

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2025

PRIVATE SESSION

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) (virtual) T. Lloyd J. Maracle K. McGregor J. Morning J. Neill (regrets) S. Ruttan C. Scott A. Bukhari (Student Trustee) R. Kolosov (Student Trustee) (regrets) S. Kumar (Student Trustee)	K. Burra, Director of Education S. Gillam, Superintendent 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 of Education 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

Vice-Chair Godkin called the meeting to order.

2. RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND PRIVATE SESSION

MOTION: To move into Private Session.

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor and 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 Annual Board Meeting Minutes (Private) – November 13, 2024

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

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5. FOR INFORMATION

- 5.1. Safe Schools Update – Associate Superintendent Gollogly provided a Safe Schools update.
- 5.2. Property Update
- 5.3. Personnel Update – Director Burra provided some personnel updates.
- 5.4. Labour Update
- 5.5. Legal Update
- 5.6. OPSBA Update

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 Scott. Carried.

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) (virtual) T. Lloyd J. Maracle K. McGregor J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan C. Scott A. Bukhari (Student Trustee) (virtual) R. Kolosov (Student Trustee) S. Kumar (Student Trustee)	K. Burra, Director of Education S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent (virtual) A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education (virtual) T. McKenna, Associate Superintendent S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent of Education J. Silver, Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
D. Fowler, Manager of Facility Services C. Downie, Assistant Manager, Facility Services P. Carson, Manager of Finance L. Conboy, Teacher, Special Education and Mental Health Lead M. West, Special Education Program Coordinator - Elementary	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

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Vice-Chair Godkin explained that he would be chairing the Board meeting in Trustee Hutcheon's place who joined the meeting virtually. He welcomed everyone to the Regular Board Meeting and called the roll.

He called upon Trustee Ruttan to provide the Land Acknowledgement: "The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe. 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. As a non-Indigenous person personalizing our written Land Acknowledgment, I like to find current examples of hope and positive messages. On January 4, the CBC reported on a celebration for the National Ribbon Skirt Day, the background story which was a catalyst for a movement. Years ago, I was not aware of the ribbon skirts symbol until it was covered by the press. Now when I hear about the celebration, I know the troubled history and that the skirts represent strength and identity."

7. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

*MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor and seconded by Trustee Lloyd that the agenda, as amended, be approved.
Carried.*

8. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

9. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

10. PRIVATE SESSION REPORT

Earlier this evening during Private Session:

- The private session minutes were approved from the Regular Board Meeting of November 13, 2024
- Associate Superintendent Gollogly gave a safe schools update.
- Director Burra provided a couple of personnel updates.

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

*MOVED By Trustee Elliott and seconded by Trustee Scott that the Private Session Report be received.
Carried.*

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

11.1 Annual Board Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2024

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- 11.2 Nominations Board Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2024
- 11.3 Special Board Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2024
- 11.2 EPOC Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2024

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

12. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

12.1. Chair's Report

Vice-Chair Godkin read Chair Hutcheon's report. He stated: "I would like to extend a Happy New Year to Trustees, senior staff students, staff and families of the Limestone District School Board. As we begin a new year, I would like to take a moment to mention the work immediately before us, including the coming 2025-2026 school year calendar, and our review and approval of the Board's operating and capital budgets.

As School Board governors, Trustees play a key role in shaping the conditions for a high-quality education for every student. While in office, Trustees balance a range of responsibilities—setting the Board's strategic direction, creating policies, managing resources, engaging with the community, and holding our system accountable. This requires continuous learning and growth.

At Limestone District School Board, we believe professional development is essential for everyone—staff, students, and Trustees alike. Lifelong learning helps us all grow, ensuring we can meet the demands of our roles and responsibilities to the highest standard. For Trustees, this means continuing to build knowledge and expertise—both individually and as a group—so we can guide our Board effectively and tackle the complex issues we face.

The Ministry of Education has also emphasized the value of professional learning for Trustees. In a virtual meeting last fall, the Ministry confirmed that this kind of development is important and that public funds can appropriately be used to support it.

The upcoming Ontario Provincial Education Symposium for Trustees next week is a great opportunity for Trustees to continue growing in our roles. This professional learning offers sessions on topics directly affecting the role of Trustee, and the broader environment within which school boards operate. I am confident you will find it valuable learning.

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In closing, I would like to wish best of luck to secondary students on their upcoming exams, and for the successful completion of semester one. That concludes my report.”

12.2. Director’s Report

Director Burra stated: “Good evening Trustees and the viewing public. While it is already the middle of January, and the holiday season seems like a distant memory, Happy New Year to everyone.

