

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Board Room/Microsoft Teams  
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2025 FEB 25  
7:30 P.M.

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

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

Trudy Tuchenhausen  
Scottie Wemigwans  
Eryn Genno (Indigenous Student  
Trustee) (virtual)  
Morgann De Franceschi (Student  
Trustee)

**ABSENT WITH REGRET:**

**SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:**

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

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

*"THAT the Agenda for Regular Board Meeting, February 25, 2025 be approved."*

**CARRIED**

## PUBLIC SESSION:

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, November 26, 2024."*

CARRIED

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Oikonen

Seconded by Trustee Wemigwans

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, January 28, 2025."*

CARRIED

## MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:

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

Trustee Sitch informed the Board of the following items discussed at the OPSBA Board of Directors Meeting on February 23, 2025:

1. new travel expense policy for OPSBA which will help to provide more clarity on when travel qualifies reimbursement by OPSBA;
2. OPSBA's independent audit;
3. President's Report;
4. Executive Director's Report;
5. Executive Council Reports;
6. Student Success reporting:
  - highlighted a report on the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy that has been completed, outlining 20 recommendations to bridge the poverty gaps for students, OPSBA will be looking into advocating for these recommendations;
  - Ministry funded report through Student Mental Health was launched by the Children and Youth Mental Health Services and School Mental Health Ontario, resources and partnerships with OPSBA to be made accessible to everyone; and
  - Student Success, Equity and Wellbeing - a survey on Accessibility and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was sent to all the political parties. All political parties were asked to sign a pledge on accessibility.
7. Local School Governance reporting:
  - OPSBA sent out an overview of the informal and formal complaint procedures to members;
  - a refresh of the Good Governance Guidelines document by Ontario Education Services Corporation, will include an additional 10 modules that will be offered as part of the mandatory training expected of trustees;
  - a governance comparison and education comparison on the OPSBA website regarding the political parties; and
  - online OPSBA Awards nomination is open, and trustees/ school boards are encouraged to submit nominations for these awards.

8. Truth and Reconciliation reporting:

- Minister Hajdu is responsible for changes in the Jordan's Principle and OPSBA recommends that boards reach out to her to voice any concerns on the recent holds that have been put on Jordan's Principle applications; and
- calls from the Truth and Recognition reporting that member boards move forward on emerging programs across the province, specifically the Indigenous Trustees Council is hoping that there will be a push for creating Native language programming

There were no questions from trustees.

5. Indigenous Student Trustee Report (Handout)

Eryn Genno, Indigenous Student Trustee, presented her February report to the Board. Items addressed in the report included the following:

- an outline of her goals and objectives as the new Indigenous Student Trustee;
- continuing the Ojibwe Word of the Day initiative started by former Indigenous Student Trustee Drake;
- finding an effective way to utilize the Student Trustees Instagram accounts;
- establishing a Fire Council at each secondary school and bulletin boards in the 4-Directions rooms, to feature important upcoming Indigenous events for students and support resources; and
- making connections with Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA-AECO) to help in her role as Lakehead District School Board Indigenous student trustee.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

6. Student Trustee Report (Handout)

Morgann De Franceschi, Student Trustee, presented her February report to the Board. Items addressed in the report included:

- upcoming student trustee interviews; and
- preparing for the transition with a new student trustee while ensuring that current initiatives will continue upon the end of her term.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

7. Updates from the Chair/Director

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, updated the Board on the following:

- the new Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board in April;
- tonight, February 25, 2025 is Kindergarten registration night and visitation at local schools;
- March Break is the week of March 10-14; and
- Graduation celebrations in June.

8. New Teacher Induction Program - NTIP (027-25)

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, introduced Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program and Kathleen Andrews, Student Success Lead, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

9. Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (026-25)

Policy Review – 6070 Video Surveillance (019-25)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

*“THAT Lakehead District School Board approve 6070 Video Surveillance Policy, Appendix A to Report No. 019-25.”*

CARRIED

10. Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (026-25)

Policy Review – 2010 Policy Development and Review (023-25)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

*“THAT Lakehead District School Board approve 2010 Policy Development and Review, Appendix A to Report No. 023-25.”*

CARRIED

11. Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (026-25)

Policy Review – 7080 Health and Safety (020-25)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Chambers

*“THAT Lakehead District School Board approve 7080 Health and Safety Policy, Appendix A to Report No. 020-25.”*

CARRIED

12. Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (026-25)

School Year Calendar 2025-2026 (021-25)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Chambers

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board:*

1. *Approve the proposed 2025-2026 elementary*
  - *school year calendar, including the opening*
  - *and closing dates and professional activity days,*
  - *as described in Appendix A of Report No. 021-25.*
2. *Approve the proposed 2025-2026 secondary*
  - *school year calendar, including the opening and*
  - *closing dates, professional activity days and*
  - *examination days, as described in Appendix B*
  - *of Report No. 021-25."*

CARRIED

13. Ad Hoc and Special Committee Reports

14. New Reports

15. New Business

16. Notices of Motion

17. Information and Inquiries

- 17.1 Trustee Chambers informed the Board that she attended a black history month event.
- 17.2 Trustee Saarinen informed the Board that he attended the Scotties Tournament of Hearts and was pleased to see all the Lakehead Public Schools students participating in the event.
- 17.3 Director Pharand informed the Board that the students from Claude E. Garton Public School's sign language club attended the Scotties Tournament of Hearts to sign the national anthem. CBC featured the story, and the story was picked up by CBC affiliates.
- 17.4 Indigenous Trustee Wemigwans informed the Board that he attended the Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute's Grade 8 open house.

17.5 Trustee LeBlanc informed the Board that tomorrow, February 26, 2025 is Anti-Bullying day and encouraged staff to wear their pink shirts to stand up against bullying and promote kindness.

18. Adjournment


Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

*"THAT we do now adjourn at 8:14 p.m."*

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – March 25, 2025

  
Chair

  
Secretary