

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

April 25, 2018

Members/:

Trustees E. Crawford
W. Garrod
L. French - regrets
T. Mahoney - regrets
K. McGregor - regrets
P. Murray
A. Ross
S. Ruttan (Chair)
W. Sanderson (Student Trustee)
J. Ascough (Student Trustee)

Officials: M. Babcock, Superintendent of Education
P. Babin, Superintendent of Business Services
M. Baumann, Manager of Business Services
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education, Program and IT
C. Downie, Planning Officer
S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Education and Human Resources - regrets
A. McDonnell, Associate Superintendent, Special Education
D. Rantz, Director of Education
S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness and Assessment
J. Silver, Superintendent of Education

Guests:

Recorder: L. Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Trustee Ruttan, as Chair of the Committee, 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 Ross, that the agenda of April 25, 2018, as presented, be approved. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

Information Items

1. 2018-2019 Projected Enrolment and 10 Year Enrolment Trend

Planning Officer Downie provided an overview of the 2018-2019 projected enrolment and 10-year enrolment trend data to Trustees as part of the 2018-2019 budget development process.

Limestone DSB has experienced significant enrolment declines since the Board amalgamation in 1998. Enrolment in 2013-2014 was 19,855 and is projected to be 19,019 in 2018-2019, a decline of 836 students or about 4.2% as measured on an Average Daily Enrolment basis.

At the secondary level declining enrolment is in part due to the trend in students not choosing to take a fifth secondary school year.

At the elementary level there has been a decline in the English stream, partially offset by an increase in the French stream.

ADE is the basis for funding for most provincial grants through the GSN model. ADE is the weighting of enrolment at the October 31st and March 31st count dates. For example, if an elementary school student is full-time at both count dates the student would be considered as 1.0 ADE.

Over the next 5 years the current enrolment level of 19,172 (ADE) is forecasted to decline by about 296 (ADE) to 18,876 (ADE).

Trustee Ross asked why there appears to be an increase in JK/SK chart, but overall a steady decline in the elementary panel. Planning Officer Downie replied that a smaller number of students will show more obvious ups and downs in enrolment numbers, but become less visible when included in the whole elementary panel.

This report was received for information.

2. 2018-2019 GSN Overview

Superintendent Babin stated that the Ministry has released two memorandums regarding the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), but has not yet released the technical paper, projections or EFIS submission forms, but has stated these are to be released by the end of April 2018.

Special Education Grant

The Ministry is investing nearly \$300 million over the next three school years to provide school boards with funding to address current waitlists for special education assessments and increase programs and services for students with special education needs.

This investment will include two parts:

1. \$125 million in EPO funding over the next three school years. For 2018-2019 specific initiatives include:
 - \$24.5 M provincially to support Mental Health Workers in Schools.
Of this amount LDSB is expected to receive \$331,079
 - \$20.0 M provincially to address waitlists for Special Education Assessments
Board-by-board funding estimates were not released by the Ministry.

2. \$170 million in funding to be allocated through the Special Education Grant over the next three school years. For 2018-2019 specific initiatives include \$52.0 million provincially in funding for a multi-disciplinary team to build capacity and help teachers, EAs, and other board staff better understand and adapt to unique needs of students.
 - Of this amount LDSB is expected to receive \$636,907 for an estimated 6.4 FTE in additional staff

The Ministry is also providing \$30 million provincially in SIP (Special Incidence Portion) funding to support students with extraordinary high needs. The SIP amount per claim for 2018-2019 will increase from \$27,000 to \$38,016.

- LDSB SIP claims are currently about \$400,000, if this trend continues for 2018-2019 LDSB can expect to receive an additional \$140,000 (approx.).

Trustee Ross asked if there will be more funding for EAs. Superintendent Babin answered that there is specific funding for 'multi-disciplinary teams', with latitude for boards in which type of staff they may hire, including EAs.

Trustee Ross asked what the SIP funding covers. Associate Superintendent McDonnell replied that it does not cover assistive technology, it is for staffing fees.

Trustee Murray asked for clarification that the funding in component 1 is EPO and component 2 is GSN. Superintendent Babin answered that that is correct.

Pupil Foundation Grant

The Ministry is investing more than \$140 million over the next three years to support more than 450 additional teachers who will help Grade 7 and 8 students make successful academic transitions and engage in career and pathways planning.

- Of this amount LDSB is expected to receive \$447,449 for an estimated 4.4 FTE in additional staff

The ministry is also supporting boards in meeting smaller class sizes in FDK and grades 4 to 8 by providing an additional \$48M provincially in 2018-2019 by adjusting the funded average class size in FDK to 25.57 (approx. \$11M) and the funded class size in grade 4 to 8 to 23.84 (approx. \$38M).

