



AGENDA - REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 – 6:00 PM

Limestone Education Centre

220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, ON

Link: <https://bit.ly/LDSBBoardMTGApr24>

PRIVATE SESSION – 5:30 PM

In accordance with the Education Act, Section 207(2) a meeting of a committee of a board including a committee of the whole board, may be closed to the public when the subject under consideration involves:

- a) The security of the property of the board;
- b) The disclosure of intimate, personal, or financial information in respect of a meeting of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or their parent or guardian;
- c) The acquisition or disposal of a school site;
- d) Decisions in respect of negotiations with employee of the board; or
- e) Litigation affecting the board.

CALL TO ORDER

RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PRIVATE SESSION

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ACTION ITEMS

- 4.1** Regular Board Meeting Minutes (Private) – March 27, 2024

FOR INFORMATION

- 5.1** SAFE SCHOOLS UPDATE
- 5.2** PROPERTY UPDATE

- 5.3 LABOUR UPDATE
- 5.4 LEGAL MATTER
- 5.5 PERSONNEL UPDATE
- 5.6 OPSBA UPDATE

6. REPORT TO PUBLIC SESSION

PUBLIC MEETING - 6 PM

Acknowledgement of Territory: “The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit, and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land.”

7. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

8. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

9. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

- 9.1 Tri-Board Transportation Presentation – Jeremy DaCosta, CEO, Tri-Board Transportation Services

10. PRIVATE SESSION REPORT

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 11.1 Regular Board Meeting – March 27, 2024 (Pages 4-15)
- 11.2 Budget Committee Meeting – April 17, 2024 (Pages 16-19)

12. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

- 12.1 Chair’s Report
- 12.2 Director’s Report

13. REPORTS

- 13.1 OPSBA Report – Trustee McGregor
- 13.2 Student Trustees’ Report & Introduction to New Student Trustees
- 13.3 Reports For Action

13.4 Reports for Information

13.4.1 International Education – Bob Seitz, Executive Lead and VP of International Education (Pages 20-21)

13.4.2 Interim Reporting Q2 2023-2024 – Superintendent Young and Manager Carson (Pages 22-23)

13.4.3 Overview of Operational Plans – Director Burra, Superintendents Silver & Young (Pages 24-26)

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Revised motion for discussion from Trustee Neill “Given the critical partnership between KFL&A Public Health and local school boards before the most recent pandemic and throughout the pandemic, a letter should be written to KFL&A Public Health exploring the opportunity for a school board seat on the local public health board. This letter should also be shared with our coterminous school boards.”

15. NEW BUSINESS**16. CORRESPONDENCE**

None at this time.

17. NOTICES OF MOTION

None at this time.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS**19. COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION**

19.1 Parent Involvement Committee – February 8, 2024 (Pages 27-32)

19.2 Special Education Advisory Committee – March 20, 2024 (Pages 33-40)

9. FUTURE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

May 1, 2024 EPOC

May 15, 2024

June 5, 2024 EPOC

June 19, 2024

10. ADJOURNMENT



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 27, 2024

PRIVATE SESSION

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott (regrets) B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) (virtual) T. Lloyd K. Maracle (virtual) K. McGregor J. Morning J. Neill (regrets) S. Ruttan E. Eckloff (Student Trustee) (regrets) A.J. O'Keefe (Student Trustee) (regrets) A. Wang (Student Trustee) (regrets)	K. Burra, Director of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education T. McKenna, Associate Superintendent S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent J. Silver, Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Godkin called the meeting to order.

2. RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION: To move into Private Session.

MOVED BY: Trustee Brown and seconded by Trustee Lloyd. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Vice-Chair Godkin asked Trustees if they had a conflict of interest to declare with any of the agenda items. There were no conflicts declared.

4. ACTION ITEMS

- 4.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (private) – February 28, 2024
- 4.2 Education, Policy & Operations Committee Minutes (private) – March 6, 2024

MOTION MOVED BY: Trustee Brown that the minutes listed in Action Items, Private Session, as distributed, be approved. Carried.

5. FOR INFORMATION

- 5.1 Safe Schools Update – Associate Superintendent Gollogly provided a safe schools update.
- 5.2 Property Update – Superintendent Young provided a property update.
- 5.3 Personnel Update – Director Burra provided a personnel update.
- 5.4 Labour Update – Superintendent McWilliams provided a labour update.
- 5.5 Legal Update – None at this time.
- 5.6 OPSBA Update – None at this time.

6. REPORT TO PUBLIC SESSION

Vice-Chair Godkin called for a motion for the Board to rise and report.

MOTION: That the Board rise and report.
MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor. Carried.

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott (regrets) B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) (virtual) T. Lloyd K. Maracle (virtual) K. McGregor J. Morning J. Neill (regrets) S. Ruttan E. Eckloff (Student Trustee) A.J. O’Keefe (Student Trustee) A. Wang (Student Trustee) (regrets)	K. Burra, Director of Education M. Christopher, IT Programmer M. Crothers, Communications Consultant A. Grange, Communications Consultant J. Douglas, Communications Consultant P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education T. McKenna, Associate Superintendent S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources J. Silver, Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
Secondary Music Teacher, Kristen Martin Secondary Music Teacher, Marcy Satnick	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

Vice-Chair Godkin welcomed everyone to the Regular Board Meeting. He indicated that he would be chairing the meeting as the Chair is attending remotely this evening. He called the roll.

Trustee Lloyd provided the Acknowledgement of Territory. “The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit, and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land.”

7. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED BY: Trustee Morning and seconded by Trustee Brown that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

8. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Vice-Chair Godkin asked that if Trustees have a conflict of interest, could they please identify the agenda item number. There were no conflicts declared.

9. PRESENTATION

9.1 Limestone Music Celebration-

Vice-Chair Godkin called upon Director Burra to introduce members of the coordinating team responsible for the Limestone Music Celebration. Director Burra introduced secondary music teachers Kristen Martin and Marcy Satnik. On February 21, 2024, at Grant Hall, approximately 300-400 Secondary students participated in the Limestone District School Board Music Celebration. Director Burra highlighted that this event was made possible because of the investment from Trustees to Secondary Arts programs, with a music focus and support of the Limestone Learning Foundation. He acknowledged the hard work, effort and planning required to make an event of this size happen. Kristen and Marcy shared highlights of the day. Vice-Chair Godkin thanked Kristen and Marcy for their presentation and called upon Trustees for questions.

10. PRIVATE SESSION REPORT

Vice-Chair Godkin stated that:

During private session of the Education, Policy, and Operations Committee Meeting on March 6, 2024:

- Superintendent McWilliams gave a labour update.
- Director Burra gave a Personnel update.

And earlier this evening during Private Session:

- The private session minutes were approved from the Regular Board Meeting of February 28, 2024, and the Education, Policy and Operations Committee Meeting of March 6, 2024.
- Associate Superintendent Gollogly gave a safe schools update.
- Superintendent McWilliams gave a labour update.
- Superintendent Young gave a property update.
- Director Burra gave a personnel update.

