

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

June 10, 2020

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

Staff: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education
M. Baumann, Manager of Business Services
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education, Program and IT
S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Special Education
D. Rantz, Director of Education
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources - regrets
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness and Assessment
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education
C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
J. Douglas Charanduk, Communications

Recorder: D. Burns, Administrative Assistant

Trustee French, as Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 4:41 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 McGregor, that the agenda of June 10, 2020 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. Administrative Report – Preliminary 2020-2021 Operating Budget

Superintendent Young welcomed Manager Baumann to present the Preliminary 2020-2021 Operating Budget Administrative Report. Manager Baumann provided an update on the projected enrolment. For elementary enrolment there is an increase of 50. For secondary enrolment there is a total decrease of 135; there is a decrease of 52 international students included in this number due to the impact of COVID-19.

Manager Baumann provided an overview of the Preliminary Operating Budget Revenue. The Ministry has not yet released information on Grants for Student Needs (GSN) or Partnership and Priorities Fund (PPF). The preliminary operating budget revenue excludes the GSN operating allocation and PPF funding.

There have been a few funding amounts noted under Investment in System Priorities and Community Use of Schools Funding provided under CUPE collective agreement.

Other Government Grants – MOE-PPF Current Year Funding has a revised estimate of \$1.9 million, we haven't included anything under 2020-2021. No amount has been included under the MOE-PPF Prior Year Carry forward either.

Under Other supplemental grants we have a dual credit program with St. Lawrence College that will continue. Under the Collective Agreements System Investments, we have about \$2.5 million.

Tuition Fees for international students is projected to decrease by about \$630,332 as we have projected half the amount of students. First Nations Student are projected at \$46,884. Community Education & Outreach fees are expected to decrease due to international students, and lack of summer revenues. There is a slight decrease in Instructional Costs Recoveries due to Secondments. International other fees (i.e. homestay and medical) are projected to decrease based on international students. Operating Revenue Total (excluding GSN allocation) is showing a decline of about \$1.2 million.

PPF Grants for 2020-2021 have not been included as the Ministry has not made any announcement yet. Appendix A is attached to show the prior years and types of grants we would normally be receiving.

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Manager Baumann provided an overview of the Administrative Report. The Ministry sets funding consistent with the current labour framework meaning a 1% salary increase for all employee groups with the exception of the Director and Supervisory Officers, and Employee Life Health Trust (ELHT) benefit increases ranging from 1% to 4%.

The Ministry provided information regarding the government's proposal for a secondary average class size of 23.

Budgeted FTE has been adjusted based on enrolment projections, collective agreements and Ministry projected secondary class size.

Elementary teacher FTE has increased by 11.0 FTE due to the projected enrolment increase and ETFO Support for Students Funding. Secondary teacher FTE has decreased by 9.7 FTE due to the projected enrolment decrease offset by OSSTF Support for Students Funding. Educational assistants FTE has increased by 13.0 FTE due to CUPE Investment in System Priorities Funding for Special Education. Library and Guidance has increased by 1.0 FTE library technician due to CUPE Investment in System Priorities Funding. Paraprofessionals FTE has increased by 1.0 FTE due to OSSTF-EW Support for Students Funding. Other non-operating has decreased by 1.8 FTE due to a reduction in secondments. Operations and maintenance FTE increase due to CUPE Investment in Systems Priorities Funding still to be finalized.

Trustee Godkin inquired why there was such differences between estimates and revised estimates for 2019-20 and estimates for 2020-21 for First Nations Student tuition fees. What number of students was the amount based on? Manager Baumann advised 2020-21 estimates were based on 4 students, revised estimates for 2019-20 was for 1 student and estimates for 2019-20 was for 8 students. The numbers were based on the information available at the time.

Trustee Godkin asked for further explanation on why the Secondary teacher FTE has decreased by 9.7 FTE. Superintendent Young advised that A. Labrie explained the OSSTF agreements in a previous meeting stating that when an individual is gone for a full semester the Board has to hire in at that point and we always announce layoffs. We are still finalizing numbers with regards to retirements. It is expected that the staff reductions will be covered by attrition.

Trustee Elliott noted the decrease in revenue and wondered if we should be concerned. Superintendent Young advised that the decrease at the International Student level is due to COVID-19 and it is not insurmountable with regards to our total revenue. As we pull in other revenue numbers, we will make adjustments accordingly.

Trustee Ruttan inquired what the secondary ratio was in our previous collection agreement. Superintendent Young stated the ration was 22: 1 and Ministry funding was 28: 1 and there was a top-up and attrition reduction and funding that offset that as well.

Chair French inquired if there were any risks associated with getting grants this late in the year. Superintendent Young advised the Ministry has extended our deadline with submitting a Board approved budget to them. We have until the end of August to submit the Board budget.

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Other Business

None at this time.

Next Meeting Dates:

Follow up dates will be provided after the meeting.

Adjournment

Trustee French called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.