

**RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2023**  
**at 4:15 PM**

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

**TRUSTEES Present:** L. Boland; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; D. Kaiser (departed 4:50 PM); C. Ruddy; A. Beggs (Student Trustee)

**TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret):** D. Dobson; B. Morris; J. Primeau; G. Ding (Student Trustee)

**TRUSTEES Absent (Without Notice):**

**STAFF Present:** E. Kelly; J. Barnes; J. Poirier; J. Smith; K. Riddell; M. Caplan Jamieson; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan

**STAFF Absent (With Regret)** R. Cousineau

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson S. Humphries called the meeting to order.

**2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Trustee K. Dougherty read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**3. INVOCATION**

The invocation was read by Trustee M. Guenette.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED BY K. DOUGHERTY seconded by D. Kaiser 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 K. DOUGHERTY seconded by M. Guenette that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Board Meeting on September 26, 2023.

**The motion was CARRIED**

**7. PRESENTATION – Truth & Reconciliation Week at RCDSB**

Executive Officer of Public Affairs, M. Caplan Jamieson, introduced key members of the Indigenous Education Team, including Vice-Principal for Indigenous Education Tina Nelson, Indigenous Graduation Coaches Josee Bourgeois, Trevor Pearce, and Logan Wright, as well as Instructional Coach for Indigenous Education Amy Charbonneau. Schools across the district commemorated the Truth and Reconciliation Week between September 25-29th. The Indigenous Education Team recapped some of the learning opportunities, special presentations,

ceremonies and community engagements that took place. One event involved a virtual dialogue with Indigenous Senators from the Senate of Canada, attracting the engagement of approximately 1600 students. Additional events included: hands-on traditional food harvesting in a foods class at RCI; an Orange Shirt Assembly at Opeongo HS and Herman Street PS; and FHS assemblies featuring smudging, and two presentations. These initiatives aimed to foster learning, awareness, and community engagement in support of Truth and Reconciliation.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD

### **Committee of the Whole Open Session Report – October 24, 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 K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Open Session Report of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

**The motion was CARRIED**

### **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 October 10, 2023.

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 October 10, 2023.

**The motion was CARRIED**

### **Equity & Inclusion Committee**

Board Chairperson S. Humphries, Acting Chairperson of the Equity and Inclusion Committee, presented the Open Session Report of the Equity & Inclusion Committee meeting held on October 10, 2023.

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES seconded by M. Guenette that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting held on October 10, 2023.

**The motion was CARRIED**

### **Special Education Advisory Committee**

Trustee M. Guenette presented the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on October 18, 2023.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on October 18, 2023.

**The motion was CARRIED**

### **Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC)**

Trustee K. Dougherty provided a summary of the Indigenous Education Advisory Council meeting held on October 19, 2023. They discussed the valuable work carried out by graduation coaches in schools, the Truth and Reconciliation Week, and the launch of an Indigenous Education website that offers excellent resources. Trustee Dougherty also referenced the challenges faced in Indigenous Education and announced the observance of Indigenous Veterans Day on November 8th. There was a discussion about creating an Administrative Procedure to enable smudging in schools and the importance of establishing cultural spaces within the schools.

MOVED BY K. DOUGHERTY, seconded by L. Boland that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Indigenous Education Advisory Council meeting held on October 19, 2023.

**The motion was CARRIED**

9. **UPDATES**

**(a) Director**

Interim Director of Education E. Kelly presented her Director's Report. See Appendix "A".

**(b) Chair**

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

**(c) Student Trustees**

Student Trustee A. Beggs presented the Student Trustees Report. See Appendix "C".

**(d) OPSBA**

Chairperson S. Humphries and Trustee K. Dougherty stated that OPSBA's Board of Directors is scheduled to convene on November 26th, followed by Advocacy Day on November 27th. In addition, OPSBA's Eastern Regional Meeting is set to take place in Gananoque on November 4th, providing a valuable opportunity for the five area School Boards to engage in informative and collaborative discussions.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None to report.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None to report.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES seconded by L. Boland that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of October 24, 2023 be adjourned. Time: 5:15 PM

**The motion was CARRIED**

## RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
OPEN SESSION REPORT  
October 24, 2023**

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

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on October 24, 2023 and discussed the following items in Open Session:

**1. Annual Action Plan for Mental Health & Wellness.**

**The following motion was adopted. Moved by David Kaiser and seconded by Mike Guenette:**

**WHEREAS the Ministry of Education requires that the RCDSB develop and implement a three-year mental health and addiction strategy,**

**AND WHEREAS a revised strategy is required for the cycle beginning in this school year,**

**Be it resolved THAT the Board of Trustees approve the RCDSB 2023-2026 multi-year strategic plan for mental health and well-being as presented in this report.**

2. Trustee Honorarium, presented by SO Jennifer Barnes
3. Staffing & Enrolment 2023-2024 presented by SO Jacqueline Poirier
4. Math Action Plan, verbal update by SO Kristin Riddell
5. 2022-2023 EQAO Achievement Data presented by SO Jenny Smith
6. Student Support Fund Verbal Update, presented by EO Meredith Caplan Jamieson
7. Highview PS' 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, presented by Vice-Chair Leo Boland
8. Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Day, presented by Vice-Chair Leo Boland

I move that the Board adopts this report.

