



Office of The Superintendent of Business  
Jim McCuaig Education Centre  
2135 Sills Street, Thunder Bay ON, P7E 5T2  
Telephone (807) 625-5100; Fax (807) 623-5833

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

**Jim McCuaig Education Centre**

Scottie Wemigwans  
Chair

George Saarinen  
Vice Chair

**AGENDA**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**6:30 p.m. – in the Board Room/Microsoft Teams**

	<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. Call to Order	Chair	
2. Land Acknowledgement	Vice Chair	
3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest	Chair	
4. Approval of the Agenda	Chair	
• Finance Committee Meeting, June 18, 2025		
5. Delegations		
6. Approval of Minutes	Chair	1-3
• Finance Committee Meeting, June 10, 2025		
7. Business Arising from the Minutes		

**MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:**

8. Information Reports		
2025-2026 Capital Plan Update (069-25)	K. Alaksa	4-7
9. First Reports		

**MATTERS FOR DECISION:**

10. Postponed Reports
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Trustees (Chair and Vice-Chair) and presenters of reports will be available  
for comment after the Meeting.

		<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
11.	New Reports		
	2025-2026 Budget (070-25)	K. Alaksa, A. Lee-Wiwcharyk	8-15
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>It is recommended that the Finance Committee refer to the Board for approval the 2025-2026 Operating and Capital Budget of \$180,304,289 as presented in Report No. 070-25.</i></li> </ul>		
12.	New Business		
13.	Notices of Motion		
14.	Information and Inquires		
15.	Adjournment	Chair	

<p>Trustees (Chair and Vice-Chair) and presenters of reports will be available for comment after the Meeting.</p>
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LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE – Public Session**

Board Room / Microsoft Teams  
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2025 JUN 10  
6:00 p.m.

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

Scottie Wemigwans (Chair)  
Ron Oikonen  
Patricia Johansen  
Ellen Chambers

George Saarinen (Vice Chair)  
Ryan Sitch  
Donica LeBlanc  
Trudy Tuchenhausen

**TRUSTEES ABSENT WITH REGRETS:**

Leah Vanderwey

**SENIOR ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education  
Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education  
Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business  
Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education  
Nicholas Sacevich, Associate Superintendent – Math and IT Lead

**SENIOR ADMINISTRATION ABSENT WITH REGRETS:**

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education

**RESOURCE:**

Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk, Manager of Financial Services  
Simona Serrao, Executive Secretary

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

1. **Call to Order**

Vice Chair, George Saarinen called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest - None**

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

*"THAT the Agenda for the Finance Committee Meeting of June 10, 2025, be approved."*

CARRIED

4. Resolve into the Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

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

*- Finance 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:

5. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session.

PUBLIC SESSION

6. Report of Committee of the Whole – Closed Session:

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Le Blanc

*"THAT all items of Finance Committee – Committee of the Whole – Closed Session were delt with in their entirety and shall remain in the closed session.*

CARRIED

PUBLIC SESSION

7. Land Acknowledgement

Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.

8. Delegations - None

9. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

*"THAT the Finance Committee approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting, May 14, 2025."*

CARRIED

10. Business Arising from the Minutes - None

**MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:**

11. Information Reports

11.1 2025-2026 Draft Budget (062-25)

Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk, Manager of Financial Services and Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

12. First Reports - None

**MATTERS FOR DECISION**

13. Postponed Reports - None

14. New Reports – None

15. New Business - None

16. Notices of Motion - None

17. Information and Inquires – None

18. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

*"THAT we do now adjourn at 6:47 p.m."*

CARRIED

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

2025 JUN 18  
Report No. 069-25

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE  
FINANCE COMMITTEE – Public Session

