

## BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 20, 2022

### PUBLIC MEETING

#### Roll call:

<b>Trustees:</b>	<b>Staff:</b>
J. Brown -regrets G. Elliott L. French -regrets T. Gingrich (Vice-Chair)-regrets B. Godkin R. Hutcheon K. McGregor J. Morning S. Ruttan (Chair) B. Roy (Student Trustee)-regrets S. Johnson (Student Trustee)-regrets T. Duncan (Student Trustee)-regrets	K. Burra, Director of Education S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education Learning for all & Indigenous Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services C. Downie, Capital Planning and Community Use of Schools Supervisor P. Carson, Manager of Financial Services
	<b>Recorder:</b>
	D. Burns, Administrative Assistant

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Ruttan called the meeting to order.

Trustee 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.”

#### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

#### 3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

## 4. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

### 4.1 Budget Development Schedule

Superintendent Young presented the Budget Development Schedule, outlining future meetings:

Wednesday April 20, 2022 (4:30 pm) <i>Prior to SEAC</i>	Review of 2022-2023 GSN Overview, Enrolment Projections, Budget Survey Review
Wednesday June 1, 2022 (4:30 pm) <i>Prior to EPOC</i>	Preliminary Operating Revenue
Wednesday June 8, 2022 (4:30 pm) <i>Prior to SEAC</i>	Preliminary Operating Expenditures/Preliminary Capital Revenue/Expenditures/Consolidated Budget
	Draft Budget Review
Monday June 13, 2022	Date held if meeting required

### 4.2 2022-2023 Projected Enrolment and 10-year enrolment trend

Supervisor Downie presented the 2022-2023 projected enrolment and 10-year enrolment trend data to Trustees as part of the 2022-2023 budget development process.

Limestone projections are based on enrolment numbers provided by Baragar. This is a company that LDSB has used for many years and they specialize in data analysis of student enrolment in Canada. They have years of LDSB's history which establishes trends. They update their trending with LDSB's actual enrolment counts each year and use that to predict possible changes for the next year. Their statistical review creates projections, but they do not have direct information about our communities, therefore the Board's local knowledge is an important part of the process.

As Baragar uses trends-based analysis – it is challenging to project enrolments due to the impacts of COVID on trends. Such abrupt changes in trends are approached with caution. Highlights are as follows:

- There has been increased migration into LDSB – Baragar reported that there were 524 more children in 2021 aged 2 to 17 compared to the number of children 1 to 16 the year before
- Births in the area have been on a steady decline for many years – students currently enrolled in grades JK to 12 were born between 2004 and 2017 – during which time births averaged 1822 – over the last 3 years births have averaged 1700 per year – a decrease of 122

- As more data on the migration of families into this area is gathered – new trends will be developed – therefore birth information and projections might change
- Of note this year are the number of students who have chosen LDSB schools over other options. For many years, the proportion of all children who chose to enroll in a LDSB school has been declining. LDSB has decreased at an average of -0.6% per year – however this year showed an increase of +0.4%. To put this in perspective a 0.5% capture rate represents about 125 students. This is the first year in many that the Board has had a positive result.
- COVID is associated with the recent decline in participation of French programming after many years of sustained growth, French programming has slowed.
- Virtual school enrolment is a new factor without established trends to be able to confidently predict.

With the increased migration LDSB is experiencing – there is an increase in housing developments. LDSB is following these projects and sharing information with municipalities for planning purposes.

The projected net growth for next year is 149 students. Which is an increase of 158 ADE secondary students and a decline of 9 ADE elementary students. ADE is Average Daily Enrolment as measured on Oct 31 and March 31. Since 2016 the Board has experienced an overall increase of 50 students. Projection in the next 5 years from the current number of 19,540 (Revised Estimates) is a slight increase of 21 students to 19,561.

Trustee Ruttan thanked C. Downie for her presentation and called upon Trustees for comments or questions.

### 4.3 GSN Overview

Superintendent Young presented a GSN overview for 2022-2023.