- Board-by-board funding estimates were not released by the Ministry

Superintendent Silver stated that she has reached out to other boards provincially. The initial thoughts are to put the new funding toward career planning and experiential learning.

English as a Second Language Grant

The Ministry will invest \$10 million in 2018-2019 for the Diversity in English Language Learners (DELL), formerly known as Pupils in Canada (PIC) component of the English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (ESL/ELD) Allocation in the Language Grant.

The DELL component uses census data as a proxy measure of ESL/ELD need for pupils who are not recent immigrants, but whose language spoken most often at home is neither English nor French. This investment, along with an updated distribution using 2016 Census data, will better support enrolment growth in ESL/ELD programs.

Board-by-board funding estimates were not released by the Ministry.

Labour Agreements

The Ministry will provide a 1.5 per cent salary benchmark increase for staff in 2018–2019, to reflect the 2017–2019 central labour agreements.

As part of these agreements, the Ministry established a two year Local Priorities Fund (LPF). The Ministry has indicated that LPF funding will continue for 2018–2019.

- In 2017-2018 LDSB received \$2,373,207 in LPF funding of which \$1,129,416 was identified for special education and the remainder of \$1,124,791 for other local priorities.

School Board Administration & Governance Grant

New for 2018–2019, the Program Leadership Allocation (PLA) is being introduced within the School Board Administration and Governance Grant. This allocation is comprised of six lead positions that were previously funded through other allocations within the GSN and through EPO. These leads are responsible for the organization, administration, management, and implementation of supports to achieve the goals within their respective program areas:

- Mental Health Leaders
- Student Success Leads
- Technology Enabled Learning and Teaching (TELT) Contacts
- School Effectiveness Leads
- Indigenous Education Leads

- Early Years Leads (Formerly in EPO)

For 2018–2019, the Ministry is increasing the base amount for the trustees' honorarium with an additional \$400 in funding. The new limit will now be \$6,300. The Ministry will be engaging with the Trustees' Associations to develop more detailed proposals for revising the trustee honorarium formula.

Capital

The Ministry is continuing its investment in school renewal by investing a total of \$1.4 billion in the 2018–2019 school year with 1 billion allocated towards the School Condition Improvement (SCI) program.

\$100 million will be made available under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to school boards for eligible expenditures incurred between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019. School boards are reminded that this funding cannot be carried over beyond March 31, 2019.

The Ministry will provide school boards with over \$300 million in School Renewal Allocation funding to address health and safety issues, to replace and repair building components, improve the energy efficiency of schools and improve accessibility.

Board-by-board funding estimates were not released by the Ministry.

Other

The Student Transportation Grant will be increased from 2% to 4% to help boards manage increased costs. As in previous years, this update will be netted against a school board's transportation surplus. In addition, 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 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).

In 2017–2018 the Ministry invested an additional \$20 million through the Rural and Northern Fund (RNEF) as an enhancement to the GSN to further improve education for students in rural and northern communities. This funding will be ongoing, and in 2018–2019 the benchmark amounts will be adjusted to reflect impacts from the negotiated salary benchmark increases.

- In 2017-2018 LDSB received \$538,885 in RNEF funding.

In 2018-2019 the Ministry is implementing a cash management strategy to help reduce the Province's borrowing costs. Under the policy, school boards' monthly cash flows will be refined based on each board's cash requirement. 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.

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Trustee Ross asked how the Rural and Northern fund was allocated last year. Superintendent Babin replied that last September a report came to the Board for approval regarding the allocation of this funding. The calculation for the funding is based on where the students are located, not the school the students are associated with. The Board decided to allocate based on Family of Schools.

This report was received for information.

3. Budget Development

Superintendent Babin reminded Trustees of the upcoming Budget Committee meeting dates, noting that the next meeting would be the one to receive deputations.

Trustee Ross asked how the Board advertises for deputations.

Communications Officer Douglas answered that notices are sent to all Unions and Worker Groups, and are shared on the Board's website, Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Trustee Ross asked if individuals are allowed to make deputations. Superintendent Babin replied that deputations can be from an organization, committee or individual.

Communications Officer Douglas stated that written deputations must be submitted and are included with the Budget package. Some individuals/groups chose to let their written submission stand, while others also make a presentation at the meeting,

Other Business

None at this time.

Next Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, May 15, 2018	4:30 p.m. (Public Consultations)
Tuesday, May 29, 2018	4:30 p.m. (Budget Deliberations)
Wednesday, June 13, 2018	4:30 p.m. (Budget recommendation to the Board June 20, 2018)

Adjournment

Trustee Ruttan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.