

A meeting of the Property/Operations Committee was held at the LDSB Education Centre, 220 Portsmouth Ave., Kingston, Ontario, on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Members/Trustees:

Trustee Garrod (Chair)
Trustee Ruttan – via videoconference
Trustee Jackson (Ex-Officio)
Trustee French
Trustee Crawford
Trustee Mahoney
Trustee Ross

Officials: P. Babin, Superintendent of Business Services
W. Toms, Manager of ITS and Planning Officer
D. Fowler, Manager of Facility Services
D. Rantz, Director of Education
S. Lehman, Supervising Principal, Student Pathways for Success

Regrets:

Guests: Sarah Pardy, Kingstonians for Safe Technology Group

Recorder: Liz Strange, Records Management Coordinator

Chair Garrod called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Presentation

S. Pardy, on behalf of Kingstonians for Safe Technology, made a presentation on 'Concerns Regarding the Safety of Wi-Fi in Schools'. The group is a local, volunteer group comprised of concerned parents/grandparents, as well as business owners, health and education professionals, researchers and others.

The presentation clarified that the group is not against the use of technology or providing students access to the internet, but is concerned about the continuous exposure of students and staff to microwave radiation from Wi-Fi in schools.

The presentation cited a number of studies that suggest exposure to electromagnetic frequencies (EMF), which includes Wi-Fi, can have negative health effects.

Chair Garrod thanked S. Pardy for the presentation and advised that the Board of Trustees would discuss this issue further. The delegation withdrew from the meeting.

Manager Toms and Supervising Principal Lehman withdrew from the meeting.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED BY: Trustee Crawford, that the agenda, as distributed, be approved. Carried.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

Action Items

3. Renewal Needs Backlog – Toronto District School Board Letter

Superintendent Babin shared a letter received from the Toronto District School Board requesting Boards share their Renewal Needs Backlog costs, recommending that this information be provided.

MOTION: That LDSB respond to the TDSB's Renewal Needs Backlog survey.

MOVED BY: Trustee Ross.

Manager Fowler provided an overview of the School Condition Assessment process, which feeds into the provincial Total Capital Planning Solutions (TCPS) database. This is how the Ministry collects information on components that need to be addressed in all schools in the province. The assessment covers Architectural & Structural, Mechanical, Electrical, and Site elements.

The Ministry provides consultants a template to follow regarding replacement costs, with a geographic index applied. The needs are logged as to be completed within a five-year timeline, and a separate listing for projects to be completed beyond the five year period.

By way of example Manager Fowler shared a LDSB Condition Assessment report for J.G. Simcoe Public School, explaining the breakdown of the individual elements by description, condition, replacement costs and timelines, and recommendations.

In response to a question Manager Fowler explained that the School Condition Assessment process only takes into account the estimated replacement costs for the element, though projects may have higher costs due to additional issues related to the replacement. i.e. piping needs replacement as well as toilet.

This fiscal year the LDSB has received approximately \$10.6 million dollars in School Renewal and School Condition Improvement funding. The LDSB must then prioritize projects to be completed within the funds allotted. A breakdown of current Capital Projects was shared with Trustees at the Budget Committee in spring 2015. A 10-Year Capital Plan is also shared each fall at the Property/Operations Committee meeting.

The Ministry is aware of the Backlog Renewal Needs for each Board in the province.

The Total Capital Planning Solutions (TCPS) database is only one tool the LDSB uses to prioritize Capital Projects.

Concerns were expressed that once the information is shared there is a loss of control on how the information will be used.

Superintendent Babin clarified that the renewal backlog costs of our \$300 million have been used in many presentations.

It was suggested that due to current budgetary concerns it is timely to share what is essentially public information, specifically as it relates to the LDSB's need for more funding and/or new tools to fix aging school.

Trustee Mahoney called for a Recorded Vote:

Yeas: Trustee Crawford, Trustee French, Trustee Garrod, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Mahoney, Trustee Ross, Trustee Ruttan (7)

Nays: (0)

The original vote was Called and Carried. (7:0)

Trustee Ruttan withdrew from the meeting.

