

PRESENT:

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

Student Trustees: Graysen Bathe-Minard, joining virtually, and Darshan Shah, joining virtually

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

Regrets: Trustee Jack Fletcher and Student Trustee Makaiyah Stonefish

Recording Secretary: Jaime Shannon, Executive Assistant to the Director

Call to Order: Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Chair Campbell read LKDSB Procedural By-Laws Section 3.19 *Decorum at Board Meetings*.

#2024-36  
Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Roberta Northmore,

“That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of February 13, 2024 be approved.”

CARRIED.

Chair Campbell recognized that February is Black History Month and noted that there were many activities taking place across the Lambton Kent District School Board, including a recent exhibit, *Let Us March on Til Victory is Won*, held at the Sarnia and Chatham Education Centres. He thanked the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice team for their work.

In Memoriam

Chair Campbell read an In Memoriam for an Adult School Within a College (SWAC) learner. A moment of silence was observed.

Chair Campbell read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

#2024-37  
Approval of the Minutes  
Jan/24/2024

Moved by David Shortt, seconded by Greg Agar,

“That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 24, 2024.”

CARRIED.

Business Arising

Associate Director McKay followed up on three items related to Trustee questions from the January 24, 2024 Board Meeting. For the first item, he relayed that Trane Canada ULC., the successful bidder for the Chiller Replacement at Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School, has a head office in Markham, Ontario and their items are manufactured in North Carolina and South Carolina. He noted that the company meets Building Ontario Businesses Initiative Act, 2022 (BOBIA) regulations as their head office is in Ontario. For the second item, he

relayed that the non-compliant bids listed in the tender award for Flag Pole Replacement at various LKDSB Locations were due to the fact that Schouten Excavating Inc. did not have the required two flag poles in their bid and Fibre General Contracting Inc. did not provide security bonding to protect the Board if they did not perform. For the third item, he relayed that a deficit reduction plan starts upon filing with the Ministry, and savings and plans are looked for at that point. He explained that if year-end is not resolved there is a two-year deficit clock and if you are balanced at year-end the clock does not start.

Motions Emanating from  
the Regular Board Private  
Session

None.

#2024-38  
Action of the Regular  
Board Private Session be  
the Action of the Board

Moved by Kelley Robertson, seconded by Jane Bryce,

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

CARRIED.

Presentation – February  
LKDSB Math Achievement  
Action Plan Update

Superintendent Hazzard introduced Nicole Beuckelare, System Coordinator of Mathematics, and Brianne Gordon and Lori Meyer, Elementary Math Facilitators.

Superintendent Hazzard remarked that a difference is being made with students and encouraged Trustees to envision individual students when they see the improvements in the data.

System Coordinator Beuckelare explained that the presentation would provide a midpoint update on the student data collected and the intervention methods currently in action. She reported that Elementary Math Facilitators have been completing intervention activities with students focused on addition and multiplication and as of February 5, 2024, 260 students have shown growth in addition and 302 students have shown growth in multiplication.

Elementary Math Facilitators Gordon and Meyer shared stories of student success through targeted games and interventions.

System Coordinator Beuckelare reported that instructional leadership is being built by engaging in conversations with administrators to understand what learning they need and providing them with talking points, slide decks and supports to share with their staff. She reported they are supporting classroom teachers by engaging in school improvement meetings to listen to teacher needs, creating sample resources that teachers can reference and use with students, and using Math Facilitators to build teacher capacity in classrooms across the district and virtually. She relayed that intervention in secondary came in the form of classroom support, small group intervention based on student need in each mathematical strand and small group support for students who were ready for extensions to their learning, and that intervention and extension will continue to be a focus for Semester 2. She reported that by February 5, 2024, 591 students have been reassessed and demonstrated growth in the more efficient strategies they use for adding, subtracting,

multiplying, and dividing and 210 secondary students were directly supported by a Math Facilitator in Semester 1.

Director Howitt reported that there was an increase of almost 7% for EQAO and in focused schools mostly double-digit improvement was seen. He remarked that there is a student behind every piece of data and that he was appreciative of the Math Team.

Delegations

None.

#2024-39  
2024-2025 School Year  
Calendar  
Report B-24-39

Superintendent Hazzard reported to Trustees that the recommended school year calendar for the 2024-2025 school year follows the template set out by the Ministry of Education and the process involves discussion with the coterminous school board, union partners, school administrators, Indigenous Liaison Committee (ILC), and Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). He highlighted that the first day of school is proposed to be Tuesday, September 3, 2024 and the last day of school is proposed to be Thursday, June 26, 2024.

Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Jane Bryce,

"That the Board approve the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar and that this calendar be forwarded to the Ministry of Education for approval as required."

A Trustee noted that principals have provided feedback that it is a difficult timeframe between the final day of exams late in the month of June and preparing for the graduation ceremony. Superintendent Girardi responded that the School Year Calendar Regulation outlines the requirements and 194 days must be considered instructional days.

CARRIED.

Indigenous Liaison  
Committee Report  
Report B-24-40

Trustee Northmore reported to Trustees on the January 17, 2024 Indigenous Liaison Committee (ILC) meeting. She relayed that Aamjiwnaang First Nation reported that their school expansion to Grade 3 is going well and storytelling sessions with students will take place inside The Learning Lodge throughout the month of February, Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit reported that they continue to struggle to fill positions and a weekly math night has been created for elementary and secondary students, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation reported that Bob Bresette was hired as Principal and an Indigenous Lead will be hired for secondary school supports, and Bkejwanong First Nation reported that Christmas trees were decorated and donated to the school and then raffled off to members of the community. She relayed that preloaded Chartwell cafeteria cards continue to be an issue, and Associate Director McKay will consult with his team and speak to the vendor to troubleshoot the issue. She relayed that Dallas Sinopole reported that discussion is sought to move forward with a Language Initiative and noted that the next meeting will be held at the Sarnia and Chatham Education Centres on February 21, 2024.

Ontario Public School  
Boards' Association  
Update (OPSBA)  
Report B-24-41

Vice-Chair Robertson reported that the OPSBA Public Education Symposium (PES) was held in January 2024. Trustee Shortt provided Trustees with highlights from the conference that he and Trustee Agar attended. He remarked that attending PES was worthwhile and they were able to connect with other Trustees and learn about their boards. He noted that some presentations referred to recommended practices for boards but that it is

important to keep a local focus. Vice-Chair Robertson remarked that she will continue to bring a rural community voice from the LKDSB as the OPSBA representative. Trustee Agar relayed that he learned a lot from PES and he was happy with the positive relationships amongst LKDSB Trustees as he was surprised to learn that is not always the case in school boards.

Trustee Bryce noted that she would be sitting in on the OPSBA Policy Workgroup meeting on the Integrity Commissioner as an alternate member of the committee.

Special Education  
Advisory Committee  
(SEAC) Report  
Report B-24-42

Trustee Little reported to Trustees on the January 18, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting. She relayed that Steve Stokley and Christine Kent from Community Living Chatham Kent spoke about the Making It Happen Program, which encourages people with disabilities to acquire the necessary skills and confidence for lifelong learning and growth, and the Job Worx Summer Employment program, in which 20 secondary students work at their place of employment in the mornings and volunteer every other afternoon, providing individuals with the expertise and confidence to improve their financial well-being. She reported that the second presentation from Epilepsy Educator Sandra Pidduck from Epilepsy SW Ontario highlighted what it is like socially for students living with epilepsy. She noted that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at Wallaceburg District Secondary School.

Solar Eclipse Planning  
Oral Report

Director Howitt reported that a total eclipse will take place on April 8, 2024, with the full totality occurring in the area of the Board at approximately 3:18 p.m. for approximately two minutes. He noted there was concern as this is around the time of school dismissal and many students would be on buses. He explained that many options were explored, such as earlier buses, not running buses, or remote learning, and one key factor was that the emergency response planning in Chatham-Kent had significant concern about traffic congestion in zones of totality. He explained that emergency responders are concerned that the number of cars parked on side roads viewing the eclipse may make it difficult for emergency vehicles to get through, which means it would be difficult for school buses as well. He relayed that staff will work during the PD Day, but conversations will take place with union partners around dismissal times.

Director Howitt explained that changing a PD day does not require Ministry approval or Board motion, but families and the Ministry must be made aware. He reported that a media release has been distributed, an email was sent to all staff, and parents/guardians were notified through the Schoolmessenger system.

A Trustee asked if the totality of the eclipse will be in both Lambton County and Chatham-Kent. Director Howitt responded that the totality will take place under Highway 401 to Niagara, and a significant percentage will be in the Sarnia-Lambton area, with the north less impacted.

Financial Report 2023-24  
School Year Expenditures,  
September 1 – November  
30, 2023  
Report B-24-43

Associate Director McKay reported on the first quarter 2023-2024 school year expenditures. He explained that this period represents about 25% of operating expenses that occur over 12 months, and approximately 30 to 35% of the salary and benefit portion of the instructional operating expenses that occur over a 10-to-12-month period.

