

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Jim McCuaig Education Centre

Trustee Scottie Wemigwans
Chair

Trustee George Saarinen
Vice Chair

AGENDA

PUBLIC SESSION

6:30 p.m. – Board Room/Microsoft Teams

	<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. CALL TO ORDER	Chair	
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST		
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA	Chair	
4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	Vice Chair	
5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS – N/A		
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – PUBLIC SESSION		
6.1 Finance Committee Meeting - June 2, 2026	Chair	1-2
7. INFORMATION REPORTS – N/A		
8. NEW REPORTS		
8.1 2026-2027 Budget (073-26)	K. Alaksa, A. Lee-Wiwcharyk	3-9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>It is recommended: "That the Finance Committee refer to the Board for approval the 2026-2027 Operating and Capital Budget of \$181,745,016 as presented in Report No. 073-26.</i> 		
9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS		
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS		
11. ADJOURNMENT	Chair	Verbal

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2026 JUN 2
6:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

George Saarinen (Vice Chair)
Ellen Chambers
Ron Oikonen

Donica LeBlanc
Patricia Johansen
Trudy Tuchenhagen

TRUSTEES WITH REGRETS:

Scottie Wemigwans (Chair)
Ryan Sitch

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Chief Executive Officer
Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business
Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education
Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education
Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education
Patti-Jo Pesola, Superintendent of Education

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION WITH REGRETS:

RESOURCE:

Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk, Manager of Financial Services
Simona Serrao, Executive Secretary
Don Porter, Manager of Property Services
Mark Hakala, Capital Projects Coordinator

PUBLIC SESSION

1. **Call to Order**

In the absence of the Chair, Trustee Wemigwans; Vice Chair, Trustee Saarinen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and conveyed the Chair's regrets.

2. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

There were none.

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2026 JUN 16
Report No. 073-26

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE – Public Session

RE: 2026-2027 Budget

1. Background

- 1.1 On an annual basis, the Ministry of Education requires school boards in Ontario to submit a budget in accordance with grants for student needs legislation.
- 1.2 The funding regulation for the 2026-2027 fiscal year was released by the Ministry of Education on May 13, 2026. Budget submissions are due to the Ministry of Education by June 30, 2026.
- 1.3 The 2026-2027 budget of revenue and expenses is included as Appendix A and Appendix B to Report No. 073-26 and is being presented to trustees for input and consideration.

2. Situation

Administration has concluded the preparation of the draft 2026-2027 budget. Details of the budget development process and investments in student programs and services are included as Appendix C to Report No. 073-26.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended:

“That the Finance Committee refer to the Board for approval the 2026-2027 Operating and Capital Budget of \$ 181,745,016 as presented in Report No. 073-26.”

Respectfully submitted,

ANGELA LEE-WIWCHARYK
Manager of Financial Services

KIRSTI ALAKSA
Superintendent of Business

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Chief Executive Officer

June 16, 2026

**THE LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
2026-2027 OPERATING BUDGET**

	2026-2027 Estimates	2025-2026 Estimates	Change
REVENUE			
Classroom Staffing Fund (CSF)	71,210,824	71,114,164	96,660
Learning Resources Fund (LRF)	28,335,162	26,494,008	1,841,154
Special Education Fund (SEF)	23,183,898	22,895,185	288,713
School Facilities Fund	11,456,728	11,316,281	140,447
Student Transportation Fund (STF)	8,449,031	8,104,298	344,733
School Board Administration Fund (SBAF)	4,693,251	4,663,878	29,373
Total Operating Grants	147,328,894	144,587,814	2,741,080
School Renewal	2,200,000	2,000,000	200,000
School Condition Improvement	7,925,000	8,000,000	(75,000)
Capital Debt Support Payments	1,049,888	1,149,756	(99,868)
Short Term Financing	30,000	30,000	0
Deferred Capital Contributions	13,650,397	13,281,155	369,242
Permanent Financing of NPF - Board 55 Trust	99,067	99,067	0
TOTAL GRANT ALLOCATION	172,283,246	169,147,792	3,135,454
Other Revenue			
Government of Canada - Tuition Revenue	2,092,917	2,263,928	(171,012)
Visa Tuition	631,032	419,800	211,232
Rental Revenue	979,717	970,916	8,800
Fee for Service (Con Ed)	125,000	125,000	0
Other School Boards	279,237	262,278	16,959
Cafeteria	85,000	20,000	65,000
Interest	300,000	60,000	240,000
School Fundraising	2,960,491	2,612,603	347,888
REP/Other Grants	525,240	3,300,738	(2,775,497)
Remedy Revenue	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	1,469,117	929,396	539,721
Deferred Revenue	0	160,000	(160,000)
Miscellaneous re: Unsupported DCC	14,020	31,838	(17,818)
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	9,461,770	11,156,497	(1,694,727)
TOTAL REVENUE	181,745,016	180,304,289	1,440,727
EXPENSES			
Salaries	109,642,239	109,309,945	332,295
Benefits	20,570,823	19,844,264	726,559
Supplies	5,924,536	6,271,849	(347,313)
Equipment	812,459	910,990	(98,531)
Capital Addn's	10,753,761	10,949,818	(196,057)
Fees & Contracts	10,468,974	10,793,403	(324,430)
Other	6,769,626	6,138,552	631,074
School Fundraising Expenses	2,960,491	2,612,603	347,888
Amortization Expense	13,743,040	13,373,797	369,242
Permanent Financing of NPF	99,067	99,067	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	181,745,016	180,304,289	1,440,727
CURRENT DEFICIT	0	0	0

