



We're Putting Wellness First



We're Turning Innovation into Action



We're Committed to Collaboration

LIMESTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Regular Board Meeting Wednesday, March 20, 2019 Limestone Education Centre 220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston 5:30 p.m.

Private Session

* In accordance with the Education Act, Section 207.(2) a meeting of a committee of a board including a committee of the whole board, may be closed to the public when the subject under consideration involves,

- (a) The security of the property of the board;
- (b) The disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a meeting of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;
- (c) The acquisition or disposal of a school site;
- (d) Decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board; or
- (e) Litigation affecting the board.

Motion to Move into Private Session

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Chair's Update

Director's Update

Action Items

- (a) Board Minutes – February 13, 2018
- (b) Committee of the Whole (Education Policy & Operations) – March 6, 2019

For Information

- (a) Personnel Update
- (b) Safe Schools Update
- (c) Property Update
- (d) OPSBA Update
- (e) Labour Update
- (f) Legal Matter

Report to Public Session

Regular Meeting - 6 p.m.

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."

Adoption of Agenda

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Private Session Report

Chair's Update

Director's Update

Presentation: Dual Credit Programs

Section A – Matters Requiring Action at the Meeting

1. Consent Agenda

- (a) Expressions of Condolences and/or Congratulations
- (b) Board Minutes – February 13, 2019 (Pages 5-16)
- (c) Reports from All Committees:
 - i) Special Education Advisory Committee – February 20, 2019 (Pages 17-21)
 - ii) Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) – March 6, 2019 (Pages 18-27)

2. Routine Matters

- a) OPSBA Report – Trustee French
- b) Report from Student Trustees

3. Reports For Information

- a) Women in Trades (WITT)/School Within a College (SWAC) Presentation - Associate Superintendent Gillam
- b) Ministry of Education Update (Verbal) - Director Rantz

4. Reports Requiring Decision

- a) School Year Calendar 2019-2020 – Associate Superintendent Gillam (Pages 28-32)

5. Notice of Motion

Trustee Morning provided the following Notice of Motion:

MOTION: That the Director, or designate, compiles a comprehensive review of Choices at Seven and Choices at Nine for the April 10th Board meeting, including the rationales for limiting admission and location of programs, the number of applicants vs. the number accepted, the criteria used to determine acceptance to these programs, and the educational implications of these factors.

Section B – Information

1. Internal Reports and Other Communications

2. External Reports and Other Communications (Pages 33-36)

- a) Minister's Announcement on Autism Supports – March 11, 2019
- b) OPSBA letter to the Minister re Ontario Autism Program – February 26, 2019

3. Communications Referred to Committee

4. Requests for Reports and/or Information

5. Other Business

6. Future Meetings

Audit Committee

- May 6, 2019 5:30 p.m.

Board Meetings

- April 10, 2019 6:00 p.m.
- May 22, 2019 6:00 p.m.
- June 19, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations)

- April 24, 2019 5:00 p.m.
- May 29, 2019 5:00 p.m.

Special Education Advisory Committee

- March 27, 2019 6:00 p.m.
- April 17, 2019 6:00 p.m.
- May 15, 2019 6:00 p.m.
- June 12, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee

- March 19, 2019 4:00 p.m.
- May 14, 2019 4:00 p.m.

Budget Committee

- April 17, 2019 4:30 p.m.
- May 14, 2019 4:30 p.m.
- June 12, 2019 4:30 p.m.
- June 17, 2019 4:30 p.m. (Tentative)

Parent Involvement Committee

- Spring TBA 7:00 p.m.
- May 9, 2019 7:00 p.m.

7. Other Special Meetings/Events

- LDSB Retirement Celebration June 11 7:00 pm Lancaster Drive P.S.
- OPSBA HR/Labour Relations Conference April 4-5, 2019
- OPSBA Eastern Region Meeting April 13, 2019
- OPSBA/CSBA AGMs and NTGIE July 4-6, 2019

8. Adjournment

Regular Board Meeting Minutes Limestone District School Board

February 13, 2019

A regular meeting (Business) of the Limestone District School Board was held in the Barry C. O'Connor Board Room at the Limestone Education Centre, 220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, Ontario, on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, at 5:45 p.m.

Private Session

Present:

Trustees: J. Brown
G. Elliott
L. French (Vice-Chair)
T. Gingrich
B. Godkin
R. Hutcheon
K. McGregor
J. Morning
S. Ruttan (Chair)
S. Hart (Student Trustee)
S. Kim (Student Trustee)

Officials: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education - regrets
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education
S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning For All
D. Rantz, Director of Education
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness and Assessment
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

MOTION: To move into Private Session.

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor, seconded by Trustee Brown. Carried.

Trustee Hutcheon stated she wanted it noted that she did not want to go into Private Session.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None at this time.

Chair's Update

No update at this time.

Director's Update

No update at this time.

Action Items

- (a) Board Minutes – January 16, 2019

MOVED BY: Trustee Gingrich, seconded by Trustee Brown, that the January 16, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes, Private Session, as distributed, be approved. Carried.

For Information

- (a) Personnel Update (Item (a) on Agenda)

No update at this time.

- (b) Safe Schools Update.

Associate Superintendent Gillam provided a Safe Schools update.

- (c) Property Update (Item (c) on Agenda)

No update at this time.

- (d) OPSBA Update (Item (d) on Agenda)

No update at this time.

- (e) Labour Update (Item (e) on Agenda)

No update at this time.

- (f) Legal Matter (Item (f) on Agenda)

Superintendent Young provided a Legal update.

Report to Public Session

Chair Ruttan called for a motion for the Board to rise and report.

MOTION: That the Board rise and report, and that the resolutions, as noted above, be made public.