There was no other business conducted, or motions passed in Private Session.

MOTION MOVED By Trustee Godkin and seconded by Trustee Lloyd that the Private Session Report be received. Carried.

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee.

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

11.1 Regular Board Meeting – February 28, 2024

11.2 Education, Policy and Operations Committee – March 6, 2024

MOTION MOVED BY Trustee Lloyd and seconded by Trustee Morning that the minutes, as presented, be approved. Carried.

12. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

12.1 Chair's Update

Chair Hutcheon stated: "Yesterday, the provincial government released its budget, and with it several announcements. Funding for school boards primarily flows through Grants for Student Needs (GSN), which are yet to be announced, but we are expecting those to be shared in April.

Limestone District School Board Financial Services will be reviewing the funding grants and will provide context at our April 17 Budget Meeting. Staff will also have details from our budget survey which just closed on Monday. I, for one, am very much looking forward to hearing those. On behalf of all trustees, I extend a sincere thank you to all those who were able to fill out the survey. The feedback we receive from families, students, staff, and community members is crucial information as we begin the budget process.

As Spring arrives and with it warmer temperatures and longer days, I hope students, families, and staff gain much needed energy and optimism as we round the corner to the final months of this school year.

And that concludes my report."

12.2 Director's Update

Director Burra stated: "Good evening, Trustees and the viewing public. Based on recent weather, it appears spring is upon us. As I indicated in my last update in February, as we head further into the spring season, preparations for 2024-2025 continue to ramp up. A critical component of this planning and preparation is the overall budget. As people are aware, the provincial government released the full provincial budget yesterday. That being said, we still await the GSN information and Ministry memos that accompany the specific funding for Limestone. We should receive this information in the next 2-3 weeks. Consequently, to date, the only information we have is the general budget information that was released yesterday. So, while we continue to prepare for next year, some critical decisions will have to wait until we see our specific budget allocations.

As Trustees are aware, there have been a number of engagement opportunities for students,

families, and staff in the past few weeks: virtual school interest for 2024-24, the school year calendar, and the budget survey are prime examples.

This evening Trustees had the opportunity to hear about the Limestone Music Celebration that occurred in February. This was a great showcase for Limestone and you can clearly see it had a tremendous impact on the students involved, and is a wonderful opportunity for community partnership while supporting the clear need for arts activities for students. While partnerships were critical, I also need to highlight again the decision the board made a couple of years ago to invest some surplus funds into secondary arts. This event highlighted the value of that investment and was a wonderful evening.

This evening there are four reports on the agenda: A Math Achievement Action Plan Update, A follow up Virtual School Update, The Provincial Student Achievement Plan- Public Posting Required by April 2, and the Solar Eclipse on April 8.

Finally, I would also like to highlight a few significant events or awards from the past few weeks. First, I would like to commend SHS teacher Michelle Fraser for being awarded an OFSSA Leadership in Sport Award at the AA Girls Volleyball OFSSA tournament that was hosted by Sydenham HS in early March. Second, I would also like to commend retired LCVI teacher Joanne Riley for being the recipient of a 2024 Descartes Award for significant and outstanding contributions to math or computer science education in Ontario.

Third, I would like to highlight the LDSB/KEDCO/Queen's Innovation Centre workshop series that occurred on Thursday, March 7th focusing on Entrepreneurship and Business for students who are racialized or Indigenous. These Students had the opportunity to engage in a number of workshops and with local business owners, as well as entrepreneurs. This work will culminate with the Limestone Young Entrepreneurs in Action showcase at Queen's on April 18th. These events provided exposure to a range of career pathways: university, college, trades, business and the arts. This event included support from Queen's, St. Lawrence, local businesses, and experts in the trades. It was a great event and evolved from an idea put forward by an Ernestown SS student.

These are just some of the examples of a wide range of activities and partnerships that are occurring in Limestone schools and in the community. And staff that deserve to be

acknowledged and celebrated.

That concludes my report.”

13. REPORTS

13.1 OPSBA Report – Trustee McGregor

Trustee McGregor provided her update:

- Reminder to Trustees of the Saturday, April 6, Eastern Region Meeting at Kingston Secondary School from 9:00am-4:00on. Please RSVP by tomorrow.
- Reminder to Trustees that April 25 & 26 Education Labour Relations & Human Resources Symposium.

OPSBA Board Meeting highlights:

- -Presentation from TDSB educator and author, Matthew Morris (Black Boys Like Me).
- -Presentation by Celine Chiovitti, Executive VP and Head of Pensions at OMERS.
- -Labour Relations Update Note: Janet Edwards will be retiring.
- -OPSBA Brand Refresh.
- Take Your MPP to Work Day, May 21-24 2024.
- Reports from Indigenous Trustees Council and Black Trustees’ Caucus.
- New Student Scholarship Opportunity. Last year was the final year for the Public Property Assessment Network. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) will fund a new scholarship. Details to come in the next few weeks.
- OPSBA Constitution and By-law Amendment and Member Board Policy Resolution Submissions. Deadline is Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 4:30 pm.

13.2 Student Trustees’ Report

Student Trustee O’Keefe stated: “The March Inter-school Student Council Meeting was held at the board office on March 19th. Student Trustees Eckloff and O’Keefe were present with regrets from Trustee Wang. This meeting was short, as we had many regrets from the school representatives, including LCVI, ESS, NDSS, KSS, SHS and one representative from LSS.

Trustees began the meeting brainstorming for our final board-wide event, as we had discussed doing a more ambitious event. We decided to do a three-day-long spirit competition surrounding each school's respective end-of-school-year festivities. On the day of the end of the school year event, such as a carnival or BBQ, students will be encouraged to wear their school colours, the other two days are pre-decided spirit days. The competition aspect will be the culmination of the participation over the three spirit days and the in-house event each school is

hosting during their event. For the in-house aspect most schools are putting on a teacher-related activity, for example teacher pie in the face or a teacher dunk tank. The school with the most participation in all these events will win. This will occur at the end of May from the 22nd to the 24th, where schools are free to assign what will ensue on each date.

We are looking forward to continuing to iron out the details at future meetings and see which school will win at the end of May.”

Vice-Chair Godkin thanked Student Trustee O’Keefe for her update and called upon Trustees for questions or comments.

13.3 Reports for Action

None at this time.

13.4 Reports for Information

13.4.1 Math Achievement Action Plan Update

Associate Superintendent Hedderson introduced his report. He reminded Trustees about the three provincial priority areas:

- Fidelity of the math curriculum
- Math content knowledge for teaching
- Knowing the math learner

The focus of Phase I was capacity building and building fluency. Phase I will continue through into phase II and shift from emphasis on implementation to an emphasis on adoption, refinement, and monitoring impact. With Phase II there is the introduction of fifteen new KPIs and the shift to capacity building focus:

- Shared analysis of achievement data and historical trends (report cards).
- Compare identified Level 2 student data with LDSB Math Diagnostic Data (or equivalent).
- Professional learning (educators and administrators) around Math Content Knowledge.
- Resource Review.
- Co-Planning.
- Intervention.
- Monitor and Measure Impact.
- Continued Support from School Math Facilitators in Math Priority Schools.

