



BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – MAY 22, 2024

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
R. Hutcheon (Chair) B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) G. Elliott J. Morning J. Brown -regrets K. Maracle-regrets K. McGregor S. Ruttan T. Lloyd J. Neill E. Eckloff (Student Trustee)-regrets A. O'Keefe (Student Trustee)-regrets A. Wange (Student Trustee)-regrets	K. Burra, Director of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Corporate Services P. Carson, Manager of Financial Services J. Silver, Superintendent of K-12 Curriculum & Program Services
	Recorder: D. Burns, Administrative Assistant Producer: AM. Andretta, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Godkin called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Chair Godkin 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 AGENDA

Chair Godkin asked for any additions or objections to the agenda. There were no additions or objections.

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

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 2024-2025 Changes to the Education Funding Formula

Superintendent Young presented the 2024-2025 Changes to the Education Funding Formula. The Ministry is introducing changes to the funding formula, in hopes of making it simpler to understand. They wanted to enhance transparency and strengthen accountability for the public including parents and families. There will be minimal funding impacts to schools. The current funding model consists of the Grants for Student's Needs ("GSN"). This model provides the operating funding to school boards. There are 18 grants and 77 allocations within the GSN. Priorities and Partnerships Funding ("PPF") is the targeted, time limited supplemental funding for school boards and addresses Ministry priorities. Capital funding provides funding for the construction, purchase, additions, and renovations of schools. Limestone has applied for a new school build. The school condition improvement comes through on an annual basis, and building needs are addressed with that. Temporary accommodation funding is designated for purchase and installation of portables. Land purchases and childcare capital funding are application based and have not been seen for quite some time. The new funding model for 2024/2025 is changing from GSN to Core Education Funding ("Core Ed"). This is meant to provide consistent, ongoing, funding to school boards and funding to maintain schools. Core Ed funding is made up of six funding pillars instead of 18 and 27 allocations as opposed to 77. The former PPF model is now the Responsive Education Programs ("REP") model. The REP provides targeted temporary one-time funding that addresses Ministry priorities and has nine funding themes as opposed to 10. Capital Funding has been renamed to Building, Expanding and Renewing Schools ("BERS") and provides funding for the same items in the former capital funding as well as debt service costs.

Core Ed funding will reflect funding that is permanent from year to year. Two funding amounts were moved out of the Core Ed funding envelope: debt service costs and temporary investment amounts, as neither of these amounts are permanent or ongoing.

The classroom staffing fund is for staffing required in the classroom to support the core education needs of students such as: teachers, ECEs, EAs, ESL staff, FSL staff, Indigenous staffing, and supplemental staffing for literacy, numeracy, and other programs.

The learning resources fund is for non-staffing classroom costs, such as learning materials, classroom equipment, principal, vice principal, office staff within the school, as well as staffing typically required outside of the classroom to support student needs, such as, language supports, and mental health supports.

The special education fund is incremental funding to support students who need specialized programs, services, and/or equipment.

The school facilities fund is for staffing, such as maintenance/custodians, and non-staffing operations, such as heating/lighting and maintenance costs of school facilities, including repairing and renovating schools.

The student transportation fund is for transportation of students between home and school.

The school board administration fund provides for staffing, trustees, and non-staffing administration costs such as operating school board offices, school board-based staff, and expenses.

One big change from the PPF model to the REP model was the loss of De-streaming funding and the staffing that went with it.

There will be an option to compare the expenditures from school board to school board on the Ministry website.

If there is a surplus in the school board administration fund, there will be flexibility to spend that in the facilities and transportation areas, and/or student achievement and wellness. If there is any surplus in the facilities and transportation bundle it can be spent in the student achievement and wellness area. Five percent of the funding in the student achievement and wellness bundle can be used to supplement facilities and transportation. Limestone does not expect a surplus in the facilities and transportation bundle. The Ministry has funded non-staff costs at a 2% increase, which is snow plowing, grass cutting, and utilities. The student transportation fund increased by 3.1% this year. Limestone has seen a 3.8% increase in the contract costs for transportation. There are no anticipated surplus funds to flow into student achievement and wellness. The special education fund is restricted, this money cannot be spent in any other area. Trustees have always spoken strongly on how important special

education is and serving the needs of the most vulnerable in our school system and Limestone always spends over the allocation in special education. The classroom staffing fund and the learning resources fund both can support special education.

Superintendent Young offered to answer questions and discussion ensued. Chair Godkin thanked Superintendent Young for the report.

4.2 2024-2025 Preliminary Operating Budget Revenue

P. Carson presented the 2024-2025 Preliminary Operating Budget Revenue. The preliminary operating revenue is not yet presented on a full Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) basis. It excludes School Generated Funds at an estimated amount of \$5M and Charitable Trust donations at an estimated amount of \$150,000. These components as well as the capital revenue estimates will be presented at the June 5 meeting. The 2024-2025 preliminary operating revenue is presented alongside the 2023-2024 revised estimates and 2023-2024 estimates for comparison purposes. The projected enrolment of 20,471 ADE reflects an overall increase of 43 ADE from the 2023-2024 Revised Estimates. Adult education, continuing education, literacy and numeracy, and summer school enrolment is projected at 295 ADE. The 2023-2024 estimates and the 2023-2024 revised estimates operating revenue have been restated from the previous GSN allocations to the new Core Education Funding (Core Ed) operating allocations.

Core Education Funding or Core Ed operating allocations have increased \$17.2M or 6.4% in total.

The Classroom Staffing Fund allocation has increased \$3.7M or 2.7%. The Classroom Staffing Fund Pillar includes the following main allocations: CSF – Per Pupil Allocation, Language Classroom Staffing Allocation, and Indigenous Education Classroom Staffing Allocation.

The Learning Resources Fund has increased \$71,000 or 0.2%. The Learning Resources Fund Pillar includes the following main allocations: LRF – Per Pupil Allocation, Language Supports Allocation, Indigenous Education Supports Allocation, Mental Health and Wellness Allocation, Continuing Education Allocation, and School Management Allocation.

Special Education Fund allocation has increased \$2.9M or 8.4%. The Special Education Fund Pillar includes the following allocations: SEF – Per Pupil Allocation, Differentiated Needs Allocation, Complex Supports Allocation, and Specialized Equipment Allocation.

School Facilities Fund allocation has increased \$400,000 or 1.4%. The School Facilities Fund Pillar includes the following main allocations: School Operations Allocation, and School Renewal Allocation.

Student Transportation Fund allocation has increased \$607,000 or 3.2%. The Student Transportation Fund Pillar includes the following main allocations: Transportation Services Allocation, and School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation.

The School Board Administration Fund allocation has increased \$320,000 or 4.5%. The School Board Administration Fund Pillar includes the following main allocations: Trustees and Parent Engagement Allocation, Board-Based Staffing Allocation, Central Employer Bargaining Agency Fees Allocation, and Data Management and Audit Allocation.

Bill 124 Remedy Funding increased by \$9.3M. Other Government Grants have decreased \$2.1M or 38.1%. Other Revenues have decreased \$830,000 or 12.8%.

Chair Godkin asked for any questions on the report and discussion ensued.

Chair Godkin thanked Manager Carson for the Report.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

6. NEXT MEETINGS

Chair Godkin noted the upcoming Budget Committee meetings on June 5 and a tentative meeting on June 12, 2024.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.