

PRESENT:

- Trustees: Chair Randy Campbell, Vice-Chair Janet Barnes, Greg Agar, Jane Bryce, Ruth Ann Dodman, Jack Fletcher, Malinda Little, Roberta Northmore, Angela Richards, joining virtually, Kelley Robertson, and David Shortt
- Student Trustees: Graysen Bathe-Minard, Darshan Shah, and Makaiyah Stonefish
- Staff: Director of Education John Howitt, joining virtually, Associate Director Brian McKay, Superintendents of Education Emily Dixon, Gary Girardi, Ben Hazzard, and Mary Mancini, Interim Superintendent of Education Carrielyn Smith, and Public Relations Officer Caress Lee
- Regrets: Superintendent of Education Angie Barrese
- Recording Secretary: Jaime Shannon, Executive Assistant to the Director
- Call to Order: Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Chair Campbell read LKDSB Procedural By-Laws Section 3.19 *Decorum at Board Meetings*.
- Chair Campbell expressed his appreciation to Interim Superintendent Smith for filling in for Superintendent Barrese, as it was her last meeting.
- #2023-144
Approval of the Agenda Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Malinda Little,
"That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of October 24, 2023 be approved."
CARRIED.
Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgment.
- Declaration of Conflict of Interest None.
- #2023-145
Approval of the Minutes
Oct/10/2023 Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by David Shortt,
"That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 10, 2023."
CARRIED.
- Business Arising Director Howitt reminded Trustees of the October 10, 2023 Board Report regarding Safety and Security Protocols for Board Meetings. He noted that the protocols are a work in progress and feedback was welcome. He reminded Trustees that they are posted on the LKDSB website.
- Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session None.

#2023-146
Action of the Regular
Board Private Session be
the Action of the Board

Moved by Janet Barnes, seconded by Kelley Robertson,
“That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board.”

CARRIED.

Presentation – Student
Support Services/Well-
Being Summer Learning –
Interim Superintendent
Smith

Interim Superintendent Smith introduced Meghan Schneider and Becky Drury, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Specialists. The presenters provided information on the Summer Learning Supports offered to students by Student Support Services/Well-Being, the details of which can be found in Report B-23-128.

A Trustee asked if there had been increased participation in the second year of the Applied Behaviour Analyst (ABA) Camps. Ms. Drury responded that there would have been 30 more students registered this year, but one of the schools had to be canceled due to construction work at the school.

Delegations

None.

#2023-147
LKDSB Policy and
Regulations on Video
Surveillance
Report B-23-122

Director Howitt reported to Trustees that the Policy and Regulations on Video Surveillance were being brought forth as part of the LKDSB Cyclical Review, however he noted that its review was overdue. He explained that the Policy continues to reflect the philosophy of the Board but has been updated to include reference to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. He reported that the Regulations on Video Surveillance have been reviewed and the changes reflect the camera system updates that continue to occur across the LKDSB and to ensure compliance with the Education Act and Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. He noted that there are housekeeping items to be cleaned up in the document before it is posted on the LKDSB website.

Superintendent Girardi noted that the updates to the Policy and Regulations, as well as the corresponding Administrative Procedure, were completed in conjunction with Information Technology and Safe Schools and explained that the major changes in the document followed a legal review.

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by David Shortt,

“That the Board approve the revised policy and regulations on Video Surveillance.”

Following a Trustee question regarding sharing of video surveillance footage with law enforcement, Superintendent Girardi explained that there is a process in place for sharing information with law enforcement following a written request, and it is important to be careful with what is collected and what is shared.

CARRIED.

#2023-148
Tender Award– Exhaust
Fan Replacement –
Lambton Central

Associate Director McKay reported to Trustees on a tender for exhaust fan repairs and replacement at Lambton Central Associate Collegiate & Vocational Institute, which he explained was a project that included significant work throughout the school.

Associate Collegiate &
Vocational Institute
Report B-23-123

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the Board award the tender to the successful bidder, Wellington Builders Inc., for the Exhaust Fan Replacement at Lambton Central Collegiate & Vocational Institute.”

Following a Trustee question, Associate Director McKay confirmed the tender met the estimated cost.

CARRIED.

Annual Audit Committee
Report of the 2022-2023
Year
Report B-23-124

Trustee Shortt reported to Trustees on the Annual Audit Report for the 2022-2023 school year. He explained that the report contained information on membership, attendance, recruitment, and governance requirements, and summarized the actions with external and internal auditors. He shared that Appendix A is the required annual report to the Ministry of Education which highlights the internal audit completed, that there are no internal audits underway, and that enrollment audits are not expected to be performed.