Associate Superintendent Hedderson introduced the use of a Digital Math tool which is

available for all students in Grades 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9. There are specific guidelines that the Digital Math tool must include:

- Be available in English and French.
- Align with the Ontario math curriculum.
- Include reporting for parents and educators to monitor student achievement.
- Be adaptive and responsive.
- Comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).
- Be from the OECM-approved list.

This was intentionally not implemented in the fall in order to maximize the funding available. The Digital Math Tool to support learning in classrooms and at home is Knowledgehook. Associate Superintendent Hedderson reviewed sample KPIs for Phase II with Trustees. He explained that additional system support is available in a variety of formats including:

- Voluntary professional learning opportunities (virtual and in person)
- Planning for tutoring for students in Grades 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9
- Intentional preparation for EQAO Spring 2024

Vice-Chair Godkin thanked Associate Superintendent Hedderson and asked Trustees for questions.

13.4.2 Virtual School Update

Associate Superintendent Sartor introduced her report. It was stated at the Board Meeting in February that student and community voice would be gathered through a survey process. The purpose of the survey was to see if there is interest in continuing in virtual school for the upcoming year for elementary and secondary virtual students. Another survey was also released to see if there was interest in enrolling new students in virtual school which was sent out to the general community. Associate Superintendent Sartor shared the survey results:

- Existing Enrollment – 64 Students interested in continuing.
- New Enrollment – 40 Students interested in enrolling.
- Registering at Home School – 8 Students interested in enrolling at their home school.

Associate Superintendent Sartor reviewed data on achievement, attendance, and special education as it relates to virtual school learning. She indicated that the intention is to continue to offer virtual school for Limestone students for the next school year. The format of elementary virtual learning will remain unchanged. For Grades nine and ten students entering

virtual school they will have 3 asynchronous and 1 synchronous course. These students will be a part of their area home school and will be supported by guidance staff. There are four next steps in progress:

- Communicate with Families and students who expressed interest in registering in/staying enrolled in virtual school.
- Confirm continued partnership with Kawartha Pineridge and Renfrew County District School Board on April 1, 2024.
- Build Timetables for all incoming Grade 9-12 students.
- Continue to discuss individual support plans for each student to promote improvement in achievement and attendance.

Vice-Chair Godkin thanked Associate Superintendent Sartor for her report and called upon Trustees for questions.

13.4.3 Student Achievement Plan

Superintendent Silver introduced her report on the Student Achievement Plan, public reporting template. She noted that the strategic plan developed by the Trustees is closely aligned with the Ministry's Student achievement plan in the three goals and eleven indicators. This year there are new reporting requirements from the Ministry of Education. This includes posting the Student Achievement Plan to the board website by April 2, 2024 and completing the Student Achievement Plan Tool by June.

Superintendent Silver shared some of the website content which Trustees can expect to see. Limestone District School Board's Student Achievement Plan has been developed to include the mandatory provincial priorities and goals: Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills, Preparation of Students for Future Success, and Student Engagement and Well-Being. She shared the Student Achievement Plan with Trustees and explained that the data comes primarily from two systems, OnSiS and EQAO. She noted that there are some limitations with the data included in the Student Achievement Plan and the data is not current. The report also includes a high-level overview of initiatives that the Board is planning, or currently taking in response, to the three key priority areas. Throughout regular strategic plan and operational plan updates, Trustees can expect more information on these initiatives and newer data to reflect the progress of the plan.

Vice-Chair Godkin thanked Superintendent Silver for her report and called upon Trustees for

questions.

13.4.4 Solar Eclipse – April 8, 2024

Superintendent Silver introduced her report. She stated that we are on the path of totality for the solar eclipse viewing on April 8, 2024. She distributed eclipse glasses and safety instructions for the solar eclipse to Trustees and noted that the same glasses and information has been distributed to all Limestone District School Board students and staff.

Preparations for the eclipse began in the fall in collaboration with the City of Kingston and Queens University. Superintendent Silver thanked Queens University for providing glasses for all Limestone School students and staff. A solar eclipse task force was created which assisted in creating resources that link science curriculum to the eclipse. This information was then distributed to all Limestone schools. Superintendent Silver acknowledged intermediate STEM consultant Paul Allison for his work on facilitating information and resources to the system.

In addition to the resources, Queens University will have trained eclipse ambassadors who will also be available at some of the viewing sites on the day of the eclipse. These ambassadors have supported learning by offering workshops to educators and students in the weeks leading up to the eclipse.

Vice-Chair Godkin thanked Superintendent Silver for her report and called upon trustees for questions.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Neill's revised motion will be deferred back to agenda setting for a future date.

15. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION

None at this time.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chair Godkin commented on the need, regardless of individual belief systems, to continue to be mindful of our neighbours and to spread positive and caring messages.

19. COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

19.1 Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee – October 10, 2023

19.2 Indigenous Education Committee Meeting – January 30, 2024

19.3 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting – February 14, 2024

20. FUTURE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

April 24, 2024

May 1, 2024 EPOC

May 15, 2024

June 5, 2024 EPOC

June 19, 2024

21. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor and seconded by Trustee Lloyd that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 17, 2024

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
R. Hutcheon (Chair) B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) G. Elliott -regrets J. Morning J. Brown K. Maracle -regrets K. McGregor S. Ruttan T. Lloyd J. Neill E. Eckloff (Student Trustee)-regrets A. O'Keefe (Student Trustee)-regrets A. Wang (Student Trustee)-regrets	K. Burra, Director of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Corporate Services C. Downie, Capital Planning and Community Use of Schools Supervisor P. Carson, Manager of Financial Services L. Benjamin, Assistant Manager of Financial Services
	Recorder: D. Burns, Administrative Assistant Producer: A. Andretta, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Godkin read the Acknowledgement of Territory.

Trustee Godkin called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Budget Development Schedule

Superintendent Young presented the Budget Development Schedule, outlining future meeting dates and topics to be discussed.

Trustee Godkin thanked Superintendent Young and called upon Trustees for comments or questions.

4.2 2024-2025 Projected Enrolment and 10-year Enrolment Trend

Assistant Manager of Facility Services Downie presented the 2024-2025 projected enrolment and 10-year enrolment trend report.

Since amalgamation the enrolment dropped until around 2015 and has plateaued and slowly climbed since then. Enrolment numbers are increasing at this time although births are still in decline. The increase can be attributed to growth in population as more families move into our board's geographic region. Particularly in the last 5 years compared to 2018/2019 where our student population has grown by 757 students. Continued growth is projected for the next 5 years, and this is supported by projections from municipalities who are also projecting growth in their longer-term planning reports. The average daily enrolment (ADE – the average of Oct 31 and Mar 31 enrolment reporting) is projected for the 2024-25 school year to be 97 students higher. That is 38 secondary and 59 elementary students. Also in the report in Appendix B is the capacity and utilization of our schools. This is called On the Ground (OTG) capacity, and it is a Ministry calculation that measures space in schools based on a formula comparing classroom loading factors to enrolment to create a utilization percentage. Portables are not included in OTG which is why there are many schools with over 100% capacity. In those cases that is an indicator that there are students in portables. Temporary accommodation or portables and over utilization are a necessary part of the goal to achieve 100% utilization averaged across our district.

