

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2025 DEC 2
6:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

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

George Saarinen (virtual)
Trudy Tuchenhausen
Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous Trustee)
Eryn Genno (Indigenous Student Trustee)
Breanna Bruce (Student Trustee)

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education
Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:

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

PUBLIC SESSION:

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Director Pharand at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

Director Pharand read the land acknowledgement

3. **Introduction of Scrutineers**

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, and Patti-Jo Pesola-Brunton, Superintendent of Education, were introduced as the scrutineer and assistant scrutineer, respectively, for the elections.

4. Election of the Chair

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Secretary of the Board, announced the pre-nomination of Trustee Vanderwey by Indigenous Trustee Wemigwans. Trustee Vanderwey accepted the nomination. Further nominations were called for from the floor. There were no further nominations.

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhausen

Seconded by Trustee Chambers

"THAT nominations for the Office of Chair of Lakehead District School Board be closed."

CARRIED

Director Pharand congratulated Chair Vanderwey and turned the meeting over to the Chair of Lakehead District School Board for 2026. Chair Vanderwey thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve a second year as chair of the Board.

5. Election of the Vice-Chair

Chair Vanderwey announced the pre-nomination of Trustee LeBlanc by Trustee Saarinen. Trustee LeBlanc accepted the nomination. Nominations were called for from the floor. There were no further nominations.

Moved by Trustee Sitch

Seconded by Indigenous Trustee Wemigwans

"THAT nominations for the Office of Vice-Chair of Lakehead District School Board be closed."

CARRIED

Chair Vanderwey congratulated Vice-Chair LeBlanc. Vice-Chair LeBlanc thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Vice-Chair for an additional year.

6. Election of Member of Coordinating Committee

Chair Vanderwey announced the pre-nominations for Member of the Coordinating Committee. Trustee Chambers was nominated by Trustee Sitch. Trustee Chambers accepted the nomination. Trustee Johansen was nominated by Trustee Tuchenhausen. Trustee Johansen accepted the nomination. Further nominations were called from the floor. There were no further nominations.

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhausen

Seconded by Indigenous Trustee Chambers

"THAT nominations for the Member of the Coordinating Committee be closed."

CARRIED

Trustee Tuchenhausen inquired how Trustee Saarinen will submit his vote as he is attending virtually. Chair Vanderwey clarified that according to Lakehead District School Board's Bylaws Trustee Saarinen will submit his vote via email directly to the scrutineer, Superintendent Harris.

Each nominee was given a moment to speak. The scrutineer and the assistant scrutineer distributed the ballots and conducted the election for Member of Coordinating Committee. The Board meeting was paused to allow the scrutineers to tally the results. Upon reconvening, Trustee Chambers was declared the winner.

7. Election of Alternate Member of Coordinating Committee

Chair Vanderwey announced the pre-nominations for Alternate Member of the Coordinating Committee. Trustee Tuchenhausen was nominated by Trustee Johansen. Trustee Tuchenhausen declined the nomination. Trustee Johansen was nominated by Trustee Chambers. Trustee Johansen accepted the nomination. Further nominations were called from the floor. There were no further nominations.

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Oikonen

"THAT nominations for the Alternate Member of the Coordinating Committee be closed."

CARRIED

Trustee Johansen was declared the winner.

Chair Vanderwey declared the elections closed and requested that a motion be moved for the destruction of all ballots for the election.

Moved by Trustee Sitch

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

"THAT the ballots for the elections at the Annual Board Meeting, December 2, 2025, be destroyed."

CARRIED

8. Trustee Appointments to Board Committees – 2026 (003-26)

Director Pharand presented the report. Trustee Wemigwans clarified and asked that an error on the communications committee members be corrected (he was listed as chair in error). Trustee Johansen inquired who the alternate for the International Education Committee is. Director Pharand confirmed that there was not one selected and called for a volunteer. Trustee Johansen volunteered to be alternate member of the International Education Committee.

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Chambers

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Trustee Appointments to Board Committees – 2025-2026 as set out in Appendix A to Report No. 003-26, amended to include Trustee Johansen as alternate member and the omission the of chair of the communications committee (indicated as Indigenous Trustee Wemigwans)."

CARRIED

9. Committee Reports:

9.1 Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Annual Report (005-26)

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

"THAT Lakehead District School Board receive the Annual Report of the Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee."

CARRIED

9.2 Parent Involvement Committee Annual Report (002-26)

Director Pharand introduced Robin Cawlishaw, Chair of the Parent Involvement Committee, who presented the report. There were no questions from trustees.

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board receive the Annual Report of the Parent Involvement Committee."

CARRIED

9.3 Special Education Advisory Committee Annual Report (004-26)

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, introduced Alina Cameron Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee who presented the report. There were no questions from trustees.

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhausen

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

"THAT Lakehead District School Board receive the Annual Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee."

CARRIED

9.4 Audit Committee Annual Report – August 31, 2025 (006-26)

Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Education, presented the report. There were no questions from trustees.

Moved by Trustee Oikonen

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

"THAT Lakehead District School Board receive the Annual Report of the Audit Committee."

CARRIED

10. Directors Annual Report (001-26)

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, along with Superintendents Harris, Pesola-Brunton and Alaksa presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee Wemigwans

"THAT Lakehead District School Board receive the Director's Annual Report."

CARRIED

11. Director Pharand took a moment to thank Dave Covello, Manager of Information Technology and Corporate Planning, for his years of dedication and commitment to Lakehead Public Schools and wished him well in his retirement.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

"THAT we do now adjourn at 7:06 p.m."

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – January 27, 2026


Chair


Secretary