

**Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) September 26, 2018
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board**

Trustees: H. Chadwick
E. Crawford - regrets
L. French
W. Garrod
S. Kim (Student Trustee)
T. Mahoney – absent due to sanction
K. McGregor
P. Murray
A. Ross
S. Ruttan (Chair)

Officials: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education, Program
P. Babin, Superintendent of Business Services
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education, Program and IT - regrets
S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools - regrets
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources - regrets
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Special Education
D. Rantz, Director of Education
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness & Assessment
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education, Program

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 Ross, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations at this time.

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Section A – Matters Requiring Action at the Meeting

1. Reports for Information

a) EQAO Presentation

Superintendent Babcock stated that the Senior Team would be providing information about the most recent EQAO results for the LDSB. She reminded the Trustees that there is no data for 2015, as that was the year of job action.

For the primary results LDSB scored 67% for reading, while the province scored 75%, a result that is lagging behind the provincial rate, but showing improvement. For writing LDSB scored 62%, while the province scored 72%. These results are behind the provincial score, but showing improvement from last year. For mathematics LDSB scored 47%, while the province scored 61%. There is no significant change at LDSB, while the province shows a downward trend.

For the junior level LDSB scored 76% for reading to the province's 82%. The Board's results are still lagging behind the province, but showing an upward trend. LDSB scored 70% in writing, while the province was at 80%. This score has maintained steady. In mathematics LDSB scored 31%, while the province scored 49%. Math continues to be an area of concern for the Board. Schools will be using their time at staff meetings and Professional Activity days to put "faces on the data"; drilling down into their school results to see where there were gaps. Staff will then use the data to identify skill areas and strategies to support improvement this year.

When looking at the results by gender boys are still lagging behind the girls in language at both grades 3 and 6. In math, grade 3 girls had better results, while grade 6 boys had better results.

Associate Superintendent McDonnell stated that for students with special needs at the primary level, LDSB continues to lag behind the provincial scores in reading, writing and mathematics. LDSB does have a higher percentage of identified students with special needs in the primary level at 28%, to the province's 18%.

For students with special needs at the junior level LDSB continues to lag behind the provincial scores in reading, writing and mathematics. LDSB does have a higher percentage of identified students with special needs at 31%, to the province's 22%.

LDSB is in alignment with the province for both the exemption and participation rates for students with special needs.

There continues to be a significant gap in results between students with and without special needs.

Staff will continue to focus on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) concepts, which work to identify barriers and tier 1 interventions.

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Superintendent Silver stated that for Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) 68% of first-time eligible students were successful, while 73% at the provincial level were successful. LDSB had a 96% participation rate versus the provincial rate of 93%.

85% of academic students were successful writing the OSSLT, while only 26% of applied students were successful. The Board achieved an 81% success rate for non special education students, versus 40% of special education students being successful. 75% of females writing the test were successful, while 61% of males were successful.

Associate Superintendent Sartor stated that the intent of EQAO data is to track student performance over time. When looking at a particular group of students that did not meet the provincial standard for reading in grade 6, staff can see that of these students who did not meet the standard, 4% rose to the standard and 15% did not meet the standard in Grade 6 reading or the OSSLT. Secondary educators can use this data to see who the students were who rose to the standard, and what supports were put in place for these students.

Superintendent Silver stated that for grade 9 mathematics the Board is on par with the province for the applied group and is slightly behind the province for the academic group.

Trustee Ross asked how Universal Design for Learning differs from regular teaching. Associate Superintendent McDonnell replied the UDL is not a new concept. It is based on the approach used for planning buildings to be accessible for all, translated to learning. It mainly focuses on tier 1 interventions.

Trustee Ross asked how the Board differentiates between the numbers showing that something is happening within a small number of students versus a systemic issue. Superintendent Silver replied that schools need to drill down in their specific data and identify trends, and ascertain where there are small number of affected students or blips in performance for specific students. Focused assistance can then happen for the students who need it.

Trustee Garrod asked about the rollout of Google Read & Write for all students. Associate Superintendent McDonnell replied that all departments pooled their funding to purchase the licensing for the software for all students. This levels the field for all students to successfully access the curriculum, whether they have an IEP or not.

Superintendent Silver stated that Google Read & Write works very well with Chromebooks, which the board has invested significant money into.

Trustee McGregor stated that there were several examples of where staff need to look deeper at the data. She asked if there is a way to look at other boards who have higher scores to see how they are accomplishing their results. Director Rantz answered that EQAO processes used to be able to track this type of data between boards, but that this tool is no longer available due to the lack of census data. She added that while it can be very helpful to be able to access this type of data, but that replication of results from one board to another is not always possible.

Superintendent Silver added that moderated marking is another avenue to explore. Having all teachers in agreement with a standard for each level accomplishment is very helpful

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in tracking results of this type of testing. EQAO Schools on the Journey of Learning is another useful source that we explore.