Trustee Godkin thanked C. Downie for her report and called upon Trustees for comments or questions. Discussion ensued.

4.3 Budget Survey Results Presentation

Superintendent Young presented the 2024-2025 budget survey results and stated that this was our fourth annual budget survey. The online survey was open from March 7 – 28, 2024. A total of 1,662 responses were received. Last year, 1,150 responses were received. The survey was advertised on LDSB webpage, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and was emailed to family, staff, community, and federation partners. Superintendent Young thanked the Trustees for making the survey available on their social media feeds.

Question No. 1 on the survey asked, "What is your involvement with the LDSB?" Predominantly,

those who responded were family members or caregivers at a total of 74 %. 15% were LDSB employees, 5% were Community Members/Taxpayers, 5% were LDSB students, and 1% were Community Partners.

Question No. 2 required individuals to rank the importance of allocating financial and staff resources to a number of educational programs and services. From all the responses, people placed these programs as the most important: 1. Reading & Writing Skills, 2. Mathematics, 3. Mental Health and Well-being, 4. Early Interventions and 5. Supports for Students with Exceptionalities.

Question No. 3 on the survey asked, “How satisfied are you with the boards public budget consultation process?” 75% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied, and 25% were unsatisfied. We will solicit feedback from people to see how we can improve the survey to better capture needs within the system.

A ThoughtExchange question was added to the end of the survey. ThoughtExchange invites people to share their thoughts and allows others to rank those thoughts. The question asked: “Are there any additional priorities, or do you wish to elaborate on any program that LDSB should consider for the 2024-2025 Budget.”

The top six thoughts shared were: No. 1. Enhanced Classroom support, Trustees will remember Superintendent Gillam and Principal Blackburn talking about revamping Educational Services and putting more resources into classrooms. No. 2. STEM education, early intervention and hands-on-learning. Throughout the course of the year various Superintendents bring forward reports on how LDSB is supporting and enhancing educational opportunities throughout the system. No. 3. Budget transparency and infrastructure. The Ministry is changing grants and reducing the number of grants and allocations and they are advising that it will have an insignificant impact on the bottom line. They are making these changes from a transparency standpoint at the provincial level and then filtering down to the school boards. At this moment the document has not yet been released. No. 4. Teacher engagement and leadership training, No. 5. Inclusivity and student support, and finally, No. 6. Practical life skills and language support.

ThoughtExchange allows respondents to rank the thoughts shared by giving stars. The number 1 starred thought was class sizes. The class size structure is provincially negotiated; LDSB’s hands are tied with class sizes. The next two top thoughts starred were special education, and autism support. Trustees have spoken very strongly regarding Special Education in the past and how our most vulnerable students require additional support, and LDSB spends several million dollars over envelope within Special Education on an annual basis.

Trustee Godkin thanked Superintendent Young and called upon Trustees for comments or questions. Discussion ensued.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

6. NEXT MEETINGS

Trustee Godkin noted the upcoming Budget Committee meetings on May 22nd, June 5th, and a tentative meeting on June 12th, 2024.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

April 24, 2024

Purpose and Link to the Strategic Plan/Goal: Student Learning, Achievement, & Well-Being

It is with great pride that the Limestone District International Education Office (IEO) facilitates students from around the world to travel to Kingston to learn. In addition to the core beliefs of the LDSB, the IEO focuses on **Care, Responsiveness** and being **Globally Connected**. The International Education program supports increased diversity and enrolment in Limestone schools, and provides valuable learning experiences for many secondary students.

Background

The IEO started in 1998 in Limestone and has grown and developed over the last 26 years. The program hosts an average of 120 students each year to learn, stay and study in Limestone.

Although the department has grown past pre-pandemic enrollment levels, the IEO is always continuing to support careful and deliberate growth. Over the last 5 years the IEO has expanded school offerings to include 7 schools. The finances gained in the program have been used to grow ESL support to schools like Loyalist CVI, Kingston SS, Bayridge SS and the district ESL program. In addition, schools that host IEO students are supported financially in their school budgets.

Current Status/Next Steps

The program keeps careful watch on Global trends to identify which countries are interested in studying in Canada. In the past, students from the Pacific Rim made up over 90% of the program enrollment. In 2019 this approach was starting to shift, and the pandemic years demanded a change in thinking about where and why our students were coming to Limestone. Currently there is a more balanced approach to enrollment with the IEO hosting students from over 15 different countries and

5 continents. This balance is important moving forward as global trends, politics, and economies can swivel quickly.

There are many unique reasons why students choose Limestone including:

- Kingston is a safe, medium sized, centrally located city in Ontario.
- The Ontario Education system is seen as a high-quality system globally.
- The LDSB runs a comprehensive and supportive ESL program.
- Limestone runs its own Homestay family hosting program.
- The IEO has 2 full time Homestay Coordinators that support hosting families.
- Safe and free City of Kingston transit.
- Students in the program are provided 'activity trips' to experience Ontario.
- There are proven positive education/social outcomes for past students of the program.
- Culture of care in the IEO Program.
- Each school as dedicated staff working with International Students.

Students travel to Kingston via Air Canada in either September or February. With Air Canada not flying to Kingston currently, students arrive at either Montreal (YUL) or Toronto (YYZ).

Homestay families are currently the limiting factor for growth in the department. The IEO continues to promote the IEO in Kingston through social media, word-of-mouth connections, and school presentations. We have also added shorter term programs (like one semester), to have potential homestay families consider the program before committing to full-year students. Currently we have programs for students staying one semester and up to and including multi-year to graduation. Our goal is to add more homestay families to the hosting pool for September 2024.

The department currently has the following staff:

- 1: Bob Seitz, Executive Lead and Vice-Principal
- 2: Tomoko Phippen, Officer of Registration and Finance
- 3: Shannon Revell, Assistant to the Executive Lead and Homestay Support (contract for 2024)
- 4: Sevena Flindall, Homestay Coordinator
- 5: Debbie Villeneuve, Homestay Coordinator

Recommendations

That this report be received for information purposes.

Prepared by: Bob Seitz, Executive Lead and VP of International Education

Reviewed by: Krishna Burra, Director of Education



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: INTERIM REPORTING QUARTER 2 2023-2024

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

April 24, 2024

Purpose

To report on the Interim Financial Operating expenditures for the period September 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024 (Quarter 2).

Background

The 2023-2024 Interim Financial Report was presented to the Board on January 17, 2024 and provided updated revenue and expenditure information from the budget to the revised estimates, as well as operating expenditures for the period ending November 30, 2023 (Quarter 1).

