

EDUCATION, POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 1, 2022

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll call:

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| Trustees: | Staff: |
| J. Brown G. Elliott (Regrets) L. French T. Gingrich (Vice-Chair) B. Godkin R. Hutcheon K. McGregor J. Morning (Regrets) S. Ruttan (Chair) T. Duncan (Student Trustee) (Regrets) S. Johnson (Student Trustee) (Regrets) B. Roy (Student Trustee) | K. Burra, Director of Education S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education J. Silver, Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business |
| 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 and called the roll.

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts declared.

4. Reports for Information

4.1 Outdoor Education Report

Superintendent McDonnell introduced Nate Zahn, the Outdoor Education Consultant who shared some specifics of the Outdoor Education Programming offer for summer 2022.

Nate Zahn noted that Limestone District School Board has had a partnership with the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority since the late 1960s. Then in the late 1970s summer, credit based outdoor education programming started, with “Outreach.” Typically, Gould Lake Outdoor Centre (GLOC) sees 7,500 elementary students and 1,000 secondary students in a school year and around 500 students in the summer. For the summer programs, students in Grades 1-3 and Grades 7-12 can participate in either day camps or trip programs to earn credits and other certifications during trips that range from 5 to 25 days. There are seven different graduated programs that build on the previous year’s skills and follow the Ontario curriculum.

Nate Zahn indicated that “Friends of Outreach” (FOO) is a charitable trust that was formed in 1996 consisting of current and former Gould Lake staff, students and parents. The primary function of FOO is to raise money to make it possible for students with financial limitations to participate in the Gould Lake programs. FOO can offset fifty per cent of program tuition. This summer, 10 students from Molly Brant Elementary School will have 100 per cent of their tuition covered by FOO.

Nate Zahn stated that of the 40 staff hired, most of them are returning students that went through the program. The certifications are outlined in OPHEA: National Lifeguard, Wilderness First Aid, Canoe Tripping 3 (for those taking students on canoe trips) and Flat Water Kayak Instructor (for those taking students on the Kayak trips).

Nate Zahn outlined a brief overview of the following programs:

- Nature Camp
- Outdoor Escape
- Outreach

- Quest
- Outdoor Leadership Program
- Outdoor Skills
- Leader-In Training

Nate Zahn pointed out that four programs were put on pause this summer. *The Outdoor Pursuits* was put on pause due to the uncertainty of travelling to the US. *The Girls Adventure Program* is the same credit and the same program as Quest, except that it is all females, so to scale it back, it was decided to merge this with Quest. He indicated that for *the Wilderness Instructor Course* and *the Kayak Instructor Course*, it was not feasible or safe to run trips because of the remote locations, as well as insufficient certifications and experience, because of the graduated program that he spoke about earlier, Gould Lake does not have students from the last two years to support these trips.,

Nate Zahn stated that after a two-year hiatus, GLOC is on track to run another summer with over 320 students. With 500 being the maximum in 2019, and although a bit down in numbers this year, the programming has been lessened, so he is still feeling great about the 320 students. It is hoped to re-introduce some programs and sessions next year, and try to offer outdoor opportunities to students at schools who are identified in need of support, using an equity lens.

Chair Gingrich thanked Superintendent McDonnell and Nate Zahn for the report and presentation and called upon Trustees for questions.

4.2 OCT Sexual Abuse Prevention Training for Certification

Superintendent McWilliams shared an overview of the Ontario College of Teachers' (OCT) New Sexual Abuse Prevention Program that all current and prospective teachers must complete. This program came into effect January 3, 2022 and all Ontario Certified teachers, applicants and re-applicants are required to complete the online program by September 15, 2022. Successful completion of the program requires passing the assessment component with a minimum score of 80 per cent. If someone is coming into the profession new, not yet certified, but seeking certification and has not finished the program, they will not receive certification until the program has been completed.

Superintendent McWilliams stated that there are a series of video modules to watch and a number of case studies with those modules that apply their learning throughout, such as:

- How to recognize when a student may be disclosing that they have been abused.
- Understanding how groomers abuse their targets.

- The harmful effects of the abuse.
- Healthy relationships with trusted adults can help individuals who have experienced abuse and successfully recover.
- Reporting requirements around that.

Boards are required to provide time for teachers to complete this important training on a Professional Development Day, prior to September 15, 2022. Time will therefore be designated on the June 30 PA Day.

Superintendent McWilliams noted that Boards have legal responsibilities when dealing with scenarios with teachers. For example, when making a report to the OCT is a requirement. These requirements have been adjusted over time. As they continue to work to protect students, the OCT have implemented some new reporting obligations for their members, including that all College members must file a report, in writing, with the registrar if they have been found guilty of an offence. Probably the more nuanced one, that has more implications than what most school boards have had in the past, is the requirement to report in writing to the registrar if the member is charged with an offence, and any pending bail conditions, or any forms of restrictions that may be placed on their ability to actively be in schools in front of children. The College has really stepped up the reporting requirements, because in the past, someone may have been charged with an offence, but until that actively worked its way in the entire system, the outcome would not have necessarily been public. Now if someone has even been charged with something that has implications for the classroom and students' safety, that will be in the forefront and noted on the certificate of qualifications.

Superintendent McWilliams noted that the system, for public education as a whole, is doing what it can to ensure the safety of children when entrusted in our care.

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

4.3 Graduation Rates

Superintendent Silver stated the four- and five-year graduation rates for Limestone are noted in the first graph of the report. Limestone usually has approximately 1,400 students per secondary cohort. A cohort is students who join one of Limestone's schools in Grade 9. Every student that joins one of our schools in Grade 9 becomes a part of that cohort, regardless of whether they change schools, changes boards, or change provinces. The Ministry tracks that data provincially, through OnSIS, and

then shares that information back with boards to do tracking and checking, prior to releasing grad rate information. The data shown for the 2016-2017 cohort is preliminary at this time, as Limestone has not received Ministry confirmation of that data.

Superintendent Silver indicated that grad rates for subsets of the secondary student population has also been provided. These subsets represent a much smaller number of students, so there is greater variation in the trend lines over time, as each student represents a much greater percentage of the total cohort.

Superintendent Silver reviewed the four- and five-year grad rates for students who have formally self-identified as Indigenous, First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit, as well as for students with special education needs.

Superintendent Silver advised that supporting students to graduation is a focus of School Student Success Teams. Student Success Teams regularly track student achievement data, support credit rescue and credit recovery attempts, and monitor student completion of graduation requirements to support students to graduation.

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

In response to a question, Superintendent Silver indicated that traditionally, Senior Staff has provided schools with Student Success Indicators Reports, which is local data about LDSB students. These locally created reports look at credit accumulation, at the number of students on track to graduate, the provincial standard rate, and associated data. Senior Staff can certainly look to bring something similar to Trustees in the fall, as Limestone would have data in the late fall for this year (2021-22). These reports have not been created for the last couple of years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reporting on the 2021-2022 school year could certainly be done in terms of local data, and could then separate out the number of students with special education needs working towards a certificate, and those types of things. That is the data that schools look at because they look at their specific students.

5. Reports for Action

None at this time.

6. Unfinished Business

None at this time.

7. **New Business**

None at this time.

8. **Correspondence**

None at this time.

9. **Next Meeting Date**

September 7, 2022

10. **Adjournment**

Moved by Trustee McGregor that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.