Associate Director McKay explained that Appendix A contains the summarized financial information for the first quarter and the report compares actual expenditures from September 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023 against two benchmark calculations. He explained that the first benchmark calculation (Scenario 1) provides a projected percentage spend based on a 5-year historical average of actual board expenditures and the second benchmark calculation (Scenario 2) compares the actual expenditures to an assumption of equal spending patterns throughout the fiscal year.

Associate Director McKay reported that staff continues to track all budget versus actual variances and based on first quarter expenditures, the Board is still anticipating a deficit of \$1,781,116, which was reported in the January 24, 2024 Revised Estimates Update report. He relayed that the budget for the 2024-2025 school year is in progress and staff is looking to bring a balanced budget to Trustees. He noted that he will continue to work with the Ministry on the funding challenges.

February LKDSB Math  
Achievement Action Plan  
Update: Focused on Mid-  
Year Student Growth  
Report B-24-44

Superintendent Hazzard noted the report contained information presented at the beginning of the meeting but highlighted the graphs included in the report.

Correspondence

None.

New Business

Trustee Richards relayed that she was made aware that a dormant landfill in Dresden, Ontario may be re-opened and expanded and noted she would be bringing forth a Notice of Motion for staff to provide input through the consultation phase as she had concerns for student and staff safety. Director Howitt remarked that now that administration has been made aware, they will begin to gather information and will likely provide input through the website regardless of the outcome of the motion.

Trustee Questions

A Trustee asked if there was an update on the number of suspensions due to missing or unreported immunizations, and noted the media was reporting over 7,500 students may be suspended in Sarnia-Lambton. Director Howitt responded that it was a significant area of concern and explained that the Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990, requires public health to track records of students or exceptions for students, and parents/guardians are responsible to provide this information to public health. He relayed that the tracking and enforcement was postponed through COVID-19, but it was reintroduced in Chatham-Kent last year and has been reintroduced in Sarnia-Lambton this year. He reported that the number of students in Sarnia-Lambton have been reduced from 7,500 to 1,871 and hoped the numbers continue to decrease to zero suspensions by the March 5, 2024 deadline. He thanked school staff for working with parents/guardians to help them understand the process and reminded community members that the Board has no ability to overrule public health in this matter and asked that they remain respectful of school staff.

A Trustee asked if there is an update on the Ministry's Student Achievement Plan. Director Howitt responded that the templates have now been received and staff is working with the Ministry to clean up any data errors. He explained that two of the 11 indicators show as data forthcoming, and he learned that day

that the data will come from EQAO data and staff questionnaires, and it will not show for this year but will be included for future years. He noted that the achievement data is from last years' EQAO results and the demographic, suspension, and attendance data are from 2 years' ago through OnSIS data. He remarked that this may cause some confusion, but it will be treated as baseline data. He reported that the template will be posted on April 2, 2024 and will be shared with parents/guardians through the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC).

A Trustee asked how data from separate years can be relevant, and if it will eventually come together moving forward. Director Howitt responded that he does not anticipate that the data will catch up with each other due to different data sources and timelines. He explained that suspension data will not align with achievement data for example, but different years of suspension data can be compared.

A Trustee noted he received a system email on the formation of an Indigenous Staff Advisory Committee, which he felt was the first outcome he had seen from the Equity Audit, and asked what else is being done beyond the invitation. Director Howitt responded that there has been significant movement on the Equity Audit, but this initiative was just more public. He reported there have been focus groups started for other equity deserving groups and there has been movement on recommendations related to the hiring practices of the Board. Superintendent Girardi added that when the Equity Audit information was received, they asked for direction and significant items were moved into the Operational Plan, and a significant number of those items have taken place. He explained that they are looking at ways to move forward with the hiring process and partners in education have been reached out to for best practices, and they continue to work with union partners. He noted that the Operational Plan is a good way to hold administration accountable in terms of the Equity Audit. Superintendent Dixon added that advisory committees have been intentionally created as it is important to amplify the voices of students and staff from equity deserving groups. She noted these will be standing committees as equity is increased in the Board.

Notices of Motion

Trustee Richards served the following Notice of Motion,

“That LKDSB Administration provide input during the consultation phase regarding concerns for student and staff safety due to the York1 Environmental Waste Solutions Ltd. landfill expansion in Dresden, Ontario prior to the March 16, 2024 deadline.”

Announcements

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 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 8:33 p.m.

---

Chair of the Board

---

Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board