Attached is the 2023-2024 Interim Financial Report for the period ending February 29, 2024 (Quarter 2), which has been presented in a similar format to the 2023-2024 operating budget, indicating the amount spent by expenditure category and the associated percentage.

As at Quarter 2, \$142M of the \$286.4M operating budget or 50% has been spent. This is comparable to the 49% results from the same quarter last year.

It is important to note, that expenditures are based upon items paid within the stated period. Certain expenditures may be non-cyclical in nature, which may lead to higher or lower expenditures within a given period. *(See Appendix 1 for more information.)*

The Board is on target to end the 2023-2024 fiscal year within the budgeted deficit of (\$2.5M).

Recommendations

That this report be received for information purposes.

Prepared by: Paula Carson, Manager of Financial Services

Reviewed by: Craig Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Krishna Burra, Director of Education

Attachment: Appendix 1 - Interim Financial Report – Operating Expenditures (Quarter 2)

Limestone District School Board
Interim Financial Report - Operating Expenditures
For the Period Ending February 29, 2024 (Quarter 2)
Appendix 1

Expenditure Categories	2023-2024 Revised Estimates	2023-2024 Expenditures at (Q2)	2023-2024 % Spent at (Q2)	2022-2023 % Spent at (Q2)
Instruction				
Classroom Teachers	\$ 142,944,709	\$ 68,171,821	48%	48%
Supply Staff	8,083,609	4,116,047	51%	48%
Educational Assistants	18,892,698	10,382,769	55%	53%
Early Childhood Educators	4,956,100	2,677,122	54%	52%
Textbooks and Supplies	6,948,203	3,587,802	52%	51%
Computers	4,477,988	1,626,143	36%	36%
Professionals/Paraprofessionals	9,795,735	4,735,643	48%	47%
Library and Guidance	3,218,367	1,638,008	51%	51%
Staff Development	1,506,484	719,561	48%	43%
Department Heads	329,102	174,782	53%	51%
Principals and VPs	11,628,047	5,786,480	50%	51%
School Office	7,037,834	3,856,629	55%	55%
Coordinators and Consultants	4,548,858	2,128,924	47%	47%
Continuing Education	1,987,306	599,475	30%	26%
Instruction Total	226,355,040	110,201,206	49%	49%
Administration and Governance				
Trustees	177,422	75,296	42%	49%
Directors and Supervisory Officers	909,501	429,667	47%	48%
Board Administration	7,095,869	3,434,684	48%	49%
Administration and Governance Total	8,182,792	3,939,647	48%	49%
Transportation				
Transportation	20,522,843	12,320,804	60%	60%
Transportation Total	20,522,843	12,320,804	60%	60%
Pupil Accommodation				
School Operations and Maintenance	29,083,378	14,470,191	50%	49%
Pupil Accommodation Total	29,083,378	14,470,191	50%	49%
Other				
Other Non-Operating Expenses	2,239,133	1,099,327	49%	51%
Pupil Accommodation Total	2,239,133	1,099,327	49%	51%
Operating Expenditures Total	\$ 286,383,186	\$ 142,031,175	50%	49%



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: OPERATIONAL PLANS

BOARD MEETING

April 24, 2024

Purpose and Link to the Strategic Plan/Goal: Student Learning, Achievement, & Well-Being

To provide trustees with an overview of the operational plans that departments use to guide efforts in support of the LDSB Strategic Plan.

Background

As part of a July 2023 memorandum, the ministry released a Student Achievement Plan Framework, which aligns with the regulated provincial priorities (O. Reg. 224/23). During the better part of the last year, Trustees have been creating the LDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan (2024-2028), with consideration given to the regulated priorities shared by the Ministry of Education, and the considerable family and community feedback received since consultation began in the spring of 2023.

The alignment of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (2024-2028) with provincial regulations has resulted in a streamlined strategic plan, focused on student achievement and well-being. To support the goals of the strategic plan, LDSB departments use operational plans to guide daily actions and activities. Operational plans outline specific tasks, responsibilities, timelines, and resources required to achieve objectives, and are flexible documents that can be reviewed and updated annually.

Current Status

With the approval of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (2024-2028), departments are designing operational plans that directly contribute to the fulfillment of the goals of the Strategic Plan. Many departments already have operational plans, as mandated by the Ministry, including the Math Achievement Action Plan, Equity Action Plan, Board Action Plan for Indigenous Education, Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy, FSL Plan, and the Early Years Leadership Strategy. LDSB specific

operational plans are created by departments, and include Information Technology Services, Financial Services, Gould Lake/Outdoor Education, Facilities Services, Human Resources, Educational Services/Special Education, Safe and Caring Schools, Literacy, Student Success (including Expanded Opportunities), Communications, English as a Second Language, and Accessibility.

Departmental operational plans include several components, including objectives/goals, strategies and actions, timelines for completion, and who holds responsibility for them (See appendix A). As departments are finalizing operational plans, consideration is also given to what metrics will be collected, and how completion towards goals will be assessed.

Next Steps and Communication Plan

To ensure alignment and coherence within the system, operational plans will be regularly shared among the senior team. Governance level updates and highlights of departmental operational plans will be provided to trustees at Education, Policy & Operations Committee meetings throughout the year. This will allow trustees to remain knowledgeable about the operational level work that is occurring, in support of the strategic plan goals.

Recommendations

That this report be received for information.

Prepared by: Jessica Silver & Craig Young, Superintendents of Education; & Krishna Burra, Director of Education
Reviewed by: Krishna Burra, Director of Education
Attachment: Appendix A - Operational Plan Template

Departmental Operational Plan Template

Strategic Plan Link	Objectives/Goals	Metrics	Strategies	Specific Actions	Timelines	Responsibility	Results or % Completion



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – February 8, 2024

Roll Call:

Members:	Staff:
V. Wood, Co-Chair and Sydenham HS M. Glassford, Co-Chair S. Bradley, Outgoing Co-chair and 2SLGTBQIA+ Focus Group S. Coleman, Amherst Island PS S. Black, Bath Road PS M. Rickey, Bayridge PS T. MacDonald, Centennial PS M. Chapman, Ernestown SS C. Wither, Frontenac SS M. Hudson, LCVI/Calvin Park PS M. Foster, Module de l'Acadie J. Kehoe, Molly Brant ES M. Richmond, Odessa PS V. Venditti, Polson Park PS J. Jodoin, Rideau PS S. Gratto, Storrington PS K. Mennie, Welborne Ave PS E. Offshack, Virtual School C. Glavin, WJ Holsgrove	S. Gillam, Superintendent P. Gollogly, Assoc. Superintendent M. Christopher, IT
Trustees:	Recorder:
B. Godkin R. Hutcheon	E. Smith, Administrative Assistant
Community Members:	
L. Lollar, KFL&A Public Health F.S. Zadeh, KEYS (regrets)	

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Wood called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Co-Chair Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided the Acknowledgement of Territory.

