

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2026 MAY 05
5:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Donica LeBlanc (Vice-Chair)	Ryan Sitch
Ellen Chambers	George Saarinen
Pat Johansen	Trudy Tuchenhausen
Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous Trustee)	Ron Oikonen

ABSENT WITH REGRETS – N/A

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business
Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education: Child Care& Elementary Education
Patti-Jo Pesola-Brunton, Superintendent of Education: Math Lead
Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education

PUBLIC SESSION:

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair LeBlanc at 5:30 p.m. Vice-Chair LeBlanc took a moment to acknowledge that May 5 is the National Day of Awareness and Remembrance for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ People.

2. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:**

None

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee Oikonen

"THAT the Agenda for Special Board Meeting, May 5, 2026, be approved."

CARRIED

4. **Land Acknowledgement**

Vice-Chair LeBlanc read the Land Acknowledgement.

5. Resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen

Seconded by Trustee Oikonen

"THAT we resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session with Trustee LeBlanc 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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CLOSED SESSION – 5:35 p.m.

6. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

PUBLIC SESSION

7. 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 Lakehead District School Board approve the resignation of Leah Vanderwey as trustee of the Lakehead District School Board; and*
2. *that all items of Special Board – Committee of the Whole – Closed Session were dealt with in their entirety and shall remain in closed session."*

CARRIED

8. Nominations for Chair of Lakehead District School Board

Chief Executive Officer Pharand introduced Superintendent Harris and Superintendent Probizanski as scrutineer and assistant scrutineer, respectively, for the election process. She then called for nominations from the floor for the position of chair of the Board for the remainder of the current term, ending on November 3, 2026. Trustee Sitch nominated Trustee Oikonen. Trustee Oikonen accepted the nomination. Further nominations were called for from the floor. There were no further nominations.

Moved by Trustee Chambers

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

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

CARRIED

Trustee Oikonen was declared chair of the Board by acclamation. Trustee Oikonen thanked trustees for the opportunity to serve as chair for the remainder of the term.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Trustee Johansen

"THAT we do now adjourn at 6:16 p.m."

CARRIED

CONFIRMED BY THE BOARD – June 23, 2026



Chair



Secretary