

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2025 MAY 27
7:30 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

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

Pat Johansen
Ron Oikonen
Trudy Tuchenhausen
George Saarinen

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous Trustee)
Eryn Genno (Indigenous Student Trustee)
Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:

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

PUBLIC SESSION:

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting Called to Order by Chair Vanderwey.

2. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

None.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

"THAT the Agenda for Regular Board Meeting, May 27, 2025 be approved."

CARRIED

4. Resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session – N/A

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CLOSED SESSION:

5. Committee of the Whole – N/A

PUBLIC SESSION:

6. Report of Committee of the Whole – Closed Session – N/A

PUBLIC SESSION:

7. Playing of O' Canada

Chair Vanderwey requested that the members of the Board and Public Gallery rise, if able, for the playing of the national anthem.

8. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Johansen read the Land Acknowledgement.

9. Presentations/Delegations

- 9.1 Trustee Character Award – Owen Weiss

Trustee Saarinen presented the Trustee Character Award to Hammaraskjold High School Student, Owen Weiss for his three years of volunteering as a unified partner for the Special Olympics events and his continued demonstration of inclusive leadership when mentoring younger students.

- 9.2 Trustee Character Award – Branden Robb, Janae Grafham, Natalie Hache

Trustee Chambers presented the Trustee Character Awards to Branden Robb, H.E.A.L. (Healthy Eating, Active Living) Team Member, Janae Grafham, H.E.A.L. (Healthy Eating, Active Living) Team Member, and Natalie Hache, Traditional Wellness Navigator, Anishnawbe Mushkiki Aboriginal Health Access Centre, for their work at many schools with in the Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) ensuring that youth receive Indigenous teaching that promote and encourage healthy lifestyles from a young age that can be carried with them into adulthood.

- 9.3 Celebrating Student Achievement –Kakabeka Falls Public School – Text Sets for Improved Reading Comprehension

Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education, introduced Catherine Jonas, Principal, Kakabeka Falls Public School who introduced Jason Wilton, Grades 2-3 Teacher, Kakabeka Falls Public School, who presented the report. All Trustees questions were addressed.

10. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, April 22, 2025."

CARRIED

11. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:

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

Trustee Sith informed the Board he attended a meeting in May and trustees would have the minutes in their email. The Annual General Meeting is on June 13-14. Trustees have a meeting this week to discuss upcoming OPSBA elections and policies/motions.

There were no questions from trustees.

13. Student Trustee Report (Handout)

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

- participating in Human Rights and Equity training alongside other trustees and staff;
- meeting with Breanna Bruce, the incoming student trustee;
- attending the Grade 8 Virtual Reach Ahead meeting on May 13, 2025; and
- Master of Ceremony for the Grade 8 Award of Excellence Awards event.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

14. Indigenous Student Trustee Report (Handout)

Chair Vanderwey informed the Board that Eryn Genno, Indigenous Student Trustee sends her regrets and would be happy to answer any questions at the next Board meeting.

15. Updates from the Chair/Director

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

- Dr. Alex Lawson, Associate Professor and Researcher at Lakehead University, has been conducting research with LDSB staff and students, and will be acknowledging and thanking the Board for their participation in her research in her new book;
- representatives from all district school boards in northwestern Ontario had the opportunity to attend the first of four sessions with the company Future Design School to learn about Artificial Intelligence. Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) had 20 members attend;
- Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) testing has started, Grade 6 students are currently writing, the primary grades will write next week;

- seventeen athletes from Lakehead Public Schools will be participating in the Ontario Federation of School Athletics (OFFSA) tennis championships in Toronto;
- Sensei Susan Baldassi, a seventh degree Blackbelt in Isshinryu Karate was in Armstrong last week providing students with an opportunity to participate in a number of activities that help support emotional regulation, confidence building and personal growth;
- many LDSB schools participated in the Clean up to Green up over last few weeks; and
- registration for summer learning has opened.

16. Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (035-25)

Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business, introduced Anthony Jeethan, Human Rights and Equity Advisory, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

17. Safe Schools Report (054-25)

Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business, presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

MATTERS FOR DECISION:

17. Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (055-25)

17.1 Policy Review – 8014 Advertising in the Schools(046-25)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Oikonen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve 8014 Advertising in the Schools Policy, Appendix A to Report No. 046-25."

