LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2025 SEP 23
7:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Leah Vanderwey(Chair)
Ellen Chambers
Pat Johansen
Donica LeBlanc
Ron Oikonen
Ryan Sitch
Trudy Tuchenhagen
George Saarinen (virtual – closed session)
Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous Trustee)
Eryn Genno (Indigenous Student Trustee)
Breanna Bruce (Student Trustee)

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education
Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education: Child Care & Elementary Education
Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education
Patti-Jo Pesola-Brunton, Superintendent of Education: Math Lead
Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education
Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business

PUBLIC SESSION:

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Vanderwey at 6:48 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen Seconded by Trustee Sitch

"THAT the Agenda for Regular Board Meeting, September 23, 2025, be approved."

CARRIED

4. Resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Johansen 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 – June 24, 2025

- Property 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 – 6:45 P.M.

5. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

PUBLIC SESSION – 7:30 P.M.

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

Moved by Trustee Oikonen Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

"THAT the Report of the Regular Board – Committee of the Whole – Closed Session be adopted with the following recommendation therein:

> *'THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole – Closed Session Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, June 24, 2025.'*

CARRIED

7. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Chambers read the Land Acknowledgement.

8. Consent Agenda

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc Seconded by Trustee Chambers

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the consent agenda, including items 8.1 and 8.2, as presented."

CARRIED

9. Delegations/ Presentations

9.1 Presentation of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association Awards of Achievement:

The following recipients were presented with an Ontario Public School Boards' Association Awards of Achievement. The awards were presented by Indigenous Trustee Wemigwans, Trustees' Chambers, Johansen, LeBlanc and Tuchenhagen:

- Michael Judge;
- Joe Gaudreau;
- Elliot Cromarty; and
- Malcolm Sutherland.

10. Reports

10.1 Director's Reports

10.1.1 Belong – N/A

10.1.2 Succeed

10.1.2.1 Summer Learning K-12 (085-25)

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

10.1.3 Reconcile

10.1.3.1 Anishinaabemowin Revitalization Report (084-25)

Superintendent Harris introduced Anika Gutherie, Anishinaabemowin Revitalization Coordinator, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

10.1.4 Other – N/A

10.2 Chairs Reports

10.2.1 2025-2029 Multi-Year Strategic Plan Amendment (088-25)

Moved by Trustee Oikonen Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve:

1. *the addition of Education in the title of the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, and if adopted, the title would read as follows "2025-2029 Education Strategic Plan"; and*

2. *an amendment to the vision statement in the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan that would include the word educational, and if adopted, the vision statement would read as follows "We provide equitable and inclusive educational environments where everyone belongs and succeeds".*

CARRIED

10.2.2 Policy Review – 3094 Electronic Meetings Policy (089-25)

Moved by Trustee Chambers Seconded by Trustee Wemigwans

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the 3094 Electronic Meetings Policy as attached as Appendix A to Report No. 089-25 and 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

10.3 Student/Indigenous Student Trustee Reports

10.3.1 Student Trustee Report (091-25)

Breanna Bruce, Student Trustee, presented her September report to the Board. Items addressed in the report included:

- how honoured and grateful she is to be the new student trustee; and
- her plans to create more connections between Lakehead Public Schools' secondary schools, by hosting joint events, participating in student senate and creating social media engagement through the Student Trustee Instagram account.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

10.3.2 Indigenous Student Trustee Report (090-25)

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

- highlights from her first year as Indigenous student trustee;
- her plans to attend the Ontario Student Trustees' Associations fall conference; and
- restarting the Ojibwe Word of the Day initiative and her Bulletin Board project.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

10.4 Reports of Standing Committees

10.4.1 Approval of Appointments of Alternative Representative to Special Education Advisory Committee (086-25)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc Seconded by Trustee Sitch

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the appointment of Jamie Barry, Child Welfare Manager – District Division, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, as an alternate representative to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Jamie Barry's appointment would be for the term ending November 30, 2026, as outlined in Report No. 086-25."

CARRIED

10.4.2 Communication Committee Request for Approval of Correspondence (092-25)

Moved by Trustee Chambers Seconded by Trustee Johansen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the request from the Communications Committee to send correspondence advocating for the role of democratically elected school board trustees to MPP Kevin Holland, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Lise Vaugeois and that the secretary to the Board be authorized to correct punctuation, add cc's, to make additional technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intend of the Board of Trustees, as outlined in Report No. 092-25."

CARRIED

10.5 Reports of External Board or Agency Representation

10.5.1 Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

Trustee Sitch informed Board members of the upcoming OPSBA Board of Directors meeting on September 26-27,2025, that he will be attending virtually. He reminded Board Members that OPSBA Regional meeting is taking place from October 17-19 in Sault Ste. Marie. Trustee Sitch also reminded Board members of upcoming OPSBA events in November.

11. Reports of Special (Ad Hoc) Committees – N/A

12. Special Orders – N/A

13. Unfinished Business – N/A

14. Notices of Motion – N/A

15. Announcements

15.1 Chair Vanderwey informed the Board that the following events were attended by trustees:

- September 22, 2025 – United Way "Better is Possible" Breakfast

15.2 Chair Vanderwey informed the Board that she participated in one of the online Truth and Reconciliation "Lunch and Learn" webinars from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and highly recommended that Board members try to join if they are able.

16. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Sitch Seconded by Trustee Chambers

"THAT we do now adjourn at 9:35 p.m."

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – October 28, 2025

Chair Secretary