

PRESENT:

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

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

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

Regrets: Superintendents of Education Helen Lane and Mark Sherman

Recording Secretary: Jaime Shannon, Executive Assistant to the Director

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

#2022-72 Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Dave Douglas,

Approval of the Agenda

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of April 26, 2022 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest None

#2022-73 Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Malinda Little,

Approval of the Minutes

Apr/12/2022

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 12, 2022.”

CARRIED.

Business Arising None

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session None

#2022-74 Moved by Derek Robertson, seconded by Jane Bryce,

Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board

“That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board.”

CARRIED.

Trustee Fletcher joined the meeting.

Presentation None

Delegations None

Questions from the Public None

- #2022-75
Policy and Regulations on
Prohibition of Trustee Use
of Board Resources
During Election
Campaigns
Report B-22-55
- Director Howitt explained that as per the Municipal Elections Act, school boards must establish a policy regarding the use of board resources during a campaign by May 1, 2022. The existing LKDSB policy and regulations on Prohibition of Trustee Use of Board Resources During Election Campaigns has been reviewed and no changes were recommended.
- Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Jane Bryce,
- “That the Board approves the review of the policy and regulations on Prohibition of Trustee Use of Board Resources During Election Campaigns.”
- CARRIED.
- #2022-76
Tender Award – Window
Replacement – Lambton
Central Centennial Public
School
Report B-22-56
- Superintendent McKay reviewed the report with Trustees.
- Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Jane Bryce,
- “That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, Elric Contractors of Wallaceburg Ltd., for the Window Replacement at Lambton Central Centennial Public School.”
- CARRIED.
- #2022-77
Tender Award – Boiler
Replacement, Partial Roof
Replacement and Water
Main Upgrade – Winston
Churchill Public School
Report B-22-57
- Superintendent McKay reviewed the report with Trustees.
- Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Malinda Little,
- “That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, Elric Contractors of Wallaceburg Ltd., for the Boiler Replacement, Partial Roof Replacement and Water Main Upgrade at Winston Churchill Public School.”
- CARRIED.
- Capital Plan 2022
Report B-22-58
- Director Howitt thanked the Administrative team for the development of the annual Capital Plan. He explained that the focus of the Capital Plan is on the age of facilities, maintenance required for the facilities, and the excess space within them while the focus of the Pupil Accommodation Report released annually in the fall is on student enrollment and vacant spaces. He noted that the Board’s enrollment numbers continue to decline but not as sharply as projected and added that the Board has almost one-third of its population in excess space, which impacts programming. He highlighted the Capacity Levels chart within the report indicates that by 2025 there is projected to be excess space in almost all LKDSB buildings, and many buildings are approaching 50% capacity. He reminded Trustees that some schools may look over capacity but portables do not count as permanent square footage when looking at capacity of buildings. He explained that the schools listed at the top of the Facility Condition Index require the most repairs and upgrades.
- Director Howitt relayed that the Board made use of provincial and federal COVID-19 funding and completed a number of upgrades to buildings, including updates to windows, doors, ventilation, heating, and cooling.
- Director Howitt noted that portables will be used at Rosedale Public School during an upcoming construction project in order to rotate students while the school is refreshed so construction can be completed continuously and not limited to the summer months as has been past practice.

A question was asked regarding the meaning of the stars on pages 15 and 16 of the report. Director Howitt responded that the blue stars indicate a remote learning program. He explained that in the first year of the pandemic Boards were required to offer a virtual program for students, and the Board established stand alone virtual schools with their own ID, Administration, and staff across several buildings. In the second year of the pandemic, with more understanding of the funding from the Ministry, students were moved to existing school registers. Elementary students were moved to McNaughton Avenue Public School's register and Secondary students were moved to Lambton Kent Composite School's register. He noted that the enrollment projections for McNaughton Avenue Public School moved from 870 students to 1138 students, but this increase is due to students enrolled in the virtual program who are not actually attending onsite. He added that the teachers delivering the program to students are either located at McNaughton Avenue Public School, Lambton Kent Composite School, Blenheim District High School, or at their own home. He explained that the red star refers to students enrolled in the Acquiring Current Curriculum Experience through Supervised Studies (A.C.C.E.S.S.) program at Tilbury District High School. This program supports students, primarily from low-German Mennonite families involved in seasonal work, in pursuing academic goals and achieving their O.S.S.D.

Director Howitt noted that Errol Village Public School was approved by the Ministry for the creation of 46 student spaces and 49 licensed childcare spaces, and once the extra capacity is added to the school the numbers in the chart will need to be adjusted.

A question was asked on how the Facility Replacement Value is calculated and how recent the figures are. Superintendent McKay responded that the Ministry conducts assessments across school boards over a five-year timeframe and adjusts the numbers as they conduct these assessments. He explained that he has not yet seen adjustments to reflect the current costs of construction and facility work and that the numbers listed are reflective of the costs at the time they were set.

Chair Campbell thanked Administration for the Capital Plan report.

Ontario Public School
Boards' Association
Update (OPSBA)

Trustee Fletcher informed Trustees that there will be an OPSBA Board of Directors' meeting on April 29 and 30, 2022 and he will provide an update to Trustees at the May 10, 2022 Board Meeting.

Student Senate
Report B-22-59

Student Trustee Brianne Machan reported that during the April 13, 2022 meeting Student Senators received an update on the Student Senate project from Superintendent Barrese and Mental Health Lead Colameco, an overview of the LKDSB budget from Superintendent McKay and discussed police presence in schools with System Co-ordinator Houghton.

Correspondence

None

New Business

None

Trustee Questions

A question was asked on home schooling and how often families need to check-in with their home school. Director Howitt responded that the principal for their home school is responsible for keeping in touch with families and noted that

school administrators were asked to reach out to families and remind them they are welcome to return to the LKDSB, either in-person or virtually, should they be in a position to do so. He also noted that home school students in Grade 3, 6, or 10 can participate in EQAO and that there is a Grade 9 assessment but opportunities have passed for the 2021-2022 school year.

A Trustee noted that it had recently been reported in the media that the number of student and staff absences have been manageable for the Board, and asked what process would be followed to make the Ministry or Public Health aware of unmanageable numbers, if this becomes the case, in order to ensure the proper procedures are in place. Director Howitt explained that throughout the pandemic he has participated in a weekly media scrum held by the Mayor of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, which has been very well attended by the media. He noted that attendance has been the forefront of recent questions and shared that the Board has been struggling to fill vacancies on a daily basis since prior to March Break, which has had a significant impact on schools. He noted that Superintendent Girardi, along with senior administration and school administration, have been managing these vacancies, and central staff and student teachers have been used to help with coverage. Teachers and education workers have been hired to help assist with the unfilled vacancies as well. He noted that staff and student attendance has improved in recent days and hoped it was the start of a pattern as it is important that staff can be released to participate in professional development. He added that, in terms of reporting to Public Health, Dr. Colby, Medical Officer of Health for Chatham-Kent, takes part in the media scrum; the Board is required to report to Public Health when the total student absences for a school is above 30%; and staff and student absences are reported to the Ministry of Education daily. He added that this daily report is published by the Ministry of Education on its website and is available to the public.

Notices of Motion

None

Announcements

Director Howitt announced that the theme for Education Week, held the first week of May, is "Connecting Communities".

Director Howitt reported that the school year calendar approved by Trustees in January 2022 has been approved by the Minister of Education.

Director Howitt announced that a tour of GLSS is being planned for Trustees prior to an upcoming Board Meeting. A public open house is planned for June 16, 2022.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Chatham Regional Education Centre.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board