

Education, Policy and Operations Committee Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2025

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) T. Lloyd J. Maracle K. McGregor (regrets) J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan C. Scott A. Bukhari (Student Trustee) (regrets) R. Kolosov (Student Trustee) (regrets) S. Kumar (Student Trustee) (regrets)	K. Burra, Director of Education M. Christopher, IT Programmer J. Douglas, Communications Consultant P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent J. Silver, Superintendent of Education S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent
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 Land Acknowledgement: “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. I’ve always been supportive of Indigenous People; I have gained over the last few years a much deeper understanding and appreciation of the connection to the land. I have been blessed last summer to visit Denmark to where my roots are from to experience this overwhelming connection. We should be eternally grateful for the warmth that let us arrive here in the first place. It is important to be mindful of how to protect this land for the future by listening and our willingness to learn.”

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

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3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts declared.

4. REPORTS FOR ACTION

4.1 Trustee Code of Conduct

Director Burra introduced his report. He noted that at the Board meeting of August 21, 2024, Trustees were made aware that further adjustments to the Trustee Code of Conduct were likely in order to ensure compliance with emerging Ministry regulations. He indicated that the following Ministry regulations and bills have guided the proposed changes:

- Bill 98: the Better Schools and Outcomes Act, 2023
- Regulation 312/24 Code of Conduct Regulation, July-August, 2024
- Regulation 306/24 Integrity Commissioners and Process for Alleged Breaches of the Code of Conduct, Current Implementation

Director Burra provided an overview of the changes and implications outlined in the Code of Conduct:

- Intended consistency in processes (complaint & resolution) across Ontario DSBs.
- Delineation between an informal process (appendix A) within 20 business days, and a formal complaint process (appendix B) Potential internal resolution of a formal notice of breach, or referral to an Integrity Commissioner (appendix C).
- More severe sanctions (appendix C – page 12-13 of the package) can only be levied by an Integrity Commissioner.
- A formal appeal process to a panel of Integrity Commissioners.
- Clarity of private/public communication (appendix C – page 16 of the package).
- It should be noted that all costs associated with the formal processes are to be borne by the DSB.

Director Burra concluded by opening the floor for questions and comments. After discussion, Chair Godkin proceeded with the proposed motion for Policy 5 with a small housekeeping change.

MOTION MOVED By Trustee Lloyd that Trustees approve the edits as outlined in Appendix A with an amendment to change the word 'following the Formal Complaint Procedure' to 'via the Formal Complaint Procedure' in Section 1 (page 7 of the agenda package). Carried.

Chair Godkin thanked Director Burra for his report.

5. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

5.1 Operational Plan: Literacy, 2024-2025

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Associate Superintendent Sartor presented her report. She shared the five areas of Literacy Operational Focus:

- System implementation of Early Reading Screening.
- Strengthening data-driven decision making and foundational literacy instruction.
- Improving teacher efficacy in evidence-based writing instruction.
- Supporting system-wide tiered literacy supports (Lexia, Empower).
- Deepening community awareness of effective community supports.

Associate Superintendent Sartor shared the progress through the implementation of Early Reading Screeners for K to 2 students. She reviewed what an early reading screener is:

- Early reading screening is a universal screening and progress monitoring assessment that measures early literacy skills.
- Acadience Reading identifies children at risk for reading difficulties and determines the skills to target for instructional support.
- Acadience Reading is comprised of six brief measures that function as indicators of the essential skills that every student must master to become a proficient reader.
- These measures will be used to monitor the development of literacy skills in order to provide timely instructional support.

She shared the measures and examples of the tools that will assist teachers with knowing where students might need some support. These are:

- First sound fluency
- Letter naming fluency
- Phoneme segmentation fluency
- Nonsense word fluency
- Oral reading fluency

Associate Superintendent Sartor shared a timeline of the ongoing resources and supports for families related to these screeners. A graphic was created to share general information about early screeners with families and caregivers. Once each student was screened, a personalized letter would then be sent home to families and caregivers to share individual student data. Depending on what the data showed, families may have received a follow up communication to further discuss the results and plan next steps. Additionally, resources have been created by educators to support families to work on literacy at home. Family literacy nights, events through the public library, and KEYS have been offered as additional support to families.

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Associate Superintendent Sartor shared that LDSB's learning journey began in March of 2020 ahead of early screeners becoming mandatory for September 2024. In the 2021-2022 school year, an asynchronous course on structured literacy was offered over the summer with over 400 educators signing up to participate. Subsequently, a writing team of 30 educators formed to build structured literacy resources for system implementation. In 2022-2023, LDSB decided to do a pilot project at eight schools of four different learning sessions on how to launch this work into the system. This was further supported by learning coaches. In 2023-2024 funding was available to further support this training.

Associate Superintendent Sartor shared that LDSB is in a collaborative partnership with the ETFO Executive which allows for the review of screener documentation by ETFO before sharing information to the system. This collaboration has led to common messaging being sent out at the same time ensuring alignment to support the early screener initiative. She noted that this is not common practice across the province and that she is very proud of this ongoing partnership.

Associate Superintendent Sartor concluded by sharing next steps:

- Continue to support strong tier 1 literacy instruction and data literacy.
- Continue to support instructional leadership with administrators.
- Support mid-year screener for all students below benchmark.
- Analyze the school and system data to determine next steps.

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

5.2 School Year Calendar Process and Options for 2025-2026

Associate Superintendent Gollogly presented to Trustees the three calendar options for the 2025-2026 school year. Consultation through a survey has been sent out to LDSB students, staff and families. She reminded Trustees that there are three school boards in the Tri-Board Consortium: Limestone District School Board, Hastings Prince Edward County District School Board and Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. Limestone representatives from each labour partner, and the Parent Involvement Committee met on January 16, 2025 to provide input on the options.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly noted that an approved school year calendar will need to be submitted to the Ministry of Education prior to the March 1, 2025, deadline. She will present the survey results to Trustees at the February 19, 2025 Board meeting with a calendar option for approval.

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Chair Godkin thanked Associate Superintendent Gollogly for her report and called on Trustees for questions.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

March 5, 2025

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Hutcheon that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:47 p.m.