

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

May 16, 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 - regrets
P. Babin, Superintendent of Business Services
M. Baumann - Manager of Business Services
K. Burra, Superintendent of Education - regrets
B. Fraser-Stiff, Superintendent of Education - regrets
D. Fowler, Manager of Facility Services - regrets
S. Gillam, Supervising Principal - regrets
A. Labrie, Superintendent of Human Resources
A. McDonnell, Supervising Principal - regrets
J. Silver, Supervising Principal - regrets
D. Rantz, Director of Education

Guests: H. Hight, Secondary School Administrators' Organization
S. Hedderson, Elementary School Administrators
A. Taillifer, Community Member

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 McGregor, that the agenda of May 16, 2017, as presented, be approved. Carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

Budget Consultations/Deputations

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

A. Taillefer provided a presentation on the effects of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and requested the Board consider a mandated, one-day FASD educational and professional development presentation as an explicit component of both the Professional Development and School Improvement Plans. She further requested that this training be facilitated by the Fetal Alcohol Resource Program (FARP).

Trustee Garrod inquired how a child is diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. A. Taillefer answered that it is a multi-disciplinary diagnosis, facilitated by various health care professionals like pediatricians, psychologists, speech/language and/or hearing specialists and others. It is a distinct diagnosis, and can have varying degrees on a spectrum.

Trustee Ross inquired how a treatment plan for a child with FASD would differ from other disorders, such as Autism. A. Taillefer answered that with FASD children need ongoing supports throughout the day. It takes them longer to develop self-advocacy and self-regulation than other disorders, and some may never achieve this.

Trustee Jackson asked if the health care system should be assisting children with FASD in schools. A. Taillefer answered that she would love to see this partnership happening with the education system, but at this point the focus needs to be on awareness. Ideally FASD students would be supported by a team of professionals from various areas.

Trustee French inquired if Ms. Taillefer was asking for more consistent messaging in dealing with children with FASD, and further what would success look like. A. Taillefer answered that consistent messaging is key, and that specific training for this disorder is necessary for education staff.

Secondary School Administrators' Organization

H. Hight presented on behalf of the Secondary School Administrators' group, stating technology was the one main area in which principals agree continues to be a pressure and for which there is not enough financial support. The need for enhanced information technology resources is critical to the engagement and success of our students.

There is continued pressure to ensure our schools and our teaching remain current, relevant and engaging for our students, who are often ahead of the adults in their world, in this area. 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

Trustee Ross asked Ms. Highet what portion of the budget should go toward training teachers. H. Highet answered that administrators are proficient in getting themselves familiar with various programs, and then providing PD for the teaching staff.

Director Rantz stated that she is very proud of LDSB staff who attend the many professional development sessions provided for staff outside of regular school hours.

Trustee Jackson inquired if there was a happy balance with what the Board provides in hardware and how the school uses the devices. H. Highet stated that needs vary from school to school, depending on a number of factors. All schools are embracing the 'bring it' initiative, wherein students bring their own devices into school. H. Highet also noted that high schools offer specialized programming, some of which require high-powered devices to run specific programs.

Students who don't have access to devices or Wi-Fi at home can be at a disadvantage. Staff work hard to make sure students are not disadvantaged.

Superintendent Babin stated that school boards receive \$45 per student for computers. At a system-wide level it costs about \$500,000 per year, and an additional \$750,000 for Wi-Fi. The provincial funding model has not kept up with the advances in technology and the move away from printed educational materials.

Student Trustee Sanderson stated that he feels many teachers are aware of student circumstance regarding access to devices and Wi-Fi outside of school, and tailor learning plans to meet these needs.

Association of Elementary School Administrators

S. Hedderson presented on behalf of the Elementary School Administrators' group, stating that the main areas for funding consideration are professional learning and instructional coaches. The group hopes that that investment in professional learning continues to address capacity building in Mathematics and Special Education and uses the technology investments of previous years to support these efforts.

Trustee Murray inquired what the difference was between an instructional coach and a teacher. S. Hedderson answered that an instructional coach provides feedback and coaching on the teacher's practice, and assists with planning and implementing instructional approaches in the classroom.

Trustee Ross asked for an example of current programs/services that should be reviewed. S. Hedderson answered that the group is looking into innovating practice, and reviewing the way students are received and assisted in schools. There was no one program that was targeted, but asking that the Board consider a broad range of factors moving forward.

Director Rantz reminded Trustees of last year's Special Education review, and that the feedback strongly recommended not continuing with things just because that's the way

we've always done it. LDSB staff are focused on staying current, and being innovative in the ways they deliver instruction to students. The Board is moving forward with plans to make the educational experience accessible and equitable for all students. Innovation does not mean technology alone, it's the manner of delivering education.

Trustee Jackson inquired if there were other resources that could be accessed that would not require additional funding, for example through a partnership with Queen's University. S. Hedderson replied that the LDSB already has a great partnership with Queen's, and also works with the Eastern Ontario Staff Development Network to develop unique and innovative programs.