The New Year always is a time of reflection, both thinking about the year behind, and the year ahead. In education, there is always more work to do, and as a board, we continue to have significant work ahead. The stakes of our work are incredibly high when we consider the future of every student we serve. Annual EQAO results, summaries of Human Rights Complaints, and school climate data, all of which we shared in the fall, all serve as good reminders of the critical undertakings ahead of us as a board. As we continue forward with our LDSB Strategic Plan, it will be important for us to remember for whom this work matters, and emphasizing the need for all staff to make a positive difference in the lives of the students we serve. This means continuing to strive for improvement in student learning, achievement, and well-being. It also means we must continue to do what we can in making sure there is a positive culture in Limestone for the benefit of all students, families, and staff. Last week I had the pleasure of visiting several schools as part of the Ministry Math visit to Limestone and it was wonderful to see the significant impact of our learning in this area in action in multiple classrooms. Our work matters and makes a difference. I offer my thanks and appreciation to the central team led by Associate Superintendent Hedderson, and the impressive work occurring due to the efforts of staff in Limestone schools.

While it is only January, preliminary preparations are already underway for the 2025-2026 school year. In the next few weeks, we anticipate the release of provincial funding to help support our planning for next year. Choices program information has been shared with the community and students will be engaging in those processes. In addition, last week, this week, and in the next couple of weeks, secondary schools are engaging with Grade 8 students and families to provide information to further support the transition to secondary school in the fall. In addition, more senior secondary students will be considering expanded opportunities available for the fall, and the Kindergarten registration process for the youngest Limestone learners will also begin. This time of year also means secondary summative assessments and exams start in the next few days, and report cards for students K-12 are just around the corner in February.

Given recent cyber incidents impacting an adjacent school board, local police authorities, and the largest Student Information System providers in North America, I want to emphasize that Limestone has not been

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impacted by any of these incidents. Our Student Information System is Aspen, and the one PowerSchool tool we use was not impacted by their recent cyber breach. I bring this issue up for a couple of reasons: while we have not been impacted at this point, it is likely more a matter of when as opposed to if. The reality is that these types of incidents are occurring more and more frequently, and it is critical for us to continue to prioritize cyber safety and security measures. On occasion, increasing our cyber measures can impact ease of use, but this is necessary to maximize our level of protection.

While teaching and learning must continue to be a focus in schools to support student learning and well-being, it important to remember the range of great activities occurring in schools. Here are just a few examples: the Robotics event and competition at Calvin Park/LCVI this past weekend; the Youth Imagine the Future Festival and Gallery in December, and the recent engagement with Grade 7-12 sites to name the upcoming educational campaign focused on vaping and screen time, are just three recent and current examples.

This evening, Trustees, the agenda contains several updates: the multi-year capital and school renewal project plan, the revised estimates for Quarter 1 of the 2024-2025 school year, and an update on the mental health operational plan.

That concludes my update for this evening.”

13. REPORTS

13.1 OPSBA Report

Trustee McGregor provided her update:

- The Public Education Symposium will take place in Toronto January 24-25, 2025. This will be a great opportunity for Trustees to attend the 15 workshops offered on a variety of topics.
- Typically, an Advocacy Day would follow the conference where Trustees in teams of three would visit MPPs to share the key priorities of OPSBA. This day has been postponed with no dates set as of yet due to delay of the Provincial Legislature.
- The next Board Meeting is scheduled for February 22-23, 2025.

13.2 Student Trustees' Report

Student Trustee Bukhari stated: “Good evening trustees and the viewing public. Our January Inter-school Council meeting took place on January 7th chaired by Student Trustee Kumar and Student Trustee Kolosov.

To start our meeting, we were privileged to have Andrea Barrow, the LDSB Equity and Inclusion Consultant, do a presentation on Black History Month to help student groups be proactive in their plans to

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recognize Black History month in schools. We covered topics such as why we recognize Black History Month, the Ministry's upcoming inclusion of Black History in elementary and Grade 10 History curriculums, as well as the Black History lessons that LDSB students and the equity team worked to create. During the presentation, the council had a chance to see what events different schools were planning to run to recognize Black History Month. Andrea Barrow also displayed a series of Black History Month resources that she had created to help ensure all schools would have materials to display. The council was able to provide valuable feedback on what kind of resources would be best utilized at their sites and look forward to working collaboratively with other student groups to recognize Black History Month.

Schools this month begin to wrap up the work from the Youth Homelessness Initiative that began in November following an impactful presentation by Kim Hockey from the United Way KFL&A.

