

Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) August 28, 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)
J. Crook (Student Trustee) - regrets
A. Putnam (Student Trustee)

Officials: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education
M. Baumann, Manager of Financial Services
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education
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

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) Q3 Interim Financial to May 31, 2019

Superintendent Young stated that a 2018-2019 Interim Financial Report was presented to the Board on April 24, 2019 and provided updated revenue and expenditure information from the budget to the revised estimates, as well as operating expenditures for the period ending February 28, 2019 (Quarter 2).

As at Quarter 3, \$187,026,232 of the \$252,605,592 operating budget or 74% 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 51% of the operating budget was spent in Quarter 3. (See Appendix 1 for more information.)

The 2018-2019 interim financial report for Quarter 3 indicating a spending level of 74% aligns with the 74% spending level reported for the same period last year.

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

Trustee Ruttan asked why Trustee expenses are higher compared to the previous year. Manager Baumann answered that there was a higher expense for computers. There was also more Professional Development costs than the previous year, and PD was taken earlier.

Trustee Godkin asked if Senior Staff would be updating Trustees on the recent budget announcements from the provincial government, as there have recently been various reports from the media. Superintendent Young replied that school boards have not received any new money regarding the recent announcements about class sizes. As for the announcement for math funding, this is money that boards already have, not additional money.

Trustee Morning stated that some Trustees are being bombarded with questions about why, when there was a salary freeze, that the Director got a raise. Director Rantz answered that she did not get a raise, and that this is misinformation.

Director Rantz asked that if Trustees get emails such as this to forward them to the Chair so that all Trustees can have the same information, and that questions can be answered accurately and in a timely fashion.

Trustee McGregor stated that it appears all Trustees are not getting the same emails. When targeting some Trustees, and excluding others, it would imply there is an ulterior motive. All Trustees are involved in the governance of the Board and need to have the same information. She asked that Trustees ensure that all members of the Board receive the same information.

Trustee French stated that these types of items don't necessarily have to be brought up at meetings, but can be shared through email.

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2. Reports Requiring Decision

a) Indigenous Representation on School Boards

Superintendent Burra stated that the report received by Trustees at the May EPOC meeting was included in this meeting's package, with the addition of the last paragraph concerning a possible Indigenous Student Trustee. He reiterated that the original report was in response to a delegation by a constituent seeking to be appointed as an Indigenous Trustee.

Ontario Regulation 462/97 outlines the requirements for First Nations Representation on Boards. One of the requirements is the existence of an Education Agreement with a First Nation, or First Nations, where students from that territory attend a board school.

Trustee Hutcheon asked if the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee provided input on the matter. Superintendent Burra replied that the challenge was that the last meeting of the Council followed the May EPOC meeting and the agenda for that meeting had already been set. The constituent that brought the delegation is also a member of the Council and they asked for an update at the meeting. The Council was informed that a report had gone to the Board, and that a decision had not yet been made.

Trustee Godkin asked that based on the information provided, the Board officially reply to the constituent. He stated he would like to see staff bring a report about an Indigenous Student Trustee.

Trustee McGregor stated that she has serious concerns about an Indigenous Trustee as mandated by the Act, and about the optics around paying versus non-paying Indigenous students. She stated that she supports an Indigenous Student Trustee, but feels it needs to be an election from all the self-identified students.

Trustee Morning asked that it be clarified that the Indigenous Student Trustee does not have to be from the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte. This was confirmed.

MOTION: That Trustees direct staff to research options for a strategy for strengthening Indigenous voice at Limestone District School Board, including the possibility of adding an Indigenous Student Trustee to the Board.

MOVED BY: Trustee Ruttan.

Trustee Hutcheon asked if the 2300 informally identified students are separate from the formally self-identified FNMI students. Superintendent Burra answered that it would be hard to verify accurately, but would think the formally identified students are included in both groups.

Trustee Hutcheon stated she is worried it could come across that not adding an Indigenous Trustee means that Indigenous students are not valued by the Board. 11-12 % of all LDSB students identify as Indigenous, and that is significant. She stated it seems irresponsible not to have advice from the Indigenous Advisory Council on the matter, and also thinks the Board should speak to the MBQ. She stated she thinks there is a lot more to consider than what has been brought forward.

Trustee Brown stated that she is a person who is always concerned with diversity and inclusiveness. She stated that she would support an Indigenous Student Trustee.

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Student Trustee Putnam stated at OSTA conference she had an opportunity to speak with several Indigenous Student Trustees. The feedback she received was very positive, and students felt it was very valuable to have that specific role set in the student community.

Trustee Godkin stated he still wants the option to pursue an Indigenous Trustee from the MBQ in the future.

Superintendent Burra clarified that it is the Board's ability to decide to pursue an Indigenous Trustee because we have an education agreement with a local band/group. The MBQ would make the decision about who would be the representative.

Trustee Morning stated that she doesn't want the Board to close the door on an Indigenous Trustee in the future. She also stated she would support an Indigenous Student Trustee.

Trustee McGregor stated that she recognizes that provincially the issue is a mess. She is also not closing door on the possibility of a future Indigenous Trustee, but does not think a representation from the MBQ would be equitable for all Indigenous students in LDSB.

Trustee Ruttan stated that she believes staff will undertake a comprehensive review, and speak to all parties with a vested interest in the issue.

Trustee McGregor stated that having an Indigenous Student Trustee may encourage more students to self-identify.

Trustee Elliott asked if there is a way for the Board to get more integration with the Indigenous Advisory Council. Director Rantz answered that this could be investigated as part of the direction in the motion to investigate how to strengthen Indigenous voice in the Board.

The motion was Called and Carried.

The Chair will write a response to L. Clause-Johnson regarding her delegation.

b) Limestone District School Board Brand Logo

Director Rantz stated that in 1998, the former Frontenac County Board of Education and the Lennox & Addington Board of Education amalgamated into the Limestone District School Board. A new logo was created to bring together the two districts into one. Over the years, the logo has become increasingly dated and has always been difficult to reproduce both graphically and thematically. Several stakeholders have commented on its relevance – that it appears to be off-brand – and has often been described as more appropriate as a tourism brand rather than that of a school board.

Director Rantz recommended that the Board explore a rebrand of the Limestone District School Board, to complement the work previously completed on the new Strategic Plan and Pillars.

Trustee Hutcheon asked if the process would include input from students and parents. Director Rantz answered that it could. The Board will make the decision on which process to pursue when a report has been developed.

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Trustee Morning suggested having staff and students submit ideas for the logo.

Trustee Elliott stated that he thinks it devalues graphic designers by outsourcing the work to students. It is also good to support local businesses.

MOTION: That the Board of Trustees direct staff to explore various options, including outside consultation, to modernize and align the branding of the Limestone District School Board and bring a report back to the Board for consideration.

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor. Carried.

Section B- Information Items

1. Internal Reports and Other Communication

None at this time.

2. External Reports and Other Information

None at this time.

Next Meeting Date

The next Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) meeting is September 25, 2019.

Adjournment

Chair French called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.