RE: 2025-2026 CAPITAL PLAN UPDATE

1. Background

- 1.1 On an annual basis, administration identifies Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) priorities and develops an action plan that is presented to the Board. This plan directly supports the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan. One of the objectives of the strategic plan is provide a safe, welcoming, equitable, accessible and inclusive environment that reflects the diversity of our community.
- 1.2 The Capital Committee was established to coordinate the effective delivery of this priority as it relates to facilities. The committee is comprised of the following members:
  - Don Porter, Manager of Property Services;
  - Mark Hakala, Capital Projects Coordinator;
  - Kyle Ulvang, Health and Safety Officer; and
  - John Loovere, Supervisor of Computer Services.
- 1.3 The committee's mandate is to focus on the following items, which correspond with board priorities, as well as the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan:
  - to develop a capital plan for schools with a focus on academic achievement;
  - to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions measured; and
  - to continue to improve classroom teaching and learning environment.
- 1.4 A major component of system success is the development of the capital plan. The capital plan is to include the development of a plan for safety and security, beautification for schools, their sites and a development plan for schools with a focus on academic achievement.
- 1.5 Executive Council has established the 2025-2026 capital project priorities. This list was developed with input from:
  - Information Technology Committee;
  - Accessibility Committee;
  - Safe Schools Committee;
  - building and energy consultants;

- Property Services Department; and
- annual school visits.

It may also incorporate projects required to satisfy legislated requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Environment, Ontario Fire Marshall, and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

## 2. Situation

### 2.1 2025-2026 Funding:

The 2025-2026 capital projects will be funded by the following capital grants:

- Ministry of Education School Renewal Funding (\$2,423,130); and
- Ministry of Education School Condition Improvement Grant (\$8,160,655).

### 2.2 Attached as Appendix A to Report No. 069-25 are details of the capital projects scheduled for the upcoming year, aligning with LDSB's Long-Term Capital Plan. It incorporates feedback from school communities and stakeholders to ensure comprehensive planning.

## 3. Conclusion

The quality of program delivery to all students remains first and foremost in all decisions related to the Capital Plan. This focus is maintained while adhering to the strategies outlined in the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

MARK HAKALA  
Capital Project Coordinator

DON PORTER  
Manager of Property Services

KIRSTI ALAKSA  
Superintendent of Business

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND  
Director of Education

Lakehead District School Board  
2025-2026 Capital Projects

Location	Project	Brief Description	Year	Cost
Algonquin	Boiler upgrade	Steam boiler conversion	2026	\$1,500,000
Hammar skjold	New scoreboard	Replace existing	2026	\$50,000
Hammar skjold	HRV over MN room	Replace existing HRV	2026	\$100,000
Hammar skjold	Lecture theater upgrade	addressing accessibility and upgrading interior	2026	\$250,000
Hammar skjold	Roof replacement	Replacing roof over Math wing	2026	\$400,000
Hammar skjold	Building envelope	Replace/upgrade curtain walls in front of school and courtyard	2026	\$300,000
Hammar skjold	Beautification	Front entrance upgrade	2026	\$250,000
Hammar skjold	Front Entrance Accessibility	Install new Idor	2026	\$5,000
Hammar skjold	Front Entrance Accessibility	Install alarm pad at front entrance	2026	\$5,000
Hammar skjold	Exterior doors	Replacing existing doors	2026	\$60,000
Hammar skjold	Lighting upgrades	Led lighting upgrade throughout school	2026	\$1,000,000
Hammar skjold	Beautification	Façade replacement , add insulation	2026	\$1,250,000
Westgate	Program needs	Café expansion to accommodate Foods program	2026	\$1,500,000
Westgate	Electrical safety	Multi needs room electrical panel upgrade	2026	\$10,000
Westgate	Gender neutral washroom	Upgrade to barrier free washroom	2026	\$25,000
Norwesterview	HVAC upgrade	Replace Hvac unit to improve air balancing	2026	\$40,000
Crestview	Lighting upgrades	Led lighting upgrade throughout school	2026	\$125,000
Gorham Ware	Plumbing Upgrade	Kindergarten washrooms upgrade	2026	\$100,000
Gorham Ware	Interior finish	Replace exhaust fan in community kitchen	2026	\$10,000
Gorham Ware	Gender neutral washroom	Install barrier free accessible washroom	2026	\$15,000
Five Mile	Accessibility	Install interior fobs throughout building	2026	\$100,000
Kakabeka	Accessibility	Install interior fobs throughout building	2026	\$100,000
Elsie MacGill	Accessibility	Install interior fobs throughout building	2026	\$150,000

