Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Lakehead District School Board
Jim McCuaig Education Centre
2135 Sills Street, Thunder Bay, ON, P7E 5T2
Telephone (807) 625-5131 Fax (807) 622-0961

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 23, 2026
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Chief Executive Officer

Ron Oikonen
Chair

AGENDA

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

		Resource Person	Pages
1.	CALL TO ORDER	R. Oikonen	
2.	DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST		
3.	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA	R. Oikonen	
4.	TRUSTEE DECLARATION AND OATH OF ALLEGIANCE	S. Pharand	Verbal
5.	RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CLOSED SESSION		
6.	**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CLOSED SESSION – 7:10 p.m. (SEE ATTACHED AGENDA)**		
7.	REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CLOSED SESSION		
8.	LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	R. Sitch	Verbal
9.	CONSENT AGENDA		
	9.1 Approval of Minutes		
	– Special Board Meeting – April 30, 2026		1-2
	– Special Board Meeting – May 5, 2026		3-5
	– Regular Board Meeting – May 26, 2026		6-11
	9.2 Recommendations from the Board Advisory Committee (079-26)	D. LeBlanc	12
10	DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS		
	10.1 Ontario Public School Board Association's Outstanding Service Award – Keith Nutley	D. LeBlanc	Verbal

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		Resource Person	Pages
10.2	Trustee Character Award – Joanna Martin and Kelsi Soldera	T. Tuchenhagen	Verbal
10.3	Trustees' Recognition Awards – Matthew Gourley, Abigayle Nelson, Avery Kydd, Celeste Marcon, Freya Mannisto, Brody Horihan	G. Saarinen/ E. Chambers	Verbal
11.	REPORTS		
11.1	Chief Executive Officer's Reports		
11.1.1	Belong		
11.1.1.1	Annual Review of the Plan to Deliver Special Education Programs and Services (062-26)	M. Probizanski	13-16
11.1.1.2	French as a Second Language (075-26)	H. Harris	17-19
11.1.2	Succeed		
11.1.2.1	Math Achievement Action Plan (076-26)	P.J. Pesola	20-21
11.1.3	Reconcile – N/A		
11.1.4	Other		
11.1.4.1	Policy Review – 3074 Expense and Travel Reimbursement Policy (081-26)	K. Alaksa	22-33
11.2	Chair's Reports – N/A		
11.3	Student/Indigenous Student Trustee Reports		
11.3.1	Indigenous Student Trustee June Report (077-26)	E. Genno	34-36
11.3.2	Student Trustee June Report (078-26)	B. Bruce	37-40
11.4	Reports of Standing Committees		

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		Resource Person	Pages
11.4.1	Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – May 20, 2026	M. Probizanski	41-44
11.4.2	Recommendations from the Finance Committee (074-26)	S. Wemigwans	45
11.4.3	Recommendations from the Coordinating Committee – Board Advisory Committee Meeting and Regular Board Meeting Dates September 2026 (080-26)	R. Oikonen	46-47
11.5	Reports of External Board or Agency Representation		
11.5.1	Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report	R. Sitch	Verbal
12.	REPORTS OF SPECIAL (AD HOC) COMMITTEES – N/A		
13.	SPECIAL ORDERS – N/A		
14.	UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS – N/A		
15.	NOTICE OF MOTIONS – N/A		
16.	ANNOUNCEMENTS	R. Oikonen	Verbal
17.	ADJOURNMENT	R. Oikonen	Verbal

Lakehead Public Schools

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 23, 2026
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Chief Executive Officer

Ron Oikonen
Chair

AGENDA

CLOSED SESSION
7:10 p.m. – Sibley Room/Microsoft Teams

		Resource Person	Pages
5.1	Approval of Committee of the Whole – Closed session minutes		
	5.1.1 Special Board Meeting – Minutes – April 30, 2026	R. Oikonen	1-2
	5.1.2 Special Board Meeting – Minutes – May 5, 2026	R. Oikonen	3-4
	5.1.3 Regular Board Meeting – Minutes – May 26, 2026	R. Oikonen	5-8
5.2	Consideration of Reports		
	5.2.1 Legal Matter	S. Pharand	Verbal
5.3	Information and Inquires		
5.4	Rise and Report Progress	R. Oikonen	Verbal

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2026 APR 30
12:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Leah Vanderwey (Chair)
Ellen Chambers
Pat Johansen
Donica LeBlanc
Ron Oikonen
Ryan Sitch
George Saarinen
Trudy Tuchenhagen
Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous Trustee)

ABSENT WITH REGRETS – N/A

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

PUBLIC SESSION:

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Vanderwey at 12:00 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

None.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Saarinen Seconded by Trustee Chambers

"THAT the Agenda for Special Board Meeting, April 30, 2026, be approved."

CARRIED

4. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Vanderwey read the Land Acknowledgement.

5. Resolve into Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc Seconded by Trustee Chambers

"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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – CLOSED SESSION – 12:00 p.m.

6. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

PUBLIC SESSION

7. Report of Committee of the Whole – Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Chambers — 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 Special Board – Committee of the Whole – Closed Session were dealt with in their entirety and shall remain in closed session."

CARRIED

8. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen — Seconded by Trustee Johansen

"THAT we do now adjourn at 12:54 p.m."

CARRIED

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Board Room/Microsoft Teams — 2026 MAY 05
Jim McCuaig Education Centre — 5:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Donica LeBlanc (Vice-Chair)
Ellen Chambers
Pat Johansen
Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous Trustee)
Ryan Sitch
George Saarinen
Trudy Tuchenhagen
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 2SLGTBTQI+ 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

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2026 MAY 26
7:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Ron Oikonen(Chair)
Ellen Chambers
Pat Johansen
Donica LeBlanc
George Saarinen
Ryan Sitch
Trudy Tuchenhagen
Scottie Wemigwans (Indigenous Trustee)
Breanna Bruce (Student Trustee)
Eryn Genno (Indigenous Student Trustee)

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

N/A

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION:

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Chief Executive Officer
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 Oikonen at 6:30 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

None.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen — Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

"THAT the Agenda for Regular Board Meeting, May 26, 2026, be approved."

CARRIED

4. 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 Oikonen in the chair to consider the following:

- Confirmation of Committee of the Whole – Closed Session Minutes- Regular Board Meeting – April 26, 2026

- Personnel Matters

- Legal 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 – 6:30 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 LeBlanc

1. *'THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole – Closed Session Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, April 28, 2026;*

2. *Approve the appointment of Trustee Chambers as Vice-Chair and Trustee Sitch as Chair of the Director's Performance Appraisal Committee; and*

3. *Approve the appointment process, authorize the immediate public posting of the vacancy and approve Option A (with interviews)for the selection and swearing-in of the successful candidate, with August 3, 2026 serving as the latest date for completion of the appointment process should additional time be required.*

   And;

   Option 1: That the Lakehead District School Board approve a process under which all trustees are allowed to participate in the review of qualified applications, the interview of shortlisted candidates, and the selection of the successful candidate for appointment to the current trustee vacancy.

   ~~*Or;*~~

~~Option 2: That the Lakehead District School Board approve a process under which a committee of the following trustees _____________, __________________,and __________________be appointed to review qualified applications, interview shortlisted candidates, and bring forward a recommendation to the Board regarding the appointment to the current trustee vacancy.~~

CARRIED

7. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee LeBlanc read the Land Acknowledgement.

