

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 24, 2026
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Director of Education

Leah Vanderwey
Chair

AGENDA

PUBLIC SESSION
7:30 p.m. – Board Room/Microsoft Teams

	<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. CALL TO ORDER	L. Vanderwey	Verbal
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST		
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA	L. Vanderwey	Verbal
4. RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CLOSED SESSION – N/A		
5. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CLOSED SESSION – N/A		
6. REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CLOSED SESSION – N/A		
7. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	P. Johansen	Verbal
8. CONSENT AGENDA	L. Vanderwey	
8.1 Approval of Minutes Regular Board Meeting – February 24, 2026		1-6
9. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS – N/A		
10. REPORTS		
10.1 Director's Reports		
10.1.1 Belong		
10.1.2 Succeed		
10.1.2.1 Math Achievement Action Plan (026-26)	P.J. Pesola-Brunton	7-8

		<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
10.1.3	Reconcile		
10.1.4	Other		
	10.1.4.1 Bus Transportation Update/ Final Costs 2025-2026 (018-26)	K. Alaksa	9-11
	10.1.4.2 2026 Municipal Election – Trustee Determination and Distribution (027-26)	K. Alaksa	12-19
	10.1.4.3 Policy Review – 2010 Review And Development (028-26)	S. Pharand	20-21
10.2	Chair’s Reports – N/A		
10.3	Student/Indigenous Student Trustee Reports		
	10.3.1 Indigenous Student Trustee March Report	E. Genno	Handout
	10.3.2 Student Trustee March Report	B. Bruce	Handout
10.4	Reports of Standing Committees		
	10.4.1 Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes – October 2, 2025	H. Harris	22-24
	10.4.2 Parent Involvement Committee Minutes – November 17, 2025	S. Pharand	25-29
10.5	Reports of External Board or Agency Representation		
	10.5.1 Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) Report	R. Sitch	Verbal
11.	REPORTS OF SPECIAL (AD HOC) COMMITTEES – N/A		

	<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
12. SPECIAL ORDERS – N/A		
13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS – N/A		
14. NOTICE OF MOTIONS – N/A		
15. ANNOUNCEMENTS	L. Vanderwey	Verbal
16. ADJOURNMENT	L. Vanderwey	Verbal

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2026 FEB 24
7:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

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

George Saarinen (virtual)
Ryan Sitch
Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous Trustee)
Eryn Genno (Indigenous Student Trustee)
Breanna Bruce (Student Trustee)

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Trudy Tuchenhagen

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 7:02 p.m.

2. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest – None**

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Johansen

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

“THAT the Agenda for Regular Board Meeting, February 24, 2026, be approved.”

CARRIED

4. Resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Sitch

Seconded by Trustee Wemigwans

“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 – September 23, 2025*
- Property Matter (023-26)*
- Personnel Matters*
- Financial 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 (7:00 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 Johansen

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

‘THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole – Closed Session Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, September 23, 2025.’”

CARRIED

7. Amendment to Agenda

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

“THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Amendment of the agenda for the Regular Board meeting, February 24, 2026, to include a presentation from the Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair as section 9.2.”

CARRIED

8. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee LeBlanc read the Land Acknowledgement.

9. Consent Agenda

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

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

CARRIED

10. Delegations/ Presentations

10.1 Trustees Character Award – David Kunnas

Donica LeBlanc, Vice-Chair, presented David Kunnas, Core French Teacher, McKellar Park Public Schools, with the Trustees’ Character Award for his volunteering, promotion of teamwork, inclusion and embodiment of Lakehead Public Schools values belonging, empathy, integrity, and respect.

10.2 Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair

Leah Vanderwey, Chair, introduced Jason Pilot and Rebecca Cross, Co-Chairs of the Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair, who presented their delegation to the Board. They informed the Board that the upcoming science fair will be held on April 7, 2026 at Lakehead University, in the University Centre Building Main Dining Hall. All trustees’ questions were answered.

11. Reports

11.1 Director’s Reports

11.1.1 Belong – N/A

11.1.2 Succeed

11.1.2.1 Student Success (022-26)

Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education, introduced Roger Drcar, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Recruiter/Specialist High Skills Major/School College Work Initiative/ Student Success Resource Teacher, and David Hakala, Student Success Resource Teacher, who presented the report. All trustees’ questions were addressed.