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin, seconded by Trustee Morning. Carried.

The Board moved into Public Session at 6:20 p.m.

Public Session

Trustees: J. Brown
G. Elliott
L. French (Vice Chair)
T. Gingrich
B. Godkin
R. Hutcheon
K. McGregor
J. Morning
S. Ruttan (Chair)
S. Hart (Student Trustee)
S. Kim (Student Trustee)

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

Guests: R. Bowen – Grade 7/8 Guidance Teacher
L. Leeman – Grade 7/8 Guidance Teacher
M. McLeod – Construction Technology Teacher at Ernestown S.S.
G. Petznick – Experiential Learning Consultant
J. Quenneville – Itinerant Experiential Learning Teacher
S. Raby – Grade 7/8 Guidance Teacher
C. Tang – Grade 7/8 Guidance Teacher

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Chair Ruttan 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."

Adoption of Agenda

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor, seconded by Trustee Gingrich, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None at this time.

Private Session Report

Trustee French provided the report from Private Session:

In Private Session the following minutes were approved:

- Board minutes of January 16, 2019

There were updates on the following matters:

- Safe Schools
- Legal Matters

No other items were discussed or subject to a motion.

MOTION: That the Private Session report of February 13, 2019 be approved.

MOVED BY: Trustee French, seconded by Trustee Elliott. Carried.

Chair's Update

Chair Ruttan stated:

"It is with great sadness that I express condolences to Trustee Judith Brown on the sudden passing of her husband John. We are so sorry for your loss, and we hope that you feel surrounded by much love, care and concern during this difficult time.

Semester two is underway for our secondary students, and they are settling into their new courses, programs and pathways.

Every February, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month to honour the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians past and present. An advocate for the African and Caribbean communities, Trustee Judith Brown, is a key organizer of Kingston's Black History Month Opening Ceremony. Congratulations Trustee Brown on this important learning, and on being named this year's recipient of the Jim Bennett Award from the Kingston Branch of the Queen's University Alumni Association, for your decades of mentorship in the Kingston community and for your involvement with Queen's University.

Supporting our Strategic Goals through leadership and professional development is a commitment we as a Board pledge to our staff, and it is also important for us as a Board. The recent Ontario Public Education Symposium featured outstanding speakers and workshops to support the professional development of public school Trustees. As always, the symposium gave us all lots to consider. The Ontario Public School Boards' Association has worked diligently to bring Trustees' voices into government consultations and on education matters. The process for Trustees to provide input is through our provincial association. OPSBA undertake research, seeks input from member boards and works collectively with multiple education associations.

Also, I would like to say that the government does not always specifically seek the voice of Trustees during consultations, but Trustees may participate, as would any citizen, and taxpayer, through the avenues made available to the general public.

Monday represented the 100th day of school, a sort of half-way point in the school year. So, in closing, I would like to extend appreciation and congratulations to our students, staff and volunteers, many local, and provincial champions who performed so very well in various athletic and academic competitions."

Director's Update

Director Rantz stated:

"Good evening.

As Chair Ruttan mentioned, schools are celebrating and commemorating the rich culture and achievements of Black Canadians, this month and always. Limestone's program team has shared multiple resources, lesson plans, videos, and more to support teaching and learning opportunities in the classroom.

I would like to mention two examples of events that honour and deepen our understanding. A recent visual arts project at École Polson Park Public School celebrates the work and passion of Canada's Poet Laureate, George Elliott Clarke, and his poem, "Rollcall." The poem, written to commemorate Canada 150, recognizes the struggles and triumphs of Black Canadians. Students in Nicole Rea's class were inspired by the poem and created a large mural that is now on permanent display at the school. Last week, students shared their inquiry project with Mr. Clarke when he and his band performed "Rollcall" at an all-school assembly.

Semester 2 is underway in secondary schools. This week students will have an opportunity to learn more about Limestone's expanded opportunities for the 2019-2020 school year. Limestone's Find Your Focus Days allow students to explore various opportunities in all program pathways.

A program pathway is a selection of credits and experiences a secondary student may create or choose in one of four possible post-secondary destinations: Apprenticeship, College, University and Workplace. As in past years, Limestone staff and students will be on site this Friday Night, at the Leon's Centre during the Kingston Frontenac's game, to highlight these skilled trades and apprenticeship opportunities.

This week, for the first time in many years, we closed schools and offices for one day due to extreme inclement weather, as have numerous school boards across our province. The decision to remain open or to close is difficult, but it is always made with the safety of our students and staff in mind. There is considerable discussion and consultation prior to any bus cancellations and especially in the rare occurrence of closing. This week, we made the decision in consultation with our neighbouring school boards: Hastings and Prince Edward County District School Board and Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. Together, as part of the Tri-Board Student Transportation consortium, the three boards heeded Environment Canada's recommendation to stay off the roads due to the unpredictable nature and duration of the winter storm.

While inclement weather days are unfortunate, and when numerous can pose challenges, our educators are both resourceful and innovative in ensuring students receive the teaching

they require to be successful. It's important to note this is the case in many instances, not just inclement weather. Teachers often have to amend lessons based on a variety of factors such as sports, parent withdrawal, special event days and student illness. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we work to ensure the safety of students and staff.

February is the time for pre-registration for English or French Immersion Kindergarten programming across the district. Our online registration portal is now live, and families can register students via Board and school websites. This online tool is open to all new students in Limestone.

Finally, it has been a busy time since we all returned from winter break with much activity at our schools. Congratulations to all our students, staff and volunteers who ensure Limestone youth have an opportunity to participate fully in so many areas, from athletics to academics and other rich learning opportunities such as the FIRST Robotics and DECA competitions, Improv challenges, Waterloo University Math Challenges, and much more.

Working together, we can accomplish many things.