On February 17, 2022 the Ministry released: B03 memorandum the 2022-2023 Grants for Students Needs (GSN); B04 memorandum regarding the 2022-2023 Capital Year Funding; B05 memorandum regarding the 2022-2023 Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF); and, SB04 memorandum regarding the 2022-2023 Student Transportation-Grants for Student Needs. On March 25, 2022, the Ministry released SB08 memorandum Special Education Grant Changes for 2022-2023.

The Grant For Student Needs (GSN) funding is projected to be \$26.1 billion for the sector for 2022-2023 school year. This is a projected 2.7% increase from 2021-2022. The GSN highlighted the following: Supports for Students (SSF) - \$212.7 million; COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund - \$304 million; Recent Immigrant Supplement - \$134.4 million; Broadband Network Operations –\$39.9 million; Parents reaching Out Grants –\$2.4 million; Well-being and Mental Health Bundle –\$3.0

million; and, Learning and Innovation Fund for Teachers (LIFT) –\$3.5 million.

The Ministry is continuing its investment into special education funding to address special education assessments and increase programs and services for students with special education needs. \$16.3 million has been allocated to local Special Education Priorities Amount within the Special Education SEG differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSNEA) that will support additional educational staff. A \$7.4 million increase for Assistive Technology into the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) Per-Pupil Amount (PPA) to help boards in acquiring and maintaining assistive technologies and related hardware and software for students with special needs.

The government is recognizing the importance of promoting positive mental health, especially considering the COVID-19 pandemic. An increase of \$38.3 million is being provided for student mental health needs with the Mental Health and Well-being Grant. A new investment of \$10 million is being provided for evidence based mental health programs and resources to support student resilience and mental well-being.

The Ministry will provide a 1% salary benchmark increase for staff in 2022-2023. Benefit funding adjustments are being made through the Benefits Trust Allocation.

The Ministry is continuing its investment in school renewal by investing a total of \$1.4 billion in the 2022–2023. \$16.8 million is allocated towards the School Condition Improvement (SCI) program for LDSB. \$4.54 million is being allocated for LDSB’s School Renewal plan including projects from the Facility Improvement Plan.

The Student Transportation Grant will be increased 2% to help boards manage increased costs. Funding adjustments due to fuel price changes will continue to be triggered by the fuel escalation and de-escalation mechanism throughout the school year. The Ministry is also providing a 4.5% cost benchmark update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark to assist boards in managing the increases in commodity prices.

School boards’ funding entitlements will remain, however, some boards will record a receivable from the Province for the difference between their funding entitlement and the actual cash flow received. This cash management strategy is continuing for 2022-2023

Trustee Ruttan thanked Superintendent Young and asked Trustees for any comments or questions.

#### 4.4 Budget Survey 2022-2023 Review

Superintendent Young stated that the online survey was open from March 4 – 25, 2022. A total of 225 responses were received. Last year we received 647 responses. The survey was advertised on LDSB webpage, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and was emailed to family, staff, community, and federation partners. Next year we will look at better ways to get exposure.

Question No. 1 on the survey asked, “what is your involvement with the LDSB, please choose all that apply”, predominately those who responded were family members or caregivers. Question No. 2 asked, “do you have students in LDSB”, again predominately the family members or caregivers had students in the LDSB system. That is an accurate representation of those who have invested interest in LDSB. Question No. 3 required individuals to select the top five most important programming areas. From all the responses, people placed Reading & Writing Skills, Mental Health and Well-being, and Mathematics, as the top three categories. The top three student responses were: Mental Health and Well-being, Financial Literacy and Special Education. Question No. 4 allowed respondents to give additional comments on priorities for consideration. The senior team reviewed all the responses received. Most people stressed the additional priorities as Special Education, Educational Assistants, Experiential learning/life skills/trades, Reading skills/programs and Mental Health and Well-being.

Trustee Ruttan thanked Superintendent Young and called upon Trustees for comments or questions.

## 5. OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

## 6. NEXT MEETINGS

Trustee Ruttan noted the upcoming Budget Committee meetings on June 1, June 8 and a tentative meeting on June 13, 2022.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

*MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.*

Meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.