

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Board Room/Microsoft Teams  
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2024 SEP 24  
7:30 P.M.

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

Ellen Chambers (Chair)  
Donica LeBlanc (Vice Chair)  
Pat Johansen  
George Saarinen  
Scottie Wemigwans  
Leah Vanderwey

Emily Drake (Indigenous Student  
Trustee)  
Morgann De Franceschi (Student  
Trustee)

**ABSENT WITH REGRET:**

Ron Oikonen  
Ryan Sitch  
Trudy Tuchenhausen

**SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:**

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education  
Nick Sacevich, Associate Superintendent and Math/ IT Lead  
Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education  
Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education  
Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education  
Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business

**FEDERATION/UNION REPRESENTATIVES:**

Dave Covello, Lakehead District School Board Managers  
Nancy Nix, Union Representative, ETFO-Elementary Occasional Teachers  
Heather Campbell, Lakehead District School Board Principals/ Vice Principals

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

*"THAT the Agenda for Regular Board Meeting, September 24, 2024 be approved."*

**CARRIED**

## PUBLIC SESSION:

2. Chair Chambers requested Board members take a moment of silence to honour the memory of Jasmine Zarina Kauldhar.

3. Ontario Public School Boards' Association Achievement Award

Trustee LeBlanc, on behalf of the Board, presented Rebecca Cross and Jason Pilot, Co-Chairs of the Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair, each with an Ontario Public School Boards' (OPSBA) Achievement Award. Rebecca and Jason are presented these awards for their passion and dedication to teaching and sharing their love of science, technology, engineering and math through the Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair.

4. Ontario Public School Boards' Association Achievement Award

Trustee Vanderwey, on behalf of the Board, presented Destiny Linklater, Knowledge Keeper, with an Ontario Public School Boards' (OPSBA) Achievement Award. Destiny is presented with this award for sharing her traditional knowledge of Indigenous traditions and culture with Lakehead Public School students and staff.

5. Ontario Public School Boards' Association of Excellence and Achievement Award

Chair Chambers, on behalf of the Board, presented Moffat Makuto, Executive Director, Multicultural Association of Northwestern Ontario, with the OPSBA Award of Excellence and an OPSBA Achievement Award. Moffat is presented with these awards for his over 40 years of efforts in providing the youth in our community with safe spaces, a helping hand and a strong but gentle voice in support of all issues that today's youth may be facing.

6. Celebrating School Community Report/Trustee Character Award

Director Pharand introduced Sue Peever, longtime volunteer with Lakehead District School Board, who presented her report on recovered lost and found items along with the redistribution of those items to students at Lakehead Public Schools. All trustees' questions were answered. Chair Chambers introduced Trustee Wemigwans who, on behalf of the Board, presented Sue with a surprise Trustee Character Award. Sue is presented with this award for her incredible volunteer efforts in collecting, sorting, and redistributing items to Lakehead Public Schools with the greatest need.

7. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, June 25, 2024."*

CARRIED

## MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:

### 8. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

Trustee Johansen updated the Board that she attended the OPSBA Development Committee meeting on Friday, September 13, 2024. There were several participants in attendance from the Ministry of Education who gave updates on the following:

- new curriculum requirements;
- equity and governance; and,
- Trustee Code of Conduct re: electronic meetings and meeting attendance - legal discussion regarding Bill 98 implementation.

Trustee Johansen informed the Board that she will be attending additional meetings in November, February and again in May. There were no questions from trustees.

### 9. Student Trustee Report (098-24)

Morgann De Franceschi, Student Trustee, presented her September report to the Board. Items addressed in the report included her main goals for the upcoming school year as student trustee and attendance at the United Way Better is Possible Breakfast with trustees, LDSB administrators and managers. All trustees' questions were addressed.

### 10. Indigenous Student Trustee Report

Emily Drake, Indigenous Student Trustee, presented her September report to the Board. Indigenous Student Trustee Drake informed the Board that she will be graduating in the new year so this will be her last term in her role as Indigenous student trustee. Additional items addressed in the report included her objectives for the upcoming school term. All trustees' questions were addressed.

### 11. Updates from the Chair/Director

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, updated the Board that she is thrilled with the start-up of the school year. Director Pharand informed the Board that the implementation of the cell phone ban has received positive feedback from students, parents, and staff. Director Pharand updated the Board on some of the many co-curricular activities that have already started for this school year. Director Pharand thanked all the many coaches and volunteers for their extra time and efforts to ensure that students have the best experience.