And, that concludes my report, Madame Chair."

Presentation: Pathways For All

Associate Superintendent Sartor introduced Richelle Bowen, Catherine Tang, Stephen Raby and Laurie Leeman, the four new 7/8 Guidance Counselors.

Associate Superintendent Gillam introduced Geoffrey Petznick (Experiential Learning Consultant), Matthew McLeod (Construction Technology Teacher) and Jason Quenneville (Itinerant Experiential Learning Teacher).

The Guidance Counselors shared information on their roles and responsibilities in their new positions, including helping elementary students create learner profiles, introducing financial literacy, building community connections, facilitating group & individual discussions and assistance with transition planning.

An overview of the My Blueprint program was shared, where students develop Digital Portfolios, and also work at goal setting, career exploration and course selections.

The counselors help students explore pathway options for post-secondary: apprenticeship training, college, university or the workplace. The counselors also work with the Expanded Opportunities staff to co-plan experiential learning.

J. Quenneville share information about the newly developed CLASS (Contextualized Learning Activities for Student Success) program, which is an innovative and responsive professional development model that builds capacity in teachers (grades 7 & 8) to provide integrated experiential learning. CLASS promotes student pathways and the expansion of the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) footprint in the Limestone District School Board through economic sector-based inquiry.

G. Petznick shared information about the Limestone Skills Competition that will happen on March 22, 2019 at St. Lawrence College.

M. McLeod shared information about StopGap ramps and raised garden beds, which are being built by Technomath students at Ernestown S.S.

Trustee Morning asked if students from other schools can opt in to programming at a different school that offers the experiential learning programming. J. Quenneville answered that he is working at building capacity in schools with teacher training, so that more LDSB staff can continue to offer the programming.

Trustee Elliott asked if other boards have this type of programming. Superintendent Silver answered that several other boards have the 7/8 Guidance Counselors, but that Limestone is ahead of the pack in the area of experiential learning.

Trustee Elliott asked if the Guidance positions rely on specific funding and how the Board can show that the positions are effective to continue the funding. It was confirmed that the funding is specific and that My Blueprint allows for metrics to show the program's success.

Trustee Brown stated that it was another great story to share.

Delegation: First Nations Trustee

Laurel Claus-Johnson provide a delegation on a request for a First Nations Trustee. She spoke to the following points:

- Self-introduction
- Cite the Ontario Regulation 462/97
- The non-reserve community of Katarokwi
- Outline inclusivity and equity
- Define visibility and voice [NAUWU]
- List my community involvements
- Provide support letters (2) from Pytor Hodgson and Maureen Buchanan (see attachment)
- Outline benefits to LDSB Trustees
- TRC relationship progression
- Request a nominated Trustee seat

Trustee French stated that the regulation speaks to an agreement made under Section 188 of the Act, and has a threshold of 100 students. She asked how many students there are at Napanee D.S.S. from the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte. Superintendent Burra replied that there are 6 students under this agreement.

Trustee Hutcheon asked if there are 6 at Napanee or the whole Board. Superintendent Burra answered that there are 6 students under the Ministry agreement with the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte at Napanee D.S.S., but that there are more self-identified FNMI students throughout the Board.

MOTION: That Senior Staff investigate the issue further and provide a report to the Board of Trustees. Carried.

Trustee Morning asked if LDSB only has one agreement under that Act. Superintendent Burra answered that it is a federally mandated process, not the Board's. Under the Act the Board only has one agreement, although there are other local Indigenous communities in the area.

It was clarified that the provincial government provides funding for all Indigenous students in the province. The federal government provides grants to schools boards who provides services to students attending their school from federally recognized council/band.

Section A – Matters Requiring Action at the Meeting

1. Consent Agenda

- (a) Expressions of Condolences and/or Congratulations
- (b) Board Minutes – January 16, 2019
- (c) Reports from All Committees:
 - i) Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee – January 16, 2019
 - ii) Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) – January 30, 2019

MOTION: That the Consent Agenda of January 16, 2019, as presented, be approved.

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin, seconded by Trustee Gingrich. Carried.

2. Routine Matter

- (a) OPSBA Report – Trustee McGregor

Trustee McGregor shared an update on the Public Education Symposium (PES) that occurred January 24-26, 2019 in Toronto:

- Delighted to announce that all of the Trustees from LDSB were in attendance
- Great variety of workshops; new Trustees and returning felt they were informative and useful
- Good overview of the role of OPSBA provincially
- Lively discussions, usually an indication of active engagement
- Opportunity to meet Trustees 1:1; valuable networking/sharing
- Legendary Michael “Pinball” Clemons keynote
- I particularly found The Ontario Ombudsman workshop interesting
- Eastern Region Meeting; Limestone shared new SS, Strategic Plan, Drone program, etc
- Minutes sent out by Judith February 12, 2019

The next Regional Meeting: Saturday April 13, 2019 in Ottawa at Gloucester High School-2060 Ogilvie Rd, Gloucester, ON-K1J 7N8

- (b) Report from Student Trustee(s)

Student Trustee Kim:

"Due to the inclement weather, the InterSchool Council Meeting that was scheduled for Tuesday February 11th was postponed to an undetermined date. The InterSchool Coffee House is still scheduled to be held on March 6th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at LCVI, and the InterSchool Lip Sync Battle Royale is still scheduled to be held on April 11 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at KCVI."

Student Trustee Hart:

"Next week, from Thursday February 21st to Saturday February 24th, Sean and I will be attending OTSA-AECO's annual Board Council Conference (BCC's) located in Ottawa. At the conference, we will learn new ways to represent and advocate for student voice, hear from amazing guest speakers, plan new and innovative initiatives, and learn about other initiatives our fellow Student Trustees from across Ontario have started within their respective school boards.