**Lakehead District School Board  
2025-2026 Capital Projects**

Location	Project	Brief Description	Year	Cost
St. James	Repoint Masonry	Address spaulding brick issues around building	2026	\$100,000
SCVI	Plumbing Upgrade	Replace remaining waterless urinals	2026	\$40,000
Gron Morgan	Roofing	Replace roof over primary end and east wing	2026	\$600,000
Ecole Gron Mor	Gym area upgrade	Address acoustics issues in the gym	2026	\$25,000
Kingfisher	Electrical safety	Day centre electrical panel upgrade	2026	\$10,000
Ecole Elsie Mac	Site work	Upgrade JK/SK play area to artificial turf	2026	\$60,000
Kingsway	Site work	Upgrade JK/SK play area to artificial turf	2026	\$60,000
Armstrong	Water	Replace main water line going into the school	2026	\$500,000
Armstrong	Fencing	Install fencing in remaining areas not done, or possible jersey barriers	2026	\$60,000
Hyde Park	HVAC system upgrade	Convert existing BAS to Johnson from Honeywell	2026	\$180,000
Ogden	HVAC system upgrade	Convert existing BAS to Johnson from Honeywell	2026	\$180,000
Vic Park	Boiler upgrade	Replace one of the aging boilers.	2026	\$150,000
Various Location	Turf Management Plan	Secondary Fields	2026	\$50,000
zVarious Location	Accessibility	Power Door Upgrades, washrooms, ramps, idor;	2026	\$75,000
zVarious Location	Accessibility	Install accessible padding or turf under existing play structures	2026	\$250,000
zVarious Location	Interior Keyless entry	Door strikes, Controller, new doors	2026	\$75,000
zVarious Location	IT Infrastructure	Purchase Viewsonics	2026	\$75,000
zVarious Location	Program	Misc. Program Needs	2026	\$75,000
zVarious Location	Security Improvements	New motion programming, cell communication, Kantech batteries	2026	\$75,000
		<b>Total Year Capital Plan</b>		<b>\$9,985,000</b>

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

2025 JUN 18  
Report No. 070-25

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE  
FINANCE COMMITTEE – Public Session

RE: 2025-2026 Budget

1. Background

- 1.1 On an annual basis, the Ministry of Education requires school boards in Ontario to submit a budget in accordance with grants for student needs legislation.
- 1.2 The funding regulation for the 2025-2026 fiscal year was released by the Ministry of Education on May 23, 2025. Budget submissions are due to the Ministry by June 30, 2025.
- 1.3 The preliminary 2025-2026 draft budget of revenue and expenses is included as Appendix A and Appendix B to Report. No. 070-25 and is being presented for trustee's input and consideration.

2. Situation

Administration has concluded the preparation of the draft 2025-2026 budget. Details of the budget process and investments in student programs and services are included as Appendix C to Report. No. 070-25

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Finance Committee refer to the Board for approval the 2025-2026 Operating and Capital Budget of \$180,304,289 as presented in Report No. 070-25.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGELA LEE-WIWCARYK  
Manager of Financial Services

