LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Board Room
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2026 MAY 04
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michelle Riemer, Vice-Chair
Laura Prodanyk
Dawn-Marie Francis

MEMBERS ABSENT, WITH REGRET:

Robin Cawlishaw, Chair
George Saarinen
Tara Ingram
Carla Mulholland
Terry Godick
Lorraine Mashongoane
Brittany Kennedy

RESOURCE PRESENT:

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, CEO
Fred Van Elburg, Teacher
Kristi Lees, Principal
Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education
Jamie Smith, Communications Supervisor
Christine Jones, Executive Assistant
Kathleen Andrews, Student Success Lead
Kali Bernst, Principal

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Michelle Riemer, Vice-Chair, welcomed the following guests:

- Nicole Lapp, Manager of Partnerships and Community Engagement, TVO;
- Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, Early Years & Elementary Education;
- Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program; and
- Kathleen Andrews, Student Success Lead.

2. Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

There were no disclosures of conflict of interest.

3. Approval of the Agenda – May 4, 2026

The agenda of May 4, 2026, was approved by consensus.

4. Land Acknowledgement

Michelle Riemer, Vice-Chair, acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.

5. Delegations/Presentations

5.1 TVO Digital Learning Resources

Nicole Lapp, Manager of Partnerships and Community Engagement, TVO, presented TVO Digital Learning Resources. There is a new application available that can be accessed through the TVO website

ACTION: Christine Jones, Executive Assistant, will email the one-page summary to school council chairs. All members' questions were answered.

5.2 Student Achievement Report

Heather Harris, Superintendent of Education, Early Years & Elementary Education, Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program, and Kathleen Andrews, Student Success Lead, presented Lakehead District School Board Student Achievement Report. All members' questions were answered.

The next steps are to continue building our teacher capacity in math and literacy, while aligning professional development with the new curriculum.

6. Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2026

The minutes of March 2, 2026, were approved by consensus.

7. New Business

7.1 Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Report

No member available to attend.

7.2 Special Education Advisory Committee Report

Member was not available to attend.

7.3 Jamie Smith, Communications Supervisor, providing the following update:

- happy education week;
- children's mental health week;
- attendance campaign, focuses on barriers;
- working on EDBSY tip video for parents;
- working on strategic plan update;
- on May 5, 2026, at 6:30pm, students from Claude E. Garton Public School, will be signing at the City of Thunder Bay Council Board meeting;
- hoping to have a community call for original designs of old closed Lakehead Public Schools;
- working on a cyber security video on awareness for parents and children, additional content will come from Sister Margaret Smith Centre. Laura Prodanyk, Community Member, offered some funding from their organization;
- six Lakehead Public Schools students are presenting at the Nationals; and
- Sherri-Lynne Pharand, CEO, will email the merchandise link to the elementary principals.

7.5 Office of the CEO Report

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, CEO, shared the following update:

- transportation registration is now open and will continue advocating for additional funding for students;
- North Western Ontario, continues to have bus driver shortages;
- Trustee Elections opened May 1, 2026;
- Directors will now become a member of the board and be called Chief Executive Officers;
- next mid-year Student Achievement report will take place in October/November;
- shared a LPS School Climate survey;
- Laura Prodanyk, Community Member, has been in contact with Megan Semeniuk, LPS Mental Health Lead, asking for names of the teacher/student for the Youth Wellness Champion. Laura will forward additional information to Sherri-Lynne Pharand, CEO; and
- Kristi Lee, Elementary Principal, shared a program called Choices. It includes 12 sessions, visits Grade 7 and Grade 8 students, and partners with Sister Margaret Smith and Youth Wellness Centre.

All members' questions were addressed.

8. Other Business

8.1 Michelle Riemer, Vice-Chair, reviewed the PIC correspondence distributed since last meeting;

- Policy Input for:
  - 7040 Violence in the Workplace Policy; and
  - 8050 Naming and Opening of New or Consolidated Schools Policy.

8.2 Michelle Riemer, Vice-Chair, shared that speaker Jake Ernst, has confirmed his event can be recorded at a price of $500 and can be used for 1-year. This PIC virtual event will be scheduled the 3rd week of September 2026. Suggestions received was to stream the recording at future secondary open houses or provide the QR code on the brochure for the event for parents to watch at a later time.

Moved by Michelle Riemer

"THAT we approve the extra cost to have Jake Ernsts' presentation to parents be recorded for the purpose of posting on our parents' resource web site for the 26-27 School Year."

Approved by consensus

8.3 Michelle Riemer, Vice-Chair, asked about the possibilities of having a school council platform allowing them a area to share resources. Suggested email would include chair _school name@email.

9. Next Meeting Date:

Meeting date of October 5, 2026.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.