

PRESENT:

Trustees: Chair Randy Campbell, Vice-Chair Janet Barnes, Greg Agar, Jane Bryce, joining virtually, Ruth Ann Dodman, Jack Fletcher, Malinda Little, Roberta Northmore, Angela Richards, Kelley Robertson, and David Shortt

Student Trustees: Alizah Ali, Tristan Nemcek, and Kobee Soney

Staff: Director of Education John Howitt, Associate Director Brian McKay, Superintendents of Education Angie Barrese, Gary Girardi, Ben Hazzard, Helen Lane, and Mary Mancini

Regrets: 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.

#2023-102
Approval of the Agenda
Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Roberta Northmore,
"That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of June 6, 2023 be approved."

CARRIED.

In Memoriam
Chair Campbell read an In Memoriam for a LKDSB student. A moment of silence was observed.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest
None.

#2023-103
Approval of the Minutes
May/23/2023
Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Jack Fletcher,
"That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 23, 2023."

CARRIED.

Business Arising
Trustee Robertson withdrew her Notice of Motion from the May 23, 2023 Board Meeting.

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session
None.

#2023-104
Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board
Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Angela Richards,
"That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board."

CARRIED.

Presentation – Secondary Student Art, Chatham-Kent Schools
Trustee Dodman remarked that she was pleased to have chosen the art pieces displayed at the Chatham Regional Education Centre for the past several years and noted that choosing the pieces for the 2023-2024 school year was a

difficult decision. The student artists will receive a \$100.00 cheque for agreeing to lease their piece of art to the LKDSB for one year.

- Student Sidney Fraser was in attendance and described the art piece, "Responsibilities", as representing stereotypes of young people and those from different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences.
- Student Adia O'Rourke-Archibald was in attendance and described the art piece, "Rainy Evening", as representing a peaceful walk on the beach with someone and having to say goodbye.
- Student Melia Thibeault was in attendance and described the art piece, "Self Portrait", as a reflection of the artist, how they view themselves, and how they want the world to view them.

Chair Campbell remarked that the LKDSB has some very talented students and congratulated the artists.

Presentation – Muskoka
Woods Learning
Opportunity

Superintendent Barrese introduced System Coordinator Chris Moore and Experiential Learning Coordinator Matt Sanders, who provided information on Muskoka Woods. They explained that it is a learning opportunity for Grade 8 students from schools across the Board that includes a range of activities meant to challenge the students, increase their confidence, and build relationships prior to attending secondary school. Secondary students attend as student mentors to the Grade 8 students within their family of schools. It was noted that the program is supported financially with Board funding as well as fundraising activities and accommodations are available so every student can attend and participate in the activities.

A Trustee asked what techniques are used to help the students who are not volunteering for the activities. System Coordinator Moore responded that the secondary leaders coach the students, small successes are celebrated, and students set goals for themselves.

A Trustee asked how much notice is necessary in order to book the camp. System Coordinator Moore responded that two weeks are booked in order to accommodate the number of students from the schools that wish to participate, and the weeks have already been tentatively booked for the 2023-2024 school year.

Student Trustee Ali remarked that she took part in the program as a Grade 8 student, and it helped her confidence grow.

Following a Trustee question regarding the number of students that can attend the camp per school year, Chris Moore responded that there were 1,100 students this school year, but up to 1,300 students could be accommodated with the number of weeks available. He confirmed that the three current Student Trustees have participated in the program.

Delegations

None.

Questions from the Public

None.

