

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

**May 11, 2015**

**Members/ Trustees:** P. Murray - Chair  
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)

**Officials:** P. Babin, Superintendent of Business Services  
K. Burra, Superintendent of Equity & Inclusion and Program  
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 - regrets  
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 – regrets

**Guests:** Caroline Worthy – Secondary School Administrator’s Organization Group  
Peter Dendy – Association of Elementary School Administrators

**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 Ross, seconded by Trustee Mahoney, that the agenda of May 11, 2015, as presented, be approved. Carried.*

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

**1. Budget Consultations Presentations**

Chair Murray welcomed Ms. Caroline Worthy, Principal of Bayridge Secondary School and Mr. Peter Denby, Principal of Prince Charles Public School who are here tonight to present on behalf of their associations.

b) Secondary School Administrator's Organization, Caroline Worthy, Principal

S. Worthy thanked the Trustees for the opportunity to present on behalf of her Secondary Principal colleagues. She also acknowledged the challenging financial environment for the upcoming 2015-16 school year, and expressed gratitude for the Secondary School Central Programs Budget that allows for cost effective use of limited financial resources among schools.

The top priority for the Secondary Principals in budgetary planning is the need for enhanced information technology resources for the engagement and success of our students. Information technology helps to ensure that teaching is current, relevant, and engaging, and that schools are able to offer equitable learning opportunities for all students. As well, there is an increasing need to purchase, e-books, text materials and other electronic resources to support all students, but in particular, to support students requiring assistive technologies to ensure success. As we encourage the "Bring your own Device" there are also many students whose families do not have the means to provide this technology to students.

Secondary Principal thanked Trustees for their continued support and hard work, particularly during this difficult budget process in very difficult times.

Principal Worthy, responded to questions from Trustees including some of the technology pressures at her school, including the need for a second technology cart, which is a portable charging station with capacity for up to 30 laptops. The second cart would be to serve the second floor in her school and would be ideal to save time in transporting carts between classes.

Trustee Jackson inquired if the possibility of third-party contributions or partnerships possibilities had been investigated to help off-set costs associated with the purchasing of new technology devices. C. Worthy replied that this area had not been reviewed, and that she was unaware of support for technology purchases outside of the Computers for Schools funding.

Director Hunter stated that there is an LDSB procedure on partnerships and that she would share with the Secondary Principals group. She also reminded Trustees that over \$1 million has been invested in technology in the LDSB in the past year.

Trustee Murray thanked S. Worthy for her report.

a) Association of Elementary School Administrators, Peter Dendry

P. Dendry, on behalf of the Association of Elementary School Administrators, shared that the area(s) of focus in the budgetary process for the elementary panel had been ascertained through a board-wide survey. Professional Development had been identified as

a top priority for teachers, administrators, ECEs, and Educational Assistants, and further, that the use of instructional coaches was identified as the most preferred avenue for professional development of elementary staff.

P. Dendry explained that instructional coaches co-plan, co-teach and co-debrief, and assist teachers in working together. This partnership occurs in a non-evaluative atmosphere and is focused solely on student achievement. P. Dendry stated it offers the most significant growth in already excellent teachers, and is one of the most effective models of success for professional development that he had ever encountered.

P. Dendry acknowledged the large investment in new technology in the LDSB in the past year and Elementary Administrators have noticed the ways that this technology is helping staff begin to rethink pedagogy, enhance student engagement and learning outcomes in classrooms and improve communications with families.

Trustee Murray thanked P. Dendry for his report.

### **Written Submissions**

- a) Letter, Lorna-Jean Astle

Trustee Murray acknowledged the letter submitted by Lorna-Jean Astle, a former LDSB Educational Assistant and Library Assistant.

The meeting took a short recess at 6:25 p.m.

## **2. Information Items**

- a) 2015-2016 Operating Budget - Revenue, Myra Baumann, Manager of Financial Services

Superintendent Babin reminded Trustees that for the budget process development, the focus of this evening's agenda is on operating revenues.