“We recognize that The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit, and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land.”

2. Adoption of Agenda

Adopted.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest declared.

4. Approval of Minutes

November 2023 minutes were approved by consensus.

5. Delegation/Presentation

Co-Chair Wood informed that there are three presentations.

Co-Chair Wood invited Mr. Jeremy DaCosta, Chief Executive Officer, to deliver his presentation on Tri.Board Student Transportation. Mr. DaCosta expressed his appreciation for the work that School Councils do and the work that PIC does. Tri.Board is a student transportation consortium established in 2006. They transport about 30,000 riders each day, over 600 routes, about 85,000 km serving 135 schools. Tri.Board does not employ any of the bus drivers directly. Route cancellations in LDSB, due to driver shortages, were 0.25% in September 2023, with peak of 0.80% in October 2023 and 0.27% in January 2024, i.e. 0.45% for a period of 5 months. Mr. DaCosta further informed that regular contact is maintained with bus companies and operators experiencing cancellations. Discussions revolve around staffing levels, recruitment, retention, and driver training efforts. Where possible, bus companies and Tri Board work daily to combine routes based on location and timing. This strategy aims to avoid cancellations without causing significant delays for students arriving at or leaving school. It was acknowledged that there will be ongoing struggles with having enough bus drivers for the foreseeable future. In response to the ongoing driver supply challenge, efforts are being made to reduce the demand or the number of overall drivers required. This involves planning for the next fall and considering how to minimize the number of routes, thereby potentially addressing some of the driver shortage by requiring fewer drivers. Route cancellation alerts are sent out through email system and the Bus Planner Delays application. Mr. DaCosta encouraged the group to share information about the driver shortage within their school community, including how to apply online. He stressed the importance of showing appreciation to bus drivers for their role in safely transporting students to and from school. Presentation will be shared.

Question and answer followed.

Co-Chair Wood introduced the next presenter Gemma Zelmanovits, School Manager at Brave Education. Brave Education is a social emotional learning program that works with kids across and outside the province, teaching them necessary skills. The program focuses on discussing difficult things and skills that kids need to be successful in life, particularly in their social health. Ms. Zelmanovits discussed the origin of the program.

The program worked with 80,000 kids in Ontario last school year. The approach of Brave Education is to go class by class, working with one class at a time on a curriculum chosen by the school's administrators and teachers that meets the needs of their students. The presenter provided information on different workshops offered by Brave Education. The presenter answered follow up questions.

Co-Chair Wood invited the final presenter Laura Conboy, LDSB Mental Health Lead, to deliver her presentation on Mental Health Literacy Modules for Grade 7 and 8. The new mandatory 7-8 mental health literacy modules came into effect on 1 January 2024. The modules are resources for educators to equip them and students with culturally responsive, evidence-based knowledge, skills, and strategies to support their mental health and wellbeing. Complimentary resource material will be shared with families at the end of the meeting. In grade 9, right now there are optional lessons through School Mental Health Ontario that are not part of any curriculum or mandatory curriculum that some schools have chosen to engage in. We are expecting in 2024-25 that there will be mandatory lessons coming for grade 10. The presenter further discussed LDSB Implementation Plan. Power Point presentation will be shared.

The presenter answered follow up questions.

6. Reports for Information

6.1 Co-Chairs Update

Co-Chair Wood welcomed everyone. Co-Chair reported that PIC attended provincial PIC meeting on 22 January organized by the Ministry of Education. Some updates provided were related to Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act 2023, improving accountability and transparency at the Board level. Other key points were achievements of learning outcomes in core academic, preparation of students for future success and students' engagement and well-being. Further discussion from break-out rooms was related to Trillium Lakelands SB who is looking into mandating first aid for teachers. Ottawa Carlton SB had issues with transportation. York region is using one of their platforms for communication with PIC and SC representatives. Co-Chair was wondering if LDSB could perhaps have something similar that PIC/SCs could benefit from, but also noted that we use School Messenger, School-Day etc. PRO funding: 31 school applications were approved. She thanked PIC representatives who participated in the committee. There were a couple of applications that were rejected because of late submission. She also noted that funding was made available to schools earlier in the school year than it was the case in 2022/23.

Co-Chair Woods further reported that Superintended Alison McDonnell will be joining the May PIC meeting to discuss Student Census Achievement Report.

Corrections for previous meeting: PIC does have an open seat to Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee and Mental Health and Substance Leadership Committee, and if anyone is interested in being involved, please reach out.

Treasury report: parent engagement allocation funding this year was \$8,444. Approx \$7,072 is available for the PIC committee to organize speaker workshop.

Co-Chair Woods noted observation dates: February is Black History Month, 10 February is Chinese Lunar New Year, 11 February is International Day of Women and Girls in Science, 19 February is Family Day, 22 February Human Trafficking Awareness Day; March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness month, Ramadan is starting second week of March, 8 March is International Women's Day, March Break is 11-15 March.

Discussion followed concerning First Aid training for teachers.

6.2 Trustee Update

Trustee Godkin acknowledged and welcomed Trustee Chair Hutcheon to the meeting. Trustee Godkin recognized that this is Black History Month and that is time for us all to reflect and to appreciate the contributions that the black community has made over the centuries of being in Canada, as well as current and future contributions.

Trustees attended their annual Public Education Symposium (PES) in Toronto. The conference was deemed successful. The Trustees were encouraged to attend at least one meeting per year to gain a provincial perspective on common issues. The conference provided insights into the position of Limestone in relation to provincial developments. The conference equipped the trustees with tools to handle potential situations of hatred and other unfortunate events. The Trustees felt better prepared to respond to such situations should they arise. Each conference, including this one, had a component on the Indigenous community, the history, and the meaning of reconciliation. As most of the Trustees are non-Indigenous, they found it tremendously valuable to learn about these topics.

The Education, Policy and Operation Committee meeting took place on 7 February. Topics discussed were:

- School enrolment and facility capacity: provincially mandated to operate at 100% capacity (collectively); the Board is aware for those schools that are over capacity, up to 130%, and have many portables; the Board, along with other Boards in the province, puts forward its requirements, such as new schools, maintenance and fixing of the buildings, etc., but it is the Ministry of Education who decides how funds will be allocated.

- Elementary Special Education Support Model: the Board of Trustees is 100% committed to Special Education and those kids who are in the margins. The Board of Trustees continues to find other ways through their reserves and puts an additional \$8 million into the special education budget every year. Trustee Godkin pointed out that the Trustee Chair regularly advocates with the Ministry of Education to properly fund special education.

Trustee Godkin pointed out that he was not aware of chronic bus cancellations on some routes. He encouraged parents/guardians to contact their local Trustee in such cases and to copy the Board of Trustees Chair and Vice Chair. Trustee Hutcheon informed that chronic bus cancellations are absolutely the norm across the province due to shortage of drivers. A question was asked about the bus routes where cancellations have become chronic, at which point does the Board of Trustees take some action and write letters on behalf of students who have the right to get to school? Trustee Godkin pointed out that is the reason why this subject was brought up and why it is critical to inform the Board of Trustees when these situations arise.