Director Pharand took a moment to express Lakehead District School Boards appreciation to Roger Drcar for the many years of exemplary work with Lakehead Public Schools and wish him well in his upcoming retirement.

11.1.3 Reconcile – N/A

11.1.4 Other

11.1.4.1 New Teacher Induction Program Report (021-26)

Patti-Jo Pesola-Brunton, Superintendent of Education, introduced Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program, along with Kathleen Andrews, Student Success Lead, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

11.2 Chairs Reports – N/A

11.3 Student/Indigenous Student Trustee Reports

11.3.1 Student Trustee February Report (Handout)

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

- attending the Virtual Reach-Ahead class with Trustee Saarinen;
- meeting with Director Pharand, and Indigenous Student Trustee Genno about planning a meeting with some of the regions other student trustees; and
- a meeting with Student Trustee Mentor, Trustee Saarinen, and Indigenous Student Trustee Genno to discuss some future goals and concerns for student trustees in Ontario.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

11.3.2 Indigenous Student Trustee February Report (Handout)

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

- reflecting on attending Kindergarten Night with Student Trustee Bruce;
- meeting with Director Pharand, and Indigenous Student Trustee Genno about planning a meeting with some of the regions other student trustees; and
- a meeting with Student Trustee Mentor, Trustee Saarinen, and Indigenous Student Trustee Genno to discuss some future goals and concerns for student trustees in Ontario.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

11.4 Reports of Standing Committees – N/A

11.5 Reports of External Board or Agency Representation

11.5.1 Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

Trustee Sitch updated members on the following items:

- OPSBA Board of Directors meeting – Saturday, February 28, 2026;
- no announcements from the Minister of Education on the future of school board trustees, parliament comes back into session on March 23, 2026;
- trustees should have received an email containing a letter from the Black Trustee Caucus to the Ministry on the weakening of anti-racism oversight which is creating equity issues within school boards in Ontario; and
- Special Board meeting on March 12, 2026, to determine the future of OPSBA.

All trustees' questions were addressed.

12. Reports of Special (Ad Hoc) Committees

12.1 Communications Committee Request for Approval of Correspondence (025-26)

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

“THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the request from the Communications Committee to send correspondence to the Minister of Education and the Ombudsman as outlined in Report No. 025-26.”

CARRIED

13. Special Orders – N/A

14. Unfinished Business/ General Orders – N/A

15. Notices of Motion – N/A

16. Announcements

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

- February 20, 2026 – Director Pharand and Chair Vanderwey met with MPP Holland regarding Transportation and Special Education Supports and Services.
- February 23, 2026 – Trustee Information Session – The Role of the Trustees

17. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Oikonen

"THAT we do now adjourn at 8:46 p.m."

CARRIED

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

2026 MAR 24
Report No. 026-26

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD – Public Session

RE: MATH ACHIEVEMENT ACTION PLAN

1. Background

- 1.1 This is the third year of the Ministry of Education’s Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP). For the 2025-2026 school year, the Ministry of Education has directed school boards to become even more precise by using data to guide continuous improvement efforts. In spring 2023, the Ministry of Education announced a significant investment to improve student achievement in mathematics.
- 1.2 The Math Achievement Action Plan aligns with all three pillars of the Board’s Strategic Plan. It focuses on building capacity among educators and students through efforts at every level; Board, School, and Classroom. The goal is to improve math achievement for all students, supporting their success and well-being throughout their K-12 years and beyond. The MAAP requires strategies, actions and monitoring around three priority areas: Fidelity to the Curriculum, Educator Mathematics Content Knowledge, and Knowing the Learner.
- 1.3 School boards are responsible for developing their own plan and are held accountable through reporting periods that happen three times per year. This is an information report that shares the plan with the Board of Trustees and is approved by the Director of Education.

