

PRESENT:

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

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 Student Trustee Graysen Bathe-Minard

Student Trustees: Darshan Shah and Makaiyah Stonefish

Recording Secretary: Jaime Shannon, Executive Assistant to the Director

Call to Order: Director Howitt called the Annual Organization Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m. and explained that as per the LKDSB Procedural By-laws Section 2.3 and the Education Act Section 2.8, the Director presides over the meeting until a Chair of the Board is elected.

Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement Superintendent Dixon read the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.

Director Howitt remarked that he was filled with optimism for the year ahead, and that improvement has been seen in the areas of focus in the Board. He noted that the Board of Trustees have set the Strategic Priorities to focus and guide this work, Senior Administration has operationalized this direction, and staff have implemented the direction leading to the improvement. He relayed that the consistency of the Board's strategic focus and their support of the work of Senior Administration permits them to deeply implement research proven strategies, interventions and supports that lead to better student achievement and well-being. He thanked the Director's Office staff for their support.

Performance by the Lambton Central Collegiate & Vocational Institute Drumline Director Howitt welcomed the students from the Lambton Central Collegiate & Vocational Institute (LCCVI) Drumline, Jessica McKay, LCCVI teacher, and David Robilliard, volunteer Drumline Director. The students performed seven cadences and provided Trustees with a lesson on their instruments.

Director Howitt thanked the students for their performance and all of the adults who support them to continue in the arts as he remarked it is a huge part of education.

Greetings – Superintendent Girardi

Superintendent Girardi brought greetings and remarked that those in attendance were gathered with a shared commitment to champion the growth and success of students and families. He encouraged discussions to be infused with empathy, collaboration, and a steadfast dedication to fostering an environment where every student feels welcomed and has an opportunity to thrive, as together, the foundation for a brighter future is built, supporting not just education but the well-being of each individual within the school community.

- #2024-01
Appointment of Student Trustee Scrutineers
- Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Malinda Little,
“That the Board appoint Student Trustees Darshan Shah and Makaiyah Stonefish to serve as Scrutineer for the Annual Organization Meeting.”
CARRIED.
- Director Howitt invited Trustees to submit nominations for the position of Chair of the Board for the term November 21, 2023 to November 19, 2024. He explained the process for the election of the Chair.
- #2024-02
Nominations for Election of the Chair of the Board
- Moved by David Shortt,
“That Randy Campbell be nominated to serve as Chair of the Lambton Kent District School Board.”
- #2024-03
Nominations Closed for Election of Chair of the Board
- Moved by Angela Richards, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,
“That the nominations for Chair be closed.”
CARRIED.
Trustee Campbell allowed his name to stand.
- Election of the Chair
- Trustee Campbell was acclaimed to the position of Chair of the Lambton Kent District School Board and assumed the Chair position.
- Address of the Chair
- Chair Campbell addressed the Board. He thanked Trustee Shortt for his nomination, the rest of the Trustees for their support, and Trustee Barnes for her work as Vice-Chair the previous year. He read the Board’s Vision and Mission statements and remarked that students should always be put first in decision making and it was important to keep an open mind on issues and to respect others’ opinions. He thanked LKDSB staff for everything they do to keep schools open, safe, and a secure learning environment for all involved. He noted that the EQAO results are headed in the right direction, safety and security protocols have been introduced for in-person attendance at public Board Meetings, an Equity Audit has been undertaken, a name was chosen for the Kindergarten to Grade 12 School in Forest, Lambton Shores Community School, Director’s Snapshots of Excellence provided an update on activities in schools, and Trustees were provided with workshops throughout the year. He added that a significant concern moving forward is declining student enrolment and aging buildings. He remarked that he looked forward to continuing to serve as Chair of the Lambton Kent District School Board.
- Chair Campbell invited Trustees to submit for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board for the term November 21, 2023 to November 19, 2024.
- #2024-04
Nominations for Vice-Chair of the Board
- Moved by Janet Barnes,
“That Kelley Robertson be nominated to serve as Vice-Chair of the Lambton Kent District School Board.”
- #2024-05
Nominations Closed for Election of Vice-Chair of the Board
- Moved by David Shortt, seconded by Angela Richards,
“That the nominations for Vice-Chair of the Board be closed.”
CARRIED.

Trustee Robertson allowed her name to stand.

Election of Vice-Chair

Trustee Robertson was acclaimed to the position of Vice-Chair of the Lambton Kent District School Board and assumed the Vice-Chair position.

Address by the Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Robertson thanked outgoing Vice-Chair Trustee Barnes for the nomination and her fellow Trustees for their support. She remarked that in considering the Vice-Chair role, she researched the qualities of a good vice-president, which include: leadership skills; tact and diplomacy; impartiality and an ability to respect confidentiality; someone the Chair can trust as a sounding board, giving informal feedback, honest advice and a fresh perspective; emotional intelligence; and decisiveness. She added, most importantly to her, courage and passion for the work, and she assured Trustees she had those qualities. She remarked that she looked forward to serving as Vice-Chair.

Chair Campbell invited Trustees to submit nominations for the position of Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Delegate for the LKDSB.

#2024-06
Nomination for OPSBA Delegate

Moved by Jack Fletcher,

"That Kelley Robertson be nominated to serve as the LKDSB Delegate to the Ontario Public School Board's Association."

#2024-07
Nominations Closed for OPSBA Delegate

Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by Malinda Little,

"That the nominations for the LKDSB Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association be closed."

CARRIED.

Vice-Chair Robertson allowed her name to stand.

OPSBA Delegate

Vice-Chair Robertson was acclaimed as the LKDSB Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

#2024-08
Nominations for Election of OPSBA Alternate

Moved by Greg Agar,

"That Jane Bryce be nominated to serve as the LKDSB Alternate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association."

#2024-09
Nominations Closed for OPSBA Alternate

Moved by Angela Richards, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,

"That the nominations for the LKDSB Alternate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association be closed."

CARRIED.

Trustee Bryce allowed her name to stand.

Election of OPSBA Alternate

Trustee Bryce was acclaimed to the position of LKDSB Alternate for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

The Striking Committee retired to meet and confirm Trustee's Board Committee appointments for the upcoming year.

- #2024-10
Report of the Striking Committee
B-24-01
- Moved by Roberta Northmore, seconded by Jack Fletcher,
- "That the Board approve the Trustee Committee Assignments for the period from November 21, 2023 to November 19, 2024, and for the period November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2026 for the Audit Committee and Special Education Advisory Committee only, as outlined in Report B-24-01."
- CARRIED.
- #2024-11
Appointment of Signing Officers of the Board
Report B-24-02
- Moved by Angela Richards, seconded by Ruth Ann Dodman,
- "That, for the term of November 2023 to November 2024, the Board appoint John Howitt, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board and Brian McKay, Associate Director – Corporate Services and Treasurer of the Board as its official signing officers."
- CARRIED.
- #2024-12
Appointment of Legal Counsel for the Board
Report B-24-02
- Moved by David Shortt, seconded by Jane Bryce,
- "That, for the term of November 2023 to November 2024, the Board appoint the legal firms of: (a) Hicks Morley LLP, (b) Harrison Pensa LLP and (c) Borden Ladner Gervais LLP as its official legal counsels to conduct business."
- CARRIED.
- #2024-13
Appointment of Auditors for the Board
Report B-24-02
- Moved by Ruth Ann Dodman, seconded by Jack Fletcher,
- "That, for the term of November 2023 to November 2024, the Board appoint the auditing firm of MNP LLP as its official auditor."
- CARRIED.
- Adjournment
- There being no further business of the Board, Chair Campbell declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board