

**RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

**at 4:00 PM**

***Chairperson S. Humphries in the Chair.***

**TRUSTEES Present:** L. Boland; D. Dobson (departed early); K. Dougherty; D. Kaiser; J. Primeau (departed early); K. Rajamani; C. Ruddy; G. Ding & S. Dougherty (Student Trustees)

**TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret):** M. Guenette

**STAFF:** K. Niemi; J. Barnes; J. Poirier; J. Smith; C. Kronwald; S. Nichol; S. McIntyre; C. Bunn

**STAFF Absent (With Regret):**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson S. Humphries called the meeting to order.

**2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Trustee D. Dobson read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**3. INVOCATION**

The invocation was read by Trustee K. Dougherty.

**4. ATTENDANCE**

Attendance for today's meeting was recorded.

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOVED by D. DOBSON seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board approves the agenda for today's meeting.**

**The motion was CARRIED.**

**6. OATH OF OFFICE FOR STUDENT TRUSTEE DECLARATION**

Chairperson S. Humphries introduced Sydney Dougherty – our incoming Student Trustee from Arnprior & District High School. Ms. Dougherty will be serving a two-year term from 2024 to 2026. Student Trustee Dougherty officially assumed her role by taking the Oath of Office for Student Trustees and signing the Student Trustee Code of Conduct Attestation. Chairperson Humphries extended a warm welcome to Sydney as she begins her responsibilities. Her involvement marks an exciting new chapter for her student leadership on the Board. The Board of Trustees look forward to the unique perspectives and contributions she will bring throughout her term.

**7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Chairperson S. Humphries asked for declarations of conflict. Vice-Chair L. Boland reiterated, as he customarily does at the first Board Meeting of each school year, that he serves on the Boards for the Children's Garden Nurse School and The Phoenix Centre for Children and Families.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED D. KAISER** seconded by **C. Ruddy** that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Board meetings on June 18, 2024, July 9, 2024 (Special – Closed), August 8, 2024 (Special – Closed), August 29, 2024 (Special – Closed) and September 4, 2024 (Special – Closed).

The motion was **CARRIED**.

9. **PRESENTATION – STRATEGIC PLAN END-OF-YEAR UPDATE FOR 2023-24**

Director of Education K. Niemi along with Senior Staff presented the [Strategic Plan End-of-Year Update for 2023-24](#).

10. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

11. **STAFF REPORTS TO THE BOARD****Summer Capital Projects**

B. Murray, Facilities Manager, provided an overview of the Summer Capital Projects that were undertaken in our school buildings over the summer months. These projects are designed to enhance the overall learning environment, with a focus on improving both the student and staff experience. The decision-making process for selecting projects follows a "safe, warm, and dry" approach, prioritizing essential upgrades to create a welcoming space for all. Roofing work is a consistent focus during the summer. This summer, at least two flag poles now are installed at each site, with the Board Administration Office having three. Accessibility projects are also a priority, with an increasing number being completed each year. Other significant improvements included replacing gym floors with vinyl flooring at select schools and upgrading classrooms to better support learning.

**Draft Board Work Plan 2024-25**

K. Niemi, Director of Education, presented a [report](#) and the [draft Board Work Plan for 2024-25](#)

**MOVED by K. RAJAMANI** seconded by **K. Dougherty** THAT the Renfrew County Board of Trustees approve the Board Work Plan for the 2024-2025 School Year.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

**Transportation Update**

K. Niemi, Director of Education provided an [update](#) on Transportation.

**MOVED by L. BOLAND** seconded by **K. Rajamani** THAT the Renfrew County DSB write a joint letter with the Renfrew County Catholic DSB to MPP John Yakabuski.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

12. **COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

**MOVED by L. BOLAND** seconded by **K. Dougherty** that the Renfrew County District School Board move into Closed Session.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

**Audit Committee**

Vice-Chairperson L. Boland, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, presented the Closed Session Report of the Audit Committee meeting held on September 11, 2024.

**MOVED by L. BOLAND**, seconded by **K. Rajamani** that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Closed Session Report of the Audit Committee meeting held on September 11, 2024.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

**MOVED by L. BOLAND seconded by K. Rajamani that the Renfrew County District School Board move out of Closed Session.**

The motion was CARRIED.

**Audit Committee**

Vice-Chairperson L. Boland, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, presented the [Open Session Report](#) of the Audit Committee meeting held on September 11, 2024.

**MOVED by L. BOLAND, seconded by K. Rajamani that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Open Session Report of the Audit Committee meeting held on September 11, 2024.**

The motion was CARRIED.

**Special Education Advisory Committee**

Trustee K. Rajamani presented the [Open Session Report](#) of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on June 19, 2024.

**MOVED by K. RAJAMANI, seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on June 19, 2024.**

The motion was CARRIED.

**Program & Student Achievement Committee**

Vice-Chair L. Boland presented the [Open Session Report](#) of the Program & Student Achievement Committee meeting held on September 10, 2024.

**MOVED by L. BOLAND, seconded by C. Ruddy that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Open Session Report of the Program & Student Achievement Committee meeting held on September 10, 2024.**

The motion was CARRIED.

**Finance & Resources Committee**

Trustee C. Ruddy, Acting Chairperson of the Finance and Resources Committee, presented the [Open Session Report](#) of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on September 10, 2024.

**MOVED by C. RUDDY, seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on September 10, 2024.**

The motion was CARRIED.

**MOVED by K. RAJAMANI seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board move into Closed Session.**

The motion was CARRIED.

**Finance & Resources Committee**

Trustee C. Ruddy, Acting Chairperson of the Finance and Resources Committee, presented the Closed Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on September 10, 2024.

**MOVED by C. RUDDY, seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Closed Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on September 10, 2024.**

**The motion was CARRIED.**

**MOVED by L. BOLAND seconded by K. Rajamani that the Renfrew County District School Board move out of Closed Session.**

**The motion was CARRIED.**

13. **UPDATES**

**Chair:** Chairperson S. Humphries presented her [Chair's Report](#).

**Student Trustees:** Student Trustee G. Ding presented the [Student Trustees Report](#).

14. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairperson S. Humphries referenced the following correspondence:

[Letter from TDSB to Ontario College of Teachers – Request for Update on Professional Advisories](#)  
[Letter from TCDSB to Board Chairs - Bill 98](#)

**MOVED BY K. Rajamani seconded by K. Dougherty THAT the Renfrew County District School Board draft a letter to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) encouraging them to challenge Bill 98.**

**The motion was CARRIED.**

[Level Up! Skilled Trades Career Fairs](#)

[Memo from Minister of Sport & Minister of Education – Concussion Safety & Rowan's Law Day](#)

15. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairperson S. Humphries stated that Orange Shirt Day is on September 30<sup>th</sup> to honor the survivors of residential schools and remember the Indigenous children who never returned home. It symbolizes the ongoing impact of these schools on Indigenous communities in Canada. Wearing an orange shirt represents solidarity and the commitment to reconciliation and healing.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES seconded by L. Boland that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of September 24, 2024 be adjourned. Time: 6:32 PM**

**The motion was CARRIED.**