

PRESENT:

Trustees: Vice-Chair Derek Robertson, Greg Agar, Janet Barnes, Jane Bryce, Ruth Ann Dodman, Jack Fletcher, 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, Mary Mancini, Mark Sherman and Public Relations Officer Heather Hughes

Regrets Chair Randy Campbell; Trustee Dave Douglas; Student Trustees Aurora Bressette and William Locke

Student Trustees: Lucia Shultz-Allison

Recording Secretary: Bonnie Gotelaer, Executive Assistant to the Director

Call to Order: Vice-Chair Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#2021-86 Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Bryce,

Approval of the Agenda

“That the amended Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of May 25, 2021 be approved.”

Motion by Trustee Fletcher to amend the Agenda to include a motion related to the concerns that OPSBA and many other boards including LKDSB have regarding the Government of Ontario’s proposal to consider allowing online and remote learning as a permanent option. Trustee Fletcher explained the motion to amend the Agenda will include statements made through Board Committees to send correspondence to the Minister of Education or release of our own communications into the public domain.

Vice-Chair Robertson requested a Recorded Vote to Amend Agenda.

Binding	
Greg Agar	Yes
Janet Barnes	Yes
Jane Bryce	Yes
Ruth Ann Dodman	Yes
Jack Fletcher	Yes
Malinda Little	Yes
Scott McKinlay	Yes
Lareina Rising	Yes
Derek Robertson	Yes

Nonbinding	
Lucia Schultz-Allison	Yes

CARRIED.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest Chair Robertson read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement. None

#2021-87
Amendment of the Minutes
May 11, 2021

Moved by Lareina Rising, seconded by Malinda Little,
“That the Board approve the amended Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of
May 11, 2021.”

CARRIED.

Business Arising None

Motions Emanating from
the Regular Board Private
Session None

#2021-88
Action of the Regular
Board Private Session be
the Action of the Board

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Malinda Little,
“That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board.”

CARRIED.

Presentation
Summer Programming

Paul Wiersma noted the 2021 Summer Learning Programs involved a great effort of many LKDSB staff to provide supports for students while following Covid-19 public health guidelines. He explained each division will support students to prepare for the next school year with the focus on early reading intervention in Primary and numeracy for Junior/Intermediate divisions. All divisions will include STEAM activities. He indicated Camp Franco-Fun is a French language-oriented camp and an International Language Elementary Program will introduce a new Spanish language class.

Secondary Students will focus on eLearning courses where students have the option to complete the full course, upgrade or credit recovery. Summer Co-op is a hybrid program with some in person placements and virtual placements. A horticulture program currently housed at Ridgeway District High School will be replicated at Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School. He explained the Dual Credit program with St. Clair and Lambton Colleges and the Specialized Summer School Program focusing on special education classes with intensive support. He noted should public health guidelines permit, Walpole Island Summer School will provide courses to complete credit recovery. He also noted the Wallaceburg District Secondary School FNMI Integrated Arts with land-based activities and support for the transition from grade eight to grade nine and explained the Math Transition summer camp focusing on grade eight students making the transition to grade nine mathematics.

Student supports include graduation coaches for Indigenous students in neighbouring First Nations communities, resource teachers and educational assistants to support eLearning as well as social workers for mental health supports.

Adult Learning will continue during the summer with correspondence and eLearning courses at Chatham, Sarnia, Tilbury, Blenheim, Wallaceburg, Aamjiwnaang, Bkejwanong learning sites. Literacy and Basic Skills and Adult English as a Second Language programs are available this summer.

He confirmed there is information on the LKDSB website and information is sent to secondary staff to share with students and families. Elementary school principals contact individual families to provide information. He explained International Language Elementary Program has had modifications to include some Indigenous languages in the past and continue to consider this avenue.

Elementary programs are offered online and Director Howitt noted the success of online learning which allows access and the ability to expand elementary programming with staff engaging with smaller groups of students.

Paul Wiersma confirmed Secondary School eLearning directs students to view course offerings, including those offered by other school boards and information is shared in social media.

Director Howitt noted summer programming helps to support students to achieve credits and noted staff have been enthusiastic in proceeding with the 2021 summer program.

Chair Robertson thanked Paul Wiersma.

Delegations

None

Questions from the Public

None

Parent Involvement
Committee
Report B-21-68

Director Howitt noted the final meeting for the Committee with anticipated membership changes for the fall of 2021 as some of the membership have graduates.

Brian McKay discussed budget preparation with the Committee and Superintendent Mancini did a presentation for De-Streaming of Grade Nine Mathematics.

Special Education Advisory
Committee (SEAC) –
Report B-21-69

Trustee Barnes noted presentations of the Lambton Kent District School Board budget and School to Work Transition from Community Living Wallaceburg. She noted Special Education Plan Items were reviewed. She indicated the next meeting is June 10, 2021.

Ontario Public School
Boards' Association
Update (OPSBA)

Trustee Bryce noted she attended the speaker's series called Transitioning From the Covid-19 School Experience. She explained the session provided an overview of the observations and preliminary research for the future of schools being outlined in an OPSBA discussion paper currently in process of being completed. She noted discussion points such as analysing research indicating items to consider such as the bricks and mortar schools giving students a feeling of belonging with inclusion and equity. Digital citizenship and cyber security and incorporating them going forward will also be discussion points. She explained school itself is a powerful intervention in enhancing student mental well-being with student wellness. She noted it is a discussion point in how efforts can be enhanced in welcoming and supporting students and families as they transition to school in 2021 and in the future.

