

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING NO. 17

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2024 MAR 26
7:30 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Ellen Chambers (Chair)
Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous Trustee)

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY:

Donica LeBlanc (Vice Chair)
Pat Johansen
Ron Oikonen
George Saarinen
Trudy Tuchenhagen
Leah Vanderwey
Ryan Sitch
Emily Drake (Indigenous Student Trustee)
Morgann De Franceschi (Student Trustee)

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education
AJ Keene, Superintendent of Education (Virtual)
Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education
Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education (Virtual)
Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education (Virtual)
Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business (Virtual)

FEDERATION/UNION REPRESENTATIVES:

Nancy Nix, Union Representative, ETFO-Elementary Occasional Teachers
Dave Covello, Manager, Lakehead District School Board

PUBLIC SESSION:

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Wemigwans

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

"THAT the Agenda for Regular Board Meeting No. 17, March 26, 2024 be approved."

CARRIED

2. Resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Wernigwans

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

"THAT we resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session with Trustee Chambers in the chair to consider the following:

- *Confirmation of Committee of the Whole – Closed Session Minutes*
 - *Regular Board Meeting No. 16*
 - *February 27, 2024*
- *Personnel Matter (044-24)*
- *Personnel Matter (045-24)*
- *Property Matter (037-24)*

and that this meeting shall not be open to the public pursuant to Section 207 (2) of the Education Act as amended."

CARRIED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CLOSED SESSION:

3. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session items were dealt with in their entirety.

PUBLIC SESSION:

4. Report of Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

"THAT the Report of the Regular Board-Committee of the Whole – Closed Session be adopted with the following recommendations therein:

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole – Closed Session Minutes of Regular Board Meeting No. 16, February 27, 2024.'

CARRIED

5. Trustee Character Award

Trustee Vanderwey, on behalf of the Board, presented Allyson Boone, Student, Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute (Westgate CVI) with the Trustees' Character Award. Allyson was recognized for her outstanding leadership and exemplary strength in character. Allyson fosters positive and inclusive environment for her peers at Westgate CVI.

Chair Chambers, on behalf of the Board presented Corine Bannon, Anishinaabemowin teacher, Algonquin Public School with the Trustees' Character Award. Corine was recognized for her ability to integrate cultural teachings and promoting language throughout the school. She connects the students to real life opportunities to promote the culture and speak the language.

6. Delegations/ Presentations:

6.1 Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair

Jason Pilot, Co-Chair, Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair, Rebecca Cross, Co-Chair, Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair, along with students Abbigayle Nelson and Elise Merryfield presented information to the Board on the upcoming Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair to be held on April 4, 2024 at Confederation College. All trustees' questions were addressed.

7. Celebrating Student Achievement – Get Fresh – A Partnership between Roots Community Food Centre and Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute.

Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education, introduced Principal Ryan McDonnell, Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute (SCVI), who presented information regarding his school's partnership with Roots Community Food Centre. The collaboration began to increase student engagement, support student learning, and foster community, while providing food services for students. All trustees' questions were addressed.

8. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Wemigwans

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting No.16, February 27, 2024."

CARRIED

MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:

9. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

Trustee Sitch informed the Board that he attended the OPSBA Directors meeting on March 1-2, 2024. Trustee Sitch reported that topics discussed were the standard business items along with a learning session with Matthew Morris, Teacher, Toronto District School Board, who wrote a book about being a black male in the public education system. Other topics discussed were the National Food Program and transportation concerns. Members were encouraged to write letters to the government representatives regarding these topics. Trustee Sitch reminded trustees of the April 6, 2024 OPSBA Northern Council Meeting on Zoom. Next OPSBA Directors meeting will be held at the end of April.

10. Student Trustee Report

Morgann De Franceschi, Student Trustee, presented her March report to the Board. Items addressed in the report included: hosting a second virtual Student Senate at the end of February and a meeting with Westgate CVI's Parent Council on February 26, 2024. Student Trustee De Franceschi continues to take the time to listen to the voices of the students and parents of Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) to help contribute to the development of a safe and supportive school environment. All trustees' questions were addressed.

11. Indigenous Student Trustee Report

Emily Drake, Indigenous Student Trustee, presented her March report to the Board. Items addressed in the report included: leading the virtual Student Senate with Student Trustee De Franceschi and a planned meeting with Principal McDonnell, SCVI. All trustees' questions were addressed.

12. Updates from the Chair/ Director

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, informed the Board that the Provincial budget was released today. Minister Lecce indicated that next will be the Capital Projects and then after that will come the GSN's. Director Pharand updated the Board on some upcoming training for the Sr Team and Human Resources Department from Njeri Damali Sojourner- Campbell, Human Rights expert, with the focus on long term review of the Boards' hiring practices, policies and procedures. Director Pharand informed the Board of an afterschool book study that over 30 teachers have signed up for to enhance their skill set in reading. There was also the leadership panel that the entire Sr Team was able to participate in. Director Pharand informed the Board that LDSB received summer mental health funds that will be used to provide supports for students requiring mental health support during the summer months. The regular summer programming will be happening again this year with more details to come in the future board report. Director Pharand mentioned that Chief Cadmus Delorme presented for Diversity Thunder Bay as well as speaking to over 200 Grade 10 civics students at Westgate CVI. Director Pharand reminded the Board to mark their calendars for the upcoming Second Annual Bruce Nugent Memorial Golf Tournament, planning is underway with the date set to go for August 26, 2024. Director Pharand shared with the Board that she is very proud of the LDSB students in co-curricular activities she shared some of the LDSB's school teams successes with the Board.

Chair Ellen Chambers informed the Board that our trustees will be receiving some professional development with Marion Thomson Howell, who has presented at many conferences including the OPSBA Public Education Symposium.

13. Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, presented the November 20, 2024 minutes. All trustees' questions were addressed.

14. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business, presented the January 30, 2024 minutes. All trustees' questions were addressed.

15. Bus Transportation Final costs for 2023-2024 (039-24)

Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business, introduced Craig Murphy, Consortium Manager, Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

16. Student Achievement Report (043-24)

Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education, introduced Fred Van Elburg, Program Coordinator, and Meghan Smelow, Student Success Lead, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

17. French Immersion Report (041-24)

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

18. Math Achievement Action Plan (040-24)

AJ Keene, Superintendent of Education presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

19. Appointment to the Parent Involvement Committee (038-24)

Moved by Trustee Sitch

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the appointment of Michelle Riemer, school council representative, to the Parent Involvement Committee, effective March 26, 2024, to November 14, 2025."

CARRIED

20. Ad Hoc and Special Committee Reports

20.1 Communication Committee – Letter of response to MPP Kevin Holland re: Transportation Concerns

Moved by Trustee Sitch

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the letter of response from Lakehead District School Board Trustees to MPP Kevin Holland, re: Transportation Concerns."

CARRIED

20.2 Communication Committee – Letter to Minister of Education, Steven Lecce re: Transportation Concerns

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the letter from Lakehead District School Board Trustees to Minister of Education, Steven Lecce, re: Transportation Concerns."

CARRIED

20.3 Communications Committee- Letter to Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland re: Federal Budget 2024-National School Food Program

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen

Seconded by Trustee Wemigwans

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the letter from Lakehead District School Board Trustees to Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland re: Federal Budget 2024- National School Food Program."

CARRIED

21. New Reports

- 22. New Business
- 23. Notices of Motion
- 24. Information and Inquiries
- 25. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Wemigwans

"THAT we do now adjourn at 9:58 p.m."

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – April 23, 2024

E. Chamos

Alvarado

