

## EDUCATION, POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2022

### PUBLIC MEETING

#### Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott L. French T. Gingrich (Vice-Chair) B. Godkin R. Hutcheon K. McGregor J. Morning S. Ruttan (Chair) T. Duncan (Student Trustee) S. Johnson (Student Trustee) (Regrets) B. Roy (Student Trustee) (Regrets)	K. Burra, Director of Education J. Douglas, Communications Officer (Producer) S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent J. Silver, Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	W. Moore, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

Chair Gingrich welcomed everyone to the meeting. He began the meeting by reading the 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.”

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Gingrich called the meeting to order.

## 2. Adoption of Agenda

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

## 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Elliott declared that his wife is an employee of LDSB, and member of ETFO.

## 4. Reports for Information

### 4.1 Preparing for the 2022-School Board Election

Superintendent Young indicated to Trustees that there are rules governing the number and distribution of Trustee positions in Section 58.1 of the Education Act, and in Ontario Regulations 412/10. School Boards are required to complete a report on the determination and distribution of Trustees and it shall be submitted by the end of March on an election year. Boards are also required, if they have more than one municipality, to pass a resolution that either designates one or more municipalities as low population municipalities, or that the board has to decide not to designate any municipality as a low population municipality. For clarity, Superintendent Young advised that a low population designation results in greater representation for a municipality than it would otherwise based upon its population, however, it does not change the number of Trustees elected.

Superintendent Young advised that at the Property and Operations Committee Meeting on March 7, 2018, a recommendation was approved that the municipalities of North Frontenac, Central Frontenac and Addington Highlands be designated as low population municipalities, as recommended in similar years. This recommendation would need to be approved again at a future Board meeting in order for this designation to be continued for the 2022 Trustee distribution.

Superintendent Young noted that the calculation for the number of Trustees is determined by the population of the electoral group and by board density. For LDSB board density is not a factor and hence population of the electoral group is the only factor.

Superintendent Young provided the electoral group population numbers for the four previous election years. The regulation stipulates that for a population of an electoral group of between 100,000 to 149,000 persons, LDSB would be eligible to have nine (9) Trustees. For a population of between 150,000 to 249,000, the maximum number increases by one, to ten (10) Trustees. Early indications show that the LDSB may surpass the 150,000 persons threshold of electoral population. These numbers will be confirmed with the 2022 Population of Electoral Group report, from MPAC by

February 15, 2022, which will identify the board's electoral population who are residents in each township/municipality and for the City of Kingston by districts.

Superintendent Young advised that Trustees would receive an administrative report containing the 2022 electoral group population data from MPAC, with a recommendation on the determination of Trustees for the 2022 election per Ontario Regulation 412/00, at the March 9, 2022 EPOC Meeting. Trustees will determine the electoral distribution model for the 2022 election at the March 30, Regular Board Meeting. Superintendent Young outlined some further significant dates and deadlines in his report.

Chair Gingrich thanked Superintendent Young for the report and called upon Trustees for questions.

## 4.2 COVID-19 UPDATE

Director Burra advised Trustees that the intent of the report tonight was to build on the previous report provided to Trustees at the January 12, 2022 Regular Board Meeting. Some of this information is not new, however, there are some key updates that Director Burra will highlight.

The most significant shift at this point in time, is how cases are tracked and monitored. Previously, suspected and positive cases were closely tracked, monitored, and investigated by Public Health authorities. That process stopped at the end of December. This change has fundamentally altered what data is available in the education sector, and what data is available across the province. Given these changes, the Ministry of Education has suspended reporting of COVID-19 cases in schools, a move informed and supported by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and local Public Health. Director Burra outlined the issues and challenges faced when considering different options for potential reporting. He noted that while it is understood this paradigm change in reporting has caused concern among some families, given the Ministry of Health and KFL&A Public Health do not support school boards sharing additional personal health information, to this point Limestone has deferred to their guidance and expertise as the primary authorities responsible for public health.

Senior Staff provided further updates to Trustees on the following:

- Absence Reporting Tool
- Staff Absences
- Elementary Virtual School
- Secondary Virtual School
- Short-Term Virtual and Community of Learning
- Rapid Antigen Tests

- School-Based Vaccination Clinics
- Extracurriculars
- Community Use of Schools
- HEPA Unit Deployment

Chair Gingrich thanked Director Burra and senior staff for the report and called upon Trustees for questions.

