

EDUCATION, POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2022

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott L. French (Regrets) 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 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

Trustee Ruttan asked, that under New Business, an item, “Representation on the School Pedestrian Safety Working Group,” be added to the agenda.

MOVED BY: Trustee Ruttan that the agenda, as amended, 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 Mandatory eLearning Credits

Superintendent Silver stated that the report outlines the new mandatory graduation requirement for students, which includes two eLearning courses. On February 1, 2022, the Ministry of Education issued a new Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 167 which formalized the new mandatory eLearning requirement for students. Boards had heard this announcement in 2019, beginning with that cohort of Grade 9 students in 2020-2021, which would be this year’s Grade 10 students.

Superintendent Silver advised that students must earn two online learning credits to obtain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), and typically students will take those courses in Grade 11 and Grade 12, but some may also take them in summer school.

Superintendent Silver noted that the Ministry has also adjusted the funding to align with the change, so there is a funding reduction. The eLearning courses are staffed at a greater class size, so the funding reduction is for two eLearning classes per student, staffed at 30:1 as opposed to 23:1. In Limestone that is approximately seven sections at the secondary level.

The Ministry did recognize the COVID-19 pandemic and the extraordinary circumstances last year with the school closures. This year’s Grade 10 students do get to count one credit, from last year’s school closures, towards the new graduation requirement and therefore only need to do one more online course. Many of them have already taken summer school and are already in eLearning courses this year, so for a number of students, they would have already met the requirements.

Superintendent Silver stated that there is an opt-out option for parents and guardians, which has been shared. There is also a list of FAQs on the website. There will be an opt-out form for parents/guardians in September, once it aligns with Aspen, our student information system, and generally the opt-out will happen during the student’s graduating year.

Limestone District School Board currently offers eLearning courses in partnership with 36 other school boards through the Ontario eLearning Consortium (OeLC). To support Limestone students taking this requirement next year, Limestone has increased the eLearning course offerings to Limestone students next year. These courses will be taught by Limestone District School Board teachers and will be offered to LDSB students prior to being included in the eLearning consortium for registration by students in other district school boards.

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

4.2 Board Composition – Indigenous Trustee

Superintendent Gillam advised that at the February 9, 2022 EPOC Meeting, Trustees requested an update related to options for Limestone District School Board to pursue regarding an Indigenous Trustee. In addition, a notice of motion was put forward at the February 23, 2022 Regular Board Meeting:

That the LDSB pursue the appointment of an Indigenous Trustee based on the option through Limestone’s Education Agreement with the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte.

At the May 29, 2019 EPOC Meeting, a fulsome report was provided by then Superintendent Burra, around Ontario Regulation 462/97, outlining the requirements for First Nations Representation on boards. One of the requirements, as Trustees will recall, is the existence of an Education Agreement with a First Nation. Limestone has had an Agreement with the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (MBQ) since September 2018.

Superintendent Gillam noted a few more information items under Regulation 462/97, regarding the ability to appoint a Trustee. The first one of note is where the number of students from a First Nation enrolled in schools is under the jurisdiction of a board with the Agreement. If the number of students exceed 25 per cent of the average daily enrolment, then two persons may be named under this Regulation. The second thing to note is where the number of students enrolled, where there is an Agreement, the lesser of the two, whether it is 10 per cent of the average daily enrolment, or 100 ADE, appointment of a Trustee may be made at the discretion of the Board.

Currently, Limestone DSB has five (5) students from MBQ attending Napanee District Secondary School. Five to ten years ago, this number has been as high as 15-20 students. Based on the regulations outlined in paragraphs (4) and (5) of the Report, Limestone is not required to appoint an Indigenous Trustee, however, because LDSB does have Indigenous students, it would be at the

discretion of the Board. Given the Education Agreement with MBQ provides the only regulatory mechanism for the appointment of an Indigenous Trustee, MBQ would have to be engaged in the process. At present there is no Regulatory provision for the addition of an Indigenous Trustee, outside that Regulation at this time. It should be noted that this does not need to be tied to Trustee Distribution.

Superintendent Gillam indicated that the cost of adding an additional Trustee would be approximately \$15,000. Trustees could choose to fund this additional cost from Governance funding. Or Trustees could choose a zero-cost option by reducing their compensation by approximately 10% to cover the honorarium for an additional Trustee, or reduce the number of Trustees allocated on the basis of Regulation 412/00 based on population from nine (9) to eight (8).

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

4.3 Trustee Distribution for the 2022 Election

Superintendent Young noted that at the February 23, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, Trustees approved the designation of the municipalities of North Frontenac, Central Frontenac, and Addington Highlands as low population municipalities. He advised that *Ontario Regulation 412/00* requires school boards to complete the D & D Report by the end of March in the year of the election and copies of the report are to be provided to the Minister of Education. There is some guidance provided to Trustees with regards to the distribution of Trustees and Section 4.(4) in carrying out its duties under this section, the Board shall have regard to the following principles, and in Limestone's case, "representation should not deviate unduly from the principle of representation by population."

Trustees directed staff at the February 23, 2022, Regular Board Meeting to present several alternative distribution models with mapping of schools and wards for decision making purposes. Superintendent Young outlined the four options, with maps showing the electoral population distribution per Trustee, combined with schools and student populations.

Option 1 – this option shows the existing Trustee distribution for the municipality of Kingston and surrounding municipalities with the 2022 electoral population and 2021-2022 enrolments.

Option 2 – this option details a proposal as provided by Vice-Chair Gingrich showing a distribution by combining wards within the municipality of Kingston while keeping the representation in the surrounding municipalities as per the 2018 election.

Option 3 – this option shows the City of Kingston and Frontenac Islands at large represented by five (5) Trustees with the representation in the surrounding municipalities as per the 2018 election.

Option 4 – this option details an alternate distribution within the City of Kingston and Frontenac Islands by combining wards in close proximity, equalizing the electoral population and student population to the extent possible, and with the representation in the surrounding municipalities as per the 2018 election.

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

After some discussion it was agreed that Option 1 would be removed from the table. Trustees agreed to hold a Special Committee Meeting, immediately following the Special Education Advisory Committee on March 23, 2022, to provide Trustees with a bit more time to review the options.

5. Reports for Action

None at this time.

6. Unfinished Business

None at this time.

7. New Business

7.1 Representation on the School Pedestrian Safety Working Group.

Trustee Ruttan advised that the City of Kingston is asking Limestone for a Trustee representative to sit on the School Pedestrian Safety Working Group. The working group is intended to focus broadly on school traffic flow issues across the City. Although the Lancaster Drive area will certainly form part of the discussion, the initial intent is to discuss how all the stakeholders can work together, understand approaches that may already be in use, and help establish prioritization of how the known issues are tackled. A member of Senior Staff, the Manager of Facility Services, and a parent representative from PIC have been identified to sit on the Committee. Trustee Morning volunteered to sit on the working group as the LDSB Trustee representative and staff will advise the City accordingly.

8. Correspondence

None at this time.

9. **Next Meeting Date**

April 13, 2022

10. **Resolve into Committee of the Whole Private Session**

Motion to move into Private Session was moved by Trustee Elliott. Carried.

11. **For Information**

11.1 Labour Matter – Superintendent Young provided a labour update.

12. **Report to Public Session**

At the Regular Board Meeting of March 30, 2022.

13. **Adjourn**

Moved by Trustee Hutcheon that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.