lambton Elementary School
- Errol Road Public School
- Errol Village Public School
- Grand Bend Public School
- Gregory Drive Public School
- H. W. Burgess Public School
- Hanna Memorial Public School
- Harwich Raleigh Public School
- High Park Public School
- Hillcrest Public School
- Indian Creek Road Public School
- King George VI Public School - Chatham
- King George VI Public School - Sarnia
- Kinnwood Central Public School
- Lakeroad Public School
- Lambton Centennial Public School
- Lansdowne Public School
- London Road School
- McNaughton Avenue Public School
- Merlin Area Public School
- Mooretown-Courtright Public School
- Naahii Ridge Elementary School
- P. E. McGibbon Public School
- Queen Elizabeth II Public School - Chatham
- Queen Elizabeth II Public School - Petrolia

- Queen Elizabeth II Public School - Sarnia
- Riverview Central School
- Rosedale Public School
- Sir John Moore Community School
- Plympton-Wyoming Public School
- Tecumseh Public School
- Thamesville Area Central School
- Tilbury Area Public School
- Victor Lauriston Public School
- W. J. Baird Public School
- Wheatley Area Public School
- Winston Churchill Public School
- Zone Township Central School

#### Secondary Schools

- Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School
- Blenheim District High School
- Chatham Kent Secondary School
- Great Lakes Secondary School
- John McGregor Secondary School
- Lambton Central Collegiate & Vocational Institute
- Lambton Kent Composite School
- North Lambton Secondary School
- Northern Collegiate Institute & Vocational School
- Ridgetown District High School
- Tilbury District High School
- Wallaceburg District Secondary School

#### Board Offices

- Sarnia Education Centre
- Chatham Regional Education Centre

#### Learning Centres

- Adult & Continuing Education Centre
- John N. Given Learning Centre