## 5. Reports for Action

### 5.1 School Year Calendar 2022-2023

Superintendent Gillam provided Trustees with some highlights of the School Year Calendar 2022-2023 Report. Provincial Regulation 304 directs and guides school boards in their calendar submissions each year. Boards are required to have a minimum of 194 days in their calendars and for Limestone that means seven (7) PA days and 187 instructional days. All boards must submit an approved calendar to the Ministry for approval by March 1, 2022, regardless of it being a modified calendar, or a calendar which follows the Ministry's guidelines. Limestone's suggested calendar is a modified calendar, with the suggested move of the first week of the December break.

Superintendent Gillam advised that the three co-terminous school boards come together to create a similar calendar as all three boards rely on Tri-Board Student Transportation Services for student transportation, and there is a cost associated with going outside the respected calendars.

Superintendent Gillam provided information on the School Year Calendar Committee composition and then outlined the three calendar options for Trustees to review. Superintendent Gillam reviewed the survey results on the calendar options.

*Moved by Trustee Godkin that the Trustees approve Calendar Option 2 for the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar. Carried.*

### 5.2 A Summary of Policy Input through Consultation

Director Burra indicated that Trustees spent some time in the fall making edits to policy and did reach out to the public for consultation for policies under review. At the November 10, 2021 EPOC meeting, the Director did share that public consultation information with Trustees, and Trustees were provided an additional opportunity for feedback. Appendix A and B in the package

are the two areas of focus, Policy 13 – Delegations and Submission, and Article III, Section 3 – Vacancies on the Board. Director Burra recommended that Trustees review the edits made to Policy 13 and Bylaw Article III, Section 3, based on public feedback and Trustee responses, and consider approving as amended, or with additional edits.

*MOVED by Trustee Elliott that Trustees approve Board Policy 13 – Delegations and Submissions, as amended, or with additional edits; and further that Trustees approve Bylaw Article III, Section 3, as amended, or with additional edits.*

Director Burra noted that there is a decision to be made by Trustees around Article III, Section 3.2.4 Selection Committee & interview Process. The feedback was split as to the composition of the Selection Committee, being either (1) all Trustees or (2) the Director and perhaps just the Chair and Vice-Chair.

In response to a clarification question, Director Burra did indicate that a decision would need to be made around the Selection Committee and the different people who would be part of the discussions on making the recommendation to the Board. The intent of having the motion come forward is to start the discussion of these edits now, with final approval at the next Board Meeting, with the approval of the minutes, and these could be reopened at that stage. The motion is to carry forward with the edits as they stand here, or to make further amendments, as part of the process to bring to the Board later in the month.

Trustee Elliott withdrew his motion, to allow for discussion on the edits.

Trustee French suggested that the Selection Committee consist of all Trustees and remove the following wording from Section 3.2.4 *“and/or The Selection Committee should include the Director and perhaps just the Chair and Vice-Chair to provide a recommendation to the Board.”* All Trustees approved this edit.

Trustees agreed to add an additional line in Section 1.0.0 Delegations & Submissions: *“People needing assistance to provide a delegation or submission, or who have questions, can contact the Director’s office for assistance.”*

Trustees agreed with Trustee Elliott’s request that in Board Policy 13 – Delegations and Submissions the times include p.m.

It was questioned whether the word “Normally,” should be removed from the line, in Section 1.10.0, in Policy 13 “Normally, a delegation cannot make a presentation on a topic on which a decision has been made.” After some discussion, Chair Gingrich asked for a show of hands for Trustees wanting to keep the word “Normally” in the sentence, and a show of hands wanting to remove the word “Normally” from the sentence. With four Trustees for and four Trustees against, Chair Gingrich cast the final vote to keep the word “Normally” in the sentence.

*MOVED by Trustee Elliott that Trustees approve Board Policy 13 – Delegations and Submissions, as amended, or with additional edits; and further that Trustees approve Bylaw Article III, Section 3, as amended, or with additional edits. Carried.*

## 6. Unfinished Business

None at this time.

## 7. New Business

None at this time.

## 8. Correspondence

**8.1** Correspondence to the Minister of Education, CMOH, MOH for KFL&A PH and MOH for HPE PH, provided for information.

**8.2** Correspondence to Minister of Education and Treasury Board, dated January 28, 2022, provided for information.

## 9. Next Meeting Date

March 9, 2022

## 10. Adjournment

*Moved by Trustee McGregor that the meeting adjourn. Carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.