

## EDUCATION, POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 8, 2023

### PUBLIC MEETING

#### Roll call:

<b>Trustees:</b>	<b>Staff:</b>
J. Brown G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) T. Lloyd K. Maracle (Regrets) K. McGregor (Regrets) J. Morning J. Neill S. Ruttan M. Elshrief (Student Trustee) E. Jackson (Student Trustee) (Regrets) J. Kolosov (Student Trustee) (Regrets)	K. Burra, Director of Education J. Douglas, Communications Officer S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent
<b>Guests:</b>	<b>Recorder:</b>
Educational Services Principal, Michael Blackburn	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

Chair Godkin welcomed everyone to the meeting. He called upon Trustee Hutcheon to read 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 Godkin called the meeting to order and called the roll.

## 2. Adoption of Agenda

*MOVED BY: Trustee Ruttan that the agenda, as amended, be approved. Carried.*

## 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts declared.

## 4. Reports for Information

### 4.1 Right to Read Follow up.

Associate Superintendent Sartor shared an overview of the Limestone District School Boards' response to the Ontario Human Rights Commissions' (OHRC) Right to Read report. The report contains 175 recommendations for the Ministry of Education, Faculties of Education and school boards with over half of the recommendations advising action. She explained that there are five main categories that these recommendations can be divided into.

- 1) Curriculum and Instruction
- 2) Early Screening
- 3) Reading Interventions
- 4) Accommodations
- 5) Professional Assessments

The largest implication is the revision of the elementary language arts curriculum, which is currently underway and will be released for implementation in the fall of 2023.

Associate Superintendent Sartor highlighted the important literacy work completed during the 2021-2022 school year. The focus of the work was closely aligned with many of the recommendations included in the OHRC report. She emphasized 4 key initiatives:

- Learning Coaches in the classroom
- Professional Learning for Administrators
- Acadience Pilot – Universal Screening for K-2
- Expansion of Empower

She concluded that critical and necessary changes to the literacy program will continue to be made with intentionality, support, and collaboration.

Chair Godkin thanked Associate Superintendent Sartor and called upon Trustees for questions.

## 4.2 School Year Calendar

Associate Superintendent Gollogly introduced the report outlining the School Year Calendar process for 2023/24. Three school boards in the Tri-Board Consortium, Limestone District School Board, Hastings Prince Edward County District School Board and Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, traditionally collaborate to create a common calendar. At this time, the template has not been released from the Ministry of Education ahead of the March 1, 2023, deadline for approval.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly took Trustees through three calendar options that are currently being considered. Two of the options presented follow a more traditional calendar. The third option includes a less traditional format where the school year would start before Labour day to provide a break at the end of October.

A survey will go out to school communities for consultation which will include students, families, and staff for input.

Chair Godkin thanked Associate Superintendent Gollogly for her report and called on Trustees for questions.

## 4.3 Special Education Review

Superintendent Gillam introduced the Special Education Review. He indicated that the last time this was completed was in 2016, and he welcomed the Principal of Education Services, Michael Blackburn to take Trustees through the plan.

Principal Blackburn explained the purpose of the review is to identify key priorities and areas of focus. The 2023 goals of the review are to examine the current special education supports and services to identify areas for refinement and enhancement. This will be paired with gathering student, family, staff, and community partner voice to aid in identifying priority areas of impact for success of students with special education needs. Using the ThoughtExchange platform, one critical question will be asked: “What key supports and services are important for students with special education needs to experience success at school and reach their full potential?”

There are two specific timelines for gathering voice for the review. The first group surveyed will include students with special education needs and their families. The information gathered from this group will be shared in the next review with Limestone staff and community members/partners. Principal Blackburn indicated that the next steps after gathering information through the exchange will be to analyze the data and share it back to the Board in the Fall of 2023.

Trustee Godkin thanked Superintendent Gillam and Principal Blackburn for their presentation and called upon Trustees for questions.

**5. Reports for Action**

None at this time.

**6. Unfinished Business**

None at this time.

**7. New Business**

**7.1 OPSBA Public Education Symposium – Roundtable Discussion**

Chair Godkin opened the floor for reflection on the recently attended Ontario Public School Board Association’s Public Education Symposium. The conference was held in Toronto from January 26-28, 2023. Trustees who attended the conference shared experiences and highlights from the various workshops, keynote speaker sessions, and networking opportunities.

**8. Correspondence**

None at this time.

**9. Next Meeting Date**

March 8, 2023

May 3, 2023

June 7, 2023

**10. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.