

**Committee of the Whole Board (Budget)
Meeting Minutes
Limestone District School Board**

May 14, 2019

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

Staff: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education
M. Baumann, Manager of Business Services
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education, Program and IT
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 – regrets
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness and Assessment
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education - regrets
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Trustee Ruttan called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed all those present.

She 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."

Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: Trustee Godkin, that the agenda of May 14, 2019, as presented, be approved. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Elliott declared a conflict as his wife is an employee of the Board.

Trustee Godkin declared a conflict as his daughter is an occasional teacher with LDSB's co-terminous Boards.

Information Items

1. 2019-2020 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Overview Presentation

Superintendent Young provided an overview of the 2019-2020 Grants for student Needs.

On April 26, 2019 the Ministry released B14 memorandum and B15 memorandum. On May 10, 2019 the Ministry released the EFIS submission forms. The technical paper has not been released yet.

Bill 100, Protecting What Matters Most Act (Budget Measures), 2019 proposes changes to the Education Act that would:

- Indicate that a Board is expected to balance its budget in 2019-20. However, a board may incur an in-year deficit up to the lower of 1 per cent of the school board's operating revenue or the accumulated surplus for the proceeding school year.
- Include a new requirement where a plan/resolution must be submitted by a school board, with its estimates submission, showing the elimination of the in-year deficit within two years.

There will be a kindergarten funded Early Childhood Educators (ECE) classroom staffing ratio change from 1.14 FTE to 1.0 FTE. For LDSB this funding reduction is \$704,742. The Ministry will provide a new per-pupil amount of \$87.32 per average daily enrolment (ADE) to support ECE supply costs. For LDSB this new funding is \$217,078. For Intermediate classes (grades 4 to 8) the funded average class size was adjusted from 23.84 to 24.5, and a maximum board-wide average adjusted to 24.5 for all school boards. For LDSB this is a reduction of 9.0 FTE elementary teachers

For secondary (grades 9 to 12) the funded average class size was adjusted from 22.0 to 28.0. The maximum board-wide average was adjusted to 28.0. For LDSB this reduction of 69.1 FTE secondary teachers is spread over 4 years due to attrition protection. The secondary programming amount of 1.02 staff per 1,000 ADE will no longer be provided, effective September 2019. It is projected that the impact of removing the secondary programming amount from the Pupil Foundation Grant will be approximately \$52 million. For LDSB this is a reduction of 6.0 FTE secondary teachers.

The Supported Schools Allocation benchmarks are being updated to reflect the changes to class size. For LDSB the increase in funding is \$255,432.

To align with the changes to secondary class size and to reflect other data updates, the Supplemental Area Factor for school facility operations, within the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant, will be updated. These changes will be phased in over five years. For LDSB the decrease in funding over the five years is \$1,939,682.

The Ministry is introducing a new Attrition Protections Allocation (within the Cost Adjustment and Qualifications and Experience Grant) for up to four years to protect front-line staff impacted by the changes to class sizes and e-learning; allowing school boards to phase in the class sizes. For LDSB, based on known attrition and leaves, this funding will protect 48.8 FTE secondary teachers.

Other key elements of the attrition funding include:

- School board forecast protection to address situations where actual attrition is higher than the school board's forecasts; and,
- An additional 5 per cent attrition protection to further support the staffing complement for the continuity of STEM and specialized programming. This means boards are being provided with 105 per cent attrition protection funding.

For LDSB based on known attrition and leaves this additional funding is \$261,257.

The Ministry is investing nearly \$15.2 million in the Behaviour Expertise Amount allocation, an increase of approximately one hundred per cent over 2018-19. This investment will allow school boards to hire more professional staff at the board level who have expertise in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and to double the training opportunities that will build school board capacity in ABA. Of this amount LDSB is expected to receive \$172,396.

The Local Priorities Fund, first established in 2017-18 during the last round of collective bargaining, expires on August 31, 2019. In 2018-19 LDSB received \$2,557,534. The investment related to the adult day school teachers will be transferred to the Continuing Education and Other Programs Grant. For LDSB this investment is \$388,970.

The base amount of the Cost Adjustment Allocation, providing supplemental funding for education workers benchmarks, has been discontinued for the 2019-20 school year. In 2018-19 LDSB received \$242,364. The Human Resources Transition Supplement, provided to assist school boards in managing the negotiated 2017-19 central agreements, expires on August 31, 2019. In 2018-19 LDSB received \$99,186.

Stabilization funding will be provided to school boards that run efficient transportation operations, but for which the costs of student transportation exceeds the funding provided for that purpose. This funding will be provided in 2019-20 based on boards' 2018-19 transportation deficits. For LDSB this funding is \$554,278.

For the International Student Recovery Amount Beginning in 2019-20, a school board's total GSN operating grants shall be reduced by an amount equal to a flat fee of \$1,300 multiplied by the international student enrolment. For LDSB this recovery is a \$143,000 reduction to international student fee revenue.

