

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

June 5, 2017

Members/:

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

Officials: M. Babcock, Supervising Principal
P. Babin, Superintendent of Business Services
M. Baumann - Manager of Business Services
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education
B. Fraser-Stiff, Superintendent of Education
S. Gillam, Supervising Principal
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Human Resources
A. McDonnell, Supervising Principal
J. Silver, Supervising Principal - regrets
D. Rantz, Director of Education

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.

Director Rantz 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 Crawford, that the agenda of June 5, 2017, as presented, be approved. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Garrod advised that if there were any Labour updates he would be declaring a conflict of interest as his son is an employee of the Board.

Information Items

2017-18 Preliminary Operating Expenditures

Superintendent Babin stated that the 2017-2018 Preliminary Operating Budget Expenditures is balanced to Operating Revenues and aligns resources to support the strategic direction of the Board as outlined in the "Success for All" plan.

Senior staff met with the local union/federations and shared that the \$1,129,416 in LPF special education funding is similar to the decline in the GSN-Special Education allocation as a result of funding model changes introduced in 2014-2015 and being phased in over a four-year period, with 2017-2018 being the final year. Hence, the LPF funding will maintain the current special education structure.

The LPF also included \$900,120 for other local priorities to support additional staffing and professional development. Working with our local union/federations additional investments were made in classroom teachers, school clerical and facility services staffing. Elementary occasional teachers will benefit by attending one professional development day each school year.

In addition, the preliminary operating budget includes:

- Hiring two new Communicative Disorders Assistant (CDA) positions to support students in the area of speech and language.
- Continued investments of professional learning to promote teaching and learning strategies that support the learning needs of students. Most of these investments are funded from Ministry special purpose (EPO) funds to support staff release time during the day.
- An additional investment in professional development is being made to support sessions for staff who may wish to further their learning in a variety of mental health and wellness areas, such as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.
- Improvements in parent and community engagement through technology changes and upgrades to school websites, notifications and alerts.

Manager Baumann stated that the 2017-2018 Preliminary Operating Budget Expenditures of \$244,690,056 is equal to the 2017-2018 Preliminary Operating Budget

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Revenues of \$244,690,056. She reviewed the specific changes to the various operating expenditure categories.

The Ministry requires school boards to submit budgets prepared on a full PSAB basis. The presentation of expenses on a full PSAB basis, including School Generated Funds, Charitable Trust donations and capital revenues and expenditures will be available at the next Committee of the Whole (Budget) meeting scheduled for June 14, 2017.

Trustee Murray inquired if the CDA positions are in addition to Speech Pathologists. Supervising Principal McDonnell replied that they are. The CDAs support the work of Speech pathologists.

Staffing increases are mainly due to recent contract negotiations.

Trustee Ross inquired if the twinning of principals at Glenburnie and Joyceville didn't occur would it have resulted in a negative balance for the Principals/Vice-Principal line. Superintendent Babin stated that there has been low enrolment at Glenburnie and Joyceville for many years. The twinning did help offset costs.

Superintendent Labrie stated that no individual lost their position due to the twinning. The Principal of Joyceville will now be the Principal of both sites. The Glenburnie Principal will go to another school with a vacant position.

Trustee French had inquired how the LDSB supports professional development for FASD training. Supervising McDonnell responded that professional learning sessions are offered for support staff to learn more on appropriate supports for students with FASD. These sessions occur in connection with community partners, such as Ongwanada. Sue Burnett is the main contact for this area, and will go into schools for one on one assistance for staff.

Trustee Jackson asked for a comparison of total special education funding for this year versus the upcoming school year. Superintendent Babin answered that data was provided at the May 16, 2017 Budget meeting report. In 2017-18, Special Education will receive approximately \$28.5 million. For 2016-2017, the Board received approximately \$29.1 million. As mentioned, the new Local Priorities Fund as part of the Learning Opportunities Grant is providing about \$1.1 million in special education funding.

Trustee Murray stated that she could only imagine the amount of work that went into balancing the budget with the many years of cuts to special education.

2017-18 Learning Opportunities Grant

Superintendent Babin provided information to Trustees on the 2017-2018 Learning Opportunities Grant (LOG). He noted that a Trustee has put forward a notice of motion at the May 17, 2017 regular board meeting requesting a comprehensive report on the Learning Opportunities Grant. Board policy requires that the motion be debated at the next regular board meeting, which is June 21, 2017.

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Superintendent Babin provided a break-down of the components where the LOG monies are allocated to.

New to the Learning Opportunities Grant (LOG) in 2017-2108 is the addition of the Local Priorities Fund (LPF). This LPF funding of about \$2.6M is being provided as a result of education sector labour negotiations to address special education issues and other local priorities including funding for additional staff, salaries and professional development. These funds were placed in the learning opportunities grant as opposed to adjusting benchmarks in such GSN grants as the special education grant, school foundation grant and school operations grants, possibly, because the LPF is only a two-year initiative.

The LDSB has been challenged by GSN funding model changes in recent years, specifically in the special education grant. The flexibility of the LOG demographic component allocation has allowed the board to support about \$1.6M in special education programming spending in 2015-2016 (latest full year results) above the level provided by the GSN special education grant. There are no enveloping provisions for the LPF funds however; boards are required to work with their unions/federations to direct these funds to address local board needs and circumstances.

Trustee Ross inquired if the LOG monies is derived from the same funding model as Per Pupil Allocation. Superintendent Babin answered that the amounts are determined from negotiations and included in a table amount that the Ministry develops.

Trustee Jackson stated he appreciated the report, and the break out of amounts to the various areas. He stated that the information will be helpful in making the upcoming budget approval decision.

Trustee Jackson further stated that he found it unfortunate how small the amount is to make up for the gaps in the Board's budget.

Other Business

None at this time.

Next Meeting Dates:

Monday, June 14, 2017 4:30 pm (Budget recommendation to the Board – June 21, 2017)

Adjournment

Trustee Ruttan called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.