

Education, Policy and Operations Committee Meeting Minutes – September 4, 2024

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown (regrets) G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) T. Lloyd K. Maracle (virtual) K. McGregor J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan A. Bukhari (Student Trustee) R. Kolosov (Student Trustee) (regrets) S. Kumar (Student Trustee)	K. Burra, Director of Education M. Christopher, IT Programmer J. Douglas, Communications Consultant P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent A. Grange, Communications Consultant S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources J. Silver, Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Godkin welcomed everyone to the meeting and 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. On a personal note, I have always been in support of the understanding that this land belongs to our Indigenous people. As many of you may know, I am a direct descendant of Vikings and this summer I had the opportunity to visit Denmark for the first time. The profound feeling that I experienced with my own connection to that land deepened my understanding of how significant that connection can be.”

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Limestone District School Board

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

There were no conflicts declared.

4. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

4.1 Grade 9/10 Technology Overview

Superintendent Silver stated that she is excited to present Trustees with a technology overview as well as funding information from the generous grant from the Limestone Learning Foundation (LLF). She reminded Trustees about the updates to graduation requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma which now includes a compulsory Technology & the Skilled Trades credit for students entering Grade nine this September. She shared that in review of student data from last year, approximately 70 per cent of students have already taken a Technology & the Skilled Trades credit in Grades nine and ten. She noted that extensive work was completed in the spring and summer to prepare schools and educators for this new credit. She reviewed how this was supported:

- Curriculum Writing – Expanded Opportunities Team & Summer Writing Team
- Grade 9/10 STEM Consultant/Coach
- Ongoing Professional Learning

Superintendent Silver thanked the Limestone Learning Foundation for their generous grant of approximately \$250 000 which will be used to support STEM Kits in all Secondary schools for curricular and extracurricular use. She reviewed some of the equipment that will be in schools:

- Micro:bits, Coding and Robotics
- Virtual Reality: VR headsets
- 3D Printers
- Vex EXP Robots

She concluded by sharing how this funding and investment supports many different pathways to workplace, apprenticeship, college and university. Superintendent Silver shared some examples of the different careers and sectors that utilize some of these technology tools:

- Transportation: coding for scan tools to diagnose automobiles, heavy equipment and marine engines.
- Construction: training for CNC lasers and routers which are industry standards in many occupations.
- Manufacturing: training for CNC mills and lathes.
- Food Processing/Hospitality: Coding to operate industry equipment.
- Forestry: Machine operation and repair.
- ICT: Video Game Design, TV/Video, CNC operation.

Chair Godkin thanked Superintendent Silver for her presentation and called upon Trustees for questions.

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4.2 PPM 170 – Parents Guide to School Communication

Associate Superintendent Gollogly updated Trustees on the Ministry of Education changes impacting family communication as directed by PPM 170. She explained how these changes will improve transparency for families as it relates to third-party guest speakers and presentations coming into schools.

She referenced the changes to LDSB Administrative Procedure 290: Presentation by external speakers/groups. It is now required that families have fourteen days notice if an external speaker or group that applies to the following criteria:

- Involves a third-party speaker or group
- Organized by a school, department, a teacher or other staff member, school council or a student group
- Involves all students in a school, or students in multiple classes
- It is expected that all presentations will be connected to the Ontario Curriculum and the school's educational goals

Associate Superintendent Gollogly shared a sample of the form that would be shared with families that includes details of who the speaker/presenter, logistical information, presentation details, educational relevance, content review, background check, and the approval process.

Included within PPM 170 are guidelines for family communication. It is expected that families/caregivers will receive receipt of acknowledgement within two business days with a goal to address the inquiry in a period of five business days. For inquiries requiring more time, the Board will make best efforts to provide an estimate. These timelines are reflected in LDSB Administrative Procedure 497: Public Concern Issue Resolution Process. In addition, Associate Superintendent Gollogly highlighted that schools aim to provide at least one or two in-person or virtual parent-teacher meetings each year to ensure that parents/caregivers have an understanding of their child's progress, class content or ways to assist with learning.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly concluded her presentation by sharing the School Council Resource Guide that reinforces important timelines as outlined in the Education Act.

Chair Godkin thanked Associate Superintendent Gollogly for her presentation and called upon Trustees for questions.

4.3 Communications Update

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Director Burra presented Trustees with some of the significant changes to improving responsiveness and service to families, staff, and community partners. He reviewed the Intention, Mission, Vision and Values messages which have been implemented into the system and shared examples of the different ways these messages are being shared. He noted that internal communication has been improved through the creation of the myLDSB intranet where employees now have access to a one-stop-shop for information and resources. Director Burra reshared the unified design of the new board website as well as the individual school websites. The new website boasts enhancements to functionality and overall improves the user experience.

Director Burra shared that starting this year, Board meetings, Education, Policy & Operations Committee meetings, and Parent Involvement Committee meetings will be available for viewing in a finite window of time. He acknowledged that at this time our recordings are not in complete compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), however, this is the best option to provide access to those who require it. It is noted that the meeting recordings are not the official record of the meeting, minutes will continue to be the official record.

Director Burra noted that there will be an update to the recognition of the dates of significance through LDSB's use of social media. Dates of significance will be viewable on the board website and will reflect groups and events who have been identified in the school census and/or include an educational component. He shared some engagement data points of LDSB social media platforms with Trustees.

Director Burra concluded with an exciting update on school-based communication supports. He noted that a new tool will be launching later this fall that will provide a protected line of communication for staff to send information and messages to groups not associated with a classroom. He provided some examples of staff reaching out to students and families on an athletics team or for a school play. This tool will create a safe and monitored way for students and families to communicate.

Chair Godkin thanked Director Burra and called upon Trustees for questions.

5. REPORTS FOR ACTION

None at this time.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

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8. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

9. FUTURE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

October 2, 2024

10. RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND PRIVATE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Motion to move into Private Session was moved by Trustee McGregor. Carried.

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

PRIVATE SESSION

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

11.1 Personnel Update – Superintendent McWilliams and Director Burra provided a personnel update.

11.2 Property Update – Director Burra provided a property update.

12. REPORT TO PUBLIC SESSION

At the Regular Board Meeting of September 18, 2024.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Neill that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The Meeting Adjourned at 7:27 p.m.