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The Student Transportation Grant will be increased by 4% to help boards manage increased costs. For LDSB the increase in funding is \$548,180. The Ministry is also providing a 2% cost benchmark update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark to assist boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other costs). For LDSB the increase in funding is \$259,050.

The Ministry will provide a 1.0 per cent salary benchmark increase for staff in 2019–2020, to reflect the 2017–2019 central labour agreements. As a result of the phase-out of retirement gratuities a 0.167 per cent benefit reduction will be applied to the benefits benchmarks.

For the 2019-20 school year, the Ministry continues to invest \$1.4 billion in funding to support the repair and renewal of school facilities. This includes \$1 billion in funding towards the School Condition Improvement (SCI) program. Of this amount LDSB is expected to receive \$14,771,925.

Trustee Godkin stated that by 2021 all organizations will be required to show a liability regarding liquidating properties with asbestos, etc. He asked if that will affect school boards. Superintendent Young stated that school boards will have to follow this change and list all environmental costs associated with any owned property as a liability in their accounting. There are asbestos reports for all buildings in the board currently, but to get estimates for all remediation costs is a large undertaking.

Trustee Morning asked if the Board is mandated to increase secondary class sizes to 28. Superintendent Labrie stated that the 28:1 ratio is simply a number that has been announced. LDSB will not be staffing for this number for the next school year. The announcement of this number is to inform the province that Boards are expected to move toward this number, but there are a number of factors involved in reaching that goal, including changes to collective agreements. It will be difficult to meet this number with the reduced funding being provided.

Trustee Elliott asked if the GSN information will be shared on the website. It was confirmed that the information comes through to the public in the meeting minutes.

Trustee French asked for clarification on the number of FTE reductions across the system for next year. Superintendent Labrie answered that with the changes in the funding formula it will translate as a reduction in 12-13 elementary positions and approximately 26 secondary positions for next year. He noted that this will not be all classroom teachers, as teachers are also in positions outside of classroom instruction.

Superintendent Labrie stated that support staff also had a number of reductions in various groups. As the Local Priorities funding ends Boards will not be able to continue to support some positions.

Trustee French asked if the increase for Special Education will go to support student who may come to the board because of the reduction in OAP (Autism) funding. Associate

Superintendent McDonnell confirmed that it would be targeted specifically to Autism support.

Superintendent Young stated that when the Board's expenditures are presented the information will show where staffing reductions have occurred.

Trustee McGregor asked where the attrition rate at this point stands against known retirements. Superintendent Labrie stated that there have been about 22 retirements submitted already, and suspects that a few more will come in before the end of May. The number of retirees will drive the staffing reduction due to the funding decreases for next year.

Superintendent Labrie stated that a potential redundancy list is provided to Trustees every year, and this will be issued in the next few weeks.

Trustee Godkin asked with the increased class size is there an exemption clause for any unique situations, such as a school in an isolated area. Superintendent Labrie stated that 28 student class sizes is only grades 9-12. Numbers for classes will remain the same for next year, but the money to support these classes is being decreased. There are unique areas with higher staff to student ratios, due to things such as geographic location. Bigger schools in the system may have higher class size ratios than remote/rural schools.

Trustee French stated that OPSBA is advocating about these issues at the provincial level, and is planning a broader strategy for working with the government.

Trustee Morning asked for more information on alternative programming, and how these generate income for the Board. She stated that some constituents had expressed concern about some programs being discontinued. Superintendent Labrie stated that only international education generates incomes for the Board, but that there are a number of different types of alternative education across the Board for both under and over 21.

Superintendent Burra stated that the Board has not closed any alternative programming, but that some programs have been relocated. Second Chance and Street Smart were relocated to the Katarokwi Learning Centre (Former First Ave. school) The Board has eliminated using rental space to include the programming in sites already owned by the board where possible.

2. 2019-2020 Budget Consultation – Trustee Constituent Feedback Consolidation

Trustee Ruttan stated that comments came from a variety of sources, including:

- 60 plus individual constituents
- 4 unions
- 1 association
- 1 parent group

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The feedback has been collated into the following chart and will be handed off to Senior Staff:

Budget Priority Area	Wellness	Innovation	Collaboration
Assessments (EQAO)			
Basic needs (food, clothing, shelter)	-maintain food programs		
Continuing/Adult Education	-More in-class summer school options rather than online -Re-open physical sites x2		
Community Partnerships	-investigate student school bus utilization vs those entitled to school bus use	-examine monopoly with Tri-Board -re-evaluate transportation costs	-work with city of Kingston to enable urban HS students to use city bus instead of yellow -review busing boundaries (North HPEDSB) -community use of schools as a tool to keep rural schools sustainable
Early Years & Kindergarten	-maintain ECE x3 -fund testing for LD for early intervention	-improve outdoor play areas · Add rubber surfacing to outdoor play areas	
English as a Second Language			
Environmental Sustainability		-more green initiatives x2 -examine the impact of buildings, buses, and	-work with co-ops and other NFPs to install renewable energy products