Student Senate Report
Report B-23-125

Student Trustee Shah reported on the Student Senate meeting that took place on October 16, 2023, which he Co-Chaired. He relayed that Co-Chair Wania Noor was elected at the meeting, there was an enticing conversation on policies, and a decision on hybrid meetings for Student Senate meetings moving forward.

Ontario Public School
Boards' Association
Update (OPSBA)

Trustee Fletcher reported that a Western Regional Meeting will take place on November 4, 2023 in Kitchener, Ontario and noted that a neighbouring region will be joining the meeting.

Trustee Bryce relayed that a draft of the Director's Performance Appraisal that OPSBA will present to Ministry was received that day. She noted that it was requested that funding be provided from the Ministry to support any additional expectations for boards.

New Structure of
Operational Plan 2023-
2024
Report B-23-126

Director Howitt relayed that the Operational Plan for the current school year would normally be brought to Trustees at the second Board Meeting of October, but it was delayed due to requirements of *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*. He noted that the Ministry has developed three provincial priorities that boards are required to adopt into their Trustee-approved multi-year plans, and the Ministry is to provide a Student Achievement Plan with 11 indicators that will be completed and posted on the Board website. He explained that the Operational Plan for 2023-2024 is being restructured in order to meet the Ministry requirements and will be presented to Trustees on November 14, 2023.

A Trustee suggested that the title Human Rights be changed to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, to be more in line with the LKDSB Strategic Priority.

A Trustee asked if the province has defined the 2 indicators that had not yet been defined. Director Howitt responded that the indicators have been defined but the metrics of how they will be measured have not yet been defined. He explained that the two indicators are students knowing where to access mental health resources and whether students are feeling ready for the next step in their educational career. He relayed that this information may not be received

this school year, which the province has been transparent about, but in the meantime, Trustees will see goals being brought forth in these areas, and possibly interim metrics, in the Operational Plan. He remarked that is important that the work is being done towards these goals and the metrics will be determined later.

Education Quality and
Accountability Office
(EQAO) Results
Report B-23-127

Superintendents Hazzard and Mancini reported to Trustees on the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessment results for the 2022-2023 school year, which are focused on Primary (Grade 3), Junior (Grade 6), Grade 9, and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

Superintendent Hazzard explained that the 2021-2022 School Year was the first year the assessments were completed digitally, and because of the new format there is no data prior to then to compare to. He reported that for Grade 3, there was an improvement of 5% for Reading, an improvement of 4% for Writing, and an improvement of 3% for Math, and for Grade 6, there was a decrease of 1% for Reading, an increase of 1% for Writing, and an increase of 9% for Math. He noted that the results trail the provincial average. He relayed that to help support students in completing the digital assessment, a poster was created listing the acronym SLOWER (Scan the question, Listen to the text, Open tools, Work it out, Enter the question, and Review).

Superintendent Mancini explained that the OSSLT is an assessment written by Grade 10 students and is a requirement for graduation. She reported that the results improved by 2% but trail the Ontario average. She reported that there was no change for Grade 9 Math, but the number is 20% lower than the Ontario average. She remarked that improvement takes time and with the supports in schools of Math Coaches and Intervention Coaches she hoped to see significant changes. She reported that beginning this school year, the Grade 9 Math assessment will be worth 10% of the student's mark, and the goal is to have students achieving at or above the provincial average in 3 years. She explained that the provincial standard is at or above Level 3 or 4, and when looking at the dot score, 22% of students had a dot score of 2.7 or 2.9, and to be at level 3 you must have a dot score of 3.1, which means these students are one or two questions away from Level 3.

A Trustee asked if the results could be attributed to self-learning at home during COVID-19 and noted that it may have been easier for parents/guardians to support a Grade 6 learner rather than a Grade 9 learner. Superintendent Mancini responded that while there are lingering effects, they would be felt by Grade 6 students just as much as Grade 9 students, and although many parents/guardians struggled to support their students, there were many supports readily available, such as virtual homework help from the Ministry.

A Student Trustee noted that they had trouble focusing on the test due to the bland interface and suggested including breaks during the assessment or making the screen more enticing for students. Superintendent Hazzard responded that he appreciated the feedback, especially around strategies that can be used such as taking a break. He relayed that the interface can not be changed by individual school boards.

Following a Trustee question, Superintendent Hazzard responded that feedback is readily provided to the province.