Trustee French asked how much of the PD for teachers and support staff is driven by the provincial mandates, versus local insights, especially in regards to the provincial math strategy. Superintendent Silver replied that the Board is working hard at the rollout of the provincial math strategy, while attempting to balance success in other areas. As boards have been working on building the capacity of math leads in schools, those two years of learning can now be spread through schools.

Trustee Ross asked when the Board expects to see the results from the new math strategy. Superintendent Silver replied that it is difficult to answer that question. There has been very good work in primary and grade 9, but the focus needs to be on spreading knowledge throughout all grades.

Trustee Ruttan stated that she understands that kids tend to do better when they have parents that are invested in their education. Superintendent Babcock stated that data has shown that students whose parents check in, show support and assist their children do have higher academic results.

Trustee Chadwick asked how the EQOA data is shared. Superintendent Babcock answered that the data is shared at parent councils, school websites and the Board website.

Director Rantz thanked the Program Team and Senior Staff for their hard work.

b) Summer Programming Report

Superintendent Silver and Associate Superintendent Sartor provide an update on the LDSB's Summer Programming.

The Board offers a combination of credit and non-credit programs during the summer. The credit program offers students the opportunity to reach ahead to take a new credit, or to improve a credit. Summer Session runs as a secondary school, with a site Principal and Vice Principal, as well as supports for students through student success. This year, there were over 850 students who obtained credits through summer session.

For the non-credit programs the Board offers the Focus on Youth program, which provides opportunities for children and youth to be engaged in programming and employment in safe and supportive environments. It also runs Literacy and Math camps, for students identified as working at least a grade below their current grade level.

Summer session data will be reviewed to determine which students attended for "reach ahead" credits, and which students attended to repeat credits, either to improve their initial mark or because they failed a credit. This data will be used as part of a larger review of summer session, which will include information from previous years.

Pre and post assessment data was collected for both the Literacy and Math Camps. Progress Reports were also completed for each student and forwarded to their home school for review by the school team. A copy of the progress report was then sent home to parents.

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A review of the “Count on Me” Math Pilot Camp will be completed to determine feasibility for the 2019 summer session.

Trustee French asked how many students from across the region access summer school, specifically those outside the City of Kingston. Superintendent Silver replied that she can look at the data of the students who attended, to see what areas they came from and report back to the Board.

Trustee Murray asked if there was data regarding the effects of withdrawing transportation for summer school. Superintendent Silver answered that she can investigate, but did not think that it had affected enrolment numbers in any significant way. There were no concerns from students reported when transportation was stopped. Students who would have used it in the past used their City Transit pass instead.

Trustee Ross asked how summer school is funded. Superintendent Babin stated that funding is based on actual enrolment numbers of summer school students.

Trustee McGregor stated that many GREC and NAEC students who fail classes cannot get in to town for summer school. She asked how the Board is supporting these students. Superintendent Silver answered that she has been reaching out to other boards to see what models they are using for summer school. She also stated that e-learning and co-op credits are accessible for all students. The Board is open to changes to the summer school model.

c) Early ON Centres

Superintendent Babcock stated that in February 2016, the Ministry of Education announced a provincial plan for moving forward with the integration and transformation of child and family programs. This fulfilled the commitment made in the Ontario Early Years Policy Framework (2013) and reiterated in *Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario* (2014) to develop an approach for integrating EDU-funded child and family programs. This further supports the goal of building coherence between early years programs, full-day Kindergarten and grades 1 – 3 enhanced collaboration between early years and education partners; providing seamless and integrated experiences for children and families.

The Ministry gave the responsibility of determining centre locations to the municipalities. The Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) worked with local partners including school boards to identify areas of need. The Kingston CMSM and the Limestone District School Board have partnered to establish eight Early ON Centres located in our elementary schools: Bayridge P.S., Centennial P.S., École James R Henderson P.S., Glenburnie P.S., Joyceville P.S., Rideau Heights P.S., Katarokwi Learning Centre, Clarendon P.S. The Centres will operate during the instructional hours and on non-instructional days. The Centres are operated by Third Party Providers: Boys and Girls Club, Kingston Community Health Centre, and Rural Frontenac Community Services. Additional information is available as a link on the Limestone District School Board website or by going to EarlyON@cityofkingston.ca

LDSB is now working with the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington CMSM to identify possible school locations within that municipality.

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Trustee Garrod withdrew at 6:20 p.m.

Trustee Ross asked how information flows between Early ON Centres and school boards. Superintendent Babcock answered that that type of information would not be shared due to Freedom of Information. Information sharing would happen at a transition meeting to prepare a student for entering kindergarten, if/when special needs have been identified by parents or a family physician.

Trustee French asked why there were no locations currently operating in L&A County. Superintendent Babcock replied that the municipalities are responsible for finding the locations within their areas. Kingston area began the work in the spring last year, but L&A has only begun their work in the past couple of weeks.

Trustee McGregor stated that Early ON Centres are not always in schools. There is one in Sharbot Lake that is located in a community building.