These are all of the updates from the Student Trustees. Thank you."

2. Reports for Information

a) Strategic Plan 2017- 2022 – One Year In

Director Rantz shared an update on the report to the community regarding the Board's end-of-year status report on the 2017-2018 Strategic Plan.

With one year of the five-year plan now passed, the collective work of staff and students has been highlighted in a retrospective video story: One-Year Retrospective – Wellness, Innovation & Collaboration. The video is available on the strategic plan website portal and focuses on specific examples of how:

- We're Putting Wellness First
- We're Turning Innovation into Action
- We're Committed to Collaboration

The video was shared: [One-Year Retrospective – Wellness, Innovation & Collaboration \(2017-2018\)](#)

b) Budget Planning Process

Superintendent Young shared information about the 2019-2020 budget development schedule.

It is expected, based upon prior year reporting timelines, that school boards will be required to submit their 2019-2020 Estimates by June 28, 2019.

Multi-year enrolment projections prepared last year by our consultant (Baragar Systems) continue to predict a further enrolment decline for 2019-2020. It is our practice to have our consultant review current enrolment and demographic data each year and update enrolment projections by February, such that school principals and Board staff can review in early March and begin the school staffing process for the upcoming school year.

The Board will conduct the following Budget Committee meeting this year:

- Wednesday April 17, 2019 (4:30 pm) - Review of 2019-2020 GSN Overview and Enrolment
- Tuesday May 14, 2019 (4:30 pm) - Budget Request Submissions & Preliminary Operating Revenue
- Wednesday June 12, 2019 (4:30 pm) - Preliminary Operating Expenditures/Preliminary Capital Revenue/Expenditures/Consolidated Budget
- Monday June 17, 2019 - Date held if meeting required

Trustee Morning asked what the student enrolment decline was for 2018-19. Superintendent Young answered that there was an actual increase of about 200 students, although overall projection for the next ten years is a continued decline.

Trustee Godkin asked when the Board looks at data for the past several years do they get information about demographics. Superintendent Young answered that the Board tracks birth rates in all LDSB areas, and uses the information to help plan for future enrolment. The Board also reviews other information sources, including historical data.

c) Health & Safety Update

Associate Superintendent Gillam shared that a report was made by a CUPE member regarding concerns with having an unlocked door at the Education Centre in the evenings. Often after night meetings attendees stay in the building for significant periods of time, while the custodian is performing their work. There are safety concerns associated with an unlocked door, in that the custodian cannot be sure who or how many people may be in the building.

The Board has agreed that twenty minutes is a reasonable timeframe to lock the door after the completion of a meeting.

Trustee Godkin asked how the Board tracks staff health issues, specifically those related to stress. Director Rantz replied that the Board brings regular Health & Safety updates to the board, and this area will be flagged for a future report.

3. Reports Requiring Decision

None at this time.

4. Notice of Motion

Trustee Hutcheon shared the following Notice of Motion:

MOTION: That the Director, or designate, investigates the options and feasibility of live-streaming and/or recording of public board meetings and brings a report to the March 20, 2019 board meeting for discussion.

MOVED BY: Trustee Hutcheon, seconded by Trustee Elliott.

Trustee McGregor offered a friendly amendment to remove date and replace with “as soon as possible”.

Trustee Hutcheon stated she wanted a firm date.

Trustee McGregor stated that using as soon as possible is part of the trust in staff that has been discussed. Trustees have never directed staff by time period to complete a report.

Director Rantz stated that the issue has been discussed with Senior Staff already, and that she had been anticipating a report being brought to the March 6 EPOC meeting. She suggested that after reviewing the information then the Board could give further direction on which path to pursue further.

Trustee Hutcheon accepted the friendly amendment.

MOTION: That the Director, or designate, investigates the options and feasibility of live-streaming and/or recording of public board meetings and brings a report as soon as possible.

Trustee Godkin asked that all areas the Director has investigated be shared in the report.

Trustee McGregor stated that her biggest concern with the motion would be related to cost. She requested the report contain cost estimates, including human costs. She also requested a way of measuring the cost against those who would access the service.

Trustee Morning suggested looking at sharing equipment from a school that already has it.

Trustees expressed agreement with a report coming forward on this matter and accepted that, in fact, Agenda Setting Committee had already planned to bring such a report to March EPOC.

Section B - Information

1. Internal Reports and Other Communications

2. External Reports and Other Communications

3. Communications Referred to Committee

None at this time.

4. Requests for Reports and/or Information

None at this time.

5. Other Business

Request for Business Cards

The Director stated she had received a request for business cards. She asked Trustees to identify who would like them. Trustees Godkin and Hutcheon asked for business cards.

6. Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Limestone District School Board of Trustees will take place on March 20, 2019.

7. Other Special Meetings/Events

See agenda listing.

8. Adjournment

Chair Ruttan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Trustee Elliott, seconded by Trustee McGregor, that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

**Special Education Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board**

February 20, 2019

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held in Barry C. O'Connor Board Room at the Limestone Education Centre, 220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, Ontario, on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees: K. McGregor, Chair
B. Godkin, Trustee

Members: A. Ballance, Family & Children's Services, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington.
N. Carson, Epilepsy South Eastern Ontario
P. Dendy, Member-at-Large
D. Jalovcic, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston
S. Henderson-Todd, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children
A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University)
L. Sansom, Association for Bright Children of Ontario
E. Sheldon, Community Living Kingston
S. Shunk, Member-at-Large

Staff: H. Box, Special Education Program Coordinator
S. Burnett, Special Education Program Coordinator
L. Conboy, Mental Health Lead
K. Leggett, Vice-Principal of Educational Services
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning for All
J. Murphy, Special Education Program Coordinator
D. Scarlett, Principal of Educational Services

Regrets: C. Tooley, Down Syndrome Association Kingston
N. Nicholson, Autism Ontario-Kingston Chapter
L. Rousseau, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator

Recorder: Liz Strange, Records Management Coordinator

1. Welcome

Trustee McGregor called the meeting to order, welcoming all those in attendance to the meeting.