Information Items

4. i) Tender Re: Rideau Public School Play Yard and Field

Manager Fowler provided background on the issues regarding the Rideau Public School play yard and field. The sports field has had several field improvement projects in the last several years. Each project has improved the field for a short period of time. The field condition is extremely difficult to maintain as there is a significant number of students using the space. The recent four room FDK addition to the school has increased the density of students using the field space only compounding the field maintenance problems. AECOM (Engineering Consultant) was contracted to investigate and design a more sustainable sports field. Rideau Public School staff and parent council were consulted on potential solutions. It was recommended by AECOM to install an artificial turf sports field with asphalt track.

The process meets the following conditions of Administrative Procedure 515 - Purchasing Procedures to be awarded by the Superintendent of Business Services; the lowest compliant quotation is recommended for award; and the quoted price is within 10% of the project budget.

It is recommended that the contract for Sports Field Improvement at Rideau Public School, be awarded by the Superintendent of Business Services to Len Corcoran Excavating Ltd in the amount of \$407,471.50.

This report was received for information.

ii) Tender Re: Snow Plowing Services for 2015-2016 Winter Season

Manager Fowler shared that Tenders were received and opened in Conference Room B at the Limestone Education Centre at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 by the Tender Opening Committee.

The list of low tenders for snow plowing and sanding for the 2015-2016 winter season totals approximately \$337,954 (snowplowing cost for Enterprise Public School is TBD). This amount aligns with the budget allocation for snow plowing for 2015-2016.

Administration reviewed the tenders and it is recommended that the low tenders, having met the requirements of the snow plowing specifications and taking into account the vendors' equipment, be approved by the Superintendent of Business Services in accordance with Procedure 515 - Purchasing Procedures.

Manager Fowler explained that contracts had been negotiated as 'lump sum' costs for more precise budgeting. The LDSB will have a concrete fee regardless of the number of times a site would need to be plowed.

It was further explained that sites with higher quoted fees are due to the need to remove snow to another site as the school lot does not have the space to accommodate it.

This report was received for information.

Updates

4. i) Planning, Wayne Toms

Superintendent Babin provided a Planning update on behalf of Manager Toms. LDSB Planning staff met with City of Kingston representatives regarding KCVI Heritage Designation in September. Due to workload KCVI is not a priority, but the City would like the designation process completed before the LDSB disposes of the property.

Sharbot Lake, Sandhurst and H.H. Langford Public School sites have sold.

Staff are working on the updates to the policies and procedures related to the Community Partnerships and Pupil Accommodation Reviews, and they will be presented at the November Board meeting.

This report was received for information.

ii) Facility Services, Dave Fowler

Manager Fowler spoke to the power outage that occurred in the City of Kingston and surrounding area on October 27, 2015. A number of LDSB schools were affected for varying amounts of time, with Granite Ridge Education Centre being the last to regain power at approximately 11 p.m.

Facility Services staff responded quickly to the issue, delivering water and flashlights as needed to schools without power.

Private Session

MOTION: To move into Private Session

MOVED BY: Trustee Jackson. Carried.

The members discussed two Private Session items.

The committee reported at 6:55 p.m.

5. Other Business

Follow up to Presentation

Trustees discussed the presentation regarding Wi-Fi usage in schools, requesting that staff prepare a report on the issue, including information about safety regulations and protocols that are followed. Superintendent Babin stated that he expected a report of this type could be completed within the next quarter.

MOTION: That LDSB Senior Staff prepare a report on the safety regulations and protocols related to the use of Wi-Fi in LDSB Schools.

MOVED BY: Trustee Ross.

Trustee Mahoney called for a Recorded vote:

Yeas: Trustee Crawford, Trustee French, Trustee Garrod, Trustee Jackson, Trustee Mahoney, Trustee Ross (6)

Nays: (0)

The original vote was Called and Carried. (6:0)

The Chair asked staff to advise S. Pardy that Trustees have requested a report be prepared about the issue for further review and discussion.

6. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, November 25, 2015

7. Adjournment

MOVED by: Trustee Mahoney, that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.