Kim's presentation included shocking and relevant statistics about the prevalence of youth homelessness, and inspired students to take action in supporting those who were struggling and breaking down stigmas and stereotypes. Kim provided ISC with a number of posters and resources to build awareness in schools and also shared a moving student-led video project. Link to video here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srKu-uxClG4&list=PLkrrA7VMjfDd2tL-L1gMizv9_BMtrYr5u

Council members shared a number of exciting activities and events dedicated to raising money and support for the fight against youth homelessness; including food, clothing, and toy drives, as well as fundraisers that raised over \$1000.

In conversation about challenges students were facing at their school sites, many schools mentioned that vandalism and vaping in the bathrooms has become an increased issue.

Trustees may recall from August that vape detectors were installed in two high schools as a trial run. Council members shared that installed vape detectors in their school bathrooms were not acting as effective deterrents for vaping and were not providing accurate notices to admin. Students shared that vaping and crowding in bathrooms has remained a consistent issue throughout the school year with little change since the detector's installment.

To wrap up our meeting, we discussed the next Student Trustee elections happening in February and ensured that all members were on the same page about the elections.

This concludes our report for the January ISC meeting. Thank you."

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Associate Superintendent Gollogly added a note about the efficacy of the vape detectors as a deterrent. She explained that there was a delay in the delivery due to a change in approved detectors by the Ministry. As a result, active working detectors were installed very recently so more information about their impact will have to be brought back at a later time.

Student Trustee Kolosov shared information about the progress and launch of the Knowledge Sharing Program. She explained that this program is for self-identified Indigenous high school students who will be paired with one another to discuss culture and form connection on a personal and/or school level. Student Trustee Kolosov has been working on this program with Elementary Indigenous Student Support Teacher Jessi DiRocco. She shared an update on some of the school visits she has completed. Recently she visited LCVI meeting with Indigenous students who provided feedback about adding a personalization to the Land Acknowledgements provided during announcements.

13.3 Reports for Action

13.3.1 Multi-Year Capital and School Renewal Project Strategic Plan

Superintendent Young introduced the report. Starting in 2011-2012 the Board prepared a 10-Year Capital-School Renewal Project Plan (the Plan) that is updated each year. The purpose of the plan is to highlight proposed school renewal project activities under the following project types: heating/ventilation/AC; electrical; structure, communications (ITS); site improvements; conveyance; lighting; interior renovations; plumbing; and building envelope.

At the June 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, the 2024-2025 budget was approved including a capital budget consisting of \$21 million in School Renewal funded projects.

Facility Services Manager Dave Fowler and Assistant Manager Charlyn Downie reviewed details of the plan. The Capital and School Renewal Project Plan was developed based upon the VFA Building Condition reports for all schools; assessing local needs with school staff, analysis from maintenance work orders; knowledge from facilities, trades and maintenance staff, and expertise from engineering and other consultants. She highlighted that project consideration also incorporates a connection to Board priorities and goals which includes improving accessibility, green initiatives, security and improving student and staff experiences at our sites. Assistant Manager Downie noted that capital projects are classified as a capital project once it is over the \$10,000 threshold. Another condition is that the result of the project better or extends the life of the building system. School input and programming needs is a very critical component which is incorporated through the creation of a facility improvement plan in collaboration with Principals who bring that school community voice.

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The Multi-Year Capital plan includes an updated 2024-2025 listing of \$21,071,289 projects by school or various schools, which is outlined in Appendix A. Project work estimates are based upon the best available project scope and costing information at the time of evaluation.

For the 2023-2024 to 2032-2033 school years, the 10-year plan includes an estimated \$4,500,000 in proposed annual school renewal project activity per year, based upon prior year Ministry funding levels. This year, there is a new requirement to list all of the projects on the board's website which included completed 2024 projects as well as projects in planning and in progress.

Vice-Chair Godkin thanked Superintendent Young, Manager Fowler and Assistant Manager Downie and called upon Trustees for comments or questions.

MOTION MOVED by Trustee Ruttan and seconded by Trustee Lloyd that the Board approve the Multi-Year Capital and School Renewal Project Plan; and that a revised copy of the 10-Year Capital and School Renewal Project Plan be posted on the board's website. Carried.

13.4 Reports for Information

13.4.1 2024-2025 Revised Estimates and Interim Financial Report for Q1

Superintendent Young called upon Manager Paula Carson to share the report on the 2024-2025 revised estimates and interim financial operating expenditures for Quarter 1.

Manager Carson noted that the projected Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) for the 2024-2025 school year is the basis on which most Ministry grants are calculated and is based upon the average of enrolment at two established counts (October 31st & March 31st) in the school year. Overall enrolment is expected to be 185 ADE higher in the 2024-25 school year than originally forecasted in the budget with the elementary panel increasing by 36 students, and the secondary panel increasing by 149 students.