Trustee McGregor read the Indigenous greeting:

"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."

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: N. Carson, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Associate Superintendent McDonnell called for nominations for Chair of SEAC.

Trustee Godkin nominated Trustee McGregor. Trustee McGregor accepted the nomination.

Associate Superintendent McDonnell called for nominations two more times. Hearing none, the nominations were closed.

Trustee McGregor was acclaimed as Chair.

Trustee McGregor called for nominations for Vice Chair of SEAC.

Erin Sheldon put her name forward for Vice Chair. The nominations were called two more times. Hearing none, Trustee McGregor closed the nominations.

Erin Sheldon was acclaimed as Vice Chair.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Business Arising From the Minutes

None at this time.

6. Presentation: Universal Design for Learning

J. Murphy and D. Scarlett provided a presentation on Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

An overview of the concept of UDL was shared, where it was stressed why UDL is important for all learners and how the foundation is being built to implement UDL in LDSB.

The UDL guidelines organizes and provides a language for teaching and learning, for all the materials and resources we already have. UDL organizes these and thinks of them in terms of how the different options reduce barriers for all learners to access, build, and internalize expert learning skills.

The UDL framework offers an overarching approach to designing meaningful learning opportunities that address learner variability and suggests purposeful, proactive attention to the design of goals, assessments, methods, and materials. The UDL Guidelines are a tool to support educators, curriculum developers, researchers, parents, and more to apply the UDL framework to practice.

UDL is about all about learners, and as such the concept is embedded in all areas, including the Board's Strategic Plan. Educational Services and program team continues to support staff with this learning through PD sessions, pre-surveys to ensure we know what teachers need with their learning, listening to teacher voices, and providing options and choices for learning. Educational Services is modeling the elements of UDL in our PD across the district.

Educational Services is always working toward meaningful inclusion through understanding the variability of the students in each classroom and providing options and opportunities that optimize learning for all students through choice.

7. Educational Services Update:

D. Scarlett shared an update on the Professional Development that has occurred over the past few months:

- Student Support Teacher/Learning Program Support Course occurred in the fall
- Learning Disabilities Learning Series: reading, writing, self-advocacy, executive functioning during month of January
- Putting the "Pro" in Proloquo2Go
- My Blue Print Professional Learning for Secondary Teachers in School to Community Programming during February
- Drop-in IEP and Report Card Support during month of January
- Implementing a Workbox System to Promote Student Independence
- Educational Services Leadership team continues to participate in numerous webinars, workshops, book studies and professional development to support our district learning in multiple areas including UDL
- Learning Program Support Teacher and Student Support Teacher Sessions throughout the school year: "Closing the Gaps"/ Diagnostics: student profiles/ data collection/ accommodations and modifications/ Universal Design for Learning
- Clinical Consultants participated in a webinar to learn more about autism
- Behaviour Management Systems trainings all throughout the year
- Elementary & Secondary SCS teachers were involved in professional development on the October PA day
- Online modules created for the district in Minds online (IDD and FASD)
- Google Read and Write support continues in schools across the district with additional evening sessions
- Overcoming Anxiety and School Refusal: Mar. 4 & 13
- Social Narratives and Video Modeling: Feb. 27
- Helping Students Manage Their Anger Using Cognitive Behaviour Theory: Apr.3
- SCS elementary and secondary teachers in on the PA day: April 5
- Eating and Weight-related Problems among student Population: May 2
- Compassion Fatigue: May 9
- Educational Services staff will participate in the Indigenous Blanket exercise
- Educational Services all staff participated in workshops in the area of mental health and Universal Design for Learning on the November PA day

It was clarified that My Blueprint is a tool to support students with course selection and post secondary planning, that provides an opportunity to link with outside resources to help with transitions. It is used with all students in grade seven and onward.

8. Correspondence

- Durham District School Board

This letter was regarding the reduction in SIP funding.

- Thames Valley District School Board

This letter is regarding rehab services being transition to children's treatment centres, and the concerns around waitlists.

9. Association Updates

As circulated with the meeting package.

10. Other Business

- i) Ministry Updates – Associate Superintendent Alison McDonnell

- 2018-19 Education Programs – Other (EPO)

The following transfer payment agreement(s) from the Ministry of Education related to special education are approved for the 2018-19 fiscal year:

- ASD - After School Skills Development Program
- Mental Health Workers
- Pilot to Support Transitions to Post-Secondary Pathways for Students with Developmental Disabilities
- Children and Youth in Care Transportation Supports (Application Process)
- Well-Being: Safe, Accepting and Healthy Schools and Mental Health – Theme Bundle
- Special Education Professional Assessments

- ii) Proposed Updates to EQAO Reporting Denominator

As part of its modernization process, EQAO is examining reporting practices including potentially changing how the denominator is used in EQAO reporting for Primary and Junior Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

- iii) Tri-Board SEAC

The Tri-Board SEAC will be held on May 15, 2019 at Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board from 5-7:30 p.m.

It was decided that the previous strategic planning document for SEAC would be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Special Education Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board**

February 20, 2019

11. Next Meeting Date

March 27, 2019

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY: E. Sheldon, that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) March 6, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

Trustees: J. Brown
G. Elliott
L. French (Vice-Chair) - regrets
T. Gingrich
B. Godkin
R. Hutcheon
K. McGregor
J. Morning
S. Ruttan (Chair)
S. Hart (Student Trustee) - regrets
S. Kim (Student Trustee)

Officials: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education - regrets
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education
D. Fowler, Manager of Facility Services
S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Learning For All
A. MacLeod, Manager of ITS
D. Rantz, Director of Education
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness & Assessment – regrets
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Private Session

MOTION: To move into Private Session.

