

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2025 JUN 24
7:30 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Leah Vanderwey (Chair)
Donica LeBlanc (Vice-Chair)
Pat Johansen
Ron Oikonen
Ryan Sitch

George Saarinen
Morgann De Franceschi
(Student Trustee)
Eryn Genno
(Indigenous Student Trustee)

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Ellen Chambers
Trudy Tuchenhausen
Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous Trustee)
Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education
Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education
Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business
Heather Harris, 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 Oikonen

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

"THAT the Agenda for Regular Board Meeting, June 24, 2025 be approved."

CARRIED

4. Resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Moved by Trustee Johansen

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

- *Approval of Committee of the Whole – Closed session Minutes*
 - *March 25, 2025; and*
- *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:

5. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

PUBLIC SESSION:

6. Report of Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Moved by Trustee Oikonen

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

1. *THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole – Closed Session Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, March 25, 2025; and*
2. *THAT all items of Regular Board – Committee of the Whole – Closed Session were dealt with in their entirety and shall remain in closed session."*

CARRIED

7. Playing of O' Canada

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, introduced the Algonquin Avenue Public School Choir to perform the national anthem in English and Ojibwe. Chair Vanderwey requested that the members of the Board and public gallery rise, if able to do so for the national anthem.

8. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee LeBlanc read the Land Acknowledgement.

9. Trustee Character Award – Ogden Community Public School's Hockey Team

Chair Vanderwey presented the Trustee Character Award to the Ogden Community Public School's Hockey Team for their display of integrity and outstanding sportsmanship during the Lakehead Public Schools Hockey Tournament.

10. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Sitch

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, May 27, 2025."

CARRIED

11. Business Arising from the Minutes – N/A

MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:

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

Trustee Sitch informed the Board on his attendance at the OPSBA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Regional Meetings on June 13-14, 2025. He highlighted that the event featured guest speaker Karl Subban. During the AGM, elections were held for the position of First Vice-President. Additionally, appointments to the Policy Work Group, Program Work Group and the Regional Council Chair at the Regional Meetings. There were no questions from trustees following the update.

13. Student Trustee Report (074-25)

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

- highlights from her final year as student trustee;
- regrets and initiatives that she unfortunately did not have time for during her term;
- attending the Grade 8 Virtual Reach Ahead meeting on May 13, 2025;
- Master of Ceremony for the Grade 8 Award of Excellence Awards event; and
- recommendations for the future student trustee.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

14. Indigenous Student Trustee Report (075-25)

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

- highlights from her first year as Indigenous student trustee;
- attending the Grade 8 Virtual Reach Ahead meeting on May 13, 2025;
- participating in a student senate event hosted at Westmount Public School alongside her father, Todd Genno, and Orville Councillor, sharing Indigenous culture and Tradition with the students;
- recommendations and objectives for the upcoming school year; and
- a special thank you to Student Trustee Morgann De Franceschi along with a welcome to incoming Student Trustee Breanna Bruce.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

15. Updates from the Chair/Director

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

- Pride flag raising events at the Board office and at Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute (CVI) earlier in June along with the many pride events that took place at Lakehead Public Schools; and
- National Indigenous Peoples History Month events that occurred at numerous Lakehead Public Schools locations throughout the month of June. Director Pharand expressed a special thank you to Jasmine Sgambelluri, First Nations, Métis, Inuit Resource Teacher, and Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program, for their efforts in ensuring that the schools had many opportunities for students to learn about Indigenous Peoples History Month and Indigenous Peoples Day.

16. Annual Review of the Plan to Deliver Special Education Programs and Services (060-25)

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, introduced Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

17. 2021-2024 Strategic Plan Report (078-25)

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, along with Superintendents Alaksa, Harris, and Associate Superintendent and Math/IT Lead Sacevich presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

18. Math Achievement Action Plan (071-25)

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

MATTERS FOR DECISION:

19. Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (076-25)

19.1 2025-2030 Governance Policy Review Schedule (050-25)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the 2025-2030 Governance Review Schedule, Appendix A to Report No. 050-25."

CARRIED

19.2 Approval of Appointments to the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (057-25)

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the following appointments to the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee for the 2025-2026 school year:

- *Donica Leblanc, Trustee;*
- *Trudy Tuchenhausen, Trustee (Alternate);*
- *Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education;*
- *Kathleen Andrews, Student Success Lead, SAL Committee Chair;*
- *Lorna Hunda, Executive Director, Youth Employment Services (YES);*
- *Stacy-Ann Dyer-McNish, Service Delivery Manager, Youth Employment Services (YES); and*
- *Tom Nesti, Program Supervisor, Youth Employment Services (YES)."*

CARRIED

20. Recommendations from the Finance Committee (072-25)

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Oikonen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the 2025-2026 Operating and Capital Budget of \$180,304,289 as presented."

CARRIED

21. Recommendations from the Director's Performance Appraisal Ad Hoc (073-25)

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the following :

1. *That Lakehead District School Board authorize the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Directors Performance Appraisal Ad Hoc Committee to compose the final review based on the input and feedback received;*
2. *That Lakehead District School Board circulate the final draft to all trustees for feedback before the final copy is given to the Director; and*
3. *That Lakehead District School Board provide a final copy to the Director of Education, every member of the Board of Trustees, and a submission of written confirmation to the Ministry of Education, that the appraisal was conducted and adopted by board resolution (which is to be posted to the Board's website), no later than August 15, 2025, completing the DPA process for the 2024-2025 school year in its entirety."*

CARRIED

22. New Reports – N/A

23. Notices of Motion

2025-2029 Strategic Plan

It is recommended 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".
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.

24. Information and Inquiries

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

- June 11, 2025 – Wabshkaa Animkii Benesii Powwow at Sherbrooke Public School;
- June 11, 2025 – Superior CVI Scholarships and Awards Night;
- June 13-14, 2025 – Ontario Public School Boards Association Annual General Meeting;
- June 17, 2025 – Westgate CVI Graduation;
- June 18, 2025 – Hammarskjold High School Graduation;
- June 19, 2025 – Miiniwewinan Powwow at Westgate CVI; and
- June 23, 2025 – MPP Holland's school visit to Ogden Community Public School.

24.2 Chair Vanderwey informed the Board of the upcoming events in June:

- June 25, 2025 – Superior CVI and Lakehead Alternative Program Graduation, Trustee Tuchenhausen will attend on behalf of the Board;
- June 26, 2025 – Lakehead Adult Education Centre Convocation, Trustee Saarinen will attend on behalf of the Board; and
- July 25, 2025 – Fort William First Nations Graduation Celebration, this event will honour graduates from Grade 8, Grade 12 and post-secondary programs. Indigenous Trustee Wemigwans will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

25. A Special presentation and thank you to Student Trustee Morgann De Franceschi from Vice-Chair LeBlanc on behalf of the trustees. Final words of thanks from Student Trustee De Franceschi.

26. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

"THAT we do now adjourn at 9:13 p.m."

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – September 23, 2025

Chair



Secretary