Manager Carson advised that for the Operating Budget Revenue, reflects a \$11.7M increase in Core Education Funding Operating Allocation. This funding was previously known as the Grant for Student Needs (GSN). The main changes are an increase of \$7.1M due to updates to funding benchmarks and table amounts arising from the settlement of the 22 to 26 central labour agreements. She stated that other increases include \$3.5M related to increased enrolment and a \$1.6M increase due to changes to the Principals and Vice-Principals funding model.

Other government grants increased by \$1.6M due to new Responsive Education Program (REP) grant announcements. This funding was previously known as PPF funding.

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Manager Carson reviewed the Operating Budget Expenditures which reflect a total increase of \$14.7M. The main changes are related to a \$7.5M in salary costs related to the 2022-26 central labour agreements being settled at rates higher than originally projected. This includes an increase of \$4.8M for classroom teachers, and \$1M for Principals and Vice-Principals. The salary and benefit cost of the additional 35 FTE added was \$2.5M, which includes a \$1M increase for classroom teachers. Other changes include \$1M for additional short term educational assistant support, and a \$1M increase in textbooks and supplies supporting the Indigenous and REP funded programs.

The increase of \$1.1M for the Other Non-Operating Expenses category includes \$1M for additional expenditures for the temporary Educational Assistants seconded to Jordan's Principle.

Manager Carson advised that in Quarter 1 for the period ending November 30, 2024, the Board has spent \$74.7M or 24% of our \$312.7M operating budget. This is comparable to the 26% spent in Quarter 1 of the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Vice-Chair Godkin thanked Superintendent Young and Manager Carson and asked Trustees for questions.

13.4.2 Mental Health Operational Plan 2024-2025

Superintendent Gillam introduced his report. He reminded Trustees that it is a Ministry requirement for each school board to have a three-year Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy Action Plan. He welcomed Mental Health Lead Laura Conboy and Special Education Teacher Melissa West to provide some highlights of the plan.

- Curriculum GLC 20 – Two modules from the Ministry of Education, delivered by educators. There is one new and one updated mental health literacy expectation within the 2024 Career Studies course.
 - Module I: Strategies for managing stress and navigating balance
 - Module II: Knowing when, where, and how to seek support
- In the fall of 2023, Kids Help Phone resource packages were distributed to all schools.
- Enhancements have been made to online self-referral links for secondary students.
- Every Grade 9 student will receive a self-referral postcard with information on how to access supports. These students are targeted because of early intervention.
- Kids Have Stress Too! An evidence-based program developed by Psychology Canada for Grades 1-8 students run by student support counsellors.
- One Stop Talk: Students have the ability to connect with a therapist in real-time and a referral can be made if further support is needed.

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- Identity-affirming support: Professional learning opportunities through School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO).
- Working with School Administrators and based on school school-based referrals, Social Workers provide 1-to-1 support for students in Grades 6 to 12.
- The FourthR is a skills-focused and relationship-based pilot program for Grades 7 to 9 in collaboration with LDSB Equity Team and KFL&A Public Health. Four schools will participate in the pilot: J.G. Simcoe, Welborne, Enterprise and W.J. Holsgrove.
- PreVenture Program: LDSB moved from a pilot to scale up this program by expanding the offering from three to five sites. Feedback was collected through a survey with 72 surveys completed.
- PPM 128: Collecting data on the relationship between social media and suicidal ideation. Collaborating with Associate Superintendent Gollogly and KFL&A Public Health. Formal training is offered to regulated health professionals related to PPM 128.
- Relationship-based approaches and the Third Path: Educational Services Leadership team has bi-weekly meetings to complete focused professional development. Carousel session was offered to administrators to further implement this program.

Vice-Chair Godkin thanked Superintendent Gillam, Ms. Conboy and Ms. West and called upon Trustees for questions.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

15. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION

None at this time.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

19. COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

19.1 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2024

19.2 Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2024

19.3 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – November 6, 2024

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20. FUTURE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

February 19, 2025

21. ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE INTO PRIVATE SESSION

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

The Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

PRIVATE SESSION

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) (virtual) T. Lloyd J. Maracle K. McGregor J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan C. Scott A. Bukhari (Student Trustee) R. Kolosov (Student Trustee) S. Kumar (Student Trustee)	K. Burra, Director of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

22. FOR INFORMATION

- 22.1. Safe Schools Update
- 22.2. Property Update
- 22.3. Personnel Update – Director Burra provided a personnel update.
- 22.4. Labour Update
- 22.5. Legal Update
- 22.6. OPSBA Update

23. REPORT TO PUBLIC SESSION

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Vice-Chair Godkin called for a motion for the Board to rise and report at the February 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION: That the Board rise and report.

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor. Carried.

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