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Budget Priority Area	Wellness	Innovation	Collaboration
		budgets on green house gases -improve recycling and organic waste programs to reduce waste disposal costs	
Equity & Inclusion	- review Choices at 7 for equity		
Extra-curricular Activities		-adequate allocation of funding for release time when schools send teams to competitions	-reach out for support from the community for clubs and sports
Facilities Renewal (renovations & maintenance)	-improved air quality, proper ventilation, and air conditioning systems x3 -fix parking lots/drop-off areas -bus loop at LCVI/Calvin Park review x2 -postpone updates to fleet vehicles, playing fields, furniture, paving	-school inventory to determine their needs in renovations	-surplus facilities/equipment to be sold for extra revenue -negotiate new vendor contracts, cost sharing with other school boards or city -surplus space to rented to community partners x2
French as a Second Language (Extended & Immersion)			
Health & Safety	-impact of violence in classroom x 5 -increase crossing guards during peak traffic times x2		-work with city council to ensure safe streets around all schools

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Budget Priority Area	Wellness	Innovation	Collaboration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -make school entrances more accessible -funding for pavement and fencing improvements for safety 		
Indigenous Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -increase funding for Indigenous Education x5 		
Innovation/Technology		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -materials, resources, training and wired access -freeze on buying all non-essential technology x2 -ensure existing computers are in good working order -allow for more computers to accommodate mandatory online courses 	
International Education			
Learning Materials (technology & textbooks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -prevention of on-line pornography -hardcopy agendas in hands of all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -real life learning resources -field trip resources x2 -rename the category to reflect the purchasing of classroom supplies and photocopying 	
Literacy (reading & writing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -increase funding for school libraries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -include math literacy 	

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Budget Priority Area	Wellness	Innovation	Collaboration
Mental Health & Well-Being	-increase resources (trained professionals and guidance staff) x 6 -enhance experiential learning and more programs that promote student wellness		
Outdoor Education	-increase outdoor equipment and yard improvements	-school inventory to determine outdoor/sporting equipment needs	-maintain experiential programs x2 ie Gould Lake -utilize geography to find collaborations and opportunities to study locally
Parent/Family Engagement		-implement live-streaming for board meetings x2	
Physical Literacy & Fitness			
Safe Schools/ School Climate	-increase funding for EA x 17 -maintain EA levels		
STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, Math & Engineering)	-increase funding for art supplies, musical instruments, and theatre inside or outside the classroom -increase courses that are NOT math, science, and English	-importance in the A, not just STEM x2	
Skilled Trades		maintain tech and culinary programing	
Special Education (programs for individual learning needs)	-maintain or increase current levels of funding x 7	-implementing enrichment programs,	

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Budget Priority Area	Wellness	Innovation	Collaboration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -impact of autism funding reductions x 2 -autism-only classrooms -increase or maintain student -success/resource rooms -specific programming support for angry students who lash out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> like research-based curriculum units 	
Specialty Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -maintain Focus programs and SHSM (LCVI included) x3 - reduce AP and pre-AP programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -arts in general (include) LEAP, AAEP x2 -maintain music, drama, and other arts teachers 	
Student Leadership Development			
Staff Leadership & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -increase PD for occasional staff 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -reduce consultations -scrutinize expenditures on consultants and contractors x2 -reduce funds spent on principals, superintendents and Trustees professional development x3 -compare expenses with Catholic board to find efficiencies x2

Budget Priority Area	Wellness	Innovation	Collaboration
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -living wage, in line with city council initiatives -acknowledgments for territory daily in school -more Indigenous focus 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -labour Relations -compensation (Senior Administration) x4 -maintain or increase staffing levels in schools x3 -minimum class sizes x2 -exploration of Indigenous Education Advisory Council and what their priorities are -defend and advocate funding for humanities and arts -revenue fixed by Govt – any future flexibility?

Trustee Godkin stated that requesting written submission for feedback limits some people from being able to participate. He suggested consideration of other formats for participating for next year.

Student Trustee Kim asked for clarification on the Choices at Seven feedback. Trustee Ruttan answered that she believed the constituent wanted to see the admission process be made more equitable.

Trustee Hutcheon stated that some feel that the textbook line in the budget is misleading, as teachers don't use textbooks as much as used to. She asked that is be clarified as to what other items this funding is spent on.

Trustee Elliott asked if the actual submissions would be published. It was clarified that that was not the intention of this process. In the past when formal deputations have been taken the content has been captured in the minutes.

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Trustee French thanked staff for their assistance in soliciting feedback from the public. She stated that she appreciated the format for the way the information was pulled together.

Other Business

None at this time.

Next Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 4:30 p.m. (Preliminary Operating Revenue and Expenditures/Preliminary Capital Revenue and Expenditures/Consolidated Budget)
Monday, June 17, 2019 4:30 p.m. (Tentative)

Adjournment

Trustee Ruttan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.