

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Board Room / Microsoft Teams  
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2026 APR 7  
6:30 p.m.

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

Scottie Wemigwans (Chair)  
Ron Oikonen  
Patricia Johansen

George Saarinen (Vice Chair)  
Trudy Tuchenhagen  
Donica LeBlanc

**TRUSTEES WITH REGRETS:**

Leah Vanderwey  
Ryan Sitch

Ellen Chambers

**SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:**

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education  
Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education  
Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business  
Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education  
Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education

**SENIOR ADMINISTRATION WITH REGRETS:**

Patti-Jo Pesola, Superintendent of Education

**RESOURCE:**

Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk, Manager of Financial Services  
Simona Serrao, Executive Secretary

**GUESTS:**

Shelley Crupi, OSSTF ECE  
Nina Merritt, LETO  
Alina Cameron, SEAC  
Meghan Smelow, LOPC

Caitlin Smith, OSSTF ECE  
Don Cockell, LETO  
Nikki Marks, LOPC  
John Delorey, OSSTF, District 6A

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

1. **Call to Order**

Chair, Trustee Wemigwans, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

*“THAT the Agenda for the Finance Committee Meeting of April 7, 2026, be approved.”*

CARRIED

4. Land Acknowledgement

Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business, acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.

5. Delegations

Chair, Scottie Wemigwans, welcomed the presenters and provided an overview of the deputation process.

The following federations, union representatives, and advisory committees submitted and presented budget deputations, providing input into the 2026–2027 budget process:

- 5.1. Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation: Early Childhood Educators (OSSTF ECE) - Shelley Crupi, and Caitlin Smith.
- 5.2. Lakehead Elementary Teachers of Ontario (LETO) - Nina Merritt, and Don Cockell.
- 5.3. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) - Alina Cameron.
- 5.4. Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) - Heather Harris.
- 5.5. Lakehead Ontario Principals' Council (LOPC) - Meghan Smelow & Nikki Marks.
- 5.6. Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), District 6A, Thunder Bay – John Delorey.
- 5.7. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) - No presenter.
- 5.8. Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation: Student Support Professionals (OSSTF SSPs) – No presenter.
- 5.9. Elementary Occasional Teachers (EOT) – No presenter.
- 5.10. School Council / Public Input – Survey Results – Kirsti Alaksa.

All trustees' questions for presenters were addressed. Additional questions for senior administration, Lakehead District School Board, can be submitted to the Finance Committee, Executive Secretary, Simona Serrao.

6. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Okionen

Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

*"THAT the Finance Committee approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting, February 3, 2026."*

CARRIED

7. Information Reports

There were no information reports.

8. New Reports

There were no new reports.

9. Unfinished Business and General Orders

None.

10. Announcements

None.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

*"THAT we do now adjourn at 7:28 p.m."*

CARRIED