

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2025 MAR 25
7:30 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Leah Vanderwey (Chair)
Donica LeBlanc (Vice Chair)
Ellen Chambers
Ryan Sitch
Scottie Wemigwans (virtual)
Morgann De Franceschi
(Student Trustee)

Pat Johansen
Ron Oikonen
George Saarinen (virtual)
Trudy Tuchenhausen
Eryn Genno (Indigenous 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. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

Director Pharand declared a conflict of interest for a closed session Personnel Matter.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhausen

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

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

CARRIED

3. Resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Oikonen

Seconded by Trustee Chambers

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

- *Confirmation of Committee of the Whole – Closed Session Minutes*
- *Regular Board Meeting – November 26, 2024.*
- *Regular Board Meeting – January 28, 2025.*
- *Personnel Matters*

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:

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

PUBLIC SESSION

5. Report of Committee of the Whole

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Oikonen

"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, November 26, 2024.'

'THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole – Closed Session Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, January 28, 2025.'

CARRIED

PUBLIC SESSION:

6. Trustee Recognition Award – Shai Loyie

Chair Vanderwey introduced Trustee Chambers who presented the Trustee Recognition Award to Shai Loyie, Indigenous Wellness Coordinator, Ecole Elsie MacGill Public School for her ability to create an inclusive environment, in which to educate the Lakehead Public School (LPS) students on the Seven Grandfather Teachings using singing, drumming, traditional language, smudging, stories and crafts.

7. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, February 25, 2025."

CARRIED

MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:

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

Trustee Sitch informed the Board that the next meeting is on April 5, 2025 with Northern Regional Council.

There were no questions from trustees.

9. Student Trustee Report (Handout)

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

- a meeting with Indigenous Student Trustee Eryn Genno on March 17, 2025 to discuss any questions she had regarding her role as Indigenous Student Trustee; and
- a meeting with Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institutes (SCVI) Student Activities Council (SAC) and Indigenous Student Trustee Genno to discuss insights into current student concerns, topics such as mental health, extracurricular opportunities and inclusivity initiatives.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

10. Indigenous Student Trustee Report (Handout)

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

- the re-launch of the Ojibwe Word of the Day initiative started by former Indigenous Student Trustee Emily Drake;
- her bulletin board project display at Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute and her hopes of installing the same type of display at the other two secondary schools;
- a meeting with Principal McDonnell to discuss important issues facing Indigenous communities;
- a meeting with Student Trustee De Franceschi to gain insight into her role as Indigenous Student Trustee; and
- a meeting with SCVI's Student Activities Council (SAC) and Student Trustee De Franceschi, to discuss insights into current student concerns, such as mental health, extracurricular opportunities and inclusivity initiatives

All trustees' questions were addressed.

11. Updates from the Chair/Director

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

- the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Matawa tribal council and Eabametoong First Nation (also known as Fort Hope First Nation). Trustee Chambers and Director Pharand flew up to the community. The visit included touring the school site, and a registration session between families with a LPS guidance counselor; and
- the LPS Secondary Hockey program expansion pilot next year, starting in grade 9. The Hockey pilot will be in partnership with Thunder Bay Kings.

All trustees' questions were addressed

12. Mid-Year Student Achievement Update (032-25)

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.

13. Math Achievement Action Plan (029-25)

Nick Sacevich, Associate Superintendent and Math/IT Lead, presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

14. Transportation Update 2024-2025 (028-25)

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

15. Jordan's Principle Report (031-25)

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

16. Student Success Report (030-25)

Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education, introduced Roger Drcar, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Recruiter/Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)/School College Work Initiative (SCWI) and Student Success Resource Teacher, and Kathleen Andrews, Student Success Lead, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

17. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting Minutes

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, presented the minutes from November 18, 2024 PIC meeting. All trustees' questions were addressed.

18. Trustee Code of Conduct Ad Hoc Committee Update

Leah Vanderwey, Chair, presented an update from the Trustee Code of Conduct AD Hoc Committee. All trustees' questions were addressed.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

19. Ad Hoc and Special Committee Reports

20. New Reports

21. New Business

20.1 National Reconciliation Partnership Award Nomination

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the request to submit a nomination for the National Reconciliation Partnership Award 2025 and authorize the chair to send a letter of support"

CARRIED

22. Notices of Motion

23. Information and Inquiries

22.1 Chair Vanderwey informed the Board of the following events that were attended by trustees, and Senior Administration.

- February 27, 2025 – Vance Chapman PS Powwow;
- March 5, 2025 – Lakehead Public Schools Hockey Tournament;
- March 17, 2025 – Matawa Memorandum of Understanding Signing in Fort Hope; and
- March 19, 2025 – Diversity Thunder Bay Presents luncheon.

24. Adjournment


Moved by Trustee Saarinen


Seconded by Trustee Sitch

"THAT we do now adjourn at 9:11 p.m."

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – April 22, 2025


Chair


Secretary