2. Situation

- 2.1 Implementation of Lakehead District School Board’s (LDSB) MAAP is well underway. Math facilitators are directly supporting both teachers and students in six out of the 11 priority schools. Two math intervention teachers are working in two of the priority schools, providing Tier 3 intervention with students. To date, teachers have participated in professional development as well as co-planning sessions with math facilitators. Supportive resources have been developed and provided to support administrators, teachers, and students.
- 2.2 School boards are required to submit the second plan with updates on Key Performance Indicators by March 27, 2026.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Continue with implementation of the MAAP to improve the math achievement of all students at Lakehead Public Schools. Implementation will include continued capacity building of educators, close monitoring of student progress, and on-going adjustments to actions in the plan required to reach the goals of the plan.
- 3.2 Submission of the MAAP to the Ministry of Education – due date March 27, 2026. The report will include all data, including report card achievement, attendance, and confidence/attitude survey. This data will be reviewed prior to submission and used to make decisions and adjustments to our current plan, if required.

CONCLUSION

Extensive data collection, analysis, and decision making have been the foundation of this year's MAAP. The plan focuses on the collection and analysis of student data and the use of this information to make decisions across the board, specifically at the priority schools, to plan for and deliver math instruction and support that aims to improve the outcomes for all our students. The goal of the plan is to ensure that the math supports, provided by the Ministry of Education and Board funding, are used to support schools and students that need it most. Over the past few years, we have seen steady growth in student achievement and our data indicates a positive trend again so far this year. Continued improvement in student math achievement remains the long-term goal across the system and the collective effort of staff at both the Board level and the school level will continue to make a difference for our students.

Respectfully submitted,

PATTI-JO PESOLA
Superintendent of Education
Board Math Lead

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Director of Education

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

2026 MAR 24
Report No. 018-26

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD – Public Session

RE: BUS TRANSPORTATION UPDATE/FINAL COSTS 2025-2026

1. Background

Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay (STSTB) provides transportation services for Lakehead District School Board (LDSB), supporting the 2025-2029 Education Strategic Plan through fiscal responsibility, improved efficiencies, and promotion of safe, active transportation environments.

2. Situation

- 2.1 In alignment with the commitment to fiscal responsibility, LDSB secured transportation contracts through a formal procurement process administered by STSTB. While these contracts continue to provide a stable framework for service delivery, the 2025-2026 school year has been notably affected by an ongoing regional school bus driver shortage. This industry-wide challenge has resulted in an elevated number of route cancellations, underscoring the need for continued mitigation efforts and close collaboration with our contracted operators to maintain service reliability wherever possible.
- 2.2 The 2025-2026 school year marks the second year of the five-year contracts with bus operators, as well as the implementation of the revised transportation system in response to funding-related eligibility policy changes. Lakehead District School Board continues to utilize 84 contracted vehicles, consistent with the 2024-2025 school year. The final year-end cost of these contracted vehicles will be offset through shared service arrangements supporting students from the coterminous school boards.
- 2.3 Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay continues to employ dedicated transportation planning software that accurately measures route distances and times for the purpose of calculating daily contract costs. These costs are adjusted annually to reflect contract rate increases and route changes resulting from new enrollees, departing students, and changes to student addresses. For the current school year, STSTB completed an extensive review of the first year of the revised routing system, incorporating stakeholder feedback and operational insights to further improve efficiency. As a result, LDSB achieved reductions in both total contracted route distance and overall travel time, while ridership increased by 1.5% to 4,931 students. Total daily contracted distance for current school year is 11,520 km, a decrease of 125 km from the previous year, Additionally, the number of extra 15-minute increments billed beyond the three-hour base rate decreased to 363, down by three increments from last year.

- 2.4 For the 2025-2026 school year, LDSB will receive \$8,114,397 in transportation funding from the Ministry of Education. This amount includes pass-through funding for the Driver Retention and Recruitment (R & R) bonus program, under which eligible drivers receive up to \$2,000 annually. This amount is paid in two \$1,000 installments for maintaining a minimum of 95% attendance per half-year. The Driver Retention and Recruitment funding, combined with operator payroll administration fees and the non-refundable portion of the HST rebate, represents 2.9% of LDSB’s total transportation funding allocation. Any unspent R & R funds resulting from drivers not meeting attendance thresholds will be held back by the Ministry.
- 2.5 Both contracted rates and Ministry of Education funding for the current school year include a fuel escalator/de-escalator clause designed to stabilize costs amid fuel price volatility. Contracted vehicle rates are based on the Ministry of Education’s pegged fuel prices of \$1.50 per litre for diesel and \$1.25 per litre for gasoline, plus a 2% for Northern Fuel Adjustment. When average monthly fuel costs deviate by more than 3% above or below these benchmark rates, corresponding adjustments will be applied for that month. Increases beyond the 3% threshold will result in additional funding that will be directed to operators, while decreases will reduce funding and operator payments by an equivalent amount.
- 2.6 The fully tendered and audited routing for the 2025–2026 school year results in the following daily contract amounts at Ministry of Education pegged fuel rates (amounts exclude HST):