8. Consent Agenda

Moved by Trustee LeBlanc Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

"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 – Kakabeka Falls Public School – Experiential Career Connections

Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education, introduced Catherine Jonas, Principal, Kakabeka Falls Public School, who introduced Elementary Teachers, Kelsi Dillon and Joanna Martins, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

10. Reports

10.1 Chief Executive Officer's Reports

10.1.1 Belong

10.1.1.1 Mental Health - Annual Report (047-26)

Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business, introduced Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead, who presented the report. All trustees' questions were addressed.

10.1.2 Succeed – N/A

10.1.3 Reconcile – N/A

10.1.4 Other – N/A

10.2 Chair's Reports – N/A

10.3 Student/Indigenous Student Trustee Reports

10.3.1 Student Trustee May Report (Handout)

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

- participating in Student Senate;
- being Co-Master of Ceremonies for the Grade 8 Awards of Excellence; and
- a brain-storming session for the Student Challenge Videos for the Thunder Bay Police (with SCVI students).

10.3.2 Student Trustee April Report (Handout)

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

- attending a Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting;
- participating in Student Senate; and
- being Co-Master of Ceremonies for the Grade 8 Awards of Excellence.

10.4 Reports of Standing Committees

10.4.1 Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – April 15, 2026

Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Education, presented the minutes. All questions from trustees were addressed.

10.4.2 Approval of Appointment of Alternate Representative to Special Education Advisory Committee (048-26)

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen Seconded by Trustee Chambers

"THAT the Lakehead District School Board approve the appointment of Amy Brissette, Manager, Client Services at George Jeffery Children's Centre, as an alternate representative to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Amy Brissette's appointment would be for the term ending November 30, 2026, as outlined in Report No. 048-26."

CARRIED

10.5 Reports of External Board or Agency Representation

10.5.1 Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

Trustee Sitch provided Board members with the following update:

- New legislation regarding School Boards funding to External Organizations so OPSBA Annual General Meeting (AGM) has been moved to Virtual.

Trustee Saarinen added that there was an email sent out regarding upcoming Professional Development for trustees during the AGM at no cost to trustees.

Trustee Sitch informed the Board that the hotel will be refunded for those who have registered for the AGM, but full registration will not.

11. Reports of Special (Ad Hoc) Committees

11.1 Recommendations from the Communications Committee Re: Correspondence on Bill 101 (064-26)

Moved by Trustee Chambers Seconded by Trustee Saarinen

"THAT Lakehead District School Board:

1. *Rescind the motion to draft a letter to Premier Doug Ford and Minister Paul Calandra regarding potential changes to the English Public School Board Governance.*
2. *Defer the motion to draft a letter to Ombudsman Barbara Finlay regarding the impact of Bill 101 on LDSB students until the fall when the Board will have had a chance to track the impact."*

CARRIED

12. Special Orders – N/A

13. Unfinished Business/ General Orders – N/A

14. Notices of Motion – N/A

15. Announcements

15.1 Chair Oikonen informed the Board that the following events were attended by trustees, and senior administration:

- May 13, 2026 –Creative Movement Jamboree;
- May 14, 2026 – Grade 8 Awards of Excellence;
- May 19, 2026 – Speaker of the House of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, the Honourable Donna Skelly's visit to McKenzie Public School/Take your MPP to School visit from MPP Vaugeois;
- May 21, 2026 – All Star Concert – École Elsie McGill;
- May 22, 2026 – MPP Kevin Hollands Visit to Algonquin Avenue Public School Special Needs Classroom;
- Trustee Sitch – stated that viewers and parents should consider becoming a School Board Trustee as it is a great way to learn about all of the programming and initiatives the Board has to offer students. Trustee Saarinen added that Superior Greenstone District School Board put out an ad to inform the public about what it is to become a trustee and information on how to run in the Municipal Election and wondered if LDSB could do something similar. Chief Executive Officer Pharand will look at the ad and discuss options with Jamie Smith, Communications Supervisor;
- Chief Executive Officer Pharand informed trustees that she along with Don Porter, Manager of Plant, Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business, and Ryan McDonnell, Principal of Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute (Westgate CVI) went to see the upgraded boiler in place at Westgate CVI, which is already saving money in energy costs.
- Chief Executive Officer Pharand attended a round table event with the Honourable Minister Hajdu on the skilled trades and job opportunities in the north and what the barriers to receiving continuing education in the trades are, how the government could help school boards and post-secondary schools retain students in the skilled trades programs.
- Chief Executive Officer Pharand extended thanks on behalf of the Board to Principal Lori Carson, who was present at the meeting, for her many years with Lakehead Public Schools and will be retiring in June.

16. <u>Adjournment</u>

Chair Oikonen declared the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2026 JUN 23
Report No. 079-26

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

RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Background

The following recommendations were received at the Board Advisory Committee Meeting on June 9, 2026, and have been referred to the Board for approval. The recommendations are as follows:

2026 TO 2031 GOVERNANCE POLICY REVIEW SCHEDULE (072-26)

"THAT Lakehead District School Board approve the 2026 to 2031 Governance Policy Review Schedule, Appendix A to Report No. 072-26".

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE 2026-2027 (066-26)

"That Lakehead District School Board approve the following appointments to the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee for the 2026-2027 school year and that trustee members are appointed until the municipal election on October 26, 2026:

- *Donica Leblanc, Trustee;*
- *Trudy Tuchenhagen, Trustee (Alternate);*
- *Jane Lower, Superintendent of Education;*
- *Jennifer Mikus, Student Success Lead, SAL Committee Chair;*
- *Lorna Hunda, Executive Director, Youth Employment Services (YES);*
- *Stacy-Ann Dyer-McNish, Service Delivery Manager, Youth Employment Services (YES);*
- *Tom Nesti, Program Supervisor, Youth Employment Services (YES); and*
- *Darshpreet Singh, Acting Program Supervisor, YES."*

Respectfully submitted,

DONICA LEBLANC
Chair, Board Advisory Committee

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2026 JUN 23
Report No. 062-26

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

RE: ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE PLAN TO DELIVER SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: 2026-2027

1. Background

1.1 On January 27, 2000, the Minister of Education announced the government's plans for improving the quality of special education programs and services in Ontario and for ensuring greater accountability in the area of special education.

1.2 Every year, school boards are requested to review the Special Education Plan based on a checklist provided by the Ministry of Education. In addition, they must submit the checklist and the Special Education Plan annually to the Ministry of Education for the new school year. As per Regulation 464/97, school boards must continue to consult with their Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

2. Situation

2.1 The Special Education Plan is posted on the Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) website.

2.2 At the June 10, 2026, SEAC meeting, committee members were consulted on the updates to the plan using the provided special education plan checklist. The plan and checklist with finalized amendments will be submitted to the Ministry of Education by July 31, 2026. Attached as Appendix A to Report No. 062-26, is the 2026-2027 Special Education Plan Checklist for reference.

2.3 The Special Education Plan includes the following changes:

2.3.1 Section 7 – Educational and Other Assessments

- the wait time for a learning assessment has been updated with a new wait time of 6-8 months (down from 8-10 months) noted.

