

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON APRIL 23, 2024

at 2:00 PM

Chairperson S. Humphries in the Chair.

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

TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret): M. Guenette; A. Beggs (Student Trustee)

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

STAFF Absent (With Regret): M. Caplan Jamieson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. Humphries called