

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

**April 27, 2015**

**Members/:** P. Murray  
**Trustees** E. Crawford - regrets  
W. Garrod - regrets  
L. French  
D. Jackson  
T. Mahoney  
K. McGregor –regrets  
M. McCormac (Student Trustee)  
A. Ross  
S. Ruttan  
P. van Herpt (Student Trustee) –regrets

**Officials:** P. Babin, Superintendent of Business Services  
K. Burra, Superintendent of Equity & Inclusion and Program - regrets  
J. Douglas, Communications Officer  
D. Fowler, Manager of Facility Services - regrets  
B. Fraser-Stiff, Superintendent of Education  
T. Giles, Supervising Principal, School Effectiveness - regrets  
B. Hunter, Director of Education  
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Human Resources  
S. Lehman, Supervising Principal, Student Success & IT - regrets  
A. McDonnell, Supervising Principal, Special Education  
M. Baumann, Manager of Business Services  
S. McWilliams, Manager of Human Resources - regrets  
J. Silver, Supervising Principal of Safe & Caring Schools - regrets  
W. Toms, Manager of ITS and Planning Officer

**Recorder:** L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Trustee Murray, as Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and welcomed all those present.

**Approval of Agenda**

*MOVED BY: Trustee Mahoney, seconded by Trustee Ross, that the agenda of April 27, 2015, as presented, be approved. Carried.*

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

**Information Items**

1. Overview of Enrolment Trends

Superintendent Babin stated that the Limestone District School Board has experienced significant enrolment declines since the Board amalgamation in 1998. Enrolment in 2010-2011 was 21,070 and is projected to be 19,534 in the current year, a decline of 1,536 students or about 7.2% as measured on an Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) basis.

A decline of 109 ADE is projected at the secondary level and a decline of 71 ADE is projected at the elementary level for 2015-2016.. Over the next 5 years the current enrolment level of 19,534 (ADE) is forecasted to decline by about 408 (ADE) to 19,126 (ADE).

In response to a question Manager Toms stated that there is no significant increase in enrolment expected in the next fifteen years.

2. Ministry 2015-16 GSN Briefing Presentation

Superintendent Babin reviewed the Ministry –March 26, 2015 technical briefing slide presentation with Trustees and responded to questions. He mentioned that although over-all f GSN funding is projected to be stable year-over-year at \$22.46 billion with an average of \$11,451 per pupil, that there will be re-distributive effects per individual school board, including Limestone .

The School Board Efficiencies and Modernization (SBEM) was introduced in 2014-15 to provide incentives and supports for boards to make more efficient use of schools. The 2015-16 strategy will include changes to:

1. The top-up funding, adjustment factors and cost benchmarks under the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant;
2. School Foundation Grant;
3. Geographic Circumstances Grant; and
4. Declining Enrolment Adjustment Grant.

With the exception of the Declining Enrolment Adjustment Grant, the changes introduced in 2015–16 will be phased in over three years.

The School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant has new criteria for eligibility. A portion of the funding released in each year of the phase out of Base Top-up will be reinvested in the per-pupil operating and renewal cost benchmarks. This realignment is intended to redirect funding from underutilized space to serve pupils in all schools across the province. In addition, three board-specific School Facility Operations and Renewal adjustment factors – geographic adjustment, facility age, supplementary area– will be updated to reflect current school inventory data. New criteria for Enhanced Top-up also includes a reduced distance threshold:

- Elementary: Any elementary school facility is eligible that is at least 10 km away from any other school facility of the board (elementary or secondary).

- Secondary: Any secondary school facility is eligible that is at least 20 km away from any other secondary school facility of the board.

The Geographic Circumstances Grant has updated factors in the Remote and Rural Allocation. The new allocation model classifies schools under supported, distant and regular designation. These changes will have a negative effect and will result in decreased funding to Limestone over the next three years.

