

**PRESENT:**

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

Student Trustees: Student Trustees Brianne Machan, Taryn Jacobs, joining electronically, and Kate Martin, joining electronically

Staff: Director of Education John Howitt, Superintendent of Business Brian McKay, joining electronically, Superintendents of Education, Angie Barrese, Ben Hazzard, Helen Lane, Mary Mancini

Regrets: Vice-Chair Derek Robertson, Trustee Scott McKinlay, Superintendents of Education Mark Sherman and Gary Girardi, and Public Relations Officer Heather Hughes

Recording Secretary: Jaime Shannon, Executive Assistant to the Director

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

#2022-60 Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Greg Agar,

Approval of the Agenda

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of April 12, 2022 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Student Trustee Brianne Machan read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

#2022-61  
Approval of the Minutes  
Mar/29/2022

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 29, 2022.”

CARRIED.

Business Arising

Following a question from the March 29, 2022 Board Meeting, Director Howitt stated that the Elementary Virtual Program enrolment for the 2022-2023 school year is estimated to be 146 students.

Following a request from the March 29, 2022 Board Meeting a SAL presentation has been scheduled for the May 24, 2022 Board Meeting.

The software platform for Board Meetings has changed from Zoom to Microsoft Teams, which will help alleviate the concerns regarding technical issues brought forth by a Trustee at the March 29, 2022 Board Meeting. Director Howitt thanked Superintendent McKay and the IT department for their efforts in moving to the new platform.

#2022-62  
Motions Emanating from  
the Regular Board Private

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Janet Barnes,

Session - Trustee McKinlay Excused from Attending Board Meetings	"That the Board excuse Trustee Scott McKinlay from attending Board Meetings from April 12, 2022 to April 26, 2022."  CARRIED.
#2022-63 Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board	Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,  "That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board."  CARRIED.
Presentation – Chatham Kent Secondary School Welding Program	<p>Chatham Kent Secondary School (CKSS) Staff Gord Williams and Kevin Hoskins, along with two CKSS students, provided Trustees with information on the CKSS Technologies program. The presenters highlighted the Grade 9 Integrated Technologies course, which introduces students to a wide variety of tools, techniques, and procedures, the Grade 10-12 Automotive program, which now offers boat mechanics in partnership with local businesses, the Grade 10-12 Communications program, in which students use Adobe Cloud to learn industry standard software and techniques, and the Grade 10-12 Manufacturing program, which teaches students to use industry tools and machines. They explained that students are being trained to challenge three positions of welding tickets through the Canadian Welding Bureau, which could otherwise cost them upwards of \$10,000. The students in attendance earned silver in the Skills Ontario 2022 welding competition.</p> <p>Trustee Bryce asked if the local trade unions were encouraging students to become members and Mr. Hoskins confirmed that was the case and added that some students have signed up for Youth Apprenticeship Programs.</p> <p>Director Howitt remarked that the skilled trades are an essential part of secondary programming, but the technology programs have been significantly impacted through COVID-19. He remarked that the creativity of Curriculum Leaders and teachers in the technology departments have helped keep students engaged. He thanked the presenters for their hard work and the students for their dedication to the program.</p> <p>There was a five-minute recess to assist those who were having difficulty accessing the meeting remotely.</p>
Delegations	None
Questions from the Public	None
#2022-64 Proposed Revisions to the LKDSB Procedural By- laws Report B-22-48	Director Howitt explained that updates to Sections 1 and 2 of the LKDSB Procedural By-laws were necessary as the Municipal Elections Act now states that all offices elected every four years during the Municipal Election have a start date of term of November 15. This is a change as the term for school board Trustees previously began in December, so it necessitated a revision to the Organization Meeting date. He added that when making this change a review of the by-laws took place and revisions are suggested to Section 3 in order to embed practices that have come forward during the pandemic, such as ensuring the public has the opportunity to be present in the Board Meetings when the meetings are not in person and ensuring delegations have the opportunity to present remotely. He noted that Section 7 has a housekeeping update.

Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Janet Barnes,

“That the Board approves the revisions to Section 1.05, Section 2.2, 2.8, and 2.15, Section 3.14, 3.16, 3.17, 3.18, 3.19, and Section 7.4 of the LKDSB Procedural By-Laws.”

It was agreed to add the word *corporate* to Section 2.2 so Trustees are aware that the annual Organization Meeting is held at the corporate office of the Board.

#2022-65  
Amendment to the Original  
Motion Approved

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the word *corporate* be added to Section 2.2 of the LKDSB Procedural By-Laws.”

AMENDMENT CARRIED.

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED.

#2022-66  
Revised Schedule for  
Regular Board Meetings  
for the Period December  
7, 2021 to November 15,  
2022  
Report B-22-49

Director Howitt explained that the change to the Municipal Elections Act and the revision to the LKDSB Procedural By-laws impacts the date of the Organization Meeting, and it will now be held on November 15. The previously scheduled November 22 Board Meeting was struck from the calendar since the date would be considered part of the following year’s term. The October 25 Board Meeting was canceled as it is the day after the Municipal Election.

Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Jack Fletcher,

“That the Board approves the revised Regular Board Meeting Schedule for the period December 7, 2021 to November 15, 2022”

CARRIED.

#2022-67  
Policy and Regulations on  
School Food and  
Beverages  
Report B-22-50

Director Howitt explained that the policy and regulations on School Food and Beverages have been reviewed as part of the LKDSB cyclical review. He noted that some revisions came at the request of the local public health units as Student Nutrition Programs must now follow the latest nutrition guidelines developed by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. The regulations were also updated to reflect what is currently in practice and to move operational information and directions to a newly created Administrative Procedures document.

Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Jane Bryce,

“That the Board approves the review of the policy and revised regulations on School Food and Beverages.”

It was recommended by a Trustee that the policy and regulations never cause students to feel bad about the lunch they bring to school as it could contribute to negative mental health.

CARRIED.

#2022-68

Superintendent McKay reviewed the report with Trustees.

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Greg Agar,

Tender Award – Asphalt Replacement – Brooke Central School Report B-22-51 #2022-69	“That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, Wellington Builders Inc., for the Asphalt Replacement at Brooke Central School.”	CARRIED.
Tender Award – Roof Restoration & Washroom Renovation – Errol Road Public School Report B-22-52	Superintendent McKay reviewed the report with Trustees.  Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Janet Barnes,  “That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, Elric Contractors of Wallaceburg Ltd., for the Roof Restoration & Washroom Renovation at Errol Road Public School.”	CARRIED.
Special Education Advisory Committee Report Report B-22-53	Trustee Barnes referred Trustees to the report on the March 24, 2022 meeting and highlighted the presentations on Understanding Indigenous Learning and Enrichment Program Review.  A letter to Minister Stephen Lecce was included in the report and Trustee Bryce requested that the response be shared with Trustees once it is received.	
Ontario Public School Boards’ Association Update (OPSBA)	Trustee Fletcher provided Trustees with an overview of the Western Regional meeting held on April 9, 2022. He highlighted OPSBA’s five multi-year priorities: Advocating for the Whole Child and Student Well-Being; Advancing Reconciliation: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education; Supporting Trustees as Leaders in Public Education; Advocating for Sustainable and Equitable Education Funding; and Strengthening Positive Labour Relations. He noted that a Greater Essex County District School Board Trustee suggested that a representative from the Indigenous communities attend the next meeting to help further the priority of Advancing Reconciliation: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education and he asked Trustee Rising for assistance.	
Correspondence	None	
New Business	None	
Trustee Questions	A question was asked on whether the Board was seeing staffing negatively affected by high rates of sick leave and if so, whether it is foreseen to be an ongoing issue. Director Howitt confirmed that non-attendance is higher than normal, but staff absences have remained steady and student absences have been gradually improving. He also noted the absences are not necessarily COVID-19 related as the numbers include illnesses other than COVID-19, leave requests for staff, and student absences due to sports tournaments and other reasons. He explained that unfilled Teacher and Education Worker jobs are occurring daily, which has a significant impact across the Board, as school administration and senior administration must work to find solutions for the vacancies daily. He noted that classes and schools can shift to synchronous learning, but sometimes the absences are not known until it is too late to cancel classes. About 40 student teachers have been assisting the Board, and once they complete their program, they may be hired to the occasional teacher list. He reported that about 25 Education Workers and 25 Teachers will be hired as well.	

A question was asked on the Board's stance on implementing a mask mandate and whether concerns should be expressed to the local public health units. Director Howitt responded that the weekly call with the Minister of Education included Dr. Ahmed, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, who spoke directly to this question and does not feel at this time that any additional restrictions are necessary, but they are regularly monitoring attendance data from Boards. He added that during the call it was reiterated that school boards do not have the ability to add mask mandates, as it is in the realm of public health. He reported there is a weekly meeting with the Medical Officers of Health where questions like these will be put forth, and the Board will follow the direction of Public Health as it has throughout the pandemic.

A question was asked on how destreaming will affect students at Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School (AMSS), if they will offer Grade 9 academic courses, and what the long-range impact at AMSS will be as a result of destreaming. Superintendent Mancini responded that academic courses have never been offered at AMSS in Grade 9 or 10 and will not be offered going forward, but Locally Developed and Open level courses will still be offered. She explained that prior to destreaming, Grade 9 courses at AMSS included Locally Developed, Open, and Applied, but the Ministry of Education has mandated that school boards no longer offer Applied courses after this school year. She added that Locally Developed and Open courses include English, Math, Science, Technology, Physical Education, Art, among others, and that the Ministry's destreaming plan impacts Grade 9 only. She noted that programming will continue to be driven by student requests and may fluctuate each year based on student interests. Director Howitt added that AMSS is a great school that offers excellent programming for students. He explained that other secondary schools across the Board did not always offer sufficient programming for those who required modified programs, but through Superintendent Barrese's leadership this modified programming is now being offered and students are choosing to attend their home school for these courses and for other courses that do not need to be modified. He added that students will continue to choose their secondary school based on its course catalogue. He reminded Trustees that Chatham-Kent does not have a school similar to AMSS.

Notices of Motion

None

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sarnia Education Centre.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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Chair of the Board

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Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board