

Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) April 24, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

Trustees: J. Brown
G. Elliott
L. French (Vice-Chair)
T. Gingrich
B. Godkin
R. Hutcheon
K. McGregor
J. Morning
S. Ruttan (Chair)
S. Hart (Student Trustee) - regrets
S. Kim (Student Trustee)

Officials: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education
M. Baumann, Manager of Financial Services
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education - regrets
S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning For All
D. Rantz, Director of Education
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness & Assessment
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Public Session

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."

Approval of Agenda

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

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Elliott declared a conflict as his wife is a teacher with the LDSB.

Trustee Godkin declared a conflict as his daughter is an occasional teacher with LDSB's co-terminous Boards.

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Section A – Matters Requiring Action at the Meeting

1. Reports for Information

a) Supports for Students with Autism

Associate Superintendent McDonnell provided an update on the After-School ABA Program (Autism Skills Groups).

In October 2016, the Ministry of Education invited school boards to submit applications to support After School Skills Development (ASSD) programs that would enhance skills in students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to reach their full potential. These programs supported the transition to the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP) led by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS). This program funding seeks to fill a service delivery gap within communities and improve positive outcomes and measurable achievements of students with ASD in their social, communication, self-regulation, and life-planning skills in order to support academic achievement.

The Limestone District School Board (LDSB) in collaboration with Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board (ALCDSB) and Maltby Centre were one of twenty-two school boards who were successful in the application for ASSD funding. This program funding was extended to LDSB for the 2018-2019 school year in the amount of \$176,025.00.

The After-School ABA Program offers free Autism skills groups to children/youth between the ages of 3 to 21 who are diagnosed with ASD and attend the LDSB or the ALCDSB. The groups focus on teaching a variety of skills including social, communication, behaviour/emotional regulation, social/interpersonal, school/group readiness and activities of daily living. The curriculum is a research-based social skills training program.

Staffing for this program consists of:

- One full-time coordinator;
- Seven group facilitators responsible for the delivery and planning of the programming and;
- One consultant from Maltby Centre (the regional Autism service provider) assigned to the program for nine hours and responsible for consultation on new curriculum development, development of parent training resource and consultation on group programming as necessary

A narrative report must be submitted to the Ministry of Education by June 30, 2019 including:

- its focus, target groups, number of students served, delivery modality, length of students' stay in the program (in days or months);
- evidence of the extent to which the program and individual students' goals were achieved;
- analysis of measurable achievements of students who completed the program;
- analysis of the feedback from students, staff, and families about the program relevance and effectiveness, including their levels of satisfaction and;
- key lessons learned, effective practices, and suggestions for further enhancements to supports and services provided to students with ASD in school settings.

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The Board is pleased about the success of this partnership pilot and that it serves as a model for the province. The Ministry of Education has now indicated that all 72 school boards will be provided with funding for the 2019-2020 school year.

Trustee Morning asked if LDSB staff examined why 12% of participants showed no change or remained stable. Associate Superintendent McDonnell replied that it was reviewed, and that staff follow up and make recommendations for specific students to see more growth moving forward. This could include more time in the program, more practice at home, or new school supports, etc.

Trustee Morning asked if LDSB is receiving the same amount as last year. It was clarified that this have not yet been announced, only that all 72 boards are eligible.

Trustee Morning stated that Maltby is now fee-for-service, and asked if this will affect the program. Associate Superintendent McDonnell replied that it would not affect the ABA program, as it runs outside of Maltby's regular programming.

Trustee Ruttan asked for clarification of what the ABA therapy is, and the concerns she's heard expressed by parents regarding the funding cuts and change to service provision. Associate Superintendent McDonnell replied that ABA is the therapy skill set utilized in schools, and also in organizations like Maltby. Parents are expressing concerns that the that cuts to ABA time in schools reduces the effectiveness of the therapy for the students.