2.3.2 Section 10 – Special Education Placements Provided by the Board

- the programs and supports have been updated to include the change from Education and Community Partnership Program to Care and Treatment Education Program;
- under the Care and Treatment Education Program, the program has been updated from Day Treatment to Bridges and the Children's Centre Thunder Bay has been removed as the program provider; and
- the Dilico Day Treatment has been updated to The Good Path Program and is still in partnership with the Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

2.3.3 Section 12 – Special Education Staff

- updates were made to the central special education staff to reflect changes to structure and portfolios. New positions were not added, but existing positions were restructured to reflect current needs in schools; and
- staffing numbers have been updated.

2.3.4 Section 16 – Provincial and Demonstration Schools

- the number of LDSB students attending a provincial or demonstration school has been updated.

2.3.5 Section 19 – Special Education Advisory Committee

- the names of SEAC members have been updated to reflect current membership.

CONCLUSION

Lakehead District School Board will continue to deliver high quality programs and services to students with special needs.

Respectfully submitted,

MAGGIE FREDRICKSON
Principal of Special Education

MICHELLE PROBIZANSKI
Superintendent of Education

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Chief Executive Officer

2026-2027 Special Education Plan Checklist

"Please submit to your regional office by July 31, 2026"

District School Board/School Authority:		
Compliance with *Standards for School Boards' Special Education Plans (2000)* reproduced in full in *Special Education in Ontario Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Resource Guide (2017)*	**Report on the provision of Special Education Programs and Services 2025-2026**	**Amendments to the 2026-2027 Special Education Plan**
Special Education Programs and Services		
Model for Special Education	X	
Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) Process	X	
Special Education Placements Provided by the Board	X	X
Individual Education Plans (IEP)	X	
Special Education Staff	X	X
Specialized Equipment	X	
Transportation for Students with Special Education Needs	X	
Transition Planning	X	X
Roles and Responsibilities	X	
Categories and Definitions of Exceptionalities	X	
Provincial and Demonstration Schools in Ontario	X	X
The Board's Consultation Process	X	
The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)	X	X
Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies	X	
Educational and Other Assessments	X	X
Coordination of Services with Other Ministries or Agencies	X	
Specialized Health Support Services in School Settings	X	
Staff Development	X	
Accessibility (AODA)	X	
Parent Guide to Special Education	X	
Where programs and services have not been provided as outlined in the 2025-2026 Special Education Plan, please provide a description of the variance:		

Additional Information:	
Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies for Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Service Professionals, and Paraprofessionals (PPM 149) posted on school board website.	Yes
Special education is included in our ongoing self-improvement with respect to the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement.	Yes

Document:	**Format:**	**Please indicate the URL of the document on your website**
Special Education Plan	• Board Website • Electronic file Paper • Copy	Special Education Plan – Lakehead District School Board (lakeheadschools.ca)
Parent Guide to Special Education	• Board Website • Electronic file	Guide for Parents & Students – Lakehead District School Board lakeheadschools.ca)
Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies for Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Service Professionals, and Paraprofessionals (PPM 149)	• Board Website • Electronic file	Lakehead Public Schools (lakeheadschools.ca)

Name of the Chief Executive Officer:

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND

Signature of the Chief Executive Officer: ______________________ Date: ______________

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2026 JUN 23
Report No. 075-26

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

RE: FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

1. Background

1.1 French as a Second Language (FSL) programming at Lakehead Public Schools advances the Board's Education Strategic Plan by supporting student belonging through inclusive and culturally responsive learning environments. It enables students to succeed through the development of strong language proficiency and achievement, and supports reconciliation by fostering intercultural understanding and respect for linguistic and cultural diversity.

1.2 The Canada-Ontario Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Official-Language Instruction is a bilateral funding agreement through which the federal government provides financial support to Ontario to enhance French-language education and FSL programming. Through this agreement, Ontario receives targeted funding to support initiatives that improve student achievement, increase access to French programming, and strengthen linguistic and cultural vitality.

1.3 Lakehead Public Schools (LPS) has demonstrated its commitment to FSL by offering Core French in all elementary and secondary schools. French Immersion is offered in three elementary schools and one secondary school. French as a Second Language programming pathways enable all students to continue to develop their French-language skills as they work towards a post-secondary destination in an apprenticeship, college, university, or the workplace.

2. Situation

2.1 Funding for FSL programming is used to support measurable improvements in student achievement, in alignment with the Canada-Ontario Agreement. Funding must be used for clearly defined activities that enhance access, equity, and culturally responsive programming for all learners, including students with special education needs and English language learners.

2.2 French as a Second Language funding for school boards in Ontario is organized in four areas of focus: support for educational staff, experiential student learning opportunities, board-developed FSL initiatives, and Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) certification.

2.2.1 Support for Educational Staff

This area focuses on strengthening educator capacity to deliver high-quality FSL programming. Funding supports professional learning opportunities such as coaching, co-planning, professional learning communities, and participation in Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) – aligned provincial and regional sessions. It also includes funding for resources, additional staffing, and opportunities to improve educators’ French-language proficiency.

Using this funding, two student success periods were added at Hammarskjold High School in 2025-2026 to support student success and retention in French, as well as system and cross-panel professional development for teachers. The elementary French resource teacher worked in a priority school to support student achievement through targeted intervention and at-the-elbow coaching to build teacher capacity. Resources were purchased to support both secondary and elementary FSL programming, including early reading supports. Several educators participated voluntarily in targeted language support provided by the Association canadienne des professionnels de l’immersion to strengthen their French proficiency and instructional confidence.

2.2.2 Experiential Student Learning Opportunities

This funding supports authentic, engaging learning experiences that allow students to apply their French language skills in real-world contexts. Both French Immersion and Core French students had the opportunity to participate in a number of cultural activities this year, including Mani Musicale and Festival Bonjour, community-connected experiences that build student confidence, engagement, and intercultural understanding. LPS will also host two French Immersion summer camps this year.

2.2.3 Board-Developed FSL Initiatives

Initiatives in this funding area are intended to enhance student achievement and address system priorities while building on existing programs and partnerships. This funding allows LPS to design targeted initiatives that address needs across the system in FSL.

Examples of initiatives and activities for 2025-2026 include Grade 8 DELF certification for students in French Immersion and training for teachers in Kindergarten to Grade 2 to use the Son-au-graphe resource to support instruction in foundational reading skills. Junior teachers and students were introduced to the Idéllo digital platform that houses over 13,000 resources, including videos, games, and teaching tools. Supported by provincial and regional steering committees, teachers in both the secondary and elementary panel continued to focus professional development on the CEFR and the action-oriented approach where students learn to communicate in French using social activities designed to accomplish purposeful, actionable tasks.

2.2.4 Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF)

This area provides dedicated funding to support the administration of the DELF assessment for Grade 12 FSL students. Funds are used for examiner release time and coordination of the assessment process, supporting students to demonstrate recognized levels of French language proficiency.

3. Next Steps

Data collection in FSL programs at Lakehead District School Board identifies areas of success and areas for continued growth. In order to support and enhance student success in FSL programs we will:

- continue to monitor programs, interventions and supports to ensure they are having a positive impact on student achievement and well-being;
- work with provincial and regional partners to build capacity and collaboration around FSL, using the CEFR framework, and to align planning and action across the province; and
- continue to support educators and administrators to provide exemplary FSL programming through distributive leadership, professional development, and training opportunities that reflect the identified needs of the system.

Conclusion

French as a Second Language programming at Lakehead Public Schools reflects a purposeful alignment with both provincial priorities and the Board's Education Strategic Plan. Through targeted investments in educator capacity, enriched student learning opportunities, and responsive program design, the Board continues to strengthen student achievement, engagement, and confidence in French. This work is grounded in a commitment to equity, ensuring all students have access to high-quality, inclusive programming that supports their success across all pathways.