DAILY PAYMENT	
First Student Canada – Contracted Routes	\$ 17,874
Iron Range Bus Lines – Contracted Routes	\$ 20,541
TOTAL	\$ 38,415

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay will continue to review and refine route distances and travel times to identify operational efficiencies and cost-saving opportunities. This work will be undertaken without reducing or compromising the level of service provided to LDSB students and is intended to help mitigate annual contract rate increases and ongoing funding uncertainties as the Ministry of Education continues to adjust its transportation funding formula.
- 3.2 Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay will continue to promote active school transportation initiatives, including the Wayfinders program and the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) Foot Patroller program, across all LDSB elementary schools. These initiatives encourage families of students who are ineligible for busing to consider safe, active travel options, supporting student well-being and strengthening school-community connections.

3.3 Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay will:

- maintain close monitoring of the school bus driver shortage, engaging frequently with transportation operators to assess system pressures and service impacts; and
- continue to support operators in their recruitment and retention efforts to help improve service reliability and reduce route cancellations.

Conclusion

Lakehead District School Board continues to provide safe, efficient, and cost-effective transportation services while addressing system-wide challenges such as driver shortages and funding constraints. Active school transportation initiatives remain a priority in supporting student safety and well-being.

Respectfully submitted,

CRAIG MURPHY
Consortium Manager
Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay

KIRSTI ALAKSA
Superintendent of Business

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Director of Education

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

2026 MAR 24
Report No. 027-26

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD – Public Session

RE: 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION – TRUSTEE DETERMINATION AND DISTRIBUTION

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 58.1(10) of the Education Act governs the number of elected members on a district school board as the number determined for purposes of the 2026 municipal election.
- 1.2 The Board continues to be responsible for trustee determination and distribution calculations. Using population data received from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), school boards follow the determination and distribution rules contained in *Ontario Regulation 412/00 of the Education Act* to calculate the geographic distribution of the trustees. Electoral data is reflected in the attached appendices.
- 1.3 School boards are required to adopt a resolution stating that they have considered designating specified municipalities or unorganized areas as low population areas. This allows greater representation to an area that would be accorded by a strict representation-by-population approach.

2. Situation

- 2.1 Section 58.1(10) states that subject to the rules of *Ontario Regulation 412/00 of the Education Act*, the number of members shall not be more than 22 or fewer than five members on any district school board.
- 2.2 In 2022, eight trustees were elected at large to represent all electors within the school board jurisdiction. The number of trustees to be elected in 2022 was based on the yield determined using the calculation formula provided in Ontario Regulation 412/00.
- 2.3 School boards have the authority to voluntarily reduce the total number of trustees (no fewer than five trustees) by Board resolution.
- 2.4 School boards also have the authority to provide for the opportunity to increase the number of trustees by one member. The dispersal factor was modified to reflect the changed demographic and geographical size of the Board in 2009.
- 2.5 The Board has the option to declare a low population area. If the Board declares a low population area, city representation could be reduced by one trustee in order to have the low population area represented.

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

- 2.6 School boards are required to adopt a resolution stating that they have considered designating specified municipalities or unorganized areas as low population areas. There is, however, no requirement that boards designate low population areas.
- 2.7 School boards with more than one municipality must adopt a resolution either declaring one or more areas as a low population area or declaring that no such designation will be made.
- 2.8 Attached for reference is Appendix A to Report No. 027-26 Trustee Determination Electoral Quotient.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Lakehead District School Board must consider the number of trustees to be elected and consider whether to declare a low population area. This must be determined by Board resolution no later than March 31, 2026.
- 3.2 A copy of the Board resolution must be provided by April 3, 2026, to:
 - the Ministry of Education;
 - school board election clerks for all the municipalities within the area of jurisdiction of the board; and
 - the secretary of every other board, the area of jurisdiction of which is wholly or partially within the area of jurisdiction of the board.