LKDSB COVID-19 Update
– Vaccinations and
Celebrations
Report B-21-70

Director Howitt noted a celebration with vaccinations being offered to students in LKDSB. There are differences between Chatham Kent and Lambton Public Health Units. Information is shared to the schools and families for clarity including the ability for family members to receive their vaccine at the same time as their child. The staff at the immunization centre are using the post-vaccination wait time to do a mental health check in with students.

Director Howitt explained graduations and celebrations are being planned as virtual events and most schools have alternative ideas for outdoor celebrations that could be implemented if allowed adhering to public health guidelines. The School Within a College (SWAC) graduation ceremonies will be held in partnership with St. Clair College and Lambton College. Students in the virtual schools are aligned with their home school for celebrations and graduations. Director Howitt noted staff are maintaining connections with students learning in

the virtual school and are connecting with home school students ensuring their welcome to return to the classroom in the fall.

Malinda Little noted schools could provide digital input on their experience in the Covid-19 learning environment.

New Business
#2021-89
Online Learning
Communications

Moved by Jack Fletcher, seconded by Malinda Little,

“That LKDSB in consultation with our Board Committees such as PIC, SEAC, and our Student Senate to write a statement or statements to be released to our local news service and/or sent to the Minister of Education emphasizing our support and rationale for local school boards to continue the responsibility of developing and managing online courses for our students.”

Jack Fletcher noted to be open to discussion, welcoming opinions stating to be supportive of online learning when necessary. He noted possible roadblocks includes some Board Committees have completed meeting for the school year. He explained there are local needs of LKDSB students that need to be taken into account with control in developing the management of online learning.

He noted online learning being handled by TVO, enhances the need to ensure the remote learning is seriously considered by all at the planning table to develop programs best for our students. He noted the duplication of resources as there is a consortium in managing eLearning. Correspondence sent to Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP's) and the Minister of Education, indicates this threatens the viability and diversity in course offerings in rural, small schools which could result in closure of schools. He noted it could result in reduced support for in-school learning for students who require these supports to be successful as this may result in reassigning of student success teachers, guidance counsellors and resource teachers. He explained this will lead to unnecessary duplication and additional expenses while still being unable to address local needs. School boards and their consortia have developed the infrastructure and expertise to support remote learning that reflects the requirements of their specific learnings, and it undermines the abilities of local school boards. He noted the Committees that could have input include Indigenous Liaison Committee (ILC), Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and Student Senate.

Lareina Rising noted to be unsure supporting a motion with unequivocal support without clear information about the government's proposal. She explained there could be presumptions without clarity on the proposal and the need to take into account all students' needs without assumptions. She noted there are students who have had success in the independent online courses having connections with guidance and mental health and other supports noting there is a mechanism to maintain staying connected.

Chair Robertson noted the motion is asking for information gathering and then coming back to the board framing the Board's position.

Jack Fletcher repeated the motion for clarity and noted a motion could be written to make certain that representation at the planning table include our Board, OPSBA and other boards.

Jane Bryce raised the concern that Trustees may not completely understand the government's proposal. She explained there isn't a partnership with the Ministry of Education on this issue noting LKDSB is innovative in keeping education moving forward.

She noted workshops for Trustees, ILC, PIC, SEAC and Student Senate members could be beneficial to ensure clarity and provide education before lobbying the government in areas we feel are important for student learning.

Director Howitt noted the virtual schools initially started in the Covid-19 and virtual schools continuing next year do not apply to this motion. He explained eLearning could be eLearning taught by LKDSB staff, with fees being paid to TVO. The student will be timetabled and provided a learning space by an LKDSB school. Funding for this model remains unclear. He continued to explain full independent learning is completed using a booklet and the ability to log into the course at any time, from any location. If it is a board student who takes one or all of their credits in this model, LKDSB will be responsible in paying their fees which is a loss of revenue. He explained the Minister of Education has responded to chairs' questions about the implementation and there has been discussion about legislation. The Minister of Education has indicated it is still under consultation and seeking input.

Vice-Chair Robertson noted there is a lot of a lot of good sentiment in the motion noting things should be completed correctly and not quickly and noted to be encouraged by Trustee Bryce's comments to include board committees in workshops and stated this motion could allow direct and effective work with our committees.

Scott McKinlay noted to be concerned about what the government is proposing. He indicated part of the rationale would have to be against the proposal and noted facts are required. He also noted a workshop would provide the information to enable the correct viewpoint on the proposal.

Director Howitt noted if the motion does not carry, it does not restrict staff from moving forward in holding a workshop for Trustees and Board Committees

Vice-Chair Robertson indicated the sentiment of the motion has been captured and suggested the motion be aligned. Jack Fletcher agreed the comments and discussion has allowed an understanding for a better way to present the motion.

Jane Bryce noted a provision in the Bylaws that the board gives permission to mover and seconder to remove the motion on the floor. Vice-Chair Robertson noted the motion could be removed with permission from mover Jack Fletcher and seconder Malinda Little.

Trustee Fletcher and seconder Trustee Little withdrew the motion.

Moved by Scott McKinlay, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

#2021-90
Workshop for Trustees
and Board Committees

"That the Administrative team be instructed to hold a workshop related to the government proposal on online learning and to include any relevant board committees."

CARRIED.

Trustee Questions

None

Notices of Motion

None

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The location is to be determined.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board