Budget Approval for the
2023/2024 School Year

Associate Director McKay reviewed the information included in the 2023-2024 Budget Report. He noted that the budget process commenced in February

Report B-23-82

2023 and advised that the total Provincial Education funding for the 2023/2024 budget year is projected to be \$27.1 billion (2022-2023 - \$26.1 billion), an average of \$13,125 (2022-2023 - \$13,059) per pupil. This average funding amount per pupil represents an increase of 2.1% per pupil when compared to the 2022-2023 school year. The forecasted average daily enrolment numbers (FTE) for 2023-2024 are: 21,502 Total Students comprised of 14,602 Elementary and 6,900 Secondary students (FTE). The 2023-2024 school year budget for the LKDSB totals \$336,378,172. The LKDSB total revenue is comprised of the following:

- GSN Operating Grants = \$271,751,412
- GSN Facilities Renewal / Financing Grants = \$26,841,339
- Tuition Fees from Indigenous & Visa Students = \$4,464,591
- Ministry Funding – Priorities and Partnerships = \$3,971,500
- Other Capital, Rent, Interest and Miscellaneous Revenues = \$4,220,786
- School Generated Funds = \$4,000,000
- Ministry Funding of Capital Amortization = \$18,180,165
- In-year draw from Accumulated Surplus = \$2,948,379

Associate Director McKay outlined the budget expenditures categories and detailed the Compliant Budget and In-Year Deficit Elimination Plan. He relayed that there are significant funding reductions or changes that have created budget pressures for the 2023-2024 budget, including the new Transportation funding model, the realignment of Indigenous Education funding, and the expiration of the COVID-19 Learning Recovery Plan. He reported that the LKDSB budget is reporting a deficit for the 2023-24 school year, and the deficit amount is compliant with the provision that allows school boards to access their surplus accounts up to 1% of their operating funding allocation.

Associate Director McKay advised that the budget estimates for 2023-2024 are due to the Ministry by June 30, 2023. The Financial Statements for the 2022-2023 school year must be submitted to the Ministry by November 15, 2023 and the revised budget estimates for 2023-2024 must be submitted by December 15, 2023.

A Trustee asked if the Ministry has been responsive to adjusting the funding model. Associate Director McKay responded that the Ministry is listening, but there is little hope for changes in 2023-2024 as additional GSN funding is rare. He relayed that Trustees will receive revised estimates in fall 2023.

A Trustee asked what the ongoing costs are associated with the COVID-19 Learning Recovery Plan. Associate Director McKay explained that the end of the COVID-19 Learning Recovery Plan is a loss of \$3.3 million dollars and to help offset this funding loss, the supply budget has been reduced by \$2 million dollars, and the remaining \$1.3 million dollars will be found through other areas, such as surplus. He added that there continue to be pressures on supply staff and utilities.

A Trustee asked how the Indigenous Education funding loss is being addressed in the budget. Associate Director McKay responded that there are no planned changes to Indigenous Education programming and the costs will be found elsewhere in the budget.

Following a Trustee question, Associate Director McKay explained that a Ministry exemption would be needed in order to access more than 1% of Reserves.

Following a Trustee question, Associate Director McKay explained that the Retirement Gratuity liability was decreased for 2023-2024 which caused a pressure on Reserve accounts, but it is an area of the budget that can be cut without cutting programming. He added that the Retirement Gratuity obligation will be satisfied in 2024-2025, so the pressure on Reserves will be removed based on time. Director Howitt clarified that this has no impact on retirees who are eligible for retirement gratuities as they will still receive their retirement gratuity.

A Trustee asked if there would be value in flagging for the Ministry that the lifting of the Moratorium could assist with the challenges. Associate Director McKay responded that this could not be included in the Deficit Elimination Plan as the moratorium is still in place, but conversations with the Ministry in this area continue. Director Howitt added that when the moratorium is lifted the process will require significant input and Trustee approval, so it would not be a short-term solution to the challenges faced.

A Trustee asked if the transportation service provided will need to change for 2023-2024. Associate Director McKay responded that at this point there have been no discussions about reductions of service provided. He added that the Ministry is mandating specific walk distances, which means increasing the current walk distances would not be an option as a cost saving measure, but bell times may be reviewed for the 2024-2025 school year. He added that the Ministry is looking at reducing Kindergarten walk distances, which would be a significant change for transportation.