4. Options

Lakehead District School Board has the following options for consideration for the 2026 election prior to finalizing trustee determination and distribution:

- 4.1 Decrease the number of trustees (no fewer than five).
- 4.2 Maintain the number of trustees at eight.
- 4.3 Increase the number of trustees to nine.

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that for the 2026 municipal election, Lakehead District School Board:

1. Declare that a low population area not be designated.
2. Select option 4.2 of Report No. 027-26, consideration for the 2026 municipal election.

Respectfully submitted,

BRUCE SAUDER
Election Officer

KIRSTI ALASKA
Superintendent of Business

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Director of Education

2026 Trustee Determination
Electoral Quotient for Five Trustees

Name of municipality	Electoral Group Population	Electoral Quotient
Thunder Bay	69,518	4.21
Oliver-Paipoonge	4,525	0.27
Prov. Of Ontario (Lakehead Locality)	3,107	0.19
Shuniah	2,036	0.12
Neebing	1,710	0.10
Conmee	647	0.04
O'Connor	558	0.03
Gillies	355	0.02
Prov. Of Ontario (Armstrong)	122	0.01
Prov. Of Ontario (Collins)	8	0.00
Prov. Of Ontario (Auden)	1	0.00
Prov. Of Ontario (Ferland)	15	0.00
Total	82,602	5.00

2026 Trustee Determination
Electoral Quotient for Six Trustees

Name of municipality	Electoral Group Population	Electoral Quotient
Thunder Bay	69,518	5.05
Oliver-Paipoonge	4,525	0.33
Prov. Of Ontario (Lakehead Locality)	3,107	0.23
Shuniah	2,036	0.15
Neebing	1,710	0.12
Conmee	647	0.05
O'Connor	558	0.04
Gillies	355	0.03
Prov. Of Ontario (Armstrong)	122	0.01
Prov. Of Ontario (Collins)	8	0.00
Prov. Of Ontario (Auden)	1	0.00
Prov. Of Ontario (Ferland)	15	0.00
Total	82,602	6.00

2026 Trustee Determination
Electoral Quotient for Seven Trustees

Name of municipality	Electoral Group Population	Electoral Quotient
Thunder Bay	69,518	5.89
Oliver-Paipoonge	4,525	0.38
Prov. Of Ontario (Lakehead Locality)	3,107	0.26
Shuniah	2,036	0.17
Neebing	1,710	0.14
Conmee	647	0.05
O'Connor	558	0.05
Gillies	355	0.03
Prov. Of Ontario (Armstrong)	122	0.01
Prov. Of Ontario (Collins)	8	0.00
Prov. Of Ontario (Auden)	1	0.00
Prov. Of Ontario (Ferland)	15	0.00
Total	82,602	7.00

2026 Trustee Determination
Electoral Quotient for Eight Trustees

Name of municipality	Electoral Group Population	Electoral Quotient
Thunder Bay	69,518	6.73
Oliver-Paipoonge	4,525	0.44
Prov. Of Ontario (Lakehead Locality)	3,107	0.30
Shuniah	2,036	0.20
Neebing	1,710	0.17
Conmee	647	0.06
O'Connor	558	0.05
Gillies	355	0.03
Prov. Of Ontario (Armstrong)	122	0.012
Prov. Of Ontario (Collins)	8	0.001
Prov. Of Ontario (Auden)	1	0.000
Prov. Of Ontario (Ferland)	15	0.001
Total	82,602	8.00

2026 Trustee Determination
Electoral Quotient for Nine Trustees

Name of municipality	Electoral Group Population	Electoral Quotient
Thunder Bay	69,518	7.57
Oliver-Paipoonge	4,525	0.49
Prov. Of Ontario (Lakehead Locality)	3,107	0.34
Shuniah	2,036	0.22
Neebing	1,710	0.19
Conmee	647	0.07
O'Connor	558	0.06
Gillies	355	0.04
Prov. Of Ontario (Armstrong)	122	0.013
Prov. Of Ontario (Collins)	8	0.001
Prov. Of Ontario (Auden)	1	0.000
Prov. Of Ontario (Ferland)	15	0.002
Total	82,602	9.00

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

2026 MAR 24
Report No. 028-26

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD – Public Session

RE: POLICY REVIEW – 2010 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

1. Background

1.1 The 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy was last revised on February 25, 2025.

1.2 At the Board Advisory Committee on May 13, 2025, the Review and Development of Governance and Administrative Policies Report No 048-25, was presented with the following recommendation:

“That Lakehead District School Board approve the separation of governance and administrative policies, as per Appendix A to Report No. 048-25”.

