

BUSINESS AND BOARD ADMINISTRATION

3000

DRAFT NOVEMBER 11, 2025

EXPENSE AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES

3074

1. Policy

It is the policy of Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) to reimburse individuals for those expenses incurred in the conduct of approved Board business or in carrying out the responsibilities of an employee, a ~~Board member~~ **trustee**, student trustee, school council or non-trustee Board committee member.

2. Procedures

2.1 Travel

- 2.1.1 Travel within the jurisdiction of the Board does not require completion of the travel approval form; however, does require supervisor knowledge and approval.

All travel outside of the jurisdiction of the Board requires prior approval using the travel approval form according to the following:

Level of Approval Required			
Role	Travel in Ontario	Travel in Canada and continental USA	International
Chair	Vice-Chair	Vice-Chair	Vice-Chair
Vice-Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair
Trustees	Vice-Chair	Vice-Chair	Chair
School Council Member	Director of Education or designate	Director of Education or designate	Director of Education or designate
Non-Trustee Board Committee Member	Superintendent	Superintendent	Superintendent
Director of Education	Chair	Chair	Chair
Superintendents	Director of Education	Director of Education	Director of Education
Employee	Supervisor/Principal	Supervisor/Principal & Superintendent	Director of Education
Consultant	Contract Manager	Superintendent	Director of Education

- 2.1.2 Other options for meetings and professional development are always considered before travel is approved (i.e. audio/video conferencing, webinars).

- 2.1.3 Employees, trustees, student trustees, school council members and non-trustee members of Board committees shall make every effort to travel together in order to reduce the related expenses (ex. shared taxi, rental vehicle, mileage.)

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- 2.1.4 If travel is to be funded by an outside agency (i.e. Ministry of Education or EQAO), travellers must adhere to their published reimbursement guidelines.
- 2.1.5 Staff and trustees are encouraged to book flights, hotel and vehicle rentals with the Board's approved travel agent as part of their travel package.
- 2.1.6 Trustees are responsible to provide the office of the director with itineraries booked individually.
- 2.1.7 Student trustees shall work through the office of the director to secure travel and accommodation arrangements.
- 2.1.8 School council members and non-trustee Board committee members shall work through the office of the director or the office of the superintendent of education as appropriate, to secure travel and accommodation arrangements
- 2.1.9 The most economical and practical mode of transportation that is available should be used when travelling on Board business, or a comparable alternative. Discount advanced booking rates should be used, if available.
- 2.1.10 Airplane – Economy (coach) class is the standard option for ticket purchase. In some cases, Board employees may need to use chartered aircraft. This is to be pre-approved by the individual's superintendent.
- 2.1.11 Train – Coach class economy fare is the standard option for ticket purchase.
- 2.1.12 Rental Vehicle – When renting a vehicle, a compact model or its equivalent is required. Any exceptions must be:
- documented and approved prior to the rental if possible; and
 - guided by the principle that the rental vehicle is the most economical and practical size, taking into account the business purpose, number of occupants and safety (including weather) considerations.
- To avoid higher gasoline charges the rental vehicle must be refuelled before its return.
- 2.1.13 Use of Personal Vehicles - Reimbursement for the use of personal vehicles on Board business will be in accordance with the 3070 Allowance for Use of Personal Vehicle Policy.
- 2.1.14 Parking and Tolls – Reimbursement is provided for necessary and reasonable expenditures on parking, as well as, tolls for bridges, ferries and highways, when driving on Board business.

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2.1.15 Shuttles/Taxis – Local public transportation including hotel/airport shuttles should be used wherever possible.

Taxis may be justified in cases where:

- group travel by taxi is more economical than the cost of having individuals travel separately by public transit or shuttle; or
- taking a taxi allows you to meet an unusually tight schedule for meetings.

2.2 Accommodation

2.2.1 Travellers shall use the recommended conference standard accommodation.

2.2.2 The Board will not reimburse individuals for movies or the use of mini-bars.

2.2.3 Internet access in hotels will be considered an eligible expense for employees and trustees only.

2.2.4 Accommodations and meals when travelling the day before a meeting/conference and/or returning the day after a meeting/conference are generally not an eligible expense. Expenses may be eligible if flight times or other means of transportation on the same day of the meeting/conference are not conducive to meeting times, and/or at the discretion of the approver.

2.3 Meals

2.3.1 Reimbursement for reasonable meal expenses is subject to the maximum daily rate of \$60 per day including taxes and gratuities (15% max).

Claimants shall take advantage of meals included in registration. Original, itemized receipts for meals are required and reimbursement must not exceed the actual amount spent. If using a Board purchasing card or corporate credit card, claimants will be responsible for reimbursing the Board for overages on the maximum daily rate and any unreasonable expenses.