A Trustee asked if the effects from the introduction of the Heggerty Curriculum and other supports currently in place for students will be seen. Superintendent Hazzard explained that Heggerty is a phonemic awareness program which was implemented district wide last year, and that a phonics program is being added this year. He noted that any impact would likely come in future years as they are part of a plan for building blocks for student early literacy development.

Director Howitt remarked that he believes LKDSB students can achieve at high levels, and the right staff is in place to support students to get there.

Student Support
Services/Well-Being
Summer Learning
Supports
Report B-23-128

Interim Superintendent Smith remarked that some of the items in the report were included as part of the presentation. She highlighted that a Social-Emotional Learning Summer Camp took place in July and August, which 1134 students attended, 15 summer students were hired as leaders, LKDSB Social Workers supported the camp, and 80 hearing screenings were provided by the Speech and Language team. She added that Social Skills Kits were distributed to all LKDSB schools and 34 psychological assessments were completed during the summer months. She reported that Social Workers completed check-ins and provided support for students through the summer months and 42 individual students received treatment therapy during July and August. She relayed that students currently on caseload reported that even if they did not need to access the support, they felt comforted in knowing that if they needed help, there was a way to connect with their social workers.

Correspondence

None.

New Business

None.

Trustee Questions

A Trustee asked if staff have provided input to the Ministry regarding the Accelerated Apprenticeship Pathway, and asked what it would look like for LKDSB students. Superintendent Mancini responded that the consultations are just beginning, and stakeholders are being asked to provide feedback. She noted that from the secondary program perspective, a survey has been received that asks to highlight current practices in skilled trades and apprenticeship. She reported that they note in the survey that 3.4% of students currently transition to apprenticeship, compared to the provincial average of 1.8%. She noted that she expected the Guidance department to be asked to consult and it is important for them to be engaged in the process.

A Trustee asked if there could be changes to the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Program and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) due to the new Accelerated Apprenticeship Pathway. Superintendent Mancini responded that the high transition rate to apprenticeship is attributed to the strength of SHSM and OYAP programs. She noted that she does not yet know how it will impact those programs and it depends on the direction the Ministry takes. She explained that there are two proposed options from the Ministry, the student would remain a student of the board, or once the student has earned 16 credits they could pursue employer supervised apprenticeship. She relayed that the preferred option is the student to remain a student of the board until they graduate.

A Trustee asked what steps have been taken to support students following recent global events. Director Howitt responded that communications have gone to staff

with resources to help support students, additional supports for staff were provided in the Staff Newsletter, and resources from School Mental Health Ontario have been shared with families through social media. He added that starting on January 1, 2024, Grade 7 and 8 students will have required mental health curriculum and 16 elementary schools have signed up to pilot MindUp, which will support their capacity. Interim Superintendent Smith added that Social Workers have connected with each of the school principals and resource teachers and have gone over the things to look for in students who may be struggling. She explained that if students are struggling, staff should connect with the student as a caring adult and if they are continuing to struggle, then a Social Worker or Clinician are available to provide support. She relayed that the Mental Health Lead has indicated that there have been no students being brought forth as currently struggling, and in the past, when world events are happening, students tend to go through their own pathways for support instead of through the schools, but it is important for staff to be aware and offer supports as needed.

A Trustee asked if there was any additional information that could be provided on OPSBA's overview of Bill 98 and asked if the Board would be participating in the 2024 budget consultations online survey. Director Howitt responded that the table provided by OPSBA is a good overview of the status of Bill 98, and all groups involved, such as OPSBA, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE), Ontario Association of School Business Officials (OASBO), etc., are reaching out to members for feedback. He explained that feedback regarding the Transportation and Indigenous Education funding was provided through the letters sent from the Board to the Ministry and that Associate Director McKay is continuing to engage in advocacy in those areas in as many groups as possible. He relayed that Trustee feedback was welcome and could be provided to Associate Director McKay, if related to financials, and to himself for other items. He also noted that feedback for OPSBA can be sent to Trustee Fletcher. Associate Director McKay added that he is working with a number of groups on the budget consultation for 2024-2025 and continues to work on Transportation funding. He noted that he had a meeting with CLASS and the Ministry, and they continue to get updates on the actual experience with the Transportation funding model on the school budget. He explained there is concern the Ministry may not provide funding for all of the expected increases that may be seen in 2024-2025 and there are a large number of items being prepped for the consultation.

Notices of Motion	None.
Announcements	The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at the Chatham Regional Education Centre at 7:00 p.m.
Adjournment	There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

