

PRESENT:

Trustees: Chair Randy Campbell, Vice-Chair Derek Robertson, Greg Agar, Janet Barnes, Jane Bryce, Ruth Ann Dodman, Dave Douglas, Jack Fletcher, Malinda Little, and Lareina Rising

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

Student Trustees: William Locke

Regrets: Superintendent Angie Barrese, Student Trustee Lucia Schultz-Allison

Absent: Trustee Scott McKinlay, Student Trustee Aurora Bressette

Recording Secretary: Bonnie Gotelaer, Executive Assistant to the Director

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

#2021-78
Approval of the Agenda Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Malinda Little,

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of May 11, 2021 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest None

#2021-79
Approval of the Minutes
Apr/27/2021 Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Janet Barnes,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 27, 2021.”

Business Arising CARRIED.
At the April 27, 2021 meeting it was moved to send correspondence to local Members of Provincial Parliament and the Minister of Education regarding online learning.

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session None

#2021-80
Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Janet Barnes,
“That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board.”

CARRIED.

Presentation
De-Streaming of Grade 9
Mathematics

Director Howitt indicated the move to De-streaming of Grade 9 courses is the direction the province is moving toward.
Superintendent Mancini provided an overview of rationale and the background of De-streaming of Grade 9 courses.
Superintendent Mancini confirmed that although it has not yet been made available, all strands in the public curriculum are engaging and meet the various needs of our students. She noted there will be transition planning to support Grade 8 students transition and be successful in Grade 9. For students requiring extra support, Superintendent Mancini noted some strategies include a learning strategies course will be offered in first semester to help build skills needed for the mathematics course in the second semester.
Superintendent Mancini noted the intention is to set high expectations for all and with the appropriate supports, students will be able achieve at these levels.
Director Howitt noted the benefit of having one course plus essential programming for those students with that specific learning plan. After a year of adapting to the secondary setting, decisions can be better made on choices moving forward on the appropriate academic stream students will continue with to graduate Grade 12.
Chair Campbell thanked Superintendent Mancini for the presentation.

Presentation
Mental Health and Well-being

Director Howitt introduced Mental Health Lead Katie Colameco and Student Senator Brienne Machan. Director Howitt noted in March 2020 the Student Senate planned a Mental Health project to provide resources to students. Director Howitt noted despite the challenges faced with COVID-19, the Student Senate continued its work to complete this project with the support of Katie Colameco and Superintendent Barrese.
Katie Colameco noted the importance the Student Senate placed on this project being completed, working in collaboration with the students providing the opportunity for the Student Senate to take the lead.
Brienne Machan indicated the successful use of the YouTube platform for short videos, use of student voice-overs, clear accessible speech, and interesting titles provides students helpful tips to be improve their mental health and well-being. This platform also enables teachers to display the videos to their students at the beginning or end of classroom time.
Director Howitt noted the videos are not limited to students use and can also help adults. He confirmed the videos have been shared on LKDSB Twitter and Facebook social media accounts.
Vice-Chair Robertson indicated appreciation for the completion of the project and the greater awareness in this mental wellness presentation.
Chair Campbell thanked Katie Colameco and Brienne Machan for the presentation.

Delegations

None

Questions from the Public

None

#2021-81
Reopen Schools
Report B-21-60

Moved by Dave Douglas, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the LKDSB call upon the province to immediately and permanently open all schools.”

Trustee Douglas noted students struggling with their mental health increases mental health deterioration and increases substance abuse and eating

disorders. He explained that the individual role of a Trustee is small, but collectively Trustees have a huge voice. He also explained it would be a powerful statement from the Lambton Kent District School Board by standing up for students' right to a quality education.

Trustee Fletcher explained regardless of the value of the rationale, the Ministry of Education does not control public health decisions and rather it is the Ministry of Health that makes these decisions.

Vice-Chair Robertson noted appreciation for the meaning behind the Motion and acknowledged we would like students to be back in school, but acknowledged its challenges. He explained that it was encompassing to have schools reopen across Ontario and it is a true health problem. He noted death rates are increasing and Intensive Care Units (ICU's) are impacted, which affects hospitals and to make claim the students are not spreaders or are not affected is false as the virus does not pick an age to attach to. He noted the success seen in Ontario and in LKDSB schools is not due to the age of the students in whether they can contract or spread the virus, but rather the controls put in place and how they have been adhered to by administration. He noted the province's strict mask policy and the investments in PPE have contributed to the success. He acknowledged the great job that has been done to protect LKDSB students but further discussed the potential ramifications of continued spread of COVID-19 in the community. He acknowledged the empathy for the mental health and well-being of our students.

Student Trustee Locke discussed the stress, the mental health impact and the physical health risks related to learning and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trustee Douglas requested a recorded vote.

Binding vote

Greg Agar	Yes	
Janet Barnes		No
Jane Bryce		No
Ruth Ann Dodman		No
Dave Douglas	Yes	
Jack Fletcher		No
Malinda Little		No
Lareina Rising		No
Derek Robertson		No
Randy Campbell		No

Nonbinding vote

William Locke		No
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MOTION DEFEATED.

#2021-82
Tender Award – Window
Replacement at Sarnia
Education Centre
Report B-21-61

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Lareina Rising,

“That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, Elric Contractors of Wallaceburg Limited for the window replacement at Sarnia Education Centre.”

Superintendent McKay reported that Elric Contractors of Wallaceburg Limited was successful for the Sarnia Education Centre window replacement project

with a bid of \$300,762.41. The total project cost is \$334,514.28 which will be funded from CVRIS funding.