Trustee Godkin further informed that draft Strategic Plan Reporting template was discussed at EPOC meeting. The Board of Trustees reviewed it, and it is available on the Board's webpage. Trustee Godkin expressed satisfaction with the level of consultation and presentation of information to the board over the past five years, he also acknowledged the need for further improvement to ensure all voices are heard. Trustee Godkin again encouraged parents to reach out to their local Trustees, scheduling parent council meetings on a day when Trustee is available to attend, allowing them to hear concerns directly from parents. He emphasized that the effectiveness of policies is determined by feedback from the community.

Discussion followed on special education school and school boundaries.

6.3 Board Update

Associate Superintendent Gollogly reported that the Second Semester started on 5 February 2024.

There are numerous activities taking place within the school and the community to celebrate Black History and Futures Month. She reported on next year's school calendar planning which is being conducted with other two

Boards and their calendar committees respectively (including PIC, union and non-unions). There are three options for 2024/25 calendar. Survey is open until 12 February. Currently 5500 people have voted. The Board encourages people to participate in the survey. A PIC Representative provided feedback by noting that survey is text-heavy and suggested that visual calendar highlighting the differences might be more user-friendly.

Reminder that 8 April is the Total Solar Eclipse and that PA day was moved from 12 April to 8 April.

Pink Shirt Day will be observed on February 28th. Many schools are teaming up with the Boys and Girls Club to either wear pink or buy their shirts from the club to support the community. The day is dedicated to promoting kindness and inclusivity.

Assoc. Supt. Gollogly informed that Principal Mike Blackburn gave a presentation about proposed changes to the Special Education Delivery Programs at the EPOC meeting on 7 February. A comprehensive presentation on these changes will be given at the next PIC meeting on 4 April. The changes need to be presented to SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) first, which is scheduled for the following week.

6.4 KFL&A Public Health

Lisa Lollar, RN, reported for KFL&A Public Health:

- **Food Neutral Kids Webinar:** A live webinar titled "Food Neutral Kids: A Parent/Caregiver Presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28th from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. The school team dietitian and a nurse will present ways families can help kids develop a positive relationship with food. Registration details will be shared, and a recording will be available for those who register but cannot attend.
- **Annual Immunization of School Pupils Act Review:** The annual review is underway. Notices have been sent to students who do not meet the immunisation requirements. Families who received a letter are encouraged to call public health and speak to someone on the Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) team. The goal is to get students immunised if families choose to do so.
- **Reporting immunisations:** Many people are unaware that family doctors do not report immunisations. Parents can report their child's immunisations and book appointments for routine immunisations on the Public Health website.
- **School safety:** RN Lollar responded to a concern raised by a PIC representative from Odessa PS about safety around the school. She encouraged reaching out to public health and speaking to someone on the school health team. They have worked with many schools on safety issues and can provide messaging and support. One of their nurses, who works with the city and the school boards and is heavily involved in the Community Safety Zones project, could visit the school to assess the situation and provide support.

6.5 Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC)

Superintendent Gillam informed us that there is nothing to report at this time and that he is hoping that a new representative will be confirmed for the next meeting on 4 April.

6.6 2SLGTBQIA+ Focus Group

S. Bradley informed that the next meeting is 13 February at 7PM.

6.7 KEYS

Regrets.

7. Reports for action - None at this time.

8. Unfinished Business - None at this time.

9. New Business – School Council of Frontenac Secondary School wishes to express concern regarding overuse and misuse of personal devices at schools. The topic of overuse and misuse of personal devices in schools is frequently discussed in meetings. While some parents advocate for a total ban, most recognize the learning benefits for all students and additional benefits for those with special needs. However, there are still many concerns, with stories of incidents happening at school involving cell phones. Review of the guidance documents on the Ontario government page, which state that the use of personal devices is allowed for education. The council does not want to remove this benefit but is looking for better ways to manage device use in schools. Discussion followed. Suggestion was made to perhaps reach out to Student Councils and seek their views as well.

Formal request was placed for recording of PIC meetings to be made available to public, as is the case in some other School Boards.

10. Correspondence – None at this time.

11. Next Meeting - Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 6:00pm.

12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2024

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
T. Lloyd K. McGregor	Present: H. Clark, Autism Ontario E. Clow, Member-at-Large K. Hill, Member-at-Large L. Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario H. Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston M. Covey, Community Living Kingston Regrets: A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University) S. Patay, Lennox & Addington Resources for Children
	Staff:
	Present: M. Blackburn, Principal of Educational Services S. Gillam, Superintendent, Learning for All N. Dillard, Vice-Principal of Educational Services C. Snider, Special Education Program Coordinator T. Vail, Special Education Program Coordinator A. Ward, Special Education Program Coordinator L. Conboy, Mental Health Lead W. Fisher, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator J. Lalonde, Special Education Program Coordinator
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	J. Senior, Administrative Assistant

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee.

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

1. WELCOME

Chair McGregor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chair McGregor read the Acknowledgement of Territory:

“The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit, and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land.”

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd that the agenda be approved. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None at this time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 SEAC Minutes February 14, 2024

MOVED BY: Member-at-Large Katrina Hill that the February 14, 2024, SEAC Minutes be approved. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None at this time.

6. EDUCATION SERVICES UPDATE

6.1 Building Our Vision for the Future, Enhancing Special Education Services in our District, 2023-2024 Monitoring Document – Principal Michael Blackburn and Vice Principal Nicola Dillard shared a presentation explaining key areas of focus and the indicators of success for the Special Education Services Monitoring Document.

1. **Programs and Programming – *Programs and Programming Matter*:** Explore and implement programs and programming that are personalized to student’s strengths and needs, and responsive to goals, progress, and future opportunities.

- **Key area of focus:** Continuing – Critically examine District programs, services, and supports to assess impact and efficacy.
 - **Key Indicators:**
 - LINKS Program evaluation
 - Lexia
 - Special Education Review/Special Education Changes
 - Learning Program Support (LPS) teacher role and Secondary Literacy
 - Student Support Teacher (SST) Guide
 - Team/Affinity Data – Yearly Review
 - Additional supports/services - Camp
2. **Individualized Supports and Accommodations – *Supports Matter*:** Explore and implement supports and accommodations that increase access and opportunities for learning and reduce barriers to success.
- **Key area of focus:** Enhancing – Examine and focus on transitional supports for students with particular attention to Transition to Kindergarten (T2K), Kindergarten to Grade 1, Grades 7 to 9.
 - **Key Indicators:**
 - Grade 8 to 9 Transitions and IEP – LPS and SST meeting sharing
 - Multi-Disciplinary Team consent
 - T2K – family workshop
 - Transition Support Document and Resources
 - Queen’s University Research – IEP and Self Advocacy
3. **Inclusive and Supportive Culture – *Culture Matters*:** Explore and implement strategies to support an inclusive and supportive culture that creates a sense of belonging, teamwork, and shared belief in what is possible.
- **Key area of focus:** Continuing – Develop and share supportive resources (e.g., IEP, IPRC, transitional supports).
 - **Key Indicators:**
 - IEP Student Guide
 - IPRC Processes – Sydenham High School Pilot
 - IPRC for families – support resources
 - Equity Committee Survey and ongoing feedback
 - Transition Supports/Resources

4. **Staff Support/Human Resources Matter – *People Matter*:** Explore and implement staff and team capacity building to support a team approach within a multi-tiered system of support.

