

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 29, 2023
at 5:23 PM

Chairperson S. Humphries in the Chair.

TRUSTEES Present: L. Boland; D. Dobson; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; D. Kaiser; B. Morris; J. Primeau; C. Ruddy; A. Beggs & G. Ding (Student Trustees)

TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret):

STAFF: J. Barnes (Director of Education Designate); J. Poirier; R. Cousineau; J. Smith; K. Riddell; M. Caplan Jamieson; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan

STAFF Absent (With Regret):

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. Humphries called the meeting to order.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Vice-Chairperson L. Boland read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

3. INVOCATION

The invocation was read by Trustee D. Dobson.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY K. DOUGHERTY seconded by C. Ruddy that the Renfrew County District School Board approves the agenda 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 D. DOBSON seconded by M. Guenette that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Closed Session Special Board Meeting on July 27, 2023.

The motion was CARRIED

7. PRESENTATION – INTRODUCTION OF 2023-2025 STUDENT TRUSTEE GRACE DING

Chairperson S. Humphries introduced Grace Ding who is our incoming Student Trustee from Mackenzie Community School. Ms. Ding's two-year term will be for the 2023-2025 school years. Ms. Ding formally assumed her role by taking the Oath of Office for Student Trustees Declaration, administered by Director of Education Designate J. Barnes. The Board of Trustees, along with current Student Trustee Ava Beggs, warmly welcomed Student Trustee Ding to her new position.

8. **BILL 98**

Senior Staff gave a review of Bill 98, also known as the *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act*, which received royal assent on June 8, 2023. Bill 98 aims to enhance transparency and improve student outcomes in our schools. To address these goals for the current school year, the Ministry of Education has implemented priority reforms, including the requirement to develop and publicly post a Student Achievement Plan focused on key indicators of achievement and wellbeing. This Student Achievement Plan replaces the former Board Improvement Plan. PPM 151 pertaining to Professional Activity Days was also updated, and a significant change through the reform is the requirement for increased transparency through public posting of detailed plans for each of the three mandatory Professional Activity Days. Furthermore, Bill 98 includes provisions for early reading, as outlined in PPM 168, which provides school boards with guidance on offering early reading screening and instruction for young learners. It also addresses student mental health through PPM 169, emphasizing consistent approaches across school boards and clarifying key roles and responsibilities in this regard. Another important aspect of Bill 98 is PPM 132, which pertains to PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition) at the secondary level. This provision aims to streamline the process for recognizing prior learning experiences. A significant change in this area is the ability for students to earn up to 30 secondary school credits if they have completed a Certificate of Apprenticeship. Senior Staff also highlighted that PPM 124, which outlines requirements for Community Involvement Graduation Hours has been updated to reflect the already existing practice that students can begin earning hours the summer after grade 8. A further update was the addition of the requirement for schools to have a particular focus regarding the needs of students with disabilities and/or special education needs in their plans of support for the completion of the mandatory requirement.

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

Special Board Meeting – Closed Session Report – July 27, 2023

Chairperson S. Humphries, Chairperson of Committee of the Whole for the Special Board Meeting, presented the Closed Session Report of Committee of the Whole from the July 27, 2023 Special Board Meeting.

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES, seconded by D. Kaiser that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Closed Session Report of the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 27, 2023.

The motion was CARRIED

Committee of the Whole Closed Session Report – August 29, 2023

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

Committee of the Whole Open Session Report – August 29, 2023

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 D. Dobson that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Open 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 June 21, 2023.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by B. Morris that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on June 21, 2023.

The motion was CARRIED

10. **EXTEND MEETING TIME**

In accordance of Policy 9 – *Board Operations*:

MOVED BY C. RUDDY, seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board extend the adjournment of today's Board Meeting past 6:00 PM.

The motion was CARRIED

11. **UPDATES****(a) Director**

None to report.

(b) Chair

Board Chairperson S. Humphries presented her Chair's Report. See Appendix "A".

(c) Student Trustees

Student Trustees A. Beggs & G. Ding presented their Student Trustees Report. See Appendix "B".

(d) OPSBA

Chairperson S. Humphries informed Trustees that OPSBA is offering free governance lunchtime learning sessions for Trustees. These sessions will be offered virtually. There are three sessions scheduled, one each in September, October, and November. Additionally, there is a professional development opportunity provided through Osgoode Professional Development specifically addressing hate activity within school boards. Lastly, Chair Humphries encouraged Trustees to mark their calendars for OPSBA's Public Education Symposium (PES), scheduled to take place from January 25-27, 2024.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairperson S. Humphries referenced a copy of the email received from the Toronto Youth Cabinet.

MOVED BY B. MORRIS, seconded by D. Dobson:

THAT the Board of Trustees draft a letter of support, which will be subject to final review at the next Board Meeting.

The motion was CARRIED.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None to report.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of August 29, 2023 be adjourned. Time: 6:10 PM

The motion was CARRIED

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
CLOSED SESSION REPORT
July 27, 2023**

TRUSTEES: L. Boland; S. Humphries; D. Dobson; K. Dougherty(virtual); M. Guenette; D. Kaiser; J. Primeau(virtual);

TRUSTEES: C. Ruddy, B. Morris
(Regrets)

STAFF: P. Buffone, J. Barnes (for Legal Matter agenda item only)

STAFF: Senior staff were excused
(Regrets)

Senior staff and student trustees were excused for the Special Board Meeting Closed Session. Only the Board of Trustees and the Director of Education were in attendance. J. Barnes was in attendance for the Legal Matter discussion.

The Special Board meeting of the Renfrew County District School Board met on July 27, 2023 and discussed the following items in Closed Session:

- 1 Legal Matter
- 2 Other Business

Legal Matter

THAT the Renfrew County District School board adopts the motion presented in Closed Session on July 27, 2023 regarding a Legal Matter.

I move that the Board adopts this report.

Leo Boland
Vice Chair

ADOPTED - August 29, 2023

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CLOSED SESSION REPORT
August 29, 2023**

TRUSTEES: L. Boland (Chair); S. Humphries; D. Dobson; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; D. Kaiser;
B. Morris; J. Primeau; C. Ruddy

TRUSTEES:
(Regrets)

STAFF: M. Caplan Jamieson

STAFF:
(Regrets)

Senior staff and student trustees were excused from attending Committee of the Whole Closed Session. Only the Board of Trustees and the Executive Officer of Public Affairs were in attendance.

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on August 29, 2023 and discussed the following item in Closed Session:

- 1 Overview and Update of the Process for Selecting the Interim Director of Education.

The following recommendation was made:

Overview and Update of the Process for Selecting the Interim Director of Education

THAT the RCDSB Board of Directors hereby gives authority to Renald Cousineau to assume the responsibility of Interim Director of Education of the RCDSB, for the purpose of risk management and signing authority of time sensitive matters, until an Interim Director of Education is hired and commences.

I move that the Board adopts this report.

Leo Boland
Vice Chair

ADOPTD - August 29, 2023

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OPEN SESSION REPORT
August 29, 2023**

TRUSTEES: (Present)	L. Boland (Chair); S. Humphries; K. Dougherty; D. Dobson; M. Guenette; D. Kaiser; B. Morris; J. Primeau; C. Ruddy; A. Beggs (Student Trustee)
TRUSTEES: (Regrets)	
STAFF: (Present)	J. Barnes (Director of Education Delegate); J. Poirier; R. Cousineau; J. Smith; K. Riddell; M. Caplan Jamieson; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan
GUEST:	G. Ding

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on August 29, 2023 and discussed the following items in Open Session:

1. RCDSB Communications and Public Affairs Strategic Plan for 2023-24;
2. Update on Review of Adult & Continuing Education;
3. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Feedback; was postponed to September 26th, 2023
4. Electronic Meetings & Meeting Attendance - Policy 25 (Proposed).

The following recommendation was made:

Electronic Meetings & Meeting Attendance – Policy 25 (Proposed)

THAT the RCDSB Board of Trustees approve and adopt Policy 25 – *Electronic Meetings & Meeting Attendance* – in compliance and as directed by the Ministry of Education per the Ontario Education Act.

I move that the Board adopts this report.

Leo Boland
Chairperson

ADOPTED - August 29, 2023



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Open Session: x

Closed Session:

REPORT TO BOARD

June 21, 2023

PRESENT: Committee Members: M. Guenette, B. Morris, S. Tait, N. Tabbert, A. MacKenzie, A. Derochers, C. Brash, L. Rigby, S. Smith, M. Wagner

ADMINISTRATION: A. McGregor, A. MacDougall-Popke, J. Smith, A. Hilts

GUESTS:

ABSENT: (With Regrets) D. Lacombe

The Special Education Advisory Committee met in person and virtually on Wednesday June 21, 2023 and discussed the following

1. Staff Updates
2. Report from the Board
3. Association Reports

The following recommendation was made:

Staff Updates: Review of Special Education Plan

That the Renfrew County District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee approves recommendations to update the Special Education Plan.

Amy MacKenzie,
Chairperson

ADOPTED - August 29, 2023



**Board Meeting
Chair's Update - Susan Humphries
29 August 2023**

Welcome back! It is hard to believe how quickly the summer has passed but thankfully we did not have some of the weather related issues and fires that many areas of Ontario and Canada have experienced.

As you might expect it has been a busy number of weeks as we needed to move forward quickly to replace our past Director of Education, Dr. Pino Buffone, who is taking on a new challenge at the Ottawa Carleton District School Board.

Our ad hoc committee (including Vice Chair Boland, Past Chair Morris and me) quickly began a process of hiring an Interim Director. Although this has not yet been completed formally, we are planning to announce this position over the next 2 weeks...so stay tuned.

As well we began the process of hiring an executive search firm to assist us with finding the right candidate for the permanent position of Director of Education. Promeus Inc will be reaching out to a variety of stakeholders within the next few weeks to gather input on what we/you feel are the key requirements for filling this position successfully. I encourage everyone to participate as much as possible. This position is critical to ensure we remain focused on the best interests of our students, staff and Board.

As the Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) Eastern Regional Chair, I had the opportunity last week to attend a strategic planning session looking ahead to OPSBA's plans for the upcoming year- it looks like it will be very busy! More details will be shared with the Board following the Board of Directors meeting on Sept 22/23rd.

The grand opening of the child care centre (Bamoonzhe Day Care) at Herman St Public School was held earlier this week with Vice Chair Boland and Past Chair Morris attending. I had an opportunity to tour the facility in May and I know it will provide much needed day care services to the community of Petawawa.

Thank you to the Principals and Vice Principals for inviting the trustees to join them for the first part of their meeting yesterday. This is a great opportunity to meet the important leadership of our schools. It was nice to hear the positive buzz in the room in anticipation of a new school year.

And finally sincere thanks to the members of our Senior Executive Team for covering as Director Designate for the summer months and until our new Interim Director joins us.

Wishing everyone - students, staff, parents and families, a very successful school year ahead!



Student Trustees' Report for Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Report Prepared By:

Ava Beggs and Grace Ding

I speak on behalf of myself and Grace when I say that we are so excited to be serving as your 2023-24 Student Trustees! This term we are hoping to continue advocating for the students of Renfrew County as well as focus on some of our own passions at Senate level.

Speaking of the Senate, Grace and I have been brainstorming about different concepts and events to pitch to our group of students. Some of these ideas include, having guest speakers, running more equity initiatives, being more active on social media, and connecting with students across the board!

As many of you know, I am now officially the Chair of Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity for OSTA-AECO. In July I traveled to Toronto for a weekend of vision planning with the team. I am beyond grateful and excited to have the opportunity to sit in this position and I will make sure to keep the board updated on my projects throughout the year!

For anyone who I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, my name is Grace, and I am the newly elected student trustee. I am incredibly thrilled to be starting my term both in the RCDSB and in OSTA-AECO, where I will serve as a Public Education cabinet member. Throughout my term as a student trustee, I plan to focus on equity, equality, and student mental wellbeing. I am extremely excited to work with the school board and if you would like to, please feel free to chat with me after this meeting!

I hope everyone here had a relaxing and restful Summer! Let's make this year amazing.