### 12. Summer Learning Programs K-12 (095-24)

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education introduced Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program, along with Meghan Smelow, Student Success Lead, to present the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

## MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 13. Approval of Appointment to the Special Education Advisory Committee (090-24)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the appointment of Anne Antenucci as a returning member to the Special Education Advisory Committee representing Autism Ontario – North, for the term ending November 30, 2026, as outlined in Report No 90-24".*

CARRIED

### 14. Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (096-24)

Policy Review – 3094 Electronic Meetings Policy (093-24)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Vanderwey

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the review of 3094 Electronic Meetings Policy, as indicated in Report No. 093-24."*

CARRIED

### 15. Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (096-24)

Director Performance Appraisal Ad Hoc Committee (092-24)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Vanderwey

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the following motions:*

- 1. That Lakehead District School Board appoint all trustees to the Director Performance Appraisal Committee.*
- 2. That Lakehead District School Board appoint Trustee Saarinen as chairperson of the Director Performance Appraisal committee for the 2024-2025 school year."*

CARRIED

### 16. Ad Hoc and Special Committee Reports

### 17. New Reports

18. New Business

18.1 Letter of Endorsement to Ontario Public School Boards' Association Re: Bill 98

Chair Chambers informed the Board of a request from Toronto Catholic District School Board requesting that trustee associations challenge Bill 98. Trustees reviewed a draft letter of endorsement from Chair Chambers, on behalf of LDSB, provided as a handout. All trustees' questions were addressed.

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Vanderwey

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board send a letter endorsing the communication from Toronto Catholic District School Board on September 11, 2024, to school board chairs, requesting that trustee associations challenge Bill 98 in its entirety."*

CARRIED

18.2 Letter of Response to Lise Vaugeois  
Re: Transportation

Superintendent Alaksa reviewed information provided to the Board, both verbally and in a handout, that is to be included in a letter from Thunder Bay's three school boards and Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay (STSTB) to MPP Vaugeois in response to her request for information to help advocate for a Northern exemption/ extension to the transportation services for the 2024-2025 school year. Superintendent Alaksa informed the Board that she was seeking their consensus on the information that is to be contained in the letter to be sent on behalf of the Boards and STSTB. Consensus was indicated by all trustees present. Director Pharand requested that the letter be copied to MPP Holland, and Minister Dunlop. Trustee Saarinen requested that it be sent to OPSBA as well. Chair Chambers requested that the final letter be sent to the educational union leads. All trustees agreed on added recipients. All trustees' questions were answered.

18.3 Letter of Response to the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge  
Re: Transportation Concerns For The Town Of Kakabeka Falls

Chair Chambers reviewed with the Board, the draft letter of response to the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge from Chair Chambers, on behalf of the Board, provided as a handout. All trustees' questions were addressed.

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board send a letter of response to the municipality of Oliver Paipoonge regarding transportation concerns addressed in a letter to trustees dated September 12, 2024."*

CARRIED

19. Notices of Motion

20. Information and Inquiries

20.1 Trustee Vanderwey informed the Board of a free Webinar being put on by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation called "lunch and learn". The Webinars are posted on the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation YouTube site for viewing.

20.2 Chair Chambers informed the board of the following events attended by trustees:

- September 12, 2024 – United Way Better is Possible Breakfast;
- September 20, 2024 - Heritage Day Event – Algonquin Avenue Public School;
- September 23, 2024 – Trustee Informal Session – Strategic Plan Development Process; and,
- September 24, 2024 – Minister Of Education Visit to Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute. Highlights of the visit included the special needs students from the Special Brew Coffee Crew who served tea and coffee, and the tech student who created some special gifts for Minister Dunlop, including an engraved charcuterie board.

20.3 Chair Chambers informed the Board of the following upcoming events in the month of September:

- Community Coalition Unified for the Protection of Children and Youth – Fall Harvest – September 25, 2024, at Fort William Historical Park;
- National Truth and Reconciliation Week – September 23-27, 2024; and,
- National Truth and Reconciliation Day – September 30, 2024.

28. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen


Seconded by Trustee Johansen

*"THAT we do now adjourn at 9:10 p.m."*

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – October 22, 2024

  
Chair

  
Secretary