

PRESENT:

Trustees:	Chair Jane Bryce, Vice-Chair Randy Campbell, Greg Agar, Janet Barnes (via teleconference), Ruth Ann Dodman, Dave Douglas (via teleconference), Jack Fletcher, Scott McKinlay (via teleconference), Lareina Rising (via teleconference), Derek Robertson (via teleconference)
Staff:	Director of Education John Howitt, Superintendent of Business Brian McKay Superintendents of Education Angie Barrese, Gary Girardi, Ben Hazzard, Helen Lane, Mary Mancini and Mark Sherman and Public Relations Officer Heather Hughes
Student Trustees:	Aurora Bressette, William Locke and Lucia Shultz-Allison
Absent:	Trustee Brittany Jenkins
Recording Secretary:	Trish Johnston, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer
Call to Order:	Chair Bryce called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Chair Bryce read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.
#2020-115 Approval of the Agenda	Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Jack Fletcher, "That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of September 22, 2020 be approved." CARRIED.
Declaration of Conflict of Interest	None
#2020-116 Approval of the Minutes Sept/8/2020	Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Greg Agar, "That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 8, 2020." CARRIED.
Business Arising	None
#2020-117 Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board	Moved by Randy Campbell, seconded Greg Agar, "That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board." CARRIED.
Presentations	None
Delegations:	None
Questions from the Public	Chair Bryce advised that members of the public may submit questions they wish to have asked at the Board Meeting by noon on the day of the meeting via email to trish.johnston@lkdsb.net . The Chair or a member of Senior Administration will answer the question at the Board Meeting if the information is immediately available or a written reply will be sent following the meeting. Chair Bryce confirmed that no questions were received for the September 22, 2020 Board Meeting.
#2020-118 Proposed Revisions to the LKDSB Procedural By- laws Report B-20-87	Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Randy Campbell, "That the Board approve the revisions to the Section 1. a) b), Section 2.2, 2.7, 2.8, Section 3.6, 3.7, 3.16, 3.18, Section 4, Section 6.1, 6.5, 6.8, 6.9, Section 7.12, 7.20, 7.24, Section 8.1, 8.2, Section 10.3, Section 11.3,

11.4, Section 12.1, 12.3, 12.6, Section 15.2, 15.3, and Section 16.1, 16.4 of the LKDSB Procedural By-laws.”

Director Howitt explained that Section 20 of the LKDSB Procedure By-laws requires the Board to review the By-laws at least every three years. A review has been conducted to incorporate the new LKDSB Strategic Priorities as well as an overall review. The changes proposed to the sections indicated are to comply with the new LKDSB Strategic Priorities, adopt gender inclusive language and reflect current practices of the LKDSB or legislation. He noted the inclusion of the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement in the order of business for Board Meetings and the electronic maintenance and distribution of documents.

CARRIED.

Staff and Volunteer
Appreciation Day
Report B-20-88

Chair Bryce stated that the Lambton Kent District School Board is very proud of its staff and is certainly aware of the important role they play in the development of children. Staff are very dedicated and caring individuals striving to improve student achievement for the betterment of society. At the 44th Session of the International Conference on Education, the United Nations agency declared October 5th as World Teachers’ Day. The LKDSB chose to expand the focus and celebrate Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Day on October 5 to acknowledge the contributions of all employees and volunteers. She noted that these are especially appreciated during a pandemic when needs are greater and resources, particularly time, are stretched thinner. The Board truly appreciates everything staff and volunteers do to enhance learning opportunities for our students. Director Howitt commented that he could not be prouder of the LKDSB staff and the work they do for our students day in and day out. During the pandemic they have focused on student well-being, achievement and safety. He acknowledged the contributions of the LKDSB volunteers as well.

#2020-119
Staff and Volunteer
Appreciation Day

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Janet Barnes,

“That the Board observe Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Day on October 5, 2020.

CARRIED.

Ontario Public School
Boards’ Association
(OPSBA) Update

Trustee Fletcher advised that the OPSBA Annual General Meeting is being held virtually on September 26, 2020 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. There is a Board of Directors Meeting on September 25 and the morning of September 26, 2020. Elections for the positions of President, first Vice-President and second Vice-President will take place. The election guide and AGM handbook outlined the proceedings. Trustees can watch the proceedings on YouTube. Trustee Fletcher referred to the four motions being put forth at the AGM, two supported by the OPSBA Executive Council and two not supported. He thanked Trustees for their feedback supporting the position of the OPSBA Executive Council. He encouraged Trustees to review the material from OPSBA and get involved where they could. There is a Western Region meeting on September 26, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. and Trustees can participate via Zoom.

LKDSB Reopening Our
Schools Plan Update
Report B-20-89

Director Howitt updated Trustees on the LKDSB reopening plans for the LKDSB schools. The report focused on the professional development provided to employees focused on safety and improving instruction for students. The Health and Safety training took place prior to the students returning to school. All occasional and temporary staff were required to participate as well as Board Offices staff. Professional development training on Mental Health for students and staff was also provided.

Equity and inclusive education professional development was provided through the spring, summer and early September for staff. The goal is to increase staff awareness for bias free and oppressive free education.

Elementary and secondary program staff offered many professional development opportunities for staff. During the week of August 24, 2020, the Elementary Program Department hosted #LKLaunch20, an online professional learning conference featuring well respected presenters.

Director Howitt commented on the implementation of the new student information system, Aspen. It is a central piece of software for school boards that is required to generate report cards, register attendance, provide demographics, etc. It is monumental to launch a new student information system under normal circumstances and much more challenging under the current circumstances. The company that supported the former student information system was ending its support, so Administration had to move to the new system. Staff have been provided with lots of training on the new Aspen system.

Director Howitt shared that on September 17 the province launched a new COVID-19 online self-assessment tool for schools. Some of the components of it do not match with the published hard copies from public health. The local Medical Officers of Health from Chatham Kent and Sarnia Lambton are looking at aligning them to streamline the process.

Director Howitt commented on the requests received for students to move from the face to face program model to the Learn at Home model and vis versa. Administration has been doing its best to accommodate all requests now before November. Superintendents Girardi and Hazzard have been working with families to make the changes occur as quickly as possible.

Trustee Rising shared a personal good news story about her son's experience in the Grade 8 Learn at Home program. She gave a shout out to the staff. The support has been awesome and the experience amazing. She is glad there is a viable option to keep families safe in multigenerational households.

Superintendent Barrese confirmed that all of the mental health services available are provided to students in the face to face program and the Learn at Home program. The LKDSB has eight social workers and two have been assigned to the Learn at Home program. They continued to work with students throughout the summer and assisted with the Grade 8 to 9 transition. Superintendent Barrese advised that last year, the Student Senators shared that they were not aware that the Social Workers' services were available to secondary school students. To increase awareness, each Social Worker is creating a video to introduce themselves to students, share where they are located and how to make a referral. This information will be shared with students in the Learn at Home program as well as students enrolled in the face to face model. Superintendent Barrese advised that this is a new approach and feedback from Student Trustee would be appreciated.

Trustee McKinlay shared information on how a secondary school in Australia handled the reopening of schools in May and the concerns now about staff becoming complacent with the precautions put in place.

Correspondence

Director Howitt explained that all course selections, either face to face or virtual, require enrolment to generate courses and options. Course offerings are impacted by small schools with small student populations. Course offerings are based on population. The ability to run a course is also impacted by the number of students selecting a course offering. Superintendent Mancini confirmed

that at Wallaceburg District Secondary School (WDSS) French courses are offered based on student choices. Grade 9 French is a required course. At WDSS several Grade 9 and Grade 9/10 split classes are offered this year. Not enough students requested French in Grade 11 and 12 this year so WDSS was not able to run these courses. Hopefully the students taking the Grade 9 and 10 French courses this year will continue on to generate course offerings for future years. Superintendent Mancini advised that the number of students required to run a course varies from year to year, but Grade 11 and 12 university courses are generally considered if 15 students select the course. The course offering may be impacted by student course conflicts as well.

Trustee Questions

Director Howitt confirmed that secondary schools had hoped to be able to hold in person graduations this fall but that is no longer possible. Schools will be moving forward with virtual celebrations. Some schools were planning to hold the events over Thanksgiving weekend with Great Lakes Secondary School looking at a December date. Wallaceburg District Secondary School held a successful virtual graduation in June. Director Howitt confirmed that schools may choose to invite Trustees to be part of the virtual celebrations.

Director Howitt confirmed that construction at Great Lakes Secondary School (GLSS) is progressing well. The Den is furnished and looks spectacular. The music room located in the addition is also completed. GLSS Administration was hoping to use the completed Auditorium for the December graduation. Superintendent McKay commented that the focus now is on completing the auditorium and outside of the building. He expects everything to be completed by the middle of January 2021.

Director Howitt confirmed that there are no known confirmed COVID-19 cases in the LKDSB. He explained that the that students, or parents/guardians on behalf of their students, and staff are to complete self-assessment tool each morning before attending school or work. Recently, the results of the self-assessment screening required a number of students and some staff to stay home. Many chose to obtain COVID-19 tests. No positive results were reported following the testing. Director Howitt explained that every day by 10:30 a.m. principals are required to complete an online report indicating the number of staff and students absent from school and any positive cases. This data is uploaded to a provincial data base. A confirmed positive test results would also be posted on the school website. Communication will be very transparent. He stressed that unless it is a confirmed positive case by the local public health unit, it is not a known case. Staff and students may choose not to report to school or may choose to leave school due to symptoms they are experiencing but that does not automatically mean COVID-19 is present.

Director Howitt confirmed that the Lambton Public Health Unit has opened three students only testing sites in Lambton County. Health units received funding to hire extra public health nurses and Lambton County chose to staff three education specific testing sites for students to help with wait lines. The sites are located at the former Sarnia Collegiate Institute and Technical School (SCITS), Kimball Hall in Forest and Lambton Central Centennial Public School in Petrolia. The sites are operated, staffed and cleaned by Public Health staff. The tests are administered by appointment only through the Lambton Public Health Unit. The site at Lambton Central Centennial Public School is in a closed area of the school with a separate entrance. It opens after schools starts and closes before the end of the school day. The Chatham Kent Public Health Unit has not opened similar sites.

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Chatham Education Centre.

Chair Bryce announced, with regret, the resignation of Trustee Brittany Jenkins from her position as Trustee with the Lambton Kent District School Board. A report will be brought to the October 13, 2020 Board Meeting for Trustees to decide on the process to fill this vacant Trustee Position.

Director Howitt advised that the three I.O.D.E. chapters in Lambton County donated \$90,000 on September 23, 2020 for scholarships and bursary which will them for the next 10 years. The organization plans to continue to fundraise. Trustees expressed appreciation for the I.O.D.E.'s ongoing support for the LKDSB students.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Bryce declared the Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board