KIRSTI ALAKSA  
Superintendent of Business

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND  
Director of Education

June 16, 2025

**THE LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
2025-2026 OPERATING BUDGET**

	2025-2026 Estimates	2024-2025 Estimates	Change
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Classroom Staffing Fund (CSF)	71,114,164	63,119,632	7,994,532
Learning Resources Fund (LRF)	26,494,008	24,703,441	1,790,567
Special Education Fund (SEF)	22,895,185	21,125,860	1,769,325
School Facilities Fund	11,316,281	10,787,707	528,574
Student Transportation Fund (STF)	8,104,298	7,905,485	198,813
School Board Administration Fund (SBAF)	4,663,878	4,342,672	321,206
<b>Total Operating Grants</b>	<b>144,587,814</b>	<b>131,984,797</b>	<b>12,603,017</b>
School Renewal	2,000,000	2,000,000	0
School Condition Improvement	8,000,000	8,000,000	0
Capital Debt Support Payments	1,149,756	1,244,729	(94,973)
Short Term Financing	30,000	30,000	0
Deferred Capital Contributions	13,281,155	12,375,825	905,330
Permanent Financing of NPF - Board 55 Trust	99,067	99,067	0
<b>TOTAL GRANT ALLOCATION</b>	<b>169,147,792</b>	<b>155,734,418</b>	<b>13,413,374</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>			
Government of Canada - Tuition Revenue	2,263,928	2,168,365	95,563
Visa Tuition	419,800	546,340	(126,540)
Rental Revenue	970,916	966,237	4,680
Fee for Service (Con Ed)	125,000	125,000	0
Other School Boards	262,278	257,532	4,747
Cafeteria	20,000	45,000	(25,000)
Interest	60,000	60,000	0
School Fundraising	2,612,603	2,314,271	298,332
REP/Other Grants	3,300,738	3,577,272	(276,535)
Remedy Revenue	0	4,483,220	(4,483,220)
Miscellaneous	929,396	884,963	44,433
Deferred Revenue	160,000	123,328	36,672
Miscellaneous re: Unsupported DCC	31,838	147,254	(115,416)
<b>TOTAL OTHER REVENUE</b>	<b>11,156,497</b>	<b>15,698,782</b>	<b>(4,542,285)</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>180,304,289</b>	<b>171,433,200</b>	<b>8,871,089</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries	109,309,945	102,305,273	7,004,671
Benefits	19,844,264	19,954,885	(110,621)
Supplies	6,271,849	5,748,691	523,157
Equipment	910,990	902,160	8,830
Capital Addn's	10,949,818	11,059,448	(109,630)
Fees & Contracts	10,793,403	10,032,699	760,704
Other	6,138,552	6,295,164	(156,611)
School Fundraising Expenses	2,612,603	2,314,271	298,332
Amortization Expense	13,373,797	12,721,541	652,256
Permanent Financing of NPF	99,067	99,067	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>180,304,289</b>	<b>171,433,200</b>	<b>8,871,088</b>
<b>CURRENT DEFICIT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

DECISION UNIT NAME	2025 - 2026 BUDGET	2024 - 2025 BUDGET	\$ Change
<b>SCHOOL BASED TEACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF</b>			
Elementary Day School	\$ 45,859,403	42,218,565	\$ 3,640,838
Secondary Day School	\$ 20,661,401	20,569,493	\$ 91,908
Alternative Education	\$ -	-	\$ -
Safe Schools	\$ 476,681	167,962	\$ 308,719
Noon Hour Supervision	\$ 445,000	437,489	\$ 7,511
Early Childhood Educators	\$ 3,728,099	3,796,060	\$ (67,961)
Before and After School Program	\$ 254,735	-	\$ 254,735
Library Information Technicians	\$ 962,000	920,485	\$ 41,515
School Administration	\$ 5,980,581	5,242,739	\$ 737,842
School Offices	\$ 3,159,967	3,011,062	\$ 148,905
Continuing Education	\$ 1,129,594	1,428,004	\$ (298,410)
Social Workers/Mental Health	\$ 1,329,022	1,240,584	\$ 88,438
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 83,986,482</b>	<b>79,032,442</b>	<b>\$ 4,954,040</b>
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>			
Special Education Day School	\$ 5,825,491	5,442,285	\$ 383,206
Student Support Professionals	\$ 15,188,240	15,083,770	\$ 104,470
Special Education Program Support	\$ 2,306,241	1,942,691	\$ 363,550
Education and Community Partnership Program	\$ 1,229,154	1,494,537	\$ (265,383)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,549,126</b>	<b>23,963,284</b>	<b>\$ 585,843</b>
<b>SCHOOL BASED SERVICES &amp; RESOURCES</b>			
School Supplies and Resources	\$ 1,713,070	1,506,567	\$ 206,503
Technology Education	\$ 240,000	225,000	\$ 15,000
Kingfisher	\$ 525,561	493,556	\$ 32,005