Superintendent McKay confirmed that Education Centres do not have the ability use School Renewal or School Improvement funding as it is not appropriate funding. This funding was applied to with the Federal and Provincial government with approval for use of the CVRIS funding.

Superintendent McKay confirmed that the Board has worked with Horizon Roofing Ltd. in the past and were pleased with the results.

CARRIED.

Trustees Douglas and Agar exited the meeting at 8:04p.m.

#2021-83
2021-2022 School Year
Calendar
Report B-21-62

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Janet Barnes,

“That the Lambton Kent District School Board approve the 2021 – 2022 School Year Calendar.”

Superintendent Hazzard highlighted for clarification there will be two Professional Activity days on Wednesday, September 1 and Thursday, September 2 prior to Labour Day. The first day for students will be September 7, 2021 and the last day of school for student is Tuesday, June 28, 2022.

The Winter Break will be December 20, 2021 to January 2, 2022 with March Break will be March 14 to March 18, 2022.

Friday, October 8, 2021 will be a Professional Activity day which was feedback from the Parent Involvement Committee to enable a long weekend for the students.

CARRIED.

Special Education Advisory
Committee
Report B-21-63

Trustee Barnes noted the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) minutes from April 22, 2021 with presentations from Inclusive Diversity Learning, Ontario Disability Support Plan and Youth Employment Project and a Special Education Plan Review. She noted the next meeting will be held May 13, 2021.

Ontario Public School
Board Association
(OPSBA)

Trustee Fletcher indicated there was no report at this time.

LKDSB Covid-19 Update
Report B-21-64

Director Howitt shared he would present on behalf of Superintendent Barrese. Director Howitt indicated there are currently students learning in a face-to-face environment in the self-contained Special Education classes. With the current stay-at-home order, an additional 79 students will be offered the opportunity to attend face-to-face learning. Those students who will be offered this opportunity cannot benefit from learning at home due to needing specific supports.

Student Senate Project
Report B-21-65

Director Howitt noted this written report supports the Mental Health and Well-being presentation.

Capital Plan
Report B-21-66

Director Howitt noted the details of enrolment and vacant spaces usually reported in the Pupil Accommodation Report have been included in the enrolment data in the Capital Plan being presented.

Superintendent Sherman noted the Capital Plan explains the condition and the needs of LKDSB buildings and noted the contents of the document include lease agreements, childcare programs, community use of schools, community partners, enrolment history and demographics and trends. He explained the Home School data was included with an increase over the past year due to the pandemic. He indicated there is a process in place to allow for the return of students who opted for Home School.

Superintendent Sherman noted the Facility Condition Index which indicates the buildings needs for repairs now and long term. The report allows the reader to understand decisions the LKDSB makes.

Director Howitt confirmed the decision has not been made regarding the long-term success and permanent plan for Synchronous Remote Learning, Kindergarten to Grade 12. He explained that next school year secondary students enrolled in remote learning will be anchored to Lambton Kent Composite School and elementary students will be anchored to McNaughton Avenue Public School. He explained the enrolment is affected for the schools where these students are currently enrolled and if virtual programming continues post pandemic, it will impact the physical schools.

Director Howitt noted declining enrolment is a significant concern with two solutions: funding for empty spaces or lift the moratorium to allow Trustees the opportunity to make decisions and to get public feedback to deal with the vacant spaces. He noted this does impact students with timetable scheduling; that is difficult where students may be locked into one stream to accommodate one course, which may negatively impact graduation rates. He explained there will be meetings between himself, Superintendents Sherman and McKay and the Capital Branch to raise this concern. LKDSB has declining enrolment in a number of secondary schools, with enrolment under one hundred in one school and under two hundred in two other schools. This does not allow for good programming for students and will be reported in future Board meetings.

Director Howitt confirmed the construction occurring at Chatham Kent Secondary School is a project that was delayed due to the pandemic and is being completed using funding approved by the Ministry. Superintendent McKay indicated some of the work is expected to be completed on schedule by the end of the summer, with the final completion expected for February 2022.

Correspondence

None

New Business

Trustee Fletcher indicated actions have been started to share concerns regarding the online learning using TVO the Ministry initiated online learning platform. He explained that this is a very complicated scenario, and it would be good to acknowledge that individual boards could meet with the Ministry and TVO to express what would be best for students. He expressed interest in the possibility of a letter being sent to parents.

Trustee Questions

Trustee Fletcher asked asked if a brief description of the Quadmester could be provided, including advantages that occurred this year.

Director Howitt confirmed the release of the GSN included guidance regarding cohorting. This year cohorting allowed for 25 direct contacts and one hundred indirect contacts in the secondary panel. He explained this was all day, every day for Course A and all day every day the next week for Course B. For next year, the Ministry has limited to a maximum of two in-person courses. Feedback from staff and students indicated there could be a morning Course A with an afternoon Course B every day in the Quadmester.

Another alternative could be Course A and Course B are offered on alternate days or alternating weeks of Course A and then a week of Course B. Final guidance will come this summer; however, timetables are being completed as balanced timetables, not locking in the format of the Quadmester. Balanced timetables are necessary for student and teaching success.

Director Howitt confirmed some students indicated that all day, every day learning was difficult and would have preferred to switch halfway through the day. Some students indicated they were able to focus more on the course content.

Notices of Motion

None

Announcements

Director Howitt indicated prior to the next Board meeting, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia will occur. This day is May 17, 2021.

Superintendent Lane through Indigenous Liaison Committee have completed superb work supporting the Indigenous Teacher Education Program with eleven candidates seeking teacher education through Queen's University.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at location to be determined.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board