Respectfully submitted,

WHITNEY LUNDSTROM
French Resource Teacher

FRED VAN ELBURG
Program Coordinator

KALI BERNST
Principal of Indigenous Education and Program

HEATHER HARRIS
Superintendent of Education

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Chief Executive Officer

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2026 JUN 23
Report No. 076-26

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 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 Lakehead District School Board's (LDSB) 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 Math Achievement Action Plan 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 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 Chief Executive Officer.

2. Situation

2.1 Implementation of the MAAP is in its final stages. Data that is relevant to measuring the strategies and actions of the plan has been collected. Any outstanding data, to date, will be collected and included in the MAAP final report for the Ministry, due July 17, 2026.

2.2 Math facilitators and intervention teachers have supported both teachers and students throughout the school year, with a focus on Grades 3, 6, and 9. Facilitators focused on supporting schools and teachers with developing classroom instruction that was aligned with grade level curriculum, included high impact strategies in math, using student data to inform instructional and pedagogical decisions, and built mathematics content knowledge in teachers. This work supported the creation of high-quality mathematics experiences for all students and alignment with the three priority areas in the MAAP. Intervention teachers were assigned to work directly with students, with a focus on Grades 6 to 8. Evidence-based mathematics programs were delivered by these teachers to address the skill and content area gaps that prevented students from accessing grade level curriculum.

2.3 School administrators were supported in the three priority areas throughout the school year. Time was scheduled for administrators to meet as a group to learn about evidence-based practices, high-impact practices, and data-based decision making. School administrators were also supported through monthly school visits from the math lead. These visits focused on review and analysis of student data as well as classroom visits to observe the teacher and student math experience.

Conclusion

Extensive data collection, analysis, and decision making have been the foundation of this year's MAAP. The major area of focus was on collecting and analyzing student data to inform Board, school, and classroom level next steps. At the Board level, this data was used to identify the needs of the schools and, more specifically, the needs of the students, to respond with the appropriate resources and support to ensure school and student success in math. At the school level, this data was used to identify which classrooms and which students required support, as well as identify which resources and materials were needed to carry out this support. At the classroom level, this data was used to help teachers identify which students needed support, what they needed support in, and whether the student was achieving success.

The Math Achievement Action plan for 2026-2027 will contain goals and actions that will support improvement in outcomes for all students. Continued improvement in student math achievement remains the long-term goal across the system and the collective efforts of Lakehead Public School staff at all levels, into next year, will contribute to the steady growth in student achievement.

Respectfully submitted,

PATTI-JO PESOLA
Superintendent of Education: Math Lead

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Chief Executive Officer

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2026 JUN 23
Report No. 081-26

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

RE: POLICY REVIEW – 3074 EXPENSE AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

1. Background

1.1 It is the policy of Lakehead District School Board that policies will be developed or reviewed in accordance with Policy Development and Review Policy 2010.

1.2 On June 24, 2025, the Board approved the Governance Policy Review Schedule for 2025–2030. In accordance with Section 4.4.1 of the 2010 Policy Development and Review Procedures, which states that "a specified review date will be established for all policies," the Executive Council developed the 2025–2026 order of policies for review. This order was presented at the Board Advisory Committee meeting on September 9, 2025, and includes the 3074 Expense and Travel Reimbursement Policy for review during the 2025–2026 school year.

1.3 At the Regular Board Meeting on November 25, 2025, the revised Expense and Travel Reimbursement policy and procedures were approved

2. Situation

2.1 On May 7, 2026, the Ontario Government enacted Bill 101, the *Putting Student Achievement First Act,* which introduces requirements related to discretionary spending by trustees and Board staff. To ensure compliance with this legislation, revisions to Policy 3074 Expense and Travel Reimbursement and its associated procedures (Appendix A to Report No. 081-26) have been developed.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that adopt the following motion:

"That Lakehead District School Board approve the 3074 Expense and Travel Reimbursement Policy, Appendix A to Report No. 081-26."

Respectfully submitted,

KIRSTI ALAKSA
Superintendent of Business

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Director of Education

BUSINESS AND BOARD ADMINISTRATION	3000
EXPENSE AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY	3074

1. Rationale

It is the objective of Lakehead District School Board to adhere to the Ontario Broader Public Sector (BPS) Expenses Directive as incorporated in this policy.

2. Policy

It is the policy of Lakehead District School Board to reimburse individuals for those expenses incurred in the conduct of approved Board business or in carrying out the responsibilities of an employee, a Board member, student trustee, school council or non-trustee Board committee member.

In accordance with applicable provincial legislation and Ministry of Education requirements:

- **The Board shall not reimburse or pay for trustee membership fees in professional, trustee, or sector associations.**
- **The Board shall not reimburse expenses related to trustees attending discretionary events or activities, including professional development, conferences, or conventions, and all related costs (registration, travel, accommodation, meals and hospitality), unless participation is required as an operational necessity directly aligned with the Board's core business.**

3. Definitions

3.1 "Approved Board business" refers to expenses incurred in the course of doing business on behalf of the Board.

3.2 The term "trustees" refers to both elected public trustees and student trustee(s), unless otherwise noted.

3.3 The term "school council member" refers to individuals elected to a Lakehead District School Board school council.

3.4 The term "non-trustee Board committee member" refers to individuals appointed by the Board to the following Lakehead District School Board Committees such as: Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, Audit Committee, Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

3.5 The term "discretionary event or activity" refers to an event or activity where participation is not essential to Board operations and for which expenses are incurred by choice rather than operational necessity, including:

- **Professional development**
- **Conferences, conventions, symposiums**
- **Sector or association events**

4. Guidelines

4.1 Public funds are used prudently and responsibly with a focus on accountability and transparency. **This includes compliance with all applicable legislative restrictions on trustee expenses and a requirement to demonstrate that expenditures are necessary, reasonable, and directly tied to Board business.**

4.2 Expenses for travel, meals and hospitality support Board objectives.

4.3 Plans for travel, meals, accommodation and hospitality are necessary and economical with due regard for health and safety.

4.4 All claims for reimbursement will only be authorized for approved Board business.

4.5 Individuals are responsible to ensure that all claims for reimbursement comply with this policy and do not include any personal expenses.

4.6 Claims for reimbursement by staff members are submitted to the immediate supervisor for authorization.

4.7 Trustee claims are submitted to the vice-chair of the Board for authorization.

4.8 Claims for the vice-chair are submitted to the chair of the Board for authorization.

4.9 School council member and non-trustee Board committee member claims are submitted to the appropriate senior administration member for authorization (director of education or a superintendent).

4.10 Claims for reimbursements of any costs associated with travel on Board business are to be submitted and will be processed after the event. There will be no immediate reimbursement for airfare or deposits charged to personal credit cards.

BUSINESS AND BOARD ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY	3000 3074

5. Review

This policy shall be reviewed in accordance with 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy.

Cross Reference	Date Approved	Legal Reference
Broader Public Sector Expenses Directive Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive	October 23, 2007 **Date Revised** December 15, 2009 June 26, 2012 November 26, 2019 November 25, 2025 **June 23, 2026**	

BUSINESS AND BOARD ADMINISTRATION | 3000

EXPENSE AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES | 3074

1. Policy

It is the policy of Lakehead District School Board to reimburse individuals for those **eligible** expenses incurred in the conduct of approved Board business or in carrying out the responsibilities of an employee, a Board member, student trustee, school council or non-trustee Board committee member.