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor. Carried.

Personnel

Superintendent Labrie provided a personnel update.

Property Update

Superintendent Young provided a property update.

MOTION: That Trustees authorize the Superintendent of Business Services to execute the sale of the former Yarker Family School with The Corporation of the County of Lennox and Addington for \$148,500.

MOVED BY: Trustee Morning. Carried.

Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) March 6, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

Labour Update

Superintendent Labrie provided a labour update.

MOTION: That the Board rise and report, and that the resolutions, as noted above, be made public.

MOVED BY: Trustee Gingrich. Carried.

Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) March 6, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

Public Session

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

Director Rantz stated that the Code of Conduct included in the meeting package was the previous version. A copy of the current version would be provided in hard copy and corrected in the meeting package.

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

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Elliott declared a conflict as his wife is a teacher with the LDSB.

Section A – Matters Requiring Action at the Meeting

Trustee Ruttan stated that policy is discussed twice a year at EPOC meetings.

Trustee Godkin asked who is involved in updating policies.

Trustee Ruttan answered that if it is legislative then Board staff and/or legal counsel would provide the changes. In other instances, staff may suggest changes, but the Board would also have input and final decision.

Trustee Godkin stated that he feels he needs more than a week to study a policy that may be up for review. It was clarified that the policies being reviewed have been vetted through our lawyer and have changes that must be made according to legislation.

1. Reports for Information

a) Live-streaming/Recording of Meetings

Superintendent Burra spoke to the report in the meeting package that provided information on the options and feasibility of live-streaming and/or recording of public board meetings.

To support transparency and public confidence in public education, the Limestone District School Board offers the following opportunities and formats for the public to obtain information about proceedings and decisions made at Board and Committee meetings:

- Publishes board agendas and board minutes on the Board's website
- Board Meetings and committee meetings are open to the public to attend
- "Boardroom Briefs" provides highlights of presentations, reports and decisions made at Board Meetings

Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) March 6, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

- “Around the Horseshoe” is published quarterly to provide the community with updates related to board business
- Board meetings are live tweeted on Twitter
- Publication of the Board’s Strategic Plan and related updates

In a recent survey of English Public School Boards in the province, 11 of the 31 school boards live-stream their Board Meetings. No data was collected from three school boards, and the remaining 17 boards do not currently live-stream meetings. It should be noted that one board that does not live-stream meetings does provide an audio file of the meeting on its website in the days following the meeting.

Of the boards live streaming meetings, most reported very low viewership of regular meetings ranging from 5 views to as many as 100. Larger school boards reported higher numbers within this range. Boards did indicate that during Program Accommodation Reviews there was marginally higher viewership.

Boards live-streaming meetings indicated that live-streaming made meetings more accessible for members of the public and the media. Disadvantages cited were the cost of equipment, and salaries for two or more staff to support the live-streaming.

A range of technical options exist for live-streaming/recording meetings. It should be noted that most boards report that the quality of the video and audio capture is a significant factor in determining what equipment provides a viable vehicle for live-streaming the meetings. The quality of the equipment chosen is a driving factor for potential costs. Additional hours or overtime for staff supporting live-streaming could be an additional expense per meeting. It should also be noted, the publishing of the video would have to be compliant with the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA, 2005) for video and audio which would result in additional time and cost.

The Board would have to decide whether they simply wanted to capture the Board Meeting and publish it on the Internet, live-stream meetings, or live-stream and later publish the meetings on the Web.

It was clarified that the cost involved in purchasing adequate video recording equipment varies, but would run in the range of \$25,000-100,000.

Some Trustees expressed the following reasons why live-streaming/recording of meetings should be considered:

- To allow people who cannot attend in person to view the meeting
- To maintain an archive of proceedings
- To inform possible future Trustees of process of meetings
- To meet the needs of some constituents that were expressed during canvassing for the recent election

It was suggested that the Board could review what the City of Kingston uses for their meetings and the costs involved. It was clarified that Cogeco is not accessible to all constituents.

It was suggested that students could be involved in the recording process, possibly as some type of co-op. It was explained that is would not be ideal as students would still need

Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) March 6, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

assistance and supervision, and ultimately the final product would have to be finalized by a professional staff member to meet video and audio quality standards, and well as to add accessible scripts and captioning. As meetings happen in the evening there would also be the issue of student travel to the Board office, and possible conflicts with work, extracurricular activities and school work. Also, students could not take over work that would fall under the scope of a Board employee as this could initiate a grievance.

It was suggested that YouTube or other social media products could be used for livestreaming. It was clarified that this type of product would be of low quality and not suitable for this purpose.

Director Rantz stated that the cost for live-streaming at another school board is \$100,000. She also stated that, in the comprehensive strategic planning input phase, not one person came forward to ask the Board for live-streaming or recorded videos of meetings.

Superintendent Burra stated that it takes about 2.5 times the length of a meeting to prepare it for posting; i.e adding scripts, closed captioning.

Several Trustees expressed concerns about the possible costs.

Trustee Ruttan called the question:

MOTION: That the Board request staff to prepare an additional report that would include information about the types of streaming available, equipment to be used, costs, and viewership numbers.

Trustees voted by a show of hands.

The motion failed (3 to 5).

b) Policy 5: Code of Conduct (Board of Trustees) Review

Director Rantz stated that there was a recent memo from the Ministry indicating that Boards who do not have a Trustee Code of Conduct must have one in place by May 2019. At the OPSBA Public Education Symposium it was suggested that Boards should review their Code of Conduct by the spring of this school year.