DECISION UNIT NAME	2026 - 2027 BUDGET	2025 - 2026 BUDGET	\$ Change
SCHOOL BASED TEACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF			
Elementary Day School	\$ 45,901,199	45,859,403	\$ 41,797
Secondary Day School	\$ 20,535,357	20,661,401	\$ (126,043)
Alternative Education	\$ -	-	\$ -
Safe Schools	\$ 278,327	476,681	\$ (198,354)
Noon Hour Supervision	\$ 470,000	445,000	\$ 25,000
Early Childhood Educators	\$ 3,757,707	3,728,099	\$ 29,608
Before and After School Program	\$ 982,362	254,735	\$ 727,627
Library Information Technicians	\$ 926,327	962,000	\$ (35,673)
School Administration	\$ 5,940,603	5,980,581	\$ (39,977)
School Offices	\$ 3,201,867	3,159,967	\$ 41,900
Continuing Education	\$ 1,124,158	1,129,594	\$ (5,436)
Social Workers/Mental Health	\$ 1,150,868	1,329,022	\$ (178,154)
Total	\$ 84,268,774	83,986,482	\$ 282,292
SPECIAL EDUCATION			
Special Education Day School	\$ 5,817,424	5,825,491	\$ (8,067)
Student Support Professionals	\$ 15,146,570	15,188,240	\$ (41,670)
Special Education Program Support	\$ 2,087,902	2,306,241	\$ (218,339)
Education and Community Partnership Program	\$ 1,380,918	1,229,154	\$ 151,763
Total	\$ 24,432,813	24,549,126	\$ (116,313)
SCHOOL BASED SERVICES & RESOURCES			
School Supplies and Resources	\$ 1,851,172	1,713,070	\$ 138,102
Technology Education	\$ 240,000	240,000	\$ -
Kingfisher	\$ 519,454	525,561	\$ (6,107)
Instructional Materials Centre	\$ 122,100	122,745	\$ (645)
Transportation	\$ 8,335,222	8,370,496	\$ (35,275)
Co-Curricular Activities	\$ 516,767	462,440	\$ 54,327
Plant Services	\$ 12,462,267	12,205,572	\$ 256,695
Plant Maintenance	\$ 2,274,545	2,328,089	\$ (53,544)
Community Use of Schools	\$ 124,755	126,141	\$ (1,386)
Cafeteria	\$ 227,964	215,000	\$ 12,964
Distribution	\$ 57,872	57,642	\$ 231
Territorial Student Program	\$ 241,909	207,866	\$ 34,043
Total	\$ 26,974,028	26,574,622	\$ 399,406

CENTRAL SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS			
Instructional Services	\$ 4,746,418	3,970,729	\$ 775,689
FNMI	\$ 2,480,098	2,838,290	\$ (358,192)
International Program	\$ 228,044	231,009	\$ (2,965)
Student Success & School Effectiveness	\$ 547,818	542,836	\$ 4,982
Computer Services	\$ 1,656,637	1,643,390	\$ 13,247
Technical Services	\$ 1,113,398	1,117,603	\$ (4,205)
Technology Equipment	\$ 716,761	1,017,818	\$ (301,057)
Property Services Administration	\$ 839,691	838,466	\$ 1,225
Health And Safety	\$ 183,584	174,564	\$ 9,020
Rehabilitation	\$ 232,100	170,000	\$ 62,100
Business Services	\$ 1,275,065	1,275,035	\$ 30
Communications	\$ 366,535	364,954	\$ 1,581
Payroll	\$ 587,951	588,540	\$ (590)
Human Resources	\$ 1,102,913	1,094,592	\$ 8,322
Total	\$ 16,077,014	\$ 15,867,826	\$ 209,187
GOVERNANCE			
Trustees	\$ 193,966	280,521	\$ (86,555)
CEO's Office	\$ 907,772	932,133	\$ (24,361)
Instructional/Corporate Admin	\$ 716,256	646,112	\$ 70,144
Total	\$ 1,817,994	1,858,766	\$ (40,772)
OTHER			
Benefits	\$ (53,093)	(37,757)	\$ (15,336)
Interest on borrowing	\$ -	20,000	\$ (20,000)
Debentures	\$ 1,049,888	1,149,756	\$ (99,868)
Contingency	\$ 250,000	250,000	\$ -
Capital Expense	\$ 10,125,000	10,000,000	\$ 125,000
Amortization Expense	\$ 13,743,039	13,373,797	\$ 369,241
School Board 55 Trust Financing	\$ 99,067	99,067	\$ -
Fundraising	\$ 2,960,491	2,612,603	\$ 347,888
Total	\$ 28,174,391	\$ 27,467,466	\$ 706,925
Total Operating and Capital Expenditures	\$ 181,745,016	\$ 180,304,289	\$ 1,440,727