Leo Boland  
Chairperson

ADOPTED - October 24, 2023



## PROGRAM AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

Open Session: \_\_\_\_\_

Closed Session: \_\_\_\_\_

### REPORT TO BOARD

**October 10, 2023**

**PRESENT:**

Committee Members:	M. Guenette (Chair), D. Dobson, K. Dougherty, B. Morris, C. Ruddy (virtual), J. Primeau (virtual), A. Beggs (Student Trustee - virtual)
Administration:	E. Kelly, R. Cousineau, J. Poirier, J. Barnes, K. Riddell, J. Smith, C. Bunn (left early), M. Caplan-Jamieson, A. Garcia
Guests:	K. Recoskie, S. Gagne, J. Sloane

**ABSENT:** (With Regrets) D. Kaiser, L. Boland, G. Ding (Student Trustee)

The Program and Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 to discuss the following item(s):

1. OPSBA's Strategies for FSL Teacher Recruitment - Report

The following recommendations were made:

1. THAT the Renfrew County District School Board accept the FSL Teacher Recruitment Report as presented.

M. Guenette  
Chairperson

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ADOPTED - October 24, 2023



## EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Open Session:   X  

Closed Session: \_\_\_\_\_

### REPORT TO BOARD

**October 10, 2023**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Committee Members:	S. Humphries (Acting Chair), B. Morris, M. Guenette, K. Dougherty, J. Primeau (late), D. Dobson, C. Ruddy (virtual), A. Beggs (Student Trustee)
	Administration:	E. Kelly, R. Cousineau, J. Barnes, K. Riddell, J. Smith, J. Poirier, M. Caplan-Jamieson, A. Garcia
	Guests:	S. Gagne, K. Recoskie, J. Sloane
<b>ABSENT:</b>	(With Regrets)	D. Kaiser (Chair), L. Boland, G. Ding (Student Trustee)

The Equity & Inclusion Committee met on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 to discuss the following item(s):

1. Equity Annual Action Plan - Report
2. Parent Involvement Committee – Report

It was decided to defer the Equity Annual Action Plan until the November 2023 committee meeting.

No recommendations were made.

S. Humphries  
Acting Chair

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ADOPTED - October 24, 2023



## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Open Session: x

Closed Session:

### REPORT TO BOARD

October 18, 2023

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: M. Guenette, S. Tait, A. MacKenzie, A. Derochers,  
D. Lacombe, C. Brash, L. Rigby, M. Wagner, J. Francis,  
S. Ward

**ADMINISTRATION:** J. Smith, A. McGregor, S. Smith, A. Hilts

**GUESTS:** J. Barnes, T. Hoffman

**ABSENT:** (With Regrets) B. Morris, N. Tabbert

The Special Education Advisory Committee met in person and virtually on Wednesday October 18, 2023 and discussed the following:

1. Staff Updates - Special Education Budget
2. Report from the Board
3. Association Reports

No recommendations were made.

Amy MacKenzie,  
Chairperson

ADOPTED - October 24, 2023



**Board Meeting**  
**Interim Director's Update - Erin Kelly**  
**October 24, 2023**

Renfrew County District School Board continues to impress me.

**Hannah Beach Information Session - September 27, 2023**

Hannah Beach, an award-winning educator, author, emotional health consultant, and keynote speaker, spoke at our monthly Senior Administration meeting on "The Emotional Roots of Aggression and Anxiety: Supporting Change and Building Resilient Kids" Hannah offered a profound exploration of the underlying emotional factors contributing to aggression and anxiety in children. Her insights and strategies provided a valuable resource for fostering resilience and positive change in young minds. An event for parents, staff and Trustees followed later that evening at Festival Hall.

**Q&A Session with Indigenous Canadian Senators - September 28, 2023**

On September 28th, at Valour JK-12 School, I enjoyed attending a virtual Q&A session, wherein RCDSB intermediary and secondary students from across the District engaged with Indigenous Senators Michele Audette, Margaret Dawn Anderson, and Judy White from the Senate of Canada. The event was organized by the Directors' Office and Indigenous Education team, Tina Nelson and Amy Charbonneau together with former RCDSB student Eliza Moritz who now works at the Senate of Canada. The session was moderated by Trustee Christina Ruddy and Fellowes High School student Kaitlyn Cliche-Wagner with support from the Indigenous Education Team. This event provided RCDSB students with a unique opportunity to listen and ask questions on topics ranging from the Indigenous Senators backgrounds, responsibilities and their thoughts on Truth and Reconciliation in Canada.

