

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Board Room/Microsoft Teams  
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

Date: OCT 22, 2024  
Time: 7:30 P.M.

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

Ellen Chambers (Chair)  
Donica LeBlanc (Vice Chair)  
Pat Johansen  
Ron Oikonen (virtual)  
George Saarinen (virtual)  
Ryan Sitch  
Trudy Tuchenhausen  
Leah Vanderwey

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

**TRUSTEE ABSENT, WITH REGRET:**

Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous Trustee)

**SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:**

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

**FEDERATION/UNION REPRESENTATIVES:**

Inga Foster-Anderson, Lakehead District School Board Principals/ Vice Principals  
Leesa McCarville, Lakehead District School Board Principals/ Vice Principals  
Nancy Nix, Union Representative, ETFO-Elementary Occasional Teachers  
Jenny Fenton, Lakehead District School Board Managers

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

*"THAT the Agenda for Regular Board Meeting, October 22, 2024 be approved."*

**CARRIED**

2. Resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

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

- *Personnel Matter*
- *Legal Matter*

*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. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Tuchenhagen read the land acknowledgement.

5. Delegations/ Presentations:

- 5.1 Trustee LeBlanc presented a Trustee Character Award to Jack Popowich for his contribution as a Unified Participant in the 2024 Provincial Special Olympics for Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute (Westgate CVI).
- 5.2 Trustee Vanderwey announced the presentation of a Trustee Character Award to Ashley Kirkum, who was unfortunately unable to attend to receive the award in person. Ashley was recognized for her contribution as a Unified Participant in the 2024 Provincial Special Olympics for Westgate CVI.
- 5.3 Chair Chambers presented a Trustee Character Award to Nathan Vibert for his contribution as a Unified Participant in the 2024 Provincial Special Olympics for Westgate CVI.
- 5.4 Trustee LeBlanc presented a Trustee Character Award to MacKenna Wright for her contribution as a Unified Participant in the 2024 Provincial Special Olympics for Westgate CVI.
- 5.5 Indigenous Student Trustee Drake presented a Trustee Character Award to Student Trustee Morgann De Franceschi for her contribution as a Unified Participant in the 2024 Provincial Special Olympics for Westgate CVI.

6. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Sitch

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting - September 24, 2024"*

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:

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

Trustee Sitch reminded the Board that they received a summary from the September OPSBA Board of Directors meeting and should they have questions they can email him. Trustee Sitch advised the Board of an upcoming visit from the President and Executive Director of OPSBA on October 26, 2024 for the OPSBA Northern Regional Meeting.

9. Indigenous Student Trustee Report

Emily Drake, Indigenous Student Trustee, presented her October report to the Board. Items addressed in the report included her objectives for the upcoming months, attending a Miiniwewinan meeting and helping a group of students plan Truth and Reconciliation week events at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute. All trustees' questions were addressed.

10. Student Trustee Report

Morgann De Franceschi, Student Trustee, presented her October report to the Board. Items addressed in the report included attending a Special Education Advisory Committee meeting and planning for her role as student trustee for the rest of her term. All trustees' questions were addressed.

11. Updates from the Chair/ Director

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, updated the Board that this week is Trustee Governance week and thanked the trustees for their service. A number of trustees will be in schools this week visiting Grade 5 classes to share the role of the trustee with students. Director Pharand informed the Board of a number of professional development opportunities for staff that have occurred over the past month. Director Pharand updated the Board that the Bright Beginnings Program is running again this year at Algonquin Avenue Public School. Lakehead District School Board received funding for a Creative Therapy Partnership classroom which will focus on treatment for students with autism in the early years. Author Jean Pendziwol came to McKellar Park Central School to share her book *"No Dragons for Tea"* with students. The Harmony Movement for Grades 7-10 students focused on student leadership. Director Pharand informed the Board that the annual audit has begun and should be finished by the end of November. Additionally, OPSBA Northern Regional Meeting is in Thunder Bay this weekend. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent, Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, Dr. Bakovic along with Dr. Rawana will be presenting about the Lakehead Public Schools Paediatric Clinic. Darren Lentz, Principal, Algonquin Avenue Public School, will also be presenting a hands on experience making birchbark creations during the OPSBA Northern Regional Meeting.

12. Adult and Continuing Education Report (105-24)

Jane Lower, Superintendent, introduced Samantha Peotto, Manager, Lakehead Adult Education, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

13. Student Achievement Report (104-24)

Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education, introduced Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program, along with Meghan Smelow, Manager Student Success Lead, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

**Matters For Decision**

114. Appointments to the 2024-2025 Parent Involvement Committee (094-24)

Moved by Trustee Sitch

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

1. *"That Lakehead District School Board approve the following appointments to the 2024-2025 Parent Involvement Committee effective November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025:*
  - *Terry Godick, alternate parent member;*
  - *Brittany Kennedy, alternate parent member;*
  - *Carla Mulholland, alternate parent member;*
  - *Tara Ingram, Special Education Advisory Committee representative;*
  - *Kristi Lees, principal representative;*
  - *Laura Prodanyk, community representative;*
  - *Fred Van Elburg, teacher representative; and*
  - *Connor Pratt, alternate teacher representative.*
2. *Approve the appointments of Robin Cawlishaw, Dawn-Marie Francis and Lorraine Mashongoane, parent members, to the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Parent Involvement Committee effective November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2026."*

**CARRIED**

15. Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (106-24)

Procedural By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee (103-24)

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhausen

Seconded by Trustee Vanderwey

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

- 1. THAT Lakehead District School Board appoint Trustees Vanderwey, Sitch, Chambers and LeBlanc, along with Director Pharand, and the executive secretary – office of the director, to the Procedural By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee.*
- 2. THAT the Procedural By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee report its progress to the Board no later than April 22, 2025.*

CARRIED

Trustee Sitch requested to amend the motion to strike out Trustee Sitch and include Trustee Johansen as a member of the committee.

Moved by Trustee Sitch

Seconded by Trustee Vanderwey

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board amend the Procedural By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee motion by striking out Trustee Sitch as a committee member and adding Trustee Johansen."*

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Sitch

Seconded by Trustee Vanderwey

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

- 1. THAT Lakehead District School Board appoint Trustees Vanderwey, Johansen, Chambers and LeBlanc, along with Director Pharand, and the executive secretary – office of the director, to the Procedural By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee.*
- 2. THAT the Procedural By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee report its progress to the Board no later than April 22, 2025.*

CARRIED

16. Short-Term Borrowing Resolution (101-23)

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Short-Term Borrowing Resolution for the 2023-2024 school year as outlined in Report No. 101-23, Short-Term Borrowing Resolution."*

CARRIED

17. Ad Hoc and Special Committee Reports
18. New Reports
19. New Business
20. Notices of Motion
21. Information and Inquiries

21.1 Chair Chambers informed the board of the following events attended by trustees and senior administrators:

October 21, 2024 –Westmount Public Schools Secret Path Assembly

October 21-25, 2024 – Local Government Week- Ogden Community PS and McKenzie PS Presentations by trustees to students on the role of a trustee.

22. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

*"THAT we do now adjourn at 8:54 p.m."*

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – November 26, 2024

  
Chair

  
Secretary