Associate Superintendent McDonnell explained that the OAP (Ontario Autism Program) funding changed in 2016. Before the change parents could take services offered through organizations funded by the government or they could take money to purchase their own services. Now the only option will be to purchase services. The ABA After-School program does not replace the services to be purchased through OAP funding.

Trustee Godkin stated that the government had announced there would be funding for training related to Autism support, and asked if there had been more information released about this. Associate Superintendent McDonnell stated that LDSB has not received notice of any extra funding in this area, but expects that more information will be available when the budget is announced.

Trustee Godkin stated that due to changes in OAP funding new students have come to the Board. He asked how Educational Services staff are coping with this. Associate Superintendent McDonnell replied that LDSB has only one new student due to this change. The government has announced a six-month transition period for funding for Autism supports.

b) Alternative Learning and Continuing Education

Superintendent Silver and Associate Superintendent Sartor provided an update on the changes to LDSB's Alternative and Continuing Education Program Changes, Summer Session and Summer Learning Program for July/August 2019.

The Limestone District School Board has 7 Alternative Education Sites, and 1 Continuing Education Centre throughout the District. Current enrolment in Alternative Sites is 344 Full-Time Equivalent Students, under age 21, and 167 Full-Time Equivalent Adults, over age 21. Most of the Alternative and Continuing Education sites are housed in locations owned by Limestone District School Board.

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Summer Session has been offered through the Limestone District School Board for many years. Initially it ran in partnership with Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, but in 2011, ALCDSB stepped away from the partnership, and LDSB continued to run summer school independently. Summer Session offers students with the opportunity to reach ahead to take a new credit, or to improve a credit. Summer Session has offered students the option of taking courses face-to-face, through hybrid and e-learning, and through co-operative education.

Summer Literacy Camps have been offered through the LDSB for the past nine years. The In-School Team (Educator, Administrator(s), School Support Teacher) identifies students working at least a grade below their current grade level, in literacy. Grade 1-8 students attend the camp. Classrooms consist of one instructor and one tutor for 15 students. Literacy camps have historically run for 2 sessions (3 weeks per session), at 3 sites per session

As leases expire, we review each program location. The lease for the Revive program site in Napanee has expired, and renovations are planned for the Gateway site in Napanee, which is owned by LDSB. Once those renovations are complete, Revive will move into the Gateway location, and will begin the 2019-2020 school year in its new location. The Revive location is leased by the Board, so this will result in annual savings of approximately \$20,000.

Traditionally, students who failed a course were able to attend summer school for half days in order to upgrade their previously failed credit. A few years ago, the Ministry of Education policy changed, which resulted in students having to attend summer session for a full day, regardless of whether it was an upgrade, or a reach-ahead credit. This has resulted in a large shift in the demographic of students attending summer session. The primary purpose of Summer Session is now a reach-ahead opportunity for students, which is the trend seen both in Eastern Ontario, and provincially. School boards in Eastern Ontario have also changed their model for summer school, moving to an e-learning model which provides more choice for students to obtain the credit they are seeking.

To date, Ontario school boards have not yet received information on any Ministry funding for the summer learning programs. LDSB has provided funding to offer a summer learning program on a smaller scale. The team will offer one session at three different sites (Centennial PS, Molly Brant PS and Southview PS) from August 6-23, 2019.

Summer Session options for students reaching ahead in credits will continued to be offered through LDSB, and will include e-learning courses, and co-operative education. Students who fail a credit and/or are eligible for credit recovery are not currently choosing summer session as an option, so it is imperative that we provide these opportunities at the school level. Schools, through the Student Success Teams, will focus their efforts at the school level on credit rescue initiatives and credit recovery options for students, to ensure they have opportunities to be successful.

Should Ministry funding become available, the team is ready to expand the summer learning program.

Trustee McGregor asked what percentage of other boards have students register with LDSB for Summer session. Superintendent Silver answered that she does not have the exact numbers, but noted that it is a low percentage of the total enrolment. She also noted that the

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board does not make money on running a Summer Session because transportation, and principal and team members' salaries are not funded. The only monies received is for the per pupil enrolment. Running more e-learning courses will cut down on the cost of running Summer Session.

