

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2025 OCT 28
7:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Leah Vanderwey (Chair)
Ellen Chambers
Pat Johansen
Donica LeBlanc
Ron Oikonen
Ryan Sitch

George Saarinen
Trudy Tuchenhausen
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 7:35 p.m.

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, October 28, 2025, be approved."

CARRIED

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CLOSED SESSION – N/A

5. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session - N/A

PUBLIC SESSION – 7:30 P.M.

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

7. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Tuchenhausen read the Land Acknowledgement.

8. Consent Agenda

Chair Vanderwey informed the Board that she would like to consider item 8.1 separately as there needs to be an amendment to that item.

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Oikonen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the consent agenda, excluding item 8.1, which will be considered separately."

CARRIED

- 8.1 Minutes of Regular Board Meeting – September 23, 2025

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Minutes of Regular Board Meeting – September 23, 2025, with the following amendment:

1. *Under Trustees Present – Leah Vanderwey be indicated as chair of the Board not Donica LeBlanc."*

CARRIED

9. Delegations/ Presentations

- 9.1 Trustees' Recognition Award – Jennifer Johnston

Trustee Saarinen presented Jennifer Johnston, with a Trustees' Recognition Award for her exceptional contributions to students, her profession and the broader educational community in the field of counselling and attendance services.

10. Reports

- 10.1 Director's Reports

- 10.1.1 Belong – N/A

10.1.2 Succeed

10.1.2.1 Adult Education Report (097-25)

Superintendent Lower introduced Sam Peotto, Manager of Lakehead Adult Education Centre, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

10.1.3 Reconcile -- N/A

10.1.4 Other

10.1.4.1 Short Term Borrowing Resolution Report (105-25)

Moved by Trustee Saarinen Seconded by Trustee Wemigwans

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Short-Term Borrowing Resolution for the 2025-2026 school year as outlined in Report No.105-25, Short-Term Borrowing Resolution."

CARRIED

10.2 Chairs Reports

10.3 Student/Indigenous Student Trustee Reports

10.3.1 Student Trustee October Report (Handout)

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

- Attending the United Way "Better is Possible breakfast";
- Meetings with Hammar skjold High School, Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute and Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute's student councils;
- Attending a Parent Involvement Committee Meeting on October 6, 2025; and
- Presenting to a Civics class at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute with Chair Vanderwey and Trustee Johansen on the role of trustees for Local Government Week.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

10.3.2 Indigenous Student Trustee October Report (Handout)

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

- Attending the United Way "Better is Possible breakfast";
- Sharing her Indigenous student trustee update with members of Miiniwewinan at the first committee meeting of the school year; and
- Meetings with Hammarskjold High School, Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute's student councils.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

10.4 Reports of Standing Committees

10.4.1 Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes – June 19, 2025

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education and Co-Chair of Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, presented the minutes. All trustees' questions were addressed.

10.5 Reports of External Board or Agency Representation

10.5.1 Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

Trustee Sitch updated members on items from the September OPSBA Board of Directors Meeting, including the federal government's decision to make the National School Food Program permanent, a submission from OPSBA to the government against the removal of speed traps from school zones, province wide campaign "democracy is not outdated" being put on by OPSBA with a petition in support of democratically appointed school board officials, the upcoming Public Education Symposium in January, meeting and Advocacy Day November 23 and 24.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

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

12. Special Orders – N/A

13. Unfinished Business/ General Orders

13.1 Suspension/Expulsion Hearing Committee

Director Pharand informed Board members that due to a lack of legislated number of members available for an upcoming hearing with a tentative date of November 20, 2025, the committee is asking for a trustee to volunteer to be appointed as an additional alternate member of the committee.

Moved by Trustee Sith Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

"THAT the Lakehead District School Board approve Trustee Chambers as an Alternate to the Suspension/Expulsion Hearing Committee"

CARRIED

14. Notices of Motion – N/A

15. Announcements

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

- October 24, 2025 – MPP Lise Vaugeois visited a civics class at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute;
- October 27, 2025 – Staples/ Kiwanis Club Thunder Bay School Supply Donation at Sherbrooke Public School; and
- October 28, 2025 – Trustees' Professional Development Session on Artificial Intelligence with Gino Russo.

15.2 Director Pharand informed Board members that Lakehead District School Boards Paediatrics Clinic and the KZ Lodge had been submitted to present at OPSBA's Public Education Symposium.

15.3 Chair Vanderwey informed Board members that she was invited to present at the Occasional Teachers General Meeting on the role of a trustee.

15.4 Trustee Sith inquired if Lakehead Public Schools are still involved in the Christmas Cheer Fund. Director Pharand confirmed that many of schools collect food items.

16. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Sith

"THAT we do now adjourn at 8:21 p.m."

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – November 25, 2025


Chair


Secretary