Instructional Materials Centre	\$ 122,745	118,273	\$ 4,472
Transportation	\$ 8,370,496	7,923,300	\$ 447,196
Co-Curricular Activities	\$ 462,440	434,731	\$ 27,709
Plant Services	\$ 12,205,572	11,840,076	\$ 365,495
Plant Maintenance	\$ 2,328,089	2,177,084	\$ 151,006
Community Use of Schools	\$ 126,141	124,913	\$ 1,228
Cafeteria	\$ 215,000	200,000	\$ 15,000
Distribution	\$ 57,642	58,702	\$ (1,061)
Territorial Student Program	\$ 207,866	237,854	\$ (29,988)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,574,622</b>	<b>25,340,057</b>	<b>\$ 1,234,565</b>
<b>CENTRAL SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS</b>			
Instructional Services	\$ 3,970,383	3,650,783	\$ 319,600
FNMI	\$ 2,838,290	2,669,810	\$ 168,480
International Program	\$ 231,009	-	\$ 231,009
Student Success & School Effectiveness	\$ 542,836	551,020	\$ (8,184)
Computer Services	\$ 1,643,390	1,495,082	\$ 148,308
Technical Services	\$ 1,117,603	1,092,593	\$ 25,010
Technology Equipment	\$ 1,017,818	1,166,448	\$ (148,630)
Property Services Administration	\$ 838,466	738,698	\$ 99,769
Health And Safety	\$ 174,564	149,435	\$ 25,129
Rehabilitation	\$ 170,000	170,000	\$ -
Business Services	\$ 1,275,035	1,162,929	\$ 112,106
Communications	\$ 364,954	365,221	\$ (267)
Payroll	\$ 588,540	528,280	\$ 60,261
Human Resources	\$ 1,094,592	940,808	\$ 153,784
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 15,867,480</b>	<b>\$ 14,681,106</b>	<b>\$ 1,186,375</b>

<b>GOVERNANCE</b>			
Trustees	\$ 279,777	276,252	\$ 3,525
Directors Office	\$ 932,133	892,113	\$ 40,020
Instructional/Corporate Admin	\$ 646,112	644,400	\$ 1,712
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,858,022</b>	<b>1,812,765</b>	<b>\$ 45,257</b>
<b>OTHER</b>			
Benefits	\$ (36,667)	3,939	\$ (40,606)
Interest on borrowing	\$ 20,000	20,000	\$ -
Debentures	\$ 1,149,756	1,244,729	\$ (94,973)
Contingency	\$ 250,000	200,000	\$ 50,000
Capital Expense	\$ 10,000,000	10,000,000	\$ -
Amortization Expense	\$ 13,373,796	12,721,541	\$ 652,255
School Board 55 Trust Financing	\$ 99,067	99,067	\$ -
Fundraising	\$ 2,612,603	2,314,271	\$ 298,332
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 27,468,555</b>	<b>\$ 26,603,547</b>	<b>\$ 865,008</b>
<b>Total Operating and Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 180,304,289</b>	<b>\$ 171,433,200</b>	<b>\$ 8,871,088</b>

**LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**2025-2026 OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET**

**2025-2026 BUDGET**

The Lakehead District School Board's (LDSB) budget process began with developing guiding principles to ensure a shared vision that is consistent with the strategic plan. These principles formed the framework that guided decision-making throughout the budget development process. The proposed 2025-2026 budget is designed to focus on student success, well-being, and reconciliation.

The overall budget for 2025-2026 totals **\$180,304,289**, marking an increase of \$8,871,089 from the 2024-2025 budget. This increase applies consistently to both total revenue and total expenditures, maintaining a balanced budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The 2025-2026 budget is explicitly crafted to align with the LDSB's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, which has a vision "to provide equitable and inclusive environments where everyone belongs and succeeds" and a mission to ensure "the success of *every* student".