Student Trustee Kim asked for confirmation that there will no longer be in-class Summer Session. Superintendent Silver confirmed that LDSB is moving to an e-learning delivery for Summer Session. Teachers will have the expectation to have conference calls and interactive planning in Summer Session to provide the support that students will need to be successful.

Trustee Hutcheon asked if there are supports in place for students who do not have access to wi-fi or laptops. Superintendent Silver answered that most student in these situations would use a library for a wi-fi connection and schools can sign out Chromebooks for student use.

Trustee McGregor asked if the Board expects an increase in participation by rural students. Superintendent Silver answered that rural students have been accessing Summer Session through e-learning courses for many years, and does not expect a large increase.

Trustee Morning asked how students who fail a course are supported. Superintendent Silver answered that credit recovery happens in schools in many different ways, and is a decision made by the student success team in individual cases. Credit accumulation overall in LDSB is high.

Trustee Ruttan asked if there is an appetite for 12-month school year. Superintendent Silver answered that she does not think this is the case. Most students are reaching ahead in summer so they can take more interest courses during regular school year.

Trustee Godkin asked how the e-learning courses affect students that need the face-to-face environment. Superintendent Silver answered that the Board has not seen a negative effect for any students.

Trustee Brown asked what would be the lowest amount of time to recover a credit. Superintendent Silver answered that it could be as simple as writing missing summatives to acquire the credit.

Trustee Elliott asked if LDSB thinks the government will mandate a new platform for e-learning. Director Rantz answered that there has been no substantial information at this point, but that school boards will provide input on the matter.

Trustee Ruttan stated that it is a shame that Baords have not heard about the funding for the Summer Learning Program, as it really helps students. She asked if staff can move quickly if an announcement comes late. Associate Superintendent Sartor answered that the Board has a great staff from last year who are ready to step in at short notice.

Trustee Godkin stated he would love to see the Summer Learning program expanded to North Frontenac. Associate Superintendent Sartor replied that a staff member in the area has a proposal ready to go if funding comes in.

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c) Interim Financial Q2 Report

Manager Baumann provided an update on the Interim Financial Operating expenditures for the period September 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019 (Quarter 2).

As at Quarter 2, \$125,686,788 of the \$252,605,592 operating budget or 50% has been spent. The expenditures are based upon items paid within the stated period. Certain expenditures may be non-cyclical in nature, which may lead to higher or lower expenditures within a given period. An example would be continuing education in which 35% of the operating budget was spent in Quarter 2. (See Appendix 1 for more information.)

The 2018-2019 Interim Financial Report for Quarter 2 indicating a spending level of 50% aligns with the 50% spending level reported for the same period last year.

The Board is on target to end the 2018-2019 fiscal year in a balanced-budget position.

Trustee McGregor asked why the staff development amount was so much less than the previous year at the same time. Manager Baumann answered that it was simply a matter of the timing of PD sessions compared to last year.

Trustee Morning asked if the partnership with the City of Kingston is included in the transportation amount. It was confirmed that it is.

Trustee Morning asked what Other Expenses includes. Manager Baumann replied that secondments are reflected there.

Trustee Morning asked if Educational Assistant hours are bound by CUPE agreements. Director Rantz answered that Collective Agreements dictate how many hours make up a FTE position, but employees can work part-time hours.

Trustee Morning asked if all schools start at same time. Director Rantz answered that the Board has some late start schools.

Trustee Morning stated that Upper Canada DSB has all schools at same start time for cost savings. Director Rantz answered that this would not work in LDSB as busing is shared between three school boards and covers a large geographical area.

Trustee Godkin asked if all LDSB salaries are at a living wage. It was confirmed that they are.

2. Reports Requiring Decision

None at time.

Section B- Information Items

1. Internal Reports and Other Communication

None at this time.

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2. External Reports and Other Information

None at this time.

Next Meeting Date

The next Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) meeting is May 29, 2019.

Adjournment

Chair French called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.