Director Rantz stated that the current version of the Board's Trustee Code of Conduct includes language directly from the Education Act.

The Code of Conduct policy was reviewed.

2. Reports Requiring Decision

a) Policy 13: Suspension, Appeal, Expulsions

Associate Superintendent Gillam reviewed the proposed changes to Policy 13, as required by changes to legislation. The wording changes have been vetted through the Board's legal counsel.

Trustee Morning asked if Children & Family Services has the power to override Board decisions. Associate Superintendent Gillam replied that they do, but that it rarely happens.

Committee of the Whole (Education, Policy & Operations) March 6, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board

MOTION: That the changes to Policy 13: Suspensions, Appeal, Expulsion be accepted.

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor. Carried.

b) Policy 19: Accessibility

Associate Superintendent McDonnell reviewed the proposed changes to Policy 19, as required by legislation.

MOTION: That the changes to Policy 19: Accessibility be accepted.

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin. Carried.

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 April 24, 2019.

The School Enrolment/School Capacity Committee meeting of March 25, 2019 will be rescheduled to a time when there is new information about Accommodation Review Guidelines from the Ministry for the Board to review.

Adjournment

Chair Ruttan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.



We're Putting Wellness First



We're Turning Innovation into Action



We're Committed to Collaboration

Board Meeting

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2019/20

MARCH 20, 2019

Purpose:

To update Trustees on the 2019-2020 School Year Calendar process and receive Board approval for this calendar at the March 20th Board Meeting.

Background:

Provincial Regulation 304 School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days requires that the school year shall start on or after September 1 and end on or before June 30. Every school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days.

In Limestone District School Board, the 194 school days are made up of seven PA days and 187 instructional days. Examination days for secondary schools fall under instructional days.

Regulation 304 requires the following school holidays:

- Every Saturday and Sunday
- Labour Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Fourteen (14) consecutive days for Christmas vacation
- Family Day, the third Monday of February
- Five (5) consecutive days for March Break
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- Victoria Day

The Board shall submit an approved school year calendar to the Ministry of Education for approval by May 1, unless the Board submits a calendar outside of the parameters established above, or deviates from the Ministry template for the winter or March Breaks, in which case the Board must submit a calendar for approval to the Ministry by March 1.

Usually school starts in Ontario the day after Labour Day. For the 2019-2020 Calendar, Labour Day falls on September 2nd, providing 194 school days from September 3 to June 26 inclusive. As noted, if days are scheduled before September 1 or after June 30, or the December and/or March Breaks deviate from the Ministry template, approval from the Board for a modified calendar must be submitted to the Ministry of Education prior to March 1.

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee.

The three boards in the Tri-board Consortium (LDSB, HPEDSB and ALCDSD) have traditionally agreed upon a common calendar in order to share transportation costs. The Consortium agreement and practice is that should a board decide not to conform to the common calendar that board must continue to pay for the transportation as arranged in the common calendar and is also required to assume 100% of the transportation costs for any additional days of transport. In Limestone District School Board, each day of independent transportation costs approximately \$100,000.

The two small, geographically dispersed French Boards traditionally start near the end of August, and pay independently for their transportation.

For the 2019-2020 School Year Calendar, the same process was used as in the previous eight years. This included consultation with internal stakeholders, community partners, and a parent survey. The parent survey was conducted using an electronic medium with the opportunity for people to request a paper version of the survey as an alternative.

Current Status:

The Ministry template for the 2019-2020 calendar was received by LDSB at the beginning of January 2019.

In January and February of 2019, LDSB parents and community partners (day cares, municipalities, Public Health, business associations, etc.) were invited to provide survey input to the Associate Superintendent on the 2018-2019 School Year Calendar. This year, over 400 survey responses were received. The vast majority of survey respondents supported the December Break beginning on December 21st and the continuation of having PA Days on Fridays, as opposed to Mondays. Negative feedback on the calendar was similar to last year's survey and had to do with the timing of Christmas, as many identified the later start date being an issue with travel, etc. Many respondents supported PA Days prior to holidays as well as the absence of any Thursday PA Days. The vast majority of respondents were highly in favour of the Ministry proposed calendar.

Facilitated by the Associate Superintendent of Safe and Caring Schools, Limestone stakeholders met on January 30, 2019, to provide input. Stakeholders represented Trustees (Trustee Ruttan), parents (PIC chair), unions, federations, non-union groups, Human Resources, and administrators. For those stakeholders unable to attend the meeting in person, they were able to submit their information electronically.

At this point, it appears that the calendar decision will go to the ALCDSD and HPEDSB Board of Trustees during the Month of March 2019.

Notable details of the proposed 2019-2020 School Year Calendar are:

- The school year starts on September 3rd for students and staff.
- There are seven (7) PA days in total (September 27th, November 1st, November 29th, January 31st, April 3rd, June 5th and, and June 26th).
- Two (2) PA days are required for Elementary reporting: January 31st, and June 5th.
- Semester 1 runs from September 3rd to January 30th inclusive. Semester 2 runs from January 31st to June 26th.
- Each semester consists of 97 school days.

Recommendation(s):

That the Trustees of the Limestone District School Board receive and approve the School Year Calendar for the 2019-20 school year, as presented with Appendix A.