The above recommendation was approved at the Regular Board meeting on May 27, 2025, in Report No 055-25.

1.3 At the Board Advisory Committee Meeting on June 10, 2025, the 2025-2030 Governance Policy Review Schedule Report No 050-25, was presented with the following recommendation:

“That Lakehead District School Board approve the 2025 to 2030 Governance Policy Review Schedule, Appendix A to Report No. 050-25”.

The above recommendation was approved at the Regular Board meeting on June 24, 2025 in Report No. 076-25.

2. Situation

In order to update the 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy to align with the updated development and separation of Governance and Administrative policies, administration is requesting that the 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy be moved to the 2025-2026 Policy Review Schedule.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Lakehead District School Board approve the review of the 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy, as indicated in Report No. 028-26 and update any other LDSB policies where the 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy is referenced.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Director of Education



**MIINIWEWINAN
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

DATE: Thursday, October 2, 2025 – 9:00 am – 12:00pm – Boardroom/Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

CO-CHAIR: Heather Harris
Serena Essex

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Andrews, Kathy Beardy, Shelby Ch’ing, Elliott Cromarty, Eryn Genno, Indigenous Student Trustee, Trustee Pat Johansen, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Angellina Tassone, Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans

ALTERNATES: Dinah Jung

RESOURCES: Jane Lower

GUESTS: Rachel Bayes Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU), Alina Cameron, TBDHU, Patti Pella, Education Officer, Indigenous Education Office, Ministry of Education, Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, Megan Semeniuk, LDSB Mental Health Lead, Marianne Stewart, TBDHU

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Myra Bannon, Kali Bernst, Sheri Boucher, Trustee, Ellen Chambers, Elder Sheila DeCorte, Anika Guthrie, Anthony Jeethan, Akansha Kaur, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Elder Gerry Martin, Dave Paddington, Elder Melissa Roberts, Grant Robbins, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Morning Star Tom, Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen (Alternate)

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening	Co-chair Serena Essex opened the meeting.	Serena Essex
2.	2.1 Land Acknowledgement	Co-chair Serena Essex acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.	Serena Essex

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
2.2 Welcome and Introductions	Co-chair Heather Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting and had all members introduce themselves.	Heather Harris
3. Agenda and Minutes		
3.1 Approval of Agenda October 2, 2025	Moved by Trustee Pat Johansen and seconded by Elliott Cromarty, that the agenda for the October 2, 2025 Miiniwewinan meeting be approved as written. Carried	Serena Essex
3.2 Approval of Minutes June 19, 2025	Moved by Shelby Ch'ng and seconded by Trustee Pat Johansen, that the minutes for the June 19, 2025 Miiniwewinan meeting be approved as written. Carried	Serena Essex
4. Presentations		
4.1 Thunder Bay District Health Unit / Lakehead District School Board School Climate Survey	Megan Semeniuk, LDSB Mental Health Lead, Rachel Bayes, Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU), Alina Cameron, TBDHU, and Marianne Stewart, TBDHU shared a draft Climate Survey with the committee and asked for feedback. All members' questions were addressed.	Megan Semeniuk Rachel Bayes Alina Cameron Marianne Stewart
4.2 Summer Programs	Kathleen Andrews, Student Success Lead, shared a presentation outlining the summer learning programs that operated during July and August 2025. All members' questions were addressed.	Kathleen Andrews
5. Business Arising from the Minutes		
5.1 Indigenous Cultural Safety Strategy	Co-chair Heather Harris presented the Indigenous Cultural Safety Strategy priorities that were identified and asked the committee for feedback. All members' questions were addressed.	Heather Harris

