

## BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 19, 2023

### PUBLIC MEETING

#### Roll call:

<p><b>Trustees:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>R. Hutcheon (Chair)</li> <li>B. Godkin (Vice-Chair)</li> <li>G. Elliott - regrets</li> <li>T. Gingrich</li> <li>J. Morning</li> <li>J. Brown - regrets</li> <li>K. Maracle</li> <li>K. McGregor</li> <li>S. Ruttan</li> <li>T. Lloyd</li> <li>J. Neill</li> <li>E. Jackson (Student Trustee)-regrets</li> <li>J. Kolosov (Student Trustee)-regrets</li> </ul>	<p><b>Staff:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J. Silver, Superintendent of Education, Director Designate</li> <li>C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services</li> <li>C. Downie, Capital Planning and Community Use of Schools Supervisor</li> <li>P. Carson, Manager of Financial Services</li> <li>L. Benjamin, Assistant Manager of Financial Services</li> <li>S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education Learning for all &amp; Indigenous Education</li> <li>A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Recorder:</b> A. Galt, Administrative Assistant</p> <p><b>Producer:</b> J. Dooley, Administrative Assistant</p>

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Godkin called the meeting to order.

Trustee Hutcheon 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 McGregor, and seconded by Trustee Lloyd 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 19, 2023 (7:00 pm) <i>Following SEAC</i>	Enrolment Projections, Budget Survey Review
Wednesday, May 24, 2023 (5:30 pm)	GSN Overview, Preliminary Operating Revenue
Wednesday, June 7, 2023 (7:30 pm) <i>Following EPOC</i>	Preliminary Operating Expenditures/Preliminary Capital Revenue/Expenditures/Consolidated Budget, Draft Budget Review
Wednesday, June 14, 2023 (7:00 pm) <i>Following SEAC</i>	Date held if meeting required

#### 4.2 2023-2024 Projected Enrolment and 10-year enrolment trend

Assistant Manager of Facility Services Downie presented the 2023-2024 projected enrolment and 10-year enrolment trend data to Trustees as part of the 2023-2024 budget development process.

Assistant Manager Downie provided an overview of the methodology and background of the enrolment projection process. Baragar Systems is a consultant that creates a custom enrolment projection for LDSB, annually. They use relevant history to establish trends such as participation and retention rates. Baragar updates this history each year with LDSB's October 31<sup>st</sup> enrolment counts. Further analysis is done by using data such as Ontario birth registrations and information gathered from the Canada Revenue Agency which is primarily around movement of families and migration in our area. All of this information combined forms our short-term projections and establishes a new set of longer-term projections every year. To finalize short term projections, LDSB relies upon the knowledge of our principals, senior staff, and awareness of what is happening in our communities.

- The forecast for next year shows an increase of 211 secondary students and 61 elementary students. This is a result of increased migration in our region.

- Longer-term projections indicate increased growth followed by a predictive levelling of numbers.

Appendix D is a school breakdown of October 31, 2022, reported numbers and projected numbers for 2023. It also indicates the Ministry calculation of each school's capacity. It compares that capacity with student counts to determine a utilization percentage for each school. This is the Ministry's view of how full LDSB's buildings are. For schools that are over 100% utilized, portables are the strategy to accommodate students. Portables are not included in the utilization factor.

The Ministry has an expectation that buildings will be 100% utilized across the Board. As a Board with smaller school capacities, one vacant classroom affects the percentage and our ability to achieve 100% utilization.

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

### 4.3 Budget Survey 2023-2024 Review

Superintendent Young stated that the online survey was open from March 3 – 24, 2023. A total of 1,150 responses were received. Last year, 647 responses were received. The number of responses almost doubled. The survey was advertised on LDSB webpage, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and was emailed to family, staff, community, and federation partners. Superintendent Young thanked the Trustees for making the survey available on their social media feeds.

Question No. 1 on the survey asked, "What is your involvement with the LDSB? Please choose all that apply." Predominantly, those who responded were family members or caregivers. A large number of employees responded as well.

Question No. 2 asked, "Do you have students in LDSB?" Again, predominately the family members or caregivers had students in the LDSB system.

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; followed by Special Education and Art/Music/Drama. Compared to last year, the top 3 are the same. Fifty-one students responded this year. The top three student responses were: Mental Health & Well-being, Reading & Writing Skills and Mathematics. Students' top three responses last year were Mental Health & 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. The additional priorities most respondents stressed upon included Special Education, Educational Assistants/SST's, Experiential Learning/Life Skills/Trades, Mental Health & Physical Well-being and Reading Skills/Programs.

A ThoughtExchange question was added to the end of the survey. ThoughtExchange invites people to share their thoughts and allows others to rank those thoughts. From the top 16 thoughts for the Board, the need for more Educational Assistants was ranked number one, 10/16. Superintendent Young mentioned that Trustees have also placed a high importance on Special Education. To support this, in 2021/2022 the Board staffing for EA's and ECE's was 20.7 staff per thousand students. The provincial average is 17.9 staff per thousand students. LDSB is staffing almost 3 per thousand more than the provincial average. LDSB is spending just over \$1,050 per student on EA's and ECE's, almost \$300 more per student than the provincial average. The provincial average is \$754.

The next top 5 of the 16 thoughts referenced more staff and class size ratio. Funding from the province is dependent upon our class size ratios. Within elementary, class sizes are trending at the provincial average of 25.4 students. Secondary class sizes are averaging 18.5 students, with the provincial average just over 20.

The need for mental health supports was also referenced in the top 16 thoughts. LDSB's budget for 22-23 was 1.323 million, all of which was spent.

Overspending at the board office was also mentioned. Superintendent Young stated that our board administration staffing levels have remained relatively constant even though enrolment has increased. The Ministry limits expenditures on board office administration and governance. We are not allowed to exceed our allocation and we do not exceed our allocation on an annual basis.

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

## 5. OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

## 6. NEXT MEETINGS

Trustee Godkin noted the upcoming Budget Committee meetings on May 24<sup>th</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>, and a tentative meeting on June 14, 2023.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.