In accordance with provincial legislation:

- **Trustee membership fees in professional or trustee associations are not eligible for reimbursement.**
- **Expenses for trustee attendance at discretionary events or activities (including conferences, conventions, and professional development) are not eligible unless approved in advance and deemed an operational necessity.**

2. Procedures

2.1 Travel

2.1.1 Travel within the jurisdiction of the Board does not require completion of the travel approval form; however, does require supervisor knowledge and approval.

All **eligible** travel outside of the jurisdiction of the Board requires prior approval using the travel approval form according to the following:

Level of Approval Required			
Role	Travel in Ontario	Travel in Canada and continental USA	International
Chair	Vice-Chair	Vice-Chair	Vice-Chair
Vice-Chair	Chair	Chair	Chair
Trustees	Vice-Chair	Vice-Chair	Chair
School Council Member	**Chief Executive Officer** or designate	**Chief Executive Officer** or designate	**Chief Executive Officer** or designate
Non-Trustee Board Committee Member	Superintendent	Superintendent	Superintendent
Director of Education	Chair	Chair	Chair
Superintendents	**Chief Executive Officer**	**Chief Executive Officer**	**Chief Executive Officer**
Employee	Supervisor/Principal	Supervisor/ Principal & Superintendent	**Chief Executive Officer**
Consultant	Contract Manager	Superintendent	**Chief Executive Officer**

2.1.2 Other options for meetings and professional development are always considered before travel is approved (i.e. audio/video conferencing, webinars).

2.1.3 Employees, trustees, student trustees, school council members and non-trustee members of Board committees shall make every effort to travel together in order to reduce the related **eligible** expenses (ex. shared taxi, rental vehicle, mileage.)

2.1.4 If travel is to be funded by an outside agency (i.e. Ministry of Education or EQAO), travellers must adhere to their published reimbursement guidelines.

2.1.5 Staff and trustees are encouraged to book flights, hotel and vehicle rentals with the Board's approved travel agent as part of their travel package.

2.1.6 Trustees are responsible to provide the office of the director with itineraries booked individually.

2.1.7 Student trustees shall work through the office of the director to secure **eligible** travel and accommodation arrangements.

2.1.8 School council members and non-trustee Board committee members shall work through the office of the director or the office of the superintendent of education as appropriate, to secure travel and accommodation arrangements

2.1.9 Employees**/Trustees** must use the most **economical and practical** transportation option available for **eligible** Board-related travel. If an alternative mode is chosen, reimbursement will be limited to the lower of the actual cost or the most economical option. A comparison of available transportation costs must be provided at the time of approval.

2.1.10 <u>Airplane</u> – Travelers must book the lowest fare that meets their needs. Seat preferences or flexible/cancellable tickets may only be purchased with prior approval from the traveler's supervisor.

In some cases, Board employees may need to use chartered aircraft. This is to be pre-approved by the individual's superintendent.

2.1.11 <u>Train</u> – Coach class economy fare is the standard option for ticket purchase.

2.1.12 Rental Vehicle – When renting a vehicle, a compact model or its equivalent is required. Any exceptions must be:

- documented and approved prior to the rental if possible; and
- guided by the principle that the rental vehicle is the most economical and practical size, taking into account the business purpose, number of occupants and safety (including weather) considerations.

Insurance must be purchased from the rental company.

To avoid higher gasoline charges the rental vehicle must be refuelled before its return.

2.1.13 Use of Personal Vehicles - Reimbursement for the use of personal vehicles on **eligible** Board business will be in accordance with the 3070 Allowance for Use of Personal Vehicle Policy.

2.1.14 Parking and Tolls – Reimbursement is provided for necessary and reasonable expenditures on parking, as well as, tolls for bridges, ferries and highways, when driving on Board business.

2.1.15 Shuttles/Taxis/Transportation Apps– Local public transportation including hotel/airport shuttles should be used wherever possible.

Taxis/Transportation Apps may be justified in cases where:

- group travel is more economical than the cost of having individuals travel separately by public transit or shuttle;
- it allows you to meet an unusually tight schedule for meetings; or Rideshare services like Uber may be used for **eligible** work-related travel only; personal use while out of town will not be reimbursed.

2.2 Accommodation

2.2.1 Travellers shall use the recommended conference standard accommodation, when available. Any costs beyond the standard cost of the room will not be reimbursed, for example mini bars.

Reimbursement will be made for single accommodation in a standard room.

2.2.2 Internet access in hotels is considered an eligible expense.

2.2.3 Overnight accommodations before a meeting or conference are generally eligible. Accommodations on the final day are not eligible unless the event ends too late to reasonably return home using available transportation.

2.3 Meals

TRAVEL

2.3.1 Reimbursement for reasonable meal expenses is subject to the maximum daily rate of $80 per day including taxes, gratuities and delivery fees. 20% max. International travel will be assessed based on destination.

Claimants shall take advantage of meals included in registration. Original, itemized receipts for meals are required and reimbursement must not exceed the actual amount spent. If using a Board purchasing card or corporate credit card, claimants will be responsible for reimbursing the Board for overages on the maximum daily rate and any unreasonable expenses.

2.3.2 The cost of alcoholic beverages will not be reimbursed by the Board as part of a travel or meal expense.

2.3.3 Meal expenses incurred while travelling must be paid for individually, either on purchasing card or paid for personally. In situations where this is unavoidable, a brief explanation of the circumstances must accompany the expense

2.3.4 Meal expenses can be claimed for travel within the jurisdiction of the LDSB if the employee is required to be more than one hundred (100) km from their designated work location at a regular mealtime.

MEETINGS

2.3.5 When meals are purchased for individuals to facilitate Board business, the names of individuals and the business purpose of the expense must be included to be reimbursed.

2.3.6 Meetings over meal times are discouraged.
A light meal may be offered as part of a meeting where it facilitates the flow of the day and is unreasonable to expect individuals to obtain their own meals due to time constraints or location.

Where a light meal is offered, meal rates of $25 for lunch and $40 for dinner apply, whether held on site or off site.

2.4 Preparation and Processing of Claims

2.4.1 An expense claim or payment request must be submitted and all original receipts must be scanned and attached.

2.4.2 Original, itemized receipts are required for all items to be claimed.

2.4.3 In the event the claimant loses or cannot obtain a receipt, the claimant must first request a replacement receipt from the vendor. If a replacement receipt cannot be obtained, the claimant must complete the lost receipt form.

2.4.4 Expense claims/payment requests must be submitted and approved within fourteen days of the event.

2.4.5 **All approvals must confirm compliance with legislative restrictions applicable to trustee expenses, in addition to Board policy and the BPS Expenses Directive**. Trustee expense claims must be authorized by the vice chair of the Board. The vice chair's expense claims must be authorized by the chair of the Board. All trustee expense claims will be reviewed by the superintendent of business.

2.4.6 School council members and non-trustee Board committee members claims will be authorized by the **chief executive officer** or superintendent of education, as appropriate.

2.4.7 An incomplete or inaccurate claim will be returned to the claimant for resubmission.

2.5 Cash Advances

2.5.1 Except as noted below, cash advances are not provided for the purpose of travel and meeting expenses. Trustees and employees who are expected to regularly incur travel and meeting expenses may be provided with a corporate credit card/purchasing card.