5.2 Pow-wow Prep Event	Co-chair Heather Harris shared a CBC News video highlighting the pow-wow preparation event held at Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute in June 2025, which was supported by funds from the committee's Parent Involvement Committee.	Heather Harris
6. New Business		
6.1 Indigenous Education Priorities	Co-chair Heather Harris split the committee into groups to discuss and record Indigenous Education Priorities.	Heather Harris
6.2 LPS Ceremony Protocol	Co-chair Serena Essex shared that discussions are underway regarding the creation of a Lakehead Public Schools Ceremony Protocol, focusing on ways to support all participants while providing learning opportunities for students.	Serena Essex
6.3 Secondary Staffing and Program Update	Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education, shared that all three high schools now have a KZ Lodge program. Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute launched the program in September 2025. She also noted that each high school now has its own graduation coach.	Jane Lower
7. Ongoing Business		
Indigenous Student Trustee Update	Eryn Genno, Indigenous Student Trustee updated the committee on projects she is currently working on and goals she has for the school year. All members questions were addressed.	Eryn Genno
8. Information and Inquiries	Co-chair Heather Harris congratulated Elliott Cromarty on receiving an OPSBA Achievement Award. Co-chair Heather Harris informed the committee that the Board of Trustees submitted a letter to the Ministry of Education regarding potential changes to the structure of Trustees. Trustees Pat Johansen and Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans expressed their concerns and emphasized the need for community support to help voice these concerns to the Ministry. Co-chair Serena Essex asked the committee if they would endorse a letter of support from the committee. There were no objections.	
9. Closing	Co-chair Serena Essex closed the meeting.	
10. Next Meeting	Thursday, November 6, 2025	
11. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.	

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Board Room
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2025 NOV 17
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robin Cawlishaw, Chair
Michelle Riemer, Vice- Chair
Laura Arthur (virtual)
Carla Mulholland

Ellen Chambers
Laura Prodanyk
Dawn-Marie Francis (virtual)
Brittany Kennedy

MEMBERS ABSENT, WITH REGRET:

Terry Godick
Lorraine Mashongoane

Tara Ingram
George Saarinen

RESOURCE PRESENT:

Sherry-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education
Jamie Smith, Communications Supervisor
Fred Van Elburg, Teacher
Christine Jones, Executive Assistant

RESOURCES ABSENT, WITH REGRET:

Kristi Lees, Principal

1. **Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

Robin Cawlishaw, Chair, welcomed back existing and new members of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) for the 2025-2026 & 2026-2027 school year as follows:

- Terry Godick, alternate parent member;
- Laura Arthur, school council member;
- Tara Ingram, Special Education Advisory Committee representative;
- Kristi Lees, principal representative;
- Laura Prodanyk, community representative;
- Brittany Kennedy, community representative;
- Fred Van Elburg, teacher representative; and
- Connor Pratt, alternate teacher representative.

And for two year terms we have:

- Michelle Riemer, school council member;
- Robin Cawlishaw, parent member;
- Dawn-Marie Francis, parent member;
- Lorraine Mashongoane, parent member; and
- Carla Mulholland, parent member.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Robin Cawlishaw, Chair, acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.

3. Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

There were no disclosures of conflict of interest.

4. Approval of the Agenda – November 17, 2025

The agenda of November 17, 2025, was approved by consensus.

5. Delegations/Presentations

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, presented the 8080 School Council Policy. All members' questions were addressed.

6. Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2025

The minutes of October 6, 2025, were approved by consensus.

7. New Business

7.1 Kindergarten Registration

Jamie Smith, Communications Supervisor, shared that PIC will have a table at the upcoming Kindergarten open house scheduled for January 28, 2026, at École Elsie MacGill Public School. Jamie will be in attendance at the table with Trustee George Saarinen.

Action: Christine Jones, will send out Kindergarten information to committee.

7.2 2025-2026 Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Report

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, shared that Miiniwewinan created a cultural safety strategy, where the voices of students and families were able to share their experiences at school to battle anti-Indigenous racism in our community. It was suggested to have a presentation on the cultural safety strategy, with a 1-page, for members to bring back to their school council and schools.

Action: Christine will ask the Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee if there is interest from the committee to present the cultural safety strategy at a future meeting.