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting - October 16, 2023**

The Parent Involvement Committee met on October 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a pleasure to meet parents from across the District and hear their ideas about what they would like to learn about and work on this year. Chair Danya Pastuszek provided a wonderful welcome to parents who attended both virtually and in person. Thank you to Peter Burnett and Oliver Gallery who shared the details and potential outcomes of the entrepreneurial project, "Entrepreneurs for Change Initiative", that includes opportunities for both our elementary and secondary students to think about financial literacy, marketing, social responsibility and more. In addition, information was shared about feedback that came from last year's ThoughtExchange survey reflecting what parents would like to know about. This survey shared with trustees will be very useful in guiding the work of the Parent Involvement Committee. We also heard some thoughtful reflections regarding parent engagement from Trustee Jodie Primeau.

**Student Senate Meeting - October 17, 2023**

The Board Office sounds better when our students are present and it was wonderful to hear the enthusiasm of our Student Senate chaired by our student trustees earlier this week. Thank you for the leadership of our articulate and enthusiastic student trustees – Ava Beggs and Grace Ding.

**School Visits - October 18, 2023**

I had the pleasure of visiting schools in Arnprior – both Arnprior District High School and Walter Zadow Public School – lovely buildings with great energy from both students and staff. While there, a group met to discuss potential future opportunities for student exchanges in France.

**Aspiring Administrators' Dinner - October 19, 2023**

I appreciated the chance to interact with aspiring leaders at Opeongo High School for the "Aspiring Administrators' Dinner". We look forward to welcoming new leaders in the system and to supporting them in their growth.





**Board Meeting  
Chair's Update - Susan Humphries  
24 October 2023**

**RCI/RCIS Honours Luncheon:**

It was a pleasure to once again attend the Honours Luncheon where students in Grade 7, 9, 10 and 11 are officially recognized for their hard work and commitment to learning. RCI recognizes three categories of honours – Gold (6 courses at level 4), Silver (5 courses at level 4) and Bronze (4 courses at level 4) medallions. In Grade 7 marks are averaged in each of the 8 subject areas. There was a total of 91 medallions presented.

The Renfrew County District School Board recognizes the top scholars in each of the grades 9-12. 38 medallions were presented at this event (the Grade 12 students received their medallions in June).

As well, the Renfrew Lions Club acknowledges outstanding achievement to a student with the highest average in each of Grade 9 and 10 by presenting the Arthur H. Cuff Memorial Award. A plaque, \$100.00 and their name engraved on a school plaque. The recipients this year were Neel Patel (Grade 9) and Savannah Church (Grade 10). This event was originally organized by Ms. Jan Wilson, a VP at RCI who strongly felt that it was important to recognize the hard work and dedication demonstrated at all grades (not just at Grade 8 and Grade 12). Ms. Wilson's legacy continues as this event has been held for over 25 years. It is wonderful to see the support by parents and guardians who attend- there were over 200 attending this lunch time event! A light lunch is provided and much appreciated by all in attendance. Congratulations to the staff at RCI who continue this tradition especially Megan Lester - thank you!

**Local government week October 16-20 (and all year long!):**

Each year Ontario promotes a local government week- a time for all Ontarians to learn about and recognize their local municipal and school board leaders who are working hard to make their communities a better place to live, play and go to school. School board trustees are the oldest form of elected representation in Ontario and since 1807, trustees have made decisions on behalf of local, publicly funded schools, building the foundation of our system today. I would encourage educators at the Grade 10 (Civics) and Grade 5 levels to invite their local school board trustee along with their local municipal councillor/mayor to speak to their classes about these important elected roles. And although last week was local government week, I am sure that trustees and councillors would be happy to join a class anytime during the school year.

**Student Senate:**

What a pleasure to attend the first Student Senate meeting of the year! These strong students who are providing leadership at each of their schools are energetic, enthusiastic, thoughtful and inspiring. Trustee Dobson and I have the unique opportunity to listen to their discussions about what is important to the secondary students in Renfrew County. This dialogue along with the valuable input of Student Trustees Beggs and Ding helps our Board of Trustees make the best decisions we can always putting students first. Thank you to each member of the Student Senate for their dedication to providing students with the best experiences possible during their secondary school career.



## **Student Trustees' Report for Tuesday, October 24, 2023**

### **Report Prepared By:**

**Ava Beggs and Grace Ding**

Last week has been incredibly exciting for us! On Tuesday, we had our first Student Senate meeting of the year. After discussion and brainstorming with our Student Senators, we decided our key pillars this year will be equity, environmental sustainability, and student experience. Senators also had the pleasure of speaking to Bill Murray and Superintendent Riddell about eco-sustainability in our schools.

Later in the week, Ava and I attended OSTA-AECO's Fall General Meeting; this was my first conference with OSTA-AECO, so I was incredibly excited. At the conference, I co-ran an Eastern Regional breakout room, where I spoke with Catholic and public school board student trustees about their goals for the year, issues in their school boards, and advice for other student trustees. I also attended workshops on topics like public speaking, student trustee rights, Indigenous education, and social media campaigning. Overall, I gained a lot of knowledge about my role, which I look forward to using throughout my term!

Adding on to what Grace was mentioning, our first Senate meeting of this school year was very successful! We have an excellent group made of students who are ready to get to work!

During the FGM conference I had the opportunity to speak for two 45-minute sessions. My first session was going over my goals for this year and the second focused on issues within school boards. We are very grateful for being able to attend this conference.