2.5.2 A cash advance may be granted to the student trustees, upon the approval of the **chief executive officer** or designate.

2.5.3 Cash advances will not be provided to employees, school council or non-trustee Board committee members.

2.6 Hospitality

Hospitality is the provision of food, beverage, accommodation, transportation and other amenities at public expense to people who are not engaged in work for the Board or other Broader Public Service (BPS) organizations or Ontario government ministries, agencies and public entities. Functions only involving those people in the organizations listed above are not considered hospitality functions.

2.6.1 Hospitality may be extended in an economical and consistent manner when it can facilitate Board business and it is considered desirable as a matter of courtesy or protocol.

2.6.2 Hospitality may include the consumption of alcohol at a meal or a reception with invitees as defined above, but only when there is an approved business case (see Business Plan for Provision of Hospitality or Alcohol Form).

2.6.3 Prior written approval is required for hospitality events where alcohol will be served.

- If the hospitality event is hosted by a superintendent, the superintendent must seek prior approval from the **chief executive officer**; and/or
- If the hospitality event is hosted by the **chief executive officer**, the **chief executive officer** must seek prior approval from the chair of the Board.

2.7 Ineligible Expenses – Trustees

The following are not eligible for reimbursement for trustees:

- **Membership fees in professional or trustee associations;**
- **Discretionary professional development, conferences, or conventions (unless approved as an operational necessity);**
- **Political or campaign-related expenses; and/or**
- **Donations, sponsorships, or community fundraising activities.**

2.8 Gifts – Employees/Trustees

Gift cards/certificates cannot be given to Board employees/trustees for any reason. Board funds may not be used to purchase gifts (i.e. flowers, cards, mugs, plaques) for Board employees/trustees or their immediate family due to births, adoption, marriage, birthdays or other life events. These are considered personal and are not reimbursable.

There may be exceptional circumstances; however, when the **chief executive officer** will approve Board funds for recognition of a staff member/trustee.

There may be circumstances that warrant recognition of employees, such as receiving awards for outstanding achievements, appearing as a guest speaker for an after-hours event or long-term service with the Board or other exceptional circumstances that have been approved by the superintendent or director. In these circumstances, Board, school generated or school council funds may be used to purchase token gifts of appreciation.

2.9 Gifts – Non-Employees

Appropriate token gifts of appreciation may be offered in exchange for gifts of service or expertise to people who are not engaged in work for the Board. Cash and alcohol (including gift cards for alcohol) must not be given as a gift.

2.10 Consultants & Other Contractors

2.10.1 Local consultants and other contractors will not be reimbursed for any hospitality, incidental or food expenses, including:

- meals, snacks and beverages;
- gratuities;
- laundry or dry cleaning;
- valet services;
- dependent care;
- home management; and
- personal telephone calls.

2.10.2 Consultants and other contractors may be reimbursed for travel expenses (flights, meals and accommodation) only if these provisions are included in the contract.

2.11 Other Eligible Expenses

Other eligible expenses incurred in carrying out the business of the Board are approved as part of the annual budget process. These items may include: equipment, supplies, meeting expenses, etc.

BUSINESS AND BOARD ADMINISTRATION	3000
EXPENSE AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES	3074

3. Review

These procedures shall be reviewed in accordance with 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy.

Cross Reference	Date Received	Legal Reference
Broader Public Sector Expenses Directive Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive	October 23, 2007 **Date Revised** December 15, 2009 June 26, 2012 October 9, 2012 September 9, 2014 November 26, 2019 November 25, 2025 **June 23, 2026**	

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2026 JUN 23
Report No. 077-26

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD – PUBLIC SESSION

RE: INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE – JUNE REPORT

1. Introduction

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as Indigenous student trustee. This role is important because it represents Indigenous students who are often underrepresented in education systems. Throughout my term, I made a conscious effort to remind myself of this responsibility in every meeting, event, and discussion I took part in. I am thankful for the opportunities and support I received throughout my term. As I move into the next chapter of my life and prepare to graduate, I carry a lot of appreciation for everything this role has taught me.

2. Year in Review

2.1 During September and October, I spent time connecting with students and learning more about the issues and priorities that matter most to them. I attended the United Way Better is Possible Campaign Breakfast, where I learned about organizations that support students and families in our community. I participated in the first Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting of the school year. Alongside Student Trustee Bruce, I visited the student councils at Hammarskjold High School and Westgate Collegiate & Vocational Institute to hear about their goals, ideas, and plans for the year. I also attended the first Student Senate meeting, where students from across the Board shared their perspectives on student life and ways to improve their schools.

2.2 In November, I attended the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO) Fall General Meeting alongside Student Trustee Bruce. Throughout the conference, I participated in sessions focused on the responsibilities that come with being a student trustee, professional development, Bill 33, and student well-being. I especially enjoyed the Truth and Reconciliation breakout session, where I was able to share my perspectives and contribute to discussions on improving Indigenous education and awareness.

2.3 In December and January, much of my focus was on completing the semester and preparing for exams as a student. During this time, I also reflected on my role as Indigenous student trustee and set goals for the remainder of my term, including becoming more organized and engaged. I attended Kindergarten Night with Student Trustee Bruce, where I helped at the Indigenous Education booth and shared Ojibwe words with incoming Kindergarteners.

2.4 During the month of February, I met virtually with Student Trustee Bruce and Chief Executive Officer Pharand to discuss connecting with other student trustees across the region. I also attended the Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting, where I provided a student trustee update and shared about recent initiatives including Kindergarten Night and regional collaboration ideas. Later in the month, I met with Student Trustee Bruce and Trustee Saarinen, where we discussed balancing trustee responsibilities and broader student issues such as racism and substance use in schools.

2.5 During March, I attended a Student Trustee Mentor Meeting with Student Trustee Bruce and Trustee Saarinen, where we provided updates on our work and discussed ongoing initiatives, including a potential Student Video Initiative. I also attended the Virtual Student Senate meeting and heard about a variety of student-led events focused on inclusion and school community engagement across the board.

2.6 In April and May, we began the process of selecting a new Indigenous student trustee. I attended the Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting for the final time as Indigenous student trustee, where I also shared an update on my work and reflected on the importance of strong student representation. I also had a virtually meeting with Student Trustee Bruce and Anthony Jeethan, Human Rights and Equity Advisor, to discuss the upcoming Student Senate event and potential student leadership activities. On the same day, I had the opportunity to be the Co-Master of Ceremonies at the Grade 8 Awards of Excellence Banquet alongside Student Trustee Bruce, where I helped celebrate the achievements of students across the Board.

2.7 On June 1, 2026, I attended the Pride flag raising at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute. Later that day, I attended an in-person student event alongside Student Trustee Bruce, where we facilitated a leadership activity with support from Anthony Jeethan, Human Rights & Equity Advisor. On the same day, we also began the interview process for selecting the next Indigenous Student Trustee, and I am confident they will do a great job in continuing this role. On June 4, 2026, I participated in the Grade 8 Reach Ahead virtual meeting alongside Trustee Saarinen and Student Trustee Bruce, where we answered questions and provided guidance to students preparing for high school.