2. Reports Requiring Decision

a) Honoraria for Trustees

Superintendent Babin stated that for a term of office, the honorarium as identified in Ontario Regulation 357/06 for a Trustee of a district school board, in respect of any year of his or her term of office, shall consist of a base amount, enrolment amount, attendance amount and a distance amount. The Vice-Chair of the Board and the Chair of the Board receive additional amounts.

As part of the 2018-2019 Grants for Student Needs release in April 2018 the Ministry mentioned that they would be engaging with the Trustees' Associations to revisit the Trustee honorarium formula and as an interim measure the base amount would be increased by \$400 to \$6,300 effective 2018-2019.

In August 2018 the Ministry released a memo stating the \$400 adjustment to the base amount is being suspended until the new government can conduct a review and that the base amount will remain at \$5,900.

Also, Regulation 357/06 currently has a provision to adjust the base amount by the annual Ontario Consumer Price Index (C.P.I), however the previous government subsequently passed the *Public Sector Compensation Restraint to Protect Public Services Act 2010* which restricted implementing any C.P.I adjustment to the base amount. On December 1, 2018 new changes to the regulation will be coming into force which will remove reference to a C.P.I. adjustment.

The enrolment amount limit per Trustee is \$1.75 per Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) divided by the number of board trustees. The enrolment amount is updated annually based upon the ADE reflected in the Board's estimates and submitted to the Ministry.

Beginning in 2006, a maximum amount of \$1,200 per Trustee was provided through the Grants for Student Needs allocation and assumes Trustee attendance at two committees of the board per month, at \$50 per meeting.

The Vice-Chair of the Board receives \$2,500 plus an enrolment amount of \$0.05 per ADE.

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This amount is updated annually and is in addition to the honorarium payable to a Trustee.

The Chair of the Board receives \$5,000 plus an enrolment amount of \$0.10 per ADE. This amount is updated annually and is in addition to the honorarium payable to a Trustee.

The current honoraria paid to Trustees is as follows:

Trustee	\$10,964.68
Vice-Chair	\$13,961.57
Chair	\$16,958.46

The honoraria effective December 1, 2018 adjusted for enrolment would be as follows:

Trustee	\$10,820.50
Vice-Chair	\$13,798.85
Chair	\$16,777.20

The reason for the year-over-year decrease in the above honoraria is the impact of declining enrolment. Regulation 357/06 requires the enrolment amount to be based upon the ADE reflected in the Board's estimates and submitted to the Ministry. Currently one-third of the honoraria paid to Trustees is designated as an allowance for expenses and under section 81(3) of the *Income Tax Act (Canada)*. This amount is tax exempt.

Effective January 1, 2019 changes from the recent federal budget come into force that eliminates this exemption. OPSBA has recently advised that the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) has requested a meeting with the Minister of Finance (Canada) to discuss concerns regarding the elimination of this exemption.

MOTION: That the honoraria for members of the Board will be set in accordance with the Education Act, Ontario Regulation 357/06 and Ministry funding provisions and shall be as follows:

- *a base amount of \$5,900 per Trustee plus 100% of the C.P.I. adjustments as permitted by Regulation;*
- *100% of the annual enrolment permitted by regulation;*
- *an attendance amount of \$50 limit per meeting permitted by regulation, set at \$1,200 per Trustee; and*
- *an additional amount of \$5,000 for the Chair of the Board and \$2,500 for the Vice-Chair of the Board.*

MOVED BY: Trustee French.

Trustee Murray thanked Superintendent Babin for the update on the income tax issue. She stated that she was very disappointed with the change.

Trustee Chadwick asked if the changes affect provincial income tax, or if it affects what Trustees can claim as expenses.

Superintendent Babin stated that it is likely that Trustees would see more taxes being paid, and believes the federal changes are in concert with provincial income taxes. LDSB policy

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is quite specific on what Trustees can claim, and is similar to a school board staff, such as mileage or other travel expenses, PD costs, internet, etc.

Director Rantz clarified that Board staff does not claim internet charges.

Trustee French stated that she has a tax claim tips document that can be shared with Trustees as a reference.

Student Trustee Kim asked if there were any changes to student Trustee honoraria. Superintendent Babin answered that there is no effect on Student Trustees.

Trustee McGregor asked if some school boards actually count Trustee meeting attendance. Superintendent Babin answered that he believes that some do, but that LDSB choose to have a flat rate of \$1200 for meeting attendance per Trustee.

Roll Call vote:

The non-binding recorded vote was as follows:

YEAS: Trustee Chadwick, Trustee French, Trustee McGregor, Trustee Murray, Trustee Ross, Trustee Ruttan, Trustee Kim, (7)

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: Trustee Mahoney, Trustee Crawford, Trustee Garrod,

The binding recorded vote was as follows:

YEAS: Trustee Chadwick, Trustee French, Trustee McGregor, Trustee Murray, Trustee Ross, Trustee Ruttan, (6)

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: Trustee Mahoney, Trustee Crawford, Trustee Garrod,

The motion was Called and Carried (6:0).

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) is October 17, 2018.

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Adjournment

Chair Ruttan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.