- **Key area of focus:** Continuing – Continue to build staff knowledge and capacity to support diverse learners within inclusive classrooms.
- **Key Indicators:**
 - Secondary School Teams – Tier 1
 - Literacy Team – IEPs, UDL
 - Physical Literacy and Inclusion
 - FASD Professional Learning
 - Neuro Vibes and Upper Canada District School Board
 - Tech Teachers
 - EA PA Day
 - Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Chair McGregor called upon SEAC Members for questions regarding the 2023-2024 Monitoring Document.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

8. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

8.1 Haley Clark, Autism Ontario - Report from Haley Clark - Sent to SEAC via email on March 5, 2024.

8.2 Autism Ontario – Participants Required for Research Study. A research project (undertaken by Ally Frid) requires special education teachers, and teachers who work with children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) from across Ontario, for a research study about their experience working with children with ASD who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices in the classroom, before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study has been reviewed for ethical compliance by the Queen's University General Research Ethics Board. Contact Ally Frid or Dr. Thomas Abrams for more details.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Administrative Report: Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Scot Gillam shared the following:

A. Ministry Updates:

Regulatory and Policy Reforms to Support the Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023 – Strengthening Parental Involvement and Increasing Transparency

As you are aware, the Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023 (the Act) received Royal Assent on June 8, 2023. The Ministry of Education (the Ministry) is moving forward with regulatory and policy reforms that refocus school boards on academic achievement in addition to **strengthening parental involvement and increasing transparency**. The ministry has consulted with key sector partners through various channels to inform the development of the regulation and policies, and we appreciate the feedback provided.

The reforms and supporting materials will:

- Foster greater parental involvement through the release of an accessible parent-friendly resource to help parents support their child's success and make informed decisions about their education; and
- Increase transparency to support greater engagement of parents in their child's education through:
 - A Student Achievement Plan tool and public reporting template that will support school boards in adopting provincial priorities into their publicly posted multi-year plans.

Strengthening Parental Involvement

Your Child's Education: A Parent Guide to our School System

A key theme of the Act is strengthening parental involvement. To support parent involvement in their children's education and to promote parent participation in school, the ministry has developed a [parent-friendly resource](#) with easy to access information. This webpage is intended to be a "one-stop shop" resource for parents with links to existing webpages and ministry-developed resources so that parents have the information they need to make informed decisions about their child's education and support their learning.

Increasing Transparency

Student Achievement Plan Tool and Public Reporting Template

As part of the July 2023 memorandum, the ministry released a Student Achievement Plan Framework, which aligns with the regulated provincial priorities (O. Reg. 224/23). The framework sets out goals and performance indicators for school boards to monitor student achievement, develop action plans and measure their progress on improving student outcomes.

The Ministry provided pre-populated materials to support the development and reporting of board Student Achievement Plans as part of the Ministry Communications to District School Boards in January 2024. All Student Achievement Plan materials are available on a secure Ministry SharePoint site. Access has been provided to all Directors of Education.

These materials included:

- 1) **Student Achievement Plan Tool:** Guides school boards through the action planning process based on the analysis and interpretation of quantitative and qualitative data.
- 2) **Student Achievement Plan Public Reporting Template:** Provides a consistent approach for communicating boards' data, action plans and progress on indicators to their communities.

Under the Act, school boards are required to publicly report on progress toward the provincial priorities and meet with parents in the first two months and last two months of each school year to discuss the priorities and progress towards them. To support school boards in meeting this requirement and in preparation for their meeting with parents and communities on multi-year plans before the end of the school year, school boards are expected to complete the Student Achievement Plan Public Reporting Template and post to their website by April 2, 2024. School boards are also expected to notify the ministry once the Student Achievement Plan Public Reporting Template is posted on their website by emailing a weblink to the Regional Office.

B. Educational Services Update:

Elementary Special Education Service Delivery Update

Communication has been shared with all impacted staff and current students attending the various programs that are being dissolved. Transition supports will be offered to support students returning to their home schools, with the support and guidance of staff currently allocated to the programs and staff at the home school. More general communication has been shared with all staff, and parents/caregivers across Limestone. Key community partners have also been contacted by Superintendent Gillam and other members of the Educational Services leadership team.

Staffing will follow the established LDSB procedures, and more updates will be provided as this process continues in the Spring of 2024. The allocation of Intensive Support Teachers, additional Student Support teacher and literacy intervention support, and Education Assistants will take place in the upcoming weeks as schools prepare their school profiles. These profiles assist Educational Services leadership team members in allocating supports across the system. A more fulsome report on these allocations will be forthcoming to SEAC in the coming months.

Transition to Kindergarten Event

The Transition to Kindergarten Virtual Family Workshop took place on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. This event is the result of collaboration between the three local school boards and our community partners. The workshop is for families of children with special education needs and provides vital information to support the transition into Kindergarten. A big thanks to all involved from the Educational Services leadership team.

Neurodiversity Celebration Week – March 18-22, 2024

The Limestone District School Board is committed to supporting, affirming and the celebration of our neurodivergent community during the week of March 18-22, 2024, in support of Neurodiversity Celebration Week. Neurodiversity refers to the natural diversity of human minds. It is a biological fact that we are diverse in our minds just like we are in our ethnicity, gender, sexuality etc. In LDSB, we look to celebrate and affirm that no two minds are alike!

For the duration of the week, schools will have the opportunity to explore curated materials, resources to expand knowledge, understanding and celebration through learning. LDSB social media will highlight LDSB Neuro Vibes posters that have been shared and posted in many LDSB schools (and other community agencies).

March is Easter Seals Month

March is Easter Seals Month and LDSB will be reaching out to staff and families to help support a campaign to send students to camp in the LDSB area starting on March 18th. Information on how to support Easter Seals will be sent to all staff and on social media. We highlight that all funds raised in the KFL&A area remain in this area to support Easter Seals Camp and the provision of accessible equipment for children and families of Limestone.

9.2 Special Education Mission Statement – Principal Mike Blackburn shared the Special Education Mission Statement one last time asking for SEAC Members to reflect and share any feedback or changes wanted at our next meeting. Special Education Mission Statement:

“Our mission is to support the creation of equitable, supportive, and fully inclusive learning spaces where all students can achieve their goals, develop to their full potential, and experience success. Our purpose is to support staff in recognizing the unique strengths and needs of every student and to enable the conditions for learning, engagement, belonging, and achievement.”

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Member-at-Large Erin Clow, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.