

Regular Board Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2024

PRIVATE SESSION

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown (regrets) G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) T. Lloyd K. Maracle (regrets) K. McGregor J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan A. Bukhari (Student Trustee) (regrets) R. Kolosov (Student Trustee) (regrets) S. Kumar (Student Trustee) (regrets)	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. 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) – June 19, 2024

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

Limestone District School Board

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5. FOR INFORMATION

- 5.1. Safe Schools Update
- 5.2. Property Update – Superintendent Young provided a property update.
- 5.3. Personnel Update – Superintendent Young provided a personnel update.
- 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 McGregor. Carried.

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown (regrets) G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) T. Lloyd K. Maracle (regrets) 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 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:
Amanda Posadowski, Manager of School Health, KFL&A Public Health	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

Chair Hutcheon welcomed everyone to the Regular Board Meeting and called the roll.

She provided the Acknowledgement of Territory: “The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe. We acknowledge their enduring presence

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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 THE AGENDA

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

8. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

9. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

None at this time.

10. PRIVATE SESSION REPORT

Vice-Chair Godkin stated that earlier this evening during Private Session:

- The minutes were approved from the Regular Board Meeting (Private Session) of June 19, 2024.
- Superintendent Young provided a personnel update which resulted in a motion and a property update.

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

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

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

11.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2024

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

12. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

12.1. Chair's Report

Chair Hutcheon stated: “Good evening, I hope everyone has had a nice summer and a chance for rest and rejuvenation. We look forward to welcoming students, families, and staff to a new school year in just over a week. I know my children are looking forward to returning to classes on Wednesday, September 4.

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I am excited about the new school year, and I am confident this year will be characterized by great collaboration, learning and success, for everyone- staff and students alike.

Over the summer, we have updated the Board's Director of Education Performance Appraisal schedule, as required by Ontario Regulation 83/24. This new, annual assessment will be based on both mandatory criteria and any specific priorities set by our school board. In the past, we conducted these appraisals every two years, after the Director's first year of employment.

Trustees have formed a committee to handle this annual appraisal, finalized the performance plan and evaluation cycle, informed the Minister of Education, and posted the information on the board's website, as required by the regulation.

As we will see tonight, the Board's Strategic Plan continues to evolve from community input and feedback. Director Burra will provide a report on the strategic plan 2023-2028 and new branding, finalized over the summer, and I am excited to see the fresh approach.

Trustees are fully committed to supporting student and staff success over the coming months, and I look forward with optimism and excitement to another great year in Limestone. This concludes my report."

12.2. Director's Report

Director Burra stated: "Good evening Trustees and members of the public joining us for this meeting. I am pleased to provide you with my update tonight as we prepare for the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

I hope everyone found themselves with some holiday time this summer to enjoy time with family and friends. In reflecting on this summer, it is important for everyone to have the opportunity to recharge and reflect on the important work we do collaboratively to support children and youth in the Limestone community.

With the summer season schools were not running as they do for the other ten months of the year. However, there was lots of activity for students this July and August. Similar to last summer, over 300 students participated in Camp-Read-A-lot, and over 700 secondary students participated in summer session earning credits. In addition, almost 450 students participated in outdoor education programming offered at some schools, at Gould Lake, and/or on outdoor education trips. It should also be noted that for the first time, Limestone successfully offered a travel for credit summer course in English and French for Grade 10 Civics/Careers. Trustees will receive a report in the fall providing more details regarding the range of summer programs that occurred in July and August. In addition, a considerable amount of facilities work occurs in schools during the summer and Manager Fowler will provide a summary of this work in September.

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We are greatly looking forward to welcoming back staff and over 20,000 students as the school year starts. While over 99% of students will be in face-to-face classrooms, Limestone continues to offer a virtual option for some students. Regardless of the format of learning, Limestone will continue to do its best to meet students where they are and support student well-being. Mental health and well-being are essential conditions for learning of all students.

We look forward to Limestone schools welcoming students back on Wednesday, September 4, with a full range of activities to be available for students in the 2024-2025 school year. As a reminder, we are starting the school year with a PA Day on Tuesday, September 3. With almost all labour agreements behind us, we can expect stability on that front for the next couple of years. We all know that extracurriculars like sports and clubs, full arts programming, and field trips are of tremendous value. As trustees know, all of these student activities are made possible by the generous time provided by staff and some community members. I think I speak for everyone in expressing our gratitude to the staff and community members that provide these valuable experiences and services to Limestone students.

This evening there are some routine, cyclical reports coming to trustees, but I also look forward to sharing with you an overview of new branding related to the strategic plan that we will highlight in the system at the start of this school year with refreshed websites for Limestone and all schools. I know all of us share the importance of the central messaging as part of the strategic plan: we want everyone to see themselves in Limestone and for us to make a positive difference in the lives of every student, in every classroom, in every school.

As Trustees know, considerable work occurs by central departments: facilities, finance, human resources, and ITS during the summer months to ensure schools are ready for the school year. I would like to acknowledge staff in all of those departments for the important work they do throughout the year, but also during the summer months.

In the agenda package, Trustees will have already seen some required changes to Policy 5: Trustee Code of Conduct are on the agenda this evening, as well as important areas of emphasis for this fall related to cell phones, social media sites, and vaping.

And finally, I would like to highlight the fact that almost 150 Limestone educators are participating in the annual Limestone Summer Institute earlier today and tomorrow morning. We are very pleased to be able to provide this valuable learning opportunity to staff. This is just one example of learning that Limestone educators have been participating in this summer. As we all know, learning is a journey, not a destination, and we must always model learning to support the system and do the best we can to serve students.

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Thank you, Chair Hutcheon, that completes my report for this evening.”