3. <u>Regrets:</u>

One of my main regrets is not staying as organized as I could have throughout my term, especially when it came to emails and keeping up with tasks. While I generally did a good job of submitting Board reports on time and meeting deadlines, I know I could have improved my consistency and planning. At times, balancing school and the student trustee role was challenging, and I wish I had been more intentional about staying ahead of both.

4. <u>Recommendations</u>

For future Indigenous student trustees, I would strongly recommend staying organized from the beginning of the term. Using tools like calendars, reminders, and email organization can make a big difference, especially since the role can become busy quickly. I would also encourage future trustees to stay as involved as possible with OSTA-AECO and other student trustee networks across Ontario, as it is a valuable opportunity to learn how other boards operate and to share ideas. Another important recommendation is to prioritize being present in the role while also managing school responsibilities. It can be easy to become overwhelmed but remembering that you are a student first helps maintain balance and focus.

5. <u>Conclusion</u>

Overall, my time as Indigenous student trustee has been an incredible learning experience. I am proud of the work I have done and the conversations I have been part of, and I hope that my efforts have helped support Indigenous students and student voice across the board. I am excited to see the work continue in the future and confident that Indigenous Student Trustee Cameron Price will continue to build on this foundation. Miigwech. MEWAY.

Respectfully Submitted,

ERYN GENNO
Indigenous Student Trustee

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2026 JUN 23
Report No. 078-26

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

RE: STUDENT TRUSTEE – JUNE REPORT

1. Introduction

As our year comes to an end, I have been able to deeply reflect upon my position as student trustee. This is a role that I hold close to my heart, and I am exponentially grateful to be continuing on with this position in future. Throughout the year, I was able to interact with so many wonderful individuals, all while gaining further understanding of the role and participating in an array of activities. Moreover, this year, I was able to learn further about the importance of Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) and how our Board of Trustee's functions. Seeing how much effort superintendents and trustees put into making our schools a better, safer place makes me even more thankful. I know now more than ever that becoming a student trustee has made myself, and so many others before me, a better person. I truly cannot express my gratitude enough. Going into the 2026-2027 school year, I have full confidence that LDSB will continue to do amazing things and I cannot wait to be a part of further change.

2. Year in Review

2.1. On Monday, September 22, 2025, I attended the United Way Better is Possible breakfast with Indigenous Student Trustee Genno and numerous other members of the board. This event was not only informative, but wildly inspiring as we heard many different stories about perseverance. I found this to be a great introduction to the role, as it provided many opportunities for connection and reminded me of the responsibility aspect of the role. I highly recommend attending this event as it also was a great introduction to how involved LDSB is with our community.

2.2. On October 14, 2025, I had the immense pleasure of presenting to a grade 10 civics class at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute with Leah Vanderwey and Trustee Johansen. This was to provide further knowledge about government week, the Board of Trustees, and how LDSB functions. We discussed the role of trustees and levels of government which further aided me in immersing myself in this role. Moreover, this event expanded my knowledge on the importance of education, as you could see how certain students wished to learn more about our community.

2.3. From October 3, 2025 to October 14, 2025, Indigenous Student Trustee Genno and I visited every Secondary Student Council from our Board. Each conversation provided further insight into how students felt about their school community. Additionally, each student council communicated their goals for the year effectively. This was a great way to hear about the needs of students, and it encouraged me to become further involved in my own school community.

2.4 From November 13, 2025 to November 16, 2025, I attended the annual Ontario Student Trustees Association's (OSTA-AECO) conference with Indigenous Student Trustee Genno. This provided us both with the opportunity to network with Student Trustees across Ontario and learn further about the role. I truly enjoyed this conference as it provided me with further knowledge on how to successfully complete my duties in this role, incredible organizations, and memorable connections. I am eternally grateful to have had this experience!

2.5 On November 26, 2025, I attended on of the annual Calendar Committee meeting. It was my second time sitting in at a Board committee meeting and I found it to be quite informative. The discussions there were extremely productive and provided me with further ways to communicate with others. Both these meetings, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Parent Involvement Committee(PIC) and others were a highlight for me this year by far as they are such inspiring committees. Next year, I hope to attend further committee meetings to broaden my knowledge of more areas in our school community.

2.6 On Thursday January 29, 2026, Trustee Saarinen and I had the pleasure of representing our school board at a virtual Grade 8 Reach-Ahead Class. We were asked a series of questions while mentoring/guiding the students approaching high-school age. It was a very heartwarming experience (especially when interacting with the students), and I enjoyed being a role model. This event and other programs offered at Lakehead Public Schools further demonstrate why this Board's schools are a phenomenal choice for all students.

2.7 Throughout the weeks of February 22-28, 2026 and March 1-7, 2026, I spent ample time connecting with community members and Board members (ex. A mentor meeting with Trustee Saarinen and Indigenous Student Trustee Genno). These mentor meetings have been exponentially helpful throughout the duration of the role, as they helped me follow a timeline and further understand responsibilities. Opportunities to connect with others always remind me of how grateful I am to be in this position and to be able to contact people in person too. Thank you all for the immense guidance.

2.8 Throughout the months of February to April, I attempted to connect with other student trustees in the region. There was interest in a virtual meeting specifically for the Northwestern Ontario trustees. In future, I do hope to find a way to continually connect with these other student trustees, as it provides a wonderful source of support when growing and changing in this role.

2.9 On Thursday, May 14, 2026, I had the pleasure of being the Co-Master of Ceremonies for the annual Grade 8 Awards of Excellence alongside Indigenous Student Trustee Genno. This was a massive highlight for me, as these awards gave all students the opportunity to showcase their achievements and encourage them to encourage staying involved in their school communities in high school. I found this a great way to communicate with others as well and overall; I truly hope to attend this event next year.

2.10 On Monday, June 1, 2026, Indigenous Student Trustee Genno and I spoke at the annual Pride flag raining ceremony and had the absolute honour of raising the Pride flag at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute. The ceremony was an excellent reminder of the progress that LDSB has made throughout multiple years and further indicated how many more students felt safe and comfortable in the school environment.

2.11 On Monday, June 1, 2026, Indigenous Student Trustee Genno and I also had the incredible opportunity to run a leadership event for students at the annual Student Senate gathering. Thanks to guidance from Anthony Jeethan, Human Rights and Equity Advisor, we taught students about the power of communication and collaboration through our mine-field activity. Moreover, we were able to see all the year long projects the students had been working on. An incredible motivator and a fantastic day.

2.12 Also on Monday, June 1, 2026, Indigenous Student Trustee Genno and I, alongside both Hammarskjold, Westgate, and Fire Council representatives, took on the task of selecting the new Indigenous student trustee. It was a wonderful process, and I have faith in our new incoming Indigenous Student Trustee Cameron Price. I wish Indigenous Student Trustee Genno the best and I know she will do great things in future, as she has already made such an immense impact here.

3. Goals For Future

3.1. In my next term, I truly hope to find a new way to connect the secondary schools, particularly by holding a Secondary Student Senate. As I have mentioned prior, I feel that ensuring secondary students have opportunities to connect with others and have access to sources of help makes students much more enticed to come to school. Holding these types of events would help encourage that.

3.2. Next term, I will be attending more meetings outside of the bi-weekly Board meetings. I want to learn as much as possible about the schools, and I know that these meetings only help better school environments. Moreover, I have yet to attend certain committee meetings. I want to truly show my dedication to the Board, and by attending these meetings, I will feel better about my overall commitment level.