Report Prepared By: Scot Gillam, Associate Superintendent of Safe and Caring Schools
Reviewed By: Debra Rantz, Director of Education

Attachments
Appendix A

Board Name Limestone DSB (B66206)			
Calendar Title [2019-335487] Limestone District School Board	Panel Elementary	Calendar Type Regular	Date Created Mar 05, 2019
Start of School Year Sep 02, 2019	End of School Year Jun 26, 2020	First Day Students Sep 03, 2019	Last Day Students Jun 25, 2020
Status Draft	Description Regular Elementary Calendar for Limestone District School Board		

Month	1st Week					2nd Week					3rd Week					4th Week					5th Week					PA days	Instr days	Exam days
	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F			
August				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	0	0	0
September	2 H	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27 P	30					1	19	0
October		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14 H	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31		0	22	0
November					1 P*	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29 P*	2	19	0
December	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23 B	24 B	25 H	26 H	27 B	30 B	31 B				0	15	0
January			1 H	2 B	3 B	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31 P	1	19	0
February	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17 H	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28						0	19	0
March	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16 B	17 B	18 B	19 B	20 B	23	24	25	26	27	30	31				0	17	0
April			1	2	3 P*	6	7	8	9	10	13 H	14 H	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30		1	19	0
May					1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18 H	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	0	20	0
June	1	2	3	4	5 P	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30				2	18	0
July			1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31	0	0	0
Total																										7	187	0

Legend

P -Professional Activity Day; **E** -Scheduled Exam Day; **B** -Board Designated Day; **H** -Statutory Day; / -Half Day;
P* -Professional Activity Day Devoted to Provincial Education Priorities;

Schools which will use this calendar :

Board Name Limestone DSB (B66206)			
Calendar Title [2019-335588] Limestone District School Board	Panel Secondary	Calendar Type Regular	Date Created Mar 05, 2019
Start of School Year Sep 02, 2019	End of School Year Jun 26, 2020	First Day Students Sep 03, 2019	Last Day Students Jun 25, 2020
Status Draft	Description Regular Secondary Calendar Limestone District School Board		

Month	1st Week					2nd Week					3rd Week					4th Week					5th Week					PA days	Instr days	Exam days
	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F			
August				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	0	0	0
September	2 H	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27 P	30					1	19	0
October		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14 H	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31		0	22	0
November					1 P*	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29 P*	2	19	0
December	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23 B	24 B	25 H	26 H	27 B	30 B	31 B				0	15	0
January			1 H	2 B	3 B	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31 P	1	14	5
February	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17 H	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28						0	19	0
March	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16 B	17 B	18 B	19 B	20 B	23	24	25	26	27	30	31				0	17	0
April			1	2	3 P*	6	7	8	9	10	13 H	14 H	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30		1	19	0
May					1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18 H	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	0	20	0
June	1	2	3	4	5 P	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22 E	23 E	24 E	25 E	26 P	29	30				2	13	5
July			1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31	0	0	0
Total																									7	177	10	

Legend

P -Professional Activity Day; **E** -Scheduled Exam Day; **B** -Board Designated Day; **H** -Statutory Day; / -Half Day;
P* -Professional Activity Day Devoted to Provincial Education Priorities;

Schools which will use this calendar :

News Release

Ontario Continues to Support Students with Autism

March 11, 2019

Building on existing supports and strengthening professional development

The Ontario government is working for the people by setting students up for success as they transition into school. We're increasing supports for educators and building on existing programs, so school boards will be prepared to help ensure students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) feel safe and supported in their classrooms.

Through **Enhancing Education Support: A Plan for Students with Autism**, the government will:

- **Promote professional learning** by fully subsidizing an ASD-specific Additional Qualification course for teachers;
- **Double funding to the Geneva Centre for Autism** to provide online training opportunities for educators;
- **Fund behavior expertise and student supports** by continuing special education funding, including components responsive to enrollment of students with high needs;
- **Expand after-school skills development programs for students on the Autism spectrum** by providing funding to all 72 school boards;
- **Support students transitioning into school through the *Connections for Students* model** with autism service providers, educators and families; and
- **Fund school boards for each new student with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) entering the school system** in the remaining months of the 2018-19 school year with an average of \$12,300 to make sure there are proper supports available during the transition from therapy to school.

"Student success is our number one priority. We're putting people first by ensuring both students and educators receive the support they need to succeed," said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education. "The existing supports in place to assist students with autism are tremendous. What we're doing today is

building on those supports and making sure we fill any gaps when it comes to promoting professional development."

More information about school-based supports for students with ASD can be found on the ministry's [website](#).



**ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION**

Leading Education's Advocates

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

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Cathy Abraham
President

W.R. (Rusty) Hick
Executive Director

February 26, 2019

Minister Lisa Thompson

Minister of Education

Minister Lisa MacLeod

Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

Dear Ministers Thompson and MacLeod:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) to express our concerns about the planned changes to the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) and the potential impact of those changes on the supports that school boards will be able to provide for autistic students.

This was a major discussion topic at our recent February Board of Director's meeting. Our members have questions as to the impact of the OAP reforms at the local school level. They have questions about how many students will now require additional supports in school who were previously off-site and receiving intensive therapy. There is concern regarding the impact of this transitional change for these children from a clinical service model to an integrated school setting, which does not provide this type of specialized service. For students, this type of change can be unsettling. Having sufficient numbers of qualified school staff to ensure safety and support for students is essential.

Special education continues to be an area in which boards request more supports and resources given the complexities of student needs. Year after year, most school boards exceed their Ministry allocated special education budget in an effort to try to provide the best possible learning experiences for students, regardless of exceptionality. We continue to advocate for sufficient funding to meet the needs of all of our students.

With the impending April 1 changes to the funding model, ensuring a shared understanding and clear expectations on the part of parents and school personnel will lead to better planning and outcomes for children and their families.

We recognize the shared commitment of the government to work toward supports for these students that are equitable and adequate and look forward to additional information for planning purposes, recognizing that in many cases this will be at the local school or Board level.

OPSBA extends the offer to collaborate with the government in an effort to ensure smooth transitions for all students in our care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cathy Abraham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" and "A".

Cathy Abraham
President