13. REPORTS

13.1 OPSBA Report

Trustee McGregor stated that some Trustees attended the Annual General Meeting which took place July 2-4 in Toronto. Kathleen Woodcock was elected as the new president of OPSBA. Susan Humphries will once again be the Chair for Eastern Region. Trustee McGregor noted that she did not run as Vice-Chair this year however she has been elected to be a part of the Education working group. She concluded her report by providing some upcoming OPSBA dates:

- The information session on the tentative agreement for principals and vice principals will take place on August 28, 2024, with the vote taking place on September 12, 2024.
- The first working group meeting will take place September 13, 2024.

13.2 Student Trustees’ Report

None at this time.

13.3 Reports for Action

13.3.1 Short-Term Borrowing Resolution

Superintendent Young indicated that the purpose of the report was to recommend a short-term borrowing resolution for the 2024-25 school year to meet cash flow requirements. The Education Act requires the Treasurer of the Board furnish to the bank a copy of the resolutions authorizing the borrowing of the funds. Superintendent Young reviewed the report with Trustees. He noted that funds were accessed twice to meet cash flow requirements as a result of Bill 124 remedy payments in order to pay employees in a timelier manner.

Chair Hutcheon called upon Trustees for comments or questions.

MOTION MOVED by Trustee Morning and seconded by Trustee Godkin that the Board authorize the signing officers of the Board to enter into agreements with the Royal Bank of Canada for the following:

1. *The borrowing of funds to meet operating requirements to a maximum of \$20 million for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Carried.*

13.3.2 Policy 5 Trustee Code of Conduct

Director Burra brought forward his report on Policy 5, Trustee Code of Conduct. The purpose of presenting the policy changes in this manner is to give Trustees the opportunity to review the proposed adjustments, which include several recommended compliance updates. Director Burra noted that Ontario

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Regulation 312/24 was enacted less than a month ago with the directive to seek board adoption by August 28, 2024.

Director Burra explained that additional changes to the code of conduct are expected relating to the appendix and the enforcement of measures. Currently, it is anticipated that the finalization of the regulation will occur later this fall or early winter. Trustees can expect to see some changes to the utilization of integrity commissioners as well as an additional sanction that could be levied as part of the hold back of part of the trustee honorarium. He highlighted that when the new regulation is finalized, Trustees can expect a period of approximately three weeks where Trustees will still have an opportunity to informally or formally resolve a situation prior to involving an integrity commissioner.

Chair Hutcheon Thanked Director Burra for his report and opened the floor for questions.

MOTION MOVED BY: Trustee Elliott and Seconded by Trustee Godkin: That Trustees approve the edits as outlined in Appendix A. Carried.

13.4 Reports for Information

13.4.1 Interim Reporting Quarter 3 2023-2024

Manager Carson indicated that the purpose of her report is to report on the interim financial operating expenditures for the period ending May 31, 2024. She stated that the Q2 2023-2024 interim financial report was presented to the Board on April 24, 2024.

Manager Carson reviewed Appendix 1 of the 2023-2024 interim financial report for quarter three with Trustees. The report indicates a spending level of 85 per cent. This exceeds the 78 per cent spending level from this quarter last year for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Manager Carson noted that this is due to additional expenditures related to the Bill 124 remedy payment. She reviewed the expenditure categories captured in the Appendix.

Chair Hutcheon thanked Manager Carson and called upon Trustees for comments or questions.

13.4.2 PPM 128: The Provincial Codes of Conduct- Cell Phones and Vaping

Associate Superintendent Gollogly welcomed Amanda Posadowski, the Manager of School Health at Kingston Frontenac Lennox and Addington Public Health (KFL&A), who joined her for the presentation. Associate Superintendent Gollogly began by providing an overview of the updated expectations and responsibilities of school boards as it relates to the Provincial Code of Conduct. The updates to PPM 128 address the need for school boards to enforce restrictions to mobile devices within schools and also includes guidelines around vaping on school property.

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She advised that the Limestone District School Board has entered into a partnership with KFL&A to provide outreach to students, schools, families/caregivers and the community to educate on the dangers of vaping and overuse of mobile devices. This will be achieved through various partnerships with community organizations as well as educational resources that will be available to staff, students and families/caregivers.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly advised that two schools will be utilized to pilot a vape detector which is funded through Government funding. Ms. Posadowski advised that an evaluation on efficacy will take place at these sites gaining perspective from administrators, students and staff.

Associate Superintendent Hedderson presented on the updates to restricting social media on school networks and provided a list of prohibited social media applications. These restrictions will be in place Monday-Friday during school hours. He acknowledged that there is some flexibility to adjust the use if intended for educational purposes.

Chair Hutcheon thanked Associate Superintendents Gollogly and Hedderson and Amanda Posadowski for their report and called upon Trustees for questions.

13.4.3 See Yourself in Limestone: 2023-2028 Strategic Planning Process Branding

Director Burra introduced his report and advised Trustees that this is Phase five of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan road map. He shared some examples of the new branding visuals and advised Trustees that they can expect to see changes in the following:

- posters with Intention, Mission, Vision, Values and Slogan
- Updates to signage in the foyer of the Education Centre
- Business Cards
- Pull up banners
- Board meeting agendas
- Social media templates

Director Burra also shared graphics of the newly implemented updates to the board website. He highlighted that the new website will be more user-friendly, intuitive and accessible. He advised that Trustees can expect more information on the website through a communications update at the next Education, Policy and Education meeting. He concluded with re-sharing the inverted Organizational structure graphic with an emphasis on students as the top priority.

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

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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

None at this time.

19. COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

None at this time.

20. FUTURE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

September 18, 2024

21. ADJOURNMENT

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

The Meeting Adjourned at 7:14 p.m.