3.3. One last goal I have for next year is to re-instate the Student Trustee Instagram and host/participate in more events. I for one absolutely adore these types of activities and find them extremely useful when communicating about what is happening during the year. I also think that it will give us a much easier way to contact others, as many teens prefer to utilize social media.

4. Conclusion

Overall, this year has been nothing short of spectacular. I have grown an unimaginable amount, and I owe it fully to this role and those who have guided me throughout. While there were many highlights, there were also many opportunities that provided me with opportunities for growth. Over the summer, I fully intend to plan for the year ahead to remain as focused as possible throughout my next term. Thank you all so much for this opportunity, for your guidance, and for this incredible, encouraging environment. I simply cannot wait for the 2026-2027 school year as I know even more positive change to better education will be made. Much gratitude.

Respectfully submitted,

BREANNA BRUCE
Student Trustee

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Jim McCuaig Education Centre	2026 MAY 20
Board Room/Microsoft Teams	6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair	Anne Antenucci
Liz Tod	Brandon Robb
Scott McBean	Sarah Niles
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen	Trustee Patricia Johansen

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski	Maggie Fredrickson
Simona Serrao	Megan Semeniuk

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair	Michelle Blackburn
Tara Ingram	Trustee George Saarinen
Miranda Myers	Wendy Carroll

1. Call to Order

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There were none.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Sarah Niles — Seconded by Anne Antenucci

"That the agenda for the SEAC Meeting, May 20, 2026, be approved."

CARRIED

4. Land Acknowledgement

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.

5. Delegations and Presentations

5.1 Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead, presented the Mental Health – Annual Report.

All members' questions were addressed.

5.2 There were no delegations.

6. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen — Seconded by Anne Antenucci

"That the minutes of April 15, 2026, SEAC meeting be approved."

CARRIED

7. Unfinished Business and General Orders

- SEAC Fall Event Guest Speaker Update

  Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, provided an update regarding efforts to secure a potential guest speaker for the proposed Fall SEAC led event. Outreach has been initiated to several organizations. Ruth Mills, Social Worker, Kaleidoscope Mental Health, who recently delivered training to Student Support Professionals (SSPs), has expressed interest in presenting to caregivers and educators as part of this event. She is available to develop a detailed proposal for a potential Fall engagement.

  Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, will forward the relevant information to Simona Serrao, Executive Secretary, for distribution to SEAC members for review and feedback.

8. Work Plan – N/A

9. Correspondence

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair reviewed the SEAC correspondence that was distributed during the month of May 2026, as follows:

- Moose Hide Campaign - Walk to End Violence event – May 14, 2026;
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board - SEAC Letter to Ministry in Support of Trustees;
- Invitation – American Sign Language (ASL) Student Performance by Claude E. Garton Public School Sign Club – May 5, 2026;
- May 2026 at Abiinojiishiik amino yawook EarlyON;
- Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) Special Education Survey Report (2024-2025);
- Correspondence from Waterloo Region District School Board; and
- Auditor General of Ontario - Special Education Report, May 12, 2026.

10. New Business

10.1 Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, provided an update highlighting the following:

- several students are benefiting from the *Bright Beginnings Program*, which has proven to be an effective support for transitioning into school;
- the *Auditor General's Report* will be reviewed collaboratively by Special Education staff. The report will inform planning for professional development for the upcoming school year; and
- the final session of the Special Education after-school facilitator training was completed. The session was well attended, provided valuable learning opportunities, and participant feedback has been collected.

All members' questions were addressed.

10.2 2025-2026 SEAC Leadership Scholarships & Awards

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the recipients of the 2025–2026 SEAC Leadership Scholarships and Awards. Detailed write-ups of the student recipients are included in the meeting package.

10.3 New Classrooms

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided an update on the development of new classroom programs. The revised funding model allows for increased flexibility in program design and the opportunity to collaborate with community treatment partners.

Two new *Bridges* classrooms are in the early planning stages at McKellar Park Central Public School, serving students in Grades 2 to 5 and Grades 6 to 8. These programs will support students' mental health, well-being, and transition needs. Social workers will work collaboratively with students and families as part of the program. A longer-term placement model is being considered to support improved student outcomes.

In addition, a new special education classroom is being explored at Sherbrooke Public School, with a potential start in the Fall, pending final planning.

Members were invited to provide feedback for the new special education classrooms to Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, and Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, by email.

All members' questions were addressed.

11. Information/Inquiries & Association Reports

- Anne Antenucci, representative of Autism Ontario, provided an organizational update;
- Alina Cameron, Community Member, provided the Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) update; and
- Scott McBean, representative of Children's Centre Thunder Bay, put forth the suggestion of Lakehead District School Board, SEAC, submitting a letter to the Minister of Education, consistent with correspondence from other SEACs across Ontario, outlining concerns regarding the impact of Bill 33 and Bill 101 on special education programs and services. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, offered to prepare a draft letter for SEAC's review and feedback, incorporating current issues affecting special education.

Scott McBean brought forward the following motion:

"That the Lakehead District School Board, Special Education Advisory Committee, write a letter to express concern regarding the impact of Bill 33 and Bill 101 on Special Education Programs and Services."

Moved by Scott McBean — Seconded by Sarah Niles

CARRIED

12. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the budget update.

13. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Update – N/A

14. Equity & Inclusive Education Advisory Committee Update – N/A

15. Board Update

Trustee Tuchenhagen, provided the following Board update:

- the resignation of Board Chair, Trustee Vanderwey;
- the election of Trustee Oikonen as the new Board Chair; and
- the Board has until August 3, 2026, to appoint a new trustee.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2026 JUN 23
Report No. 074-26

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

RE: RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A report was received at the Finance Committee Meeting – Public Session of June 16, 2026, and has been referred to the Board for approval.

The recommendation is as follows:

2026-2027 BUDGET (073-26)

It is recommended:

That Lakehead District School Board approve the 2026-2027 Operating and Capital Budget of $181,745,016 as presented.

Respectfully submitted,

SCOTTIE WEMIGWANS
Chair, Finance Committee

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2026 JUN 23
Report No. 080-26

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

RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE – BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES SEPTEMBER 2026

1. Background

1.1 Section 6.1 of the Lakehead District School Board's Governing By-Laws requires that regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m., in Public Session in the Board Room of the Jim McCuaig Education Centre, excluding July and August, when the Board shall meet at the call of the chair in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.

1.2 The Board Advisory Committee meetings shall be held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m., in Public Session in the Board Room of the Jim McCuaig Education Centre, excluding July and August.

1.2 To avoid revisions to the Board Advisory Committee and Regular Board meeting schedule on a recurring basis throughout the year, Lakehead District School Board attempts to recommend all revisions at the outset of each new school year.

2. Situation

2.1 Due to up-coming expected changes on how often the Board is required to meet, the final schedule has been deferred to the fall of 2026.

2.2 The September Board Advisory Committee Meeting and the Regular Board Meeting for September will be scheduled following the current Governing By-Laws.

RECOMMENDATION

The Trustees' Coordinating Committee respectfully requests the adoption of the following motion as outlined in report No. 080-26:

That Lakehead District School Board approve the following dates for the Board Advisory Committee Meeting and the Regular Board Meeting in September of 2026:

- *Board Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, September 8, 2026; and*
- *Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, September 22, 2026.*

Respectfully submitted,

RON OIKONEN
Chair

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Chief Executive Officer