

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board Room/Microsoft Teams  
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2026 APR 28  
7:30 p.m.

FILE COPY

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

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

George Saarinen  
Trudy Tuchenhagen  
Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous Trustee)  
Breanna Bruce (Student Trustee)

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Ryan Sitch  
Eryn Genno (Indigenous Student Trustee)

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 6:45 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest – None

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

*"THAT the Agenda for Regular Board Meeting, April 28, 2026, be approved."*

CARRIED

4. Resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

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 – February 24, 2026*

*- 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 – 6:45 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 Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

*"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, February 24, 2026.*

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. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee LeBlanc read the Land Acknowledgement.

8. Consent Agenda

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc

Seconded by Trustee Wemigwans

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the consent agenda, items 8.1 and 8.2 as presented."*

CARRIED

9. Delegations/ Presentations

9.1 Celebrating Student Achievement – École Gron Morgan Targeted Tier 2 Supports: Meeting Student Needs at École Gron Morgan Public School

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, introduced Elementary Teachers, Kali Santerre and Bronwyn Boden, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

10. Reports

10.1 Director's Reports

10.1.1 Belong

10.1.1.1 Student Climate Survey (037-26)

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

10.1.2 Succeed – N/A

10.1.3 Reconcile

10.1.3.1 Indigenous Education Report (041-26)

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, introduced Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program and Jasmine Sgambelluri, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Resource Coordinator (K-12), who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

10.1.4 Other

10.1.4.1 By-Law No. 128 – 2026 Municipal Election – Alternative Voting Methods for Elections (042-26)

Moved by Trustee Johansen    Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

*“THAT:*

- 1. Lakehead District School Board rescind By-Law No. 121 authorizing the use of an alternative voting method for the 2022 election of trustees.*
- 2. Lakehead District School Board adopt By-Law No. 128, Alternative Voting Methods for Municipal Elections, authorizing the use of an alternative voting method for the 2026 election of trustees for the Province of Ontario localities – Auden, Armstrong, Collins, Ferland, Kashabowie and Lakehead (areas without municipal organization) as outlined in Appendix A of Report No. 042-26.”*

CARRIED

10.2 Chairs Reports – N/A

10.3 Student/Indigenous Student Trustee Reports

10.3.1 Indigenous Student Trustee April Report (Handout)

Eryn Genno, Indigenous Student Trustee, sent her regrets. Chair Vanderwey informed the Board that her report was included in their packages as a handout.

10.3.2 Student Trustee April Report (Handout)

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

- her goals as student trustee for next term;
- looking forward to helping with the upcoming Indigenous student trustee interviews; and
- hoping to attend more Board committee meetings.

10.4 Reports of Standing Committees

10.4.1 Recommendations from the Coordinating Committee – Ontario Public School Board’s Association Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate Nomination (049-26)

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Oikonen

*“THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the following:*

- 1. That Lakehead District School Board appoint Trustee Tuchenhagen as the voting delegate for the remainder of the 2026 term of office; and*
- 2. That Lakehead District School Board appoint Trustee Johansen as the alternate voting delegate for the remainder of the 2026 term of office.”*

CARRIED

10.4.2 Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes – November 27, 2025

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, presented the minutes. All questions from trustees were addressed.

10.4.3 Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Minutes – February 26, 2026

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, presented the minutes. All questions from trustees were addressed.

10.4.4 Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – March 26, 2026

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the minutes. All questions from trustees were addressed.

10.5 Reports of External Board or Agency Representation

10.5.1 Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

Trustee Saarinen provided Board members with the following update:

- the Northern Regional meetings will be taking place this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and this will be the last meeting before the Annual General Meeting in June.

11. Reports of Special (Ad Hoc) Committees

Communications Committee Chair Ellen Chambers informed the board of items from the Communications meeting that took place earlier this evening. The Communications Committee has put forward a recommendation that Lakehead District School Board approve the following:

1. a letter be drafted to Premier Doug Ford and Education Minister Paul Calandra regarding Bill 101 requesting a public consultation on changes to the English Public School Board Governance; and
2. a letter to Ombudsman Barbara Finlay requesting the review of the impact of Bill 101.

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

*"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the writing of two letters by the Communications Committee on behalf of trustees, one to Premier Doug Ford and Minister Paul Calandra and a second one to the acting Ombudsman Barbara Finlay, regarding Bill 101"*

CARRIED

12. Special Orders – N/A

13. Unfinished Business/ General Orders – N/A

14. Notices of Motion – N/A

15. Announcements

15.1 Chair Vanderwey inquired if any Board members had any announcements. The following announcements were made by Board members:

- April 16, 2026 – Lakehead District School Board 25 years of service celebration;
- April 20, 2026 – Biinagaami Presentation and Trustees' Informal Session; and
- April 22, 2026 – Link up Carnegie Concert.

16. Resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc

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

*- Personnel Matter*

*and that this meeting shall not be open to the public pursuant to Section 207 (2) of the Education Act as amended."*

CARRIED

17. Report of Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

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

1. *THAT all items of Regular Board – Committee of the Whole – Closed session were delt with and shall remain in closed session."*

CARRIED

18. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

*"THAT we do now adjourn at 9:31 p.m."*

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – May 26, 2026

  
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Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary