

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 27, 2024

at 3:00 PM

Chairperson S. Humphries in the Chair.

TRUSTEES Present: L. Boland; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; K. Rajamani; J. Primeau (departed early); C. Ruddy; A. Beggs & G. Ding (Student Trustees)

TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret): D. Dobson; D. Kaiser

STAFF: K. Niemi; J. Barnes; J. Poirier; R. Cousineau; J. Smith; K. Riddell; M. Caplan Jamieson; S. McIntyre

STAFF Absent (With Regret):

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. Humphries called the meeting to order.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chairperson S. Humphries read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

3. INVOCATION

The invocation was read by Student Trustee A. Beggs.

4. APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE seconded by J. Primeau that the Renfrew County District School Board approves the amended agenda order for today’s meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

5. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chairperson S. Humphries asked for declarations of conflict. None were forthcoming.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED K. DOUGHERTY seconded by L. Boland that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of January 30, 2024, February 7, 2024 (Special Board Meeting) and February 21, 2024 (Special Board Meeting).

The motion was CARRIED

7. INTRODUCTION OF NEW TRUSTEE

Chairperson S. Humphries extended a warm introduction and welcome to new Trustee Karthi Rajamani. The Director of Education, K. Niemi, presided over the facilitation of the Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance. Expressing gratitude, Trustee Rajamani thanked the Board for both the opportunity extended and the confidence placed in in her. Trustee Rajamani is excited to work collaboratively to make a positive impact with the Board.

8. ATTENDANCE

Attendance for today’s meeting was recorded.

9. **PRESENTATION – Donor Appreciation – Student Support Fund**

Executive Officer of Public Affairs, M. Caplan Jamieson, expressed her honor in representing the RCDSB as she presented the first Student Support Fund donor appreciation recognition. This marks a significant moment in acknowledging the generosity of donors toward student support initiatives.

M. Caplan Jamieson's presentation can be read [here](#).

10. **STAFF REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

Strategic Plan Mid-Year Update

At the midpoint of this year's strategic plan, senior staff reflected on the progress through a comprehensive staff work plan comprising 23 goals and objectives. These objectives serve as the foundation for the annual action plans, which link to the overarching goals. Efforts remain rooted in the three strategic priorities, guiding initiatives and decisions. This year, staff focused on identifying eight key goals for concentrated efforts and measurable outcomes. As senior staff reviewed the mid-year update with the Board of Trustees, they gave a brief overview of the eight focus goals.

The Strategic Plan Mid-Year Update can be read [here](#).

11. **COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

Program & Student Achievement Committee

Trustee M. Guenette, Chairperson of the Program & Student Achievement Committee, presented the [Open Session Report of the Program & Student Achievement Committee](#) meeting held on February 13, 2024.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Program & Student Achievement Committee meeting held on February 13, 2024.

The motion was CARRIED

Committee of the Whole Open Session Report – February 27, 2024

Vice-Chairperson L. Boland, Chairperson of Committee of the Whole, presented the [Open Session Report](#) of Committee of the Whole from today's meeting.

MOVED BY L. BOLAND, seconded by K. Rajamani that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

Committee of the Whole Closed Session Report – February 27, 2024

Vice-Chairperson L. Boland, Chairperson of Committee of the Whole, presented the Closed Session Report of Committee of the Whole from today's meeting.

MOVED BY L. BOLAND, seconded by M. Guenette that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Closed Session Report of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee M. Guenette presented the [Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee](#) meeting held on February 21, 2024.

MOVED BY M. Guenette, seconded by C. Ruddy that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 21, 2024.

The motion was CARRIED

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Chairperson S. Humphries and Trustee K. Dougherty will be attending OPSBA's Board of Directors meeting later this week. Chair Humphries also mentioned that the Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium is scheduled in April and encouraged Trustees to attend.

12. **UPDATES**

(a) Director

Director of Education K. Niemi presented her [Director's Report](#).

(b) Chair

None to report.

(c) Student Trustees

Student Trustees presented their [Student Trustees Report](#).

13. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The draft version of a [letter to the Minister of Education](#) regarding concerns with Bill 98 – *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act* was approved by the Board and will be forwarded to the Minister of Education's office.

14. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Update on the RCJTC

Vice-Chair L. Boland shared that the RCJTC Board of Directors met on February 5, 2024 to address new government guidelines concerning busing, which include adjustments to walking distances for students in JK/SK as well as secondary students. The changes will be implemented for the 2025-2026 school year. Under the new guidelines, it is anticipated that there will be fewer students on buses and fewer bus routes, resulting in overall cost savings.

Pink Shirt Day

Chairperson S. Humphries reminded everyone that tomorrow, February 28th, is Pink Shirt Day – a day to wear pink shirts and to raise awareness about bullying.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES seconded by K. Rajamani that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of February 27, 2024 be adjourned. Time: 5:07 PM

The motion was CARRIED