Manager Baumann provided Trustees with an analysis of the 2015-2016 preliminary operating revenue estimates, noting that preliminary operating revenue estimates is not yet presented on a full PSAB basis, as it excludes School Generated Funds at an estimated amount of \$6,000,000 and Charitable Trust donations at an estimated amount of \$130,000. These components as well as the capital revenue estimates will be incorporated at a later date.

The projected enrolment that the 2015-2016 preliminary operating revenue estimates is calculated on is summarized below:

- Elementary enrolment is projected at 13,058 ADE.
- Secondary enrolment is projected at 6,296 ADE.
- Secondary-high credit enrolment is projected at 85 ADE.
- Adult, Continuing Education, and Summer School enrolment is projected at 650 ADE.

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Manager Baumann reviewed each of the GSN grant allocations and compared the preliminary 2015-2016 allocations to the 2014-2015 Revised Estimates. In her analysis she provided the primary reasons for the increase/decrease in each of the allocations, including grant policy changes as a result of the government's School Board Efficiencies and Modernization (SBEM) strategy.

Over-all the GSN operating allocation for 2015-2016 is expected to decrease by \$1,856,234 or .82%.

Manager Baumann also reviewed other provincial grants, tuition fees and other revenues and compared the 2015-2016 preliminary revenues to the 2014-2015 Revised Estimates and provided reasons for the over-all decrease of \$812,055.

In total, Manager Baumann explained that the 2015-2016 preliminary operating budget-Revenue is expected to be \$231,364,500 compared to the 2014-2015 Revised Estimates amount of \$234,032,789 or a decrease of \$ 2,668,289.

In response to a question Superintendent Babin stated that the government's School Board Efficiencies and Modernization (SBEM) strategy consultations was conducted by the Ministry and included Directors of Education, Superintendents of Business, Trustees and others representing the t the Public, Catholic and French School Boards and provincial associations. The specific GSN funding formulas/calculations were not reviewed at these consultation sessions and where not shared by the Ministry in advance of the GSN official announcement.

Trustees discussed the significant challenges that the reduced GSN funding will have in the budget development process and the need for increased advocacy.

Trustee Mahoney questioned what OPSBA's position is on the recent changes to school funding allocations. Trustee French answered that OPSBA has expressed significant concern at the provincial level.

Trustee Ross expressed concern over the three-tiered system for the new School Foundation Allocation model, noting it would seem to have the most significant effect on smaller schools.

Trustee French stated that it would be in the LDSB's best interest to offer feedback on the need to phase in any funding changes, as it would help influence decisions for the future.

Trustee Jackson noted there has been strong messaging to bargaining groups and others that there is no new funding available. He suggested that it may be time at a provincial level to look at capital partnerships, alternate financing methods, and/or a review of local taxing authority.

Trustee Murray suggested that it would be valuable to be able to measure expected revenues against expenditures impacts, before planning for advocacy.

Trustees were in agreement that advocacy discussions should be reviewed at the August Trustee planning session.

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Trustee French provided an update on OPSBA's provincial opinion on community hubs, stating that they are still advocating for representative on the Minister's Advisory Group. The Community Hub website is now open and individual feedback can be made.

The report was received for information.

Trustee Murray thanked Manager Baumann for her report.

b) Review of Accumulated Surplus Balances (Appended.)

Superintendent Babin provided Trustees with the Accumulated surplus (deficit) balances as at August 2014, as compared to the 2013-14 audited financial statements.

As part of the 2014-2015 Budget, \$0 of the \$1,854,089 unappropriated surplus funds were used to balance the budget. It is to be noted that the Board spent more than \$250,000 from the unappropriated surplus funds to respond to the Judicial review application brought forward by the Sydenham District Association and five local residents, with the Ontario Divisional Court awarding the Board only \$35,000 for costs.

The report was received for information purposes.

**Other Business**

No other business was discussed at this time.

**Private Session**

No Private Session items were discussed at this time.

**Next Meeting Dates:**

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 Murray called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

*MOVED BY: Trustee French, seconded by Trustee Ruttan, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.