The plan is guided by three core principles: Belong, Succeed, and Reconcile.

**1. Belong - Providing Environments Where Everyone Belongs:**

This principle focuses on advancing equitable opportunities, cultivating safe environments, supporting mental health and well-being, and fostering clear communication. Some examples on how the budget supports this pillar are:

- the provision of staff and resources to support our multi language learners and our Indigenous Education Framework, which directly advance equitable opportunities for students facing systemic barriers;
- the maintained support of a mental health lead, social workers, attendance counsellors, child youth counsellors, programs, and resources to support the mental health and well-being of students and staff;
- the provision of an early years resource teacher, central early childhood educator support, and classroom resources to aid the transition to kindergarten. These resources aim to create a supportive and inclusive environment for younger learners, contributing to a sense of belonging;
- the expansion of Edsby into elementary to ensure consistency in communication with students and caregivers; and
- capital improvements to facilities and IT infrastructure to ensure LDSB continues to provide essential resources and a safe learning environment. These improvements support student success and address the diverse needs of all learners.

## **2. Succeed - Holding High Expectations for All Learners:**

This principle is about recognizing the potential of all learners, developing transferable skills, building digital literacy, and providing experiential and authentic learning opportunities. Some examples on how the budget supports this pillar are:

- the provision of elementary and secondary math and literacy coaches, and staff professional development. This directly aligns with the strategic goal to deliver meaningful professional development that aligns with school and learner needs;
- the continued support of many elementary and secondary programs such as: elementary culinary, instrumental music, one to one devices in secondary, the International Baccalaureate Programme, advanced placement programs and trades programs. This helps in building digital literacy and prepare students for future success in a changing world;
- the introduction of a dedicated experiential resource teacher and continued commitment to the Kingfisher Outdoor Education Centre. This provides experiential, land-based, and authentic learning opportunities for students; and
- the introduction of new programs, including the Lakehead Public Schools Edge Hockey Academy, Westgate Hospitality Specialist High Skills Major, and Superior Environmental Specialist High Skills Major, directly aligns with developing transferable skills and preparing students for future success.

## **3. Reconcile - Committing to a Spirit and Journey of Reconciliation:**

This principle commits to fostering partnerships with Indigenous communities, integrating Indigenous perspectives into teaching and learning, expanding dedicated spaces for Indigenous cultural practices, and providing land-based learning. These efforts are guided by the Indigenous Education Framework and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. Some examples on how the budget supports this pillar are:

- allocating staff and resources to support Indigenous Languages, along with continued funding for graduation coaches and student support workers. These efforts aim to enhance Indigenous student success by integrating Indigenous perspectives and practices into teaching and learning; and
- introducing a literacy intervention and engagement teacher, a land-based learning educator, and expanding cultural alternative education programs. These initiatives aim to enhance dedicated and welcoming spaces for Indigenous cultural practices.

The 2025-2026 budget demonstrates fiscal responsibility while supporting the goals of the LDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Administration has prepared a budget that supports the Guiding Principles. We continue to stay committed to right sizing the organization to align with forecasted enrollment and matching expenses with funding. This approach ensures that LDSB can maintain its focus on our core mission and business: student achievement and well-being.

The 2025-2026 budget is due to the Ministry of Education by June 30, 2025.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Lakehead District School Board's 2025-2026 budget development process emphasizes our commitment to ensuring the success and well-being of every student at the forefront. The resulting budget is a collaborative reflection of stakeholder priorities, aiming to maintain and enhance the programs and supports that stakeholders expect.

Lakehead District School Board has developed a budget that aligns with the Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the development and creation of the 2025-2026 Operating and Capital Budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

ANGELA LEE-WIWCHARYK  
Manager of Financial Services

KIRSTI ALAKSA  
Superintendent of Business

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND  
Director of Education