7.3 Special Education Advisory Committee Report

Robin Cawlishaw, Chair, shared the following update provided by Tara Ingram, SEAC Representative:

- a presentation was received on Lakehead District School Board's Language program; and

- Alina Cameron, SEAC Vice-Chair, shared that the Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) is visiting Queen's Park and that there will be a report available to the public on the OAC website.

7.4 Jamie Smith, Communications Supervisor, shared the following:

- a variety of work has been completed with community partnerships resulted in a release of eight stories;
- students at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute, are building crossing guard huts;
- students in Grade 7 and Grade 8 from Valley Central Public School, were out cleaning veterans head stones;
- Epiroc Canada, donated a 600lb drill bit, to Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute for students to disassemble in the heavy mechanics class;
- Staples Office Supplies drive at Sherbrooke Public School; and
- a continued focus on Attendance Awareness.

7.5 2025/2026 School Year Calendar

Robin Cawlishaw, Chair, shared the 2026-2027 school year calendar committee is looking for a committee member to attend their next meeting on January 19, 2026.

ACTION: Members were asked to email Christine Jones if they would like to participate.

7.6 2025-2026 Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee & Special Education Advisory Committee Funding

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, shared that funding is available again this year for the Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory committee to assist in engaging the community through their committees.

The motion reads *"that the Parent Involvement Committee provide funding of \$2,000 to each committee, Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee & Special Education Advisory Committee for the 2025-2026 School Year, by a show of hands, please show you approve"*.

Motion carried.

7.7 2025-2027 PIC Bylaws

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, presented the 2025-2027 PIC Bylaws. All questions were answered.

The motion reads *"by a show of hands, all those in favor of the 2025-2027 Parent Involvement Committee By Laws be approved"*.

Motion carried.

7.8 Director's Report

Sherry-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, presented the following board report:

- a recent visit was received from the Supreme Court Justice Malcolm Rowe, at Hammarskjold High School, as part of their 150-year Anniversary;
- MPP Vaugeois, visited Superior CVI civic class students;
- during the local government week, our Lakehead District School Board trustees' visited a few Grade 5 and Grade 10 classes;
- 24-25 Directors Annual Report will be released soon;
- two board childcare programs, Gorham and Ware Community School and Five Mile Public School, are looking to expand;
- the Grade 8 Reach Ahead credit is available to all students transitioning to Grade 9;
- Adult Education has approximately 2000 students enrolled this year;
- Demographic data survey is complete;
- we continue with our Math Achievement Action Plan without the EQAO results, as it has not been released to date; and
- the Ministry continues to provide PIC funding of \$6,500 annually, \$2,000 assigned to Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee and \$2,000 to the Special Education Advisory Committee for parent engagement events.

ACTION: Christine Jones, Executive Assistant, to send directors annual report link once complete.

8. Other Business

8.1 Robin Cawlishaw, Chair, reviewed the PIC correspondence that was distributed since our last meeting;

- letter to MPP Holland, members are asked to email Christine Jones within two-weeks to approve a letter from PIC;
- Trustee Character Award requirements; and
- LDSB 25-29 Education Strategic Plan.

Additionally, shared updates from the 2025-2026 School Year PIC Chair and school board parents' engagement lead meeting she attended.

ACTION: Christine Jones, Executive Assistant, will share the slide decks with school council of the 2025-2026 School Year PIC Chair and School Board Parents' Engagement Lead meeting.

8.2 Robin Cawlishaw, Chair, reviewed the status of a future parent engagement event. The following suggestions were discussed:

- create a handout, a QR code, or a survey for parents to share ideas;
- creating a TIP campaign on the Boards' home page, including videos, information sheets, modules and/or videos for parents to watch at their leisure, and prizes for the completion of a module series, reaching families that may have barriers;

- Jake Ernst part two, or Matthew Johnson, 60 minutes on cyber bullying and obtaining approval for the recording to be shared to library of speakers;
- Laura Prodanyk, Community Member, shared a video of source called “bullying of a whooper junior”;
- create a event around a Grade 8 Reach Ahead event;
- need a plan and a budget to develop a plan of approximately \$2,500; and
- Jamie will research to see if something already exists with school Mental Health Ontario, Media Smarts, and/or Thunder Bay Health Unit.

ACTION: Jamie Smith will look at options and bring back to the committee.

9. Next Meeting Date:

Meeting date of March 2, 2026.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.