A Trustee asked if a correction could be completed on the enrolment projections if they may not be showing true numbers due to a known cause. Associate Director McKay responded that they are true numbers based on the assumptions of the projection software, which is a migration of families from the Greater Toronto Area. He explained that this is challenging as the numbers may not be as strong as previous years.

In response to a Trustee question, Associate Director McKay confirmed that the Ministry retrieves \$1,300 of funding per international student.

A Trustee asked for the status on the air quality improvements that have been completed within the Board. Associate Director McKay responded that the upgrades continue as a priority item for the Board, but there is no longer dedicated funding from the Ministry.

A Trustee asked if the Reserves are invested. Associate Director McKay responded that the Ministry holds on to the reserves.

#2023-105
Approval of the School
Year Budget for the
2023/2024 School Year

Moved by David Shortt, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the Board approve the 2023-24 School Year Budget, as presented, in the amount of \$336,378,172.”

CARRIED.

#2023-106 Approval of the In-Year Deficit Elimination Plan	Moved by Roberta Northmore, seconded by Angela Richards, “That the Board approve the attached In-Year Deficit Elimination Plan.”	CARRIED.
#2023-107 Tender Award – Phase 2 Renovation and Refresh – Chatham Kent Secondary School, Chatham Report B-23-83	Associate Director McKay reported on a tender award for the Phase 2 renovation and refresh at Chatham Kent Secondary School. Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by David Shortt, “That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, Vince Ferro Construction Ltd., for the Phase 2 Renovation and Refresh at Chatham Kent Secondary School for a total of \$1,449,373.72.”	CARRIED.
Indigenous Liaison Committee Report Report B-23-84	Trustee Northmore reported to Trustees on the May 17, 2023 Indigenous Liaison Committee meeting. She noted that 50 reports were received from school administrators. She reported that Bob Bressette is the acting Principal of Hillside School at Kettle & Stony Point First Nation; the Education Bridge Services program at Kettle and Stony Point First Nation has begun; the building of The Learning Lodge at Aamjiwnaang First Nation has commenced; and there is an upcoming canoe build credit course which is open to students in all secondary grades. She remarked that the data reports received from LKDSB schools at the meeting were discouraging and is hopeful that next years’ report will show an improvement.	
Ontario Public School Boards’ Association Update (OPSBA)	Trustee Fletcher reported that the OPSBA Annual General Meeting will be held on June 9 and 10, 2023 and that Trustees Agar, Dodman, and Northmore planned to attend.	
Voting Delegate for OPSBA Annual General Meeting Report B-23-85	Trustee Fletcher reported that determining a voting delegate for the OPSBA Annual General Meeting was necessary as he, as OPSBA Representative, and Trustee Robertson, as OPSBA Alternate, would not be in attendance. He relayed that Trustee Northmore was determined to be the voting delegate.	
Ontario Student Trustees’ Association (OSTA) Annual General Meeting	Student Trustee Ali reported that she and Student Trustee Soney attended the OSTA Annual General Meeting held from May 18 to 21, 2023, which she remarked was an outstanding experience with opportunities to connect with Student Trustees across the province.	
Muskoka Woods Learning Opportunity Report B-23-86	Superintendent Barrese relayed that the Board Report highlights some of the key points of the presentation at the beginning of the agenda and remarked that Muskoka Woods was a wonderful opportunity for students.	
Correspondence	None.	
New Business	None.	
Trustee Questions	A Trustee relayed that she felt certain aspects of the North Lambton Secondary School lunch program may provide opportunity for discrimination of the Kettle & Stony Point students who access the program and asked that it be reviewed. She suggested a card system could be used to help remove barriers to	

students and provide more efficiency. Director Howitt responded that he would follow-up on the question at a future Board Meeting.

Notices of Motion

None.

Announcements

Emily Dixon will be the Superintendent of Education – Indigenous Education / Equity, Diversity & Inclusion / International Education effective July 4, 2023.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at the Sarnia Education Centre at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board