Trustee French asked that Senior Staff provide a report on the current level of Professional Development being provided, including current training on FASD.

Information Items

2017-2018 Preliminary Operating Budget Revenues

Manager Baumann stated that the preliminary operating revenue estimates is not yet presented on a full PSAB basis. It excludes School Generated Funds at an estimated amount of \$6,000,000 and Charitable Trust donations at an estimated amount of \$200,000. These components as well as the capital revenue estimates will be incorporated later.

The 2017-2018 preliminary operating revenue estimates is presented alongside the 2016-2017 revised estimates and 2016-2017 estimates for comparison purposes.

The projected enrolment of 19,403 ADE that the 2017-2018 preliminary operating revenue estimates is calculated on is summarized below:

- Elementary enrolment is projected at 13,200 ADE.
- Secondary enrolment is projected at 6,134 ADE.
- Secondary-high credit enrolment is projected at 69 ADE.
- Adult, Continuing Education and Summer School enrolment is projected at 470 ADE.

Over-all the operating GSN allocations has increased \$6,714,444 or 2.94%.

Trustee Ross inquired if the new funding for Special Education is to increase the salary of current staff, and not to hire new teachers. Superintendent Babin answered that the monies received from the government will go toward an increase in the salary grids.

Trustee Ross inquired about the increase in revenues for community use of schools. Superintendent Babin answered that he is not seeing decline in the amounts of permits being issues, and that LDSB rate is comparative to the City and co-terminous boards. The rates will increase for the 2017-18 school year.

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

May 16, 2017

Superintendent Babin further clarified that rates have not increased for field rentals. The additional monies being generated is for the cost recovery of caretaker fees. Most rentals are for gymnasiums, and policy requires a caretaker to be present when a community group is using a space in a school.

Trustee Garrod asked for further clarification for the new campus rates. Superintendent Babin stated that this will affect the Board where there are two schools on the same piece of property. This new funding is being phased-in over four years, and has been a benefit to LDSB.

The Capital Planning Capacity funding is to support better reporting, and additional staff during PARCs, etc.

Trustee Jackson inquired if the Board is currently spending all of the funding allocated for Indigenous Education. Superintendent Babin replied that Indigenous Funding is generated by the number of credits that students are enrolled in, and that the Board uses this money for staff and consultants.

Manager Baumann clarified that the Cafeteria and Beverage revenue is an inflationary increase, with embedded salary recovery.

Trustee Sanderson inquired if the increase in transportation funding will go toward Tri-Board fees. Superintendent Babin stated that there will be higher fees for Tri-Board due to enrolment increases. The funding will also be used to supplement the partnership with the City, and for after-school activities that require busing.

Accumulated Surplus & Deferred Revenue - Capital

The accumulated surplus consists of unappropriated funds totally \$2,329,169.00, and internally appropriated and externally appropriated funds totalling \$2,323,776.00.

The \$2,329,169 of unappropriated funds equals about 1% of the Board's operating revenue. The interest generated from these are used for school operation.

Trustee Murray asked for confirmation that the Board had just signed a new lease for the Morven site. Superintendent Babin confirmed this was true. He clarified that as part of the sale agreement the lease can transfer to the buyer.

Trustee Jackson inquired if the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2016 would change with the dispensation of property. Superintendent Babin stated that it would.

Trustee Mahoney asked if the 2% increase in energy funding will be adequate to meet the Board's needs. Superintendent Babin replied that at this point Financial Services is tracking where the Board could be next year. He expressed concerns that the increase may not be enough.

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

May 16, 2017

Trustee Ross inquired if individual school budget balances can be carried forward. Superintendent Babin replied that if funding is not used in one year a school can carry monies forward to the next school year. Some projects are also multi-year and funding will be carried forward in these cases.

Trustee Ross inquired if schools can apply for a grant, and match it with unused funds to purchase items such as school yard equipment. Superintendent Bain answered that School Councils raise money for school yard equipment, the Board does not fund this. The Board acts as the bank for school generated funds.

Trustee Ross inquired if the Board tracks GHG emissions. Superintendent Babin replied that the Board is required to report its fuel consumption to the Ministry on an annual basis.

Trustee Mahoney stated that it was reported at ESAC that the Board is tracking GHG emissions, and that there will be more relevant data for the future.

Trustee Jackson asked where the carbon footprint from fuel emissions from buses fits into this reporting. Superintendent Babin stated that at this point there is not a requirement to report on emissions from school buses.

Trustee Jackson asked for confirmation that the WSIB reserve can still be used if needed. Superintendent Babin answered that it can, and that the amount held lines up closely to the Board's liability.

Trustee Mahoney asked when the Board negotiates with Tri-Board is there a model to follow. Superintendent Babin replied that the model from the province is still tendering. The model LDSB is currently using was set by the arbitrator during the recent legal action.

Other Business

None at this time.

Next Meeting Dates:

Monday, June 5, 2017 4:30 pm (Budget Deliberations)

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 Crawford, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.