The Trustees discussed the recent School Accommodation Reviews undertaken by the Limestone, which has resulted in the closure of 10 area schools. Director Hunter stated that before she retires she would prepare a final report about schools that have closed, the current status, and future recommendations.

The Declining Enrolment Adjustment Allocation will also see changes from 100% support in year 1 to 50%, from 50% support in year 2 to 25% and from 5% to 0% support in year 3. These changes will be fully implemented in 2015-2016 and will have a negative effect and will result in decreased funding to Limestone..

Trustee French stated that the community needs to understand the financial reality of current funding for public school boards.

Superintendent Babin also stated that student transportation and utilities funding will see some increase under the 2015-2016 GSN funding.

Trustees were in agreement that the Limestone Accommodation Guidelines need to be renewed in the near future, and should be planned for discussion at an upcoming Board meeting.

### 3. 2015-2016 Budget Development

Superintendent Babin reminded Trustees of the upcoming Budget meetings, and provided an overview of the topics to be covered at each session.

### 4. 2015-2016 Special Education Funding- Preliminary Analysis

The new funding model for the Special Education High Needs Amount (HNA) allocation that was introduced in 2014-2015 and will continue to be phased-in over a four year period. The 2014-2015 impact of the new funding model to Limestone was a reduction of almost \$1.1 million in Special Education funding.

In 2015-2016 the decrease in Special Education funding is expected to be very similar at \$1,128,609. With the Special Education per Pupil Amount (SEPPA) component expected to decrease by \$154K, the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) component expected to decrease by \$7K in 2015-2016 and the High Needs Amount (HNA) component expected to decrease by over \$996K. The 2015-2016 expected decrease in special education funding above combined with the 2014-2015 decrease in funding of \$1.1 million will total approximately \$2.2 million. The four year phase-in of the new special education funding model will continue for two more school years or to 2017-2018.

The Ministry has not released multi-year special education projections by school board but based upon the above, Limestone could be subject to a further reduction of

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

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Special Education funding of \$1.1 million in each of the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years.

This report was received for information.

Trustee Ross inquired which census information had been used to calculate the new funding allocations. Superintendent Babin mentioned that he will check but believed it was the 2006 census, which was the last time the long-form census was used.

The Trustees discussed strategies to share information with the public about funding changes over the next few years.

The meeting moved into a short recess at 7:10 pm.

Trustee Jackson assumed the Chair.

**Private Session**

OPSBA

Trustee French provided an OPSBA update.

Director Selection

An update on the Director Selection process was provided.

**Committee to Rise and Report**

*MOTION: That the Committee of Rise and Report to Public Session.*

*MOVED BY: Trustee Ross, seconded by Trustee Mahoney. Carried.*

The meeting moved into Public Session at 7:35 pm

**Other Business**

OPSBA

Trustee French reported that the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) review will soon be publicly available. The outcome of the review will have effects on all school boards in the province, and as such all boards are being encouraged to respond to the review.

Trustee French reported on the new provincial initiative regarding the creation of 'Community Hubs'. A panel has been established to work on this initiative, but does not include school board representation. Trustee French requested that the LDSB send a letter expressing concern with no OPSBA or school board representation on this panel. Trustees agreed that Trustee French should prepare a draft letter and circulate electronically for approval in advance of May 11 Board meeting.

*MOTION: That Trustee French draft a letter to submit to the Ministry of Education re concerns with no OPSBA or school board representation on the new Community Hub panel, and circulate electronically for approval from Trustees.*

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

**April 27, 2015**

*MOVED BY: Trustee Ross, Trustee Mahoney. Carried*

**Next Meeting Dates:**

Monday, May 11, 2015	6 pm (Public Consultations)
Monday, June 1, 2015	6 pm (Budget Deliberations)
Monday, June 8, 2015	(if needed)
Monday, June 15, 2015	6 pm (Budget recommendation to the Board – June 17)

**Adjournment**

Trustee Jackson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

*MOVED BY: Trustee Murray, seconded by Trustee Mahoney, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.