Lakehead District School Board
2026–2027 Operating and Capital Budget

Purpose and Strategic Alignment

The Lakehead District School Board’s 2026–2027 Operating and Capital Budget has been developed through a principled and collaborative process grounded in the Board’s **2025–2029 Multi-Year Strategic Plan**. The budget reflects a shared commitment to the Board’s vision of “*providing equitable and inclusive environments where everyone belongs and succeeds*” and its mission to ensure the success of **every student**.

Guiding principles established at the outset of the budget process ensured that all decisions advanced the Board’s three strategic priorities:

- **Belong**
- **Succeed**
- **Reconcile**

The 2026–2027 budget totals **\$ 181,745,016** reflecting a balanced budget and a modest increase over the prior year while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Strategic Investments Supporting the Multi-Year Strategic Plan

1. Belong – Creating Inclusive, Safe, and Supportive Environments

Strategic investments reinforce the Board’s commitment to equitable access, well-being, and inclusive learning environments for all students and staff.

Key highlights include:

- continued investment in **mental health and well-being supports**, including social workers, attendance counsellors, and child and youth counsellors, ensuring responsive supports across the system;
- targeted supports for **multilingual learners and Indigenous education**, addressing systemic barriers and promoting equitable outcomes;
- sustained **early years programming enhancements**, including early childhood educator supports and transition-to-kindergarten resources, strengthening student readiness and belonging from the outset; and
- approximately **\$10.7 million in capital and IT investments** to maintain safe, modern, and accessible learning environments.

2. Succeed – Promoting Excellence and Future-Ready Learning

The budget prioritizes high-quality instruction, skill development, and innovative programming aligned with student success and future pathways.

Key highlights include:

- continued funding for **math and literacy coaches and professional learning**, strengthening instructional practice and improving student achievement;
- sustained support for diverse programming, including **music, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, trades, and experiential learning**, offering multiple pathways to success;
- ongoing investment in **experiential and land-based learning**, including the Kingfisher Outdoor Education Centre and dedicated experiential learning resources;
- expansion of **Specialist High Skills Majors and signature programs**, including:
 - Edge Hockey Academy;
 - Superior Volleyball Academy;
 - Hospitality, Information & Communication Technology, and Health & Wellness SHSM programs; and
 - Edge Hockey 7&8 Programming.

3. Reconcile – Advancing Indigenous Education and Partnerships

The budget reflects the Board’s commitment to reconciliation through meaningful action aligned with the Indigenous Education Framework and Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

Key highlights include:

- continued investment in **Indigenous language programming, graduation coaches, and student support workers**, enhancing culturally responsive supports and improving outcomes for Indigenous students; and
- expanded access to **land-based learning, cultural programming, and dedicated Indigenous education staff**, fostering identity, engagement, and community connection.

Fiscal Responsibility and Sustainability

The 2026–2027 budget reflects strong fiscal stewardship through:

- a **balanced budget aligned with the Ministry of Education funding**;
- ongoing efforts to **right-size operations based on enrollment trends**; and
- a disciplined approach to **aligning expenditures with revenues while maintaining core services**.

CONCLUSION

The 2026–2027 Operating and Capital Budget represents a strategic and student-centered investment that:

- directly aligns with the Board’s Multi-Year Strategic Plan;
- reflects stakeholder priorities; and
- strengthens supports for student achievement, well-being, and inclusion.

Through targeted investments across the pillars of **Belong, Succeed, and Reconcile**, the budget ensures that the Lakehead District School Board remains focused on its core mission: **the success and well-being of every student**.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the development and creation of the 2026-2027 Operating and Capital Budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

ANGELA LEE-WIWCHARYK
Manager of Financial Services

KIRSTI ALAKSA
Superintendent of Business

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Chief Executive Officer