2.3.2 The cost of alcoholic beverages will not be reimbursed by the Board as part of a travel or meal expense.

2.3.3 Meal expenses incurred while travelling must be paid for individually, either on purchasing card or paid for personally.

2.3.4 When meals are purchased for individuals to facilitate Board business, the names of individuals and the business purpose of the expense must be included to be reimbursed.

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2.3.5 Meetings over meal times are discouraged.

A light meal may be offered as part of a meeting where it facilitates the flow of the day and is unreasonable to expect individuals to obtain their own meals due to time constraints or location.

Where a light meal is offered, meal rates of \$20 for lunch (inclusive) and \$30 for dinner (inclusive) apply, whether held on site or off site.

2.4 Preparation and Processing of Claims

2.4.1 An expense claim or payment request must be submitted and all original receipts must be scanned and attached.

2.4.2 Original, itemized receipts are required for all items to be claimed.

2.4.3 In the event the claimant loses or cannot obtain a receipt, the claimant must first request a replacement receipt from the vendor. If a replacement receipt cannot be obtained, the claimant must complete the lost receipt form.

2.4.4 If funding is obtained from more than one source, it is to be noted on the expense report.

2.4.5 Expense claims/payment requests must be submitted and approved within fourteen days of the event.

2.4.6 Trustee expense claims must be authorized by the vice-chair of the Board. The vice-chair's expense claims must be authorized by the chair of the Board. All trustee expense claims will be reviewed by the superintendent of business.

2.4.7 School council members and non-trustee Board committee members claims will be authorized by the director of education or superintendent of education, as appropriate.

2.4.8 An incomplete or inaccurate claim will be returned to the claimant for resubmission.

2.5 Cash Advances

2.5.1 Except as noted below, cash advances are not provided for the purpose of travel and meeting expenses. Trustees and employees who are expected to regularly incur travel and meeting expenses may be provided with a corporate credit card/purchasing card.

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- 2.5.2 A cash advance may be granted to the student trustees, upon the approval of the director of education or designate.
- 2.5.3 Cash advances will not be provided to employees, school council or non-trustee Board committee members.
- 2.6 Hospitality
- Hospitality is the provision of food, beverage, accommodation, transportation and other amenities at public expense to people who are not engaged in work for the Board or other Broader Public Service (BPS) organizations or Ontario government ministries, agencies and public entities. Functions only involving those people in the organizations listed above are not considered hospitality functions.
- 2.6.1 Hospitality may be extended in an economical and consistent manner when it can facilitate Board business and it is considered desirable as a matter of courtesy or protocol.
- 2.6.2 Hospitality may include the consumption of alcohol at a meal or a reception with invitees as defined above, but only when there is an approved business case (see Business Plan for Provision of Hospitality or Alcohol Form).
- 2.6.3 Prior written approval is required for hospitality events where alcohol will be served.
- If the hospitality event is hosted by a superintendent, the superintendent must seek prior approval from the director of education.
 - If the hospitality event is hosted by the director of education, the director of education must seek prior approval from the chair of the Board.
- 2.7 Gifts – Employees/Trustees
- Gift cards/certificates cannot be given to Board employees for any reason. Board funds may not be used to purchase gifts (i.e. flowers, cards, mugs, plaques) for Board employees or their immediate family due to births, adoption, marriage, birthdays or other life events. These are considered personal and are not reimbursable.
- There may be exceptional circumstances; however, when the director will approve Board funds for recognition of a staff member.

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There may be circumstances that warrant recognition of employees, such as receiving awards for outstanding achievements, appearing as a guest speaker for an after hours event or long-term service with the Board or other exceptional circumstances that have been approved by the superintendent or director. In these circumstances, Board, school generated, or school council funds may be used to purchase token gifts of appreciation.

2.8 Gifts – Non-Employees

Appropriate token gifts of appreciation may be offered in exchange for gifts of service or expertise to people who are not engaged in work for the Board. Cash and alcohol (including gift cards for alcohol) must not be given as a gift.

2.9 Consultants & Other Contractors

2.9.1 Consultants and other contractors will not be reimbursed for any hospitality, incidental or food expenses, including:

- meals, snacks and beverages;
- gratuities;
- laundry or dry cleaning;
- valet services;
- dependent care;
- home management; and
- personal telephone calls.

2.9.2 Consultants and other contractors may be reimbursed for travel and accommodation only if these provisions are included in the contract.

2.10 Other Eligible Expenses

Other eligible expenses incurred in carrying out the business of the Board are approved as part of the annual budget process. These items may include: equipment, supplies, meeting expenses, etc.

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3. Review

These procedures shall be reviewed in accordance with 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy.

<u>Cross Reference</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Legal Reference</u>
_____	October 23, 2007	_____
_____	<u>Date Revised</u>	_____
	December 15, 2009	
	June 26, 2012	
	October 9, 2012	
	September 9, 2014	
	November 26, 2019	