CARRIED

17.2 Policy Review – 7040 Violence in the Workplace (047-25)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve 7040 Violence in the Workplace Policy, Appendix A to Report No. 047-25."

CARRIED

17.3 Review and Development of Governance and Administrative Policies (048-25)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Chambers

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the following:

1. *the separation of governance and administrative policies , as per Appendix A to Report No. 048-25.*
2. *That the executive secretary be authorized to correct/amend policy numbering, titles, punctuation, and cross- references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of Lakehead District School Board in connection with these policies and procedures.*

CARRIED

17.4 2025-2026 Board Advisory and Regular Board Meeting Schedule (051-25)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the 2025-2026 Board Advisory Committee and Regular Board Meeting Schedule, as set out in Appendix A to Report No. 051-25."

CARRIED

18. AD Hoc and Special Committees Reports:

18.1 Lakehead District School Board By-Laws (061-25)

Trustee Chambers, Chair of the Procedural By-Law Ad Hoc Committee, informed the Board of a change to the motions for the Lakehead District School Board By-Laws. The recommended change is that amendments to the by-laws shall take effect on September 1, 2025, not at the end of the Board meeting as stated in the recommendation of the report, all members of the committee were in agreement.

Chair Vanderwey informed the Board that as the motions still belong to the maker of the motion on behalf of the committee, and seeing that all the committee members are in agreement with the changes, those changes are made automatically.

Chair Vanderwey informed the Board that unless there is an objection, the board would consider motion one and two together as each of those requires a 2/3 vote to adopt. Then they would consider motions three to five together as they require a majority to adopt. There were no objections.

Trustee Chambers, as Chair of the Procedural By-Law Ad Hoc Committee, moved to amend the proviso by substituting language to indicate the amendments to the Lakehead District School Board By-Laws and Appendices shall take effect on September 1, 2025.

18.2 Lakehead District School Board By-Laws (061-25) Amendment of Proviso

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the approve the amendment of the proviso by substituting the following: Amendments to the Governing By-Laws and the Appendices shall take effect September 1, 2025."

CARRIED

18.3 Lakehead District School Board By-Laws (061-25) Motions 1-2

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the following:

1. That the by-law amendments including conforming amendments, with the proviso attached, as proposed by the Procedural By-Law Ad Hoc Committee, be adopted in gross and if adopted, the changes shall not take effect until September 1, 2025; and
2. That amendments to Appendix A, Special Rules of Order, be adopted, and if adopted, the changes shall not take effect until September 1, 2025.

CARRIED

18.4 Lakehead District School Board By-Laws (061-25) Motions 3-5

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the following:

3. *That Appendix G, Education Act References, be removed and placed in the Trustee Manual and if adopted this removal shall occur on September 1, 2025;*
4. *That amendments to Appendix B, Regular Meeting Order of Business, Appendix C, Inaugural Meeting Order of Business, Appendix D, Annual Meeting Order of Business, and Appendix E, Board Advisory Committee Order of Business be adopted in gross, and if adopted, the changes shall take effect September 1, 2025; and*
5. *That the executive secretary be authorized to correct article and clause designations, punctuation, cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes, as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Board of Trustees in connection with the Education Act or its Regulations."*

CARRIED

19. New Reports:

19.1 Policy Review – 8092 Code of Conduct (056-25)

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

“THAT Lakehead District School Board approve 8092 Code of Conduct Policy, Appendix A to Report No. 056-25.”

CARRIED

20. Information and Inquiries

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

- May 15, 2025 – Grade 8 Award of Excellence event;
- May 21, 2025 – MPP Vaugeois visit to St James Public School for OPSBA's Take your MPP to School Week. Director Pharand informed the Board that MPP Holland unfortunately had to send his regrets as he was out of town that week, however, staff are working on having him attend a school visit on June 24, 2025;
- May 22, 2025 – Spring All Star Concert at École Elsie McGill Public School; and
- May 22, 2025 – Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institutes' Multicultural Fashion Show.

21. Adjournment

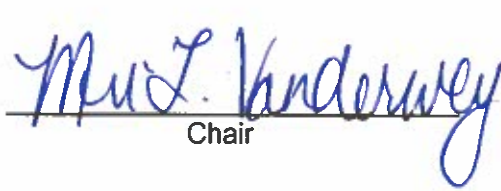
Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

“THAT we do now adjourn at 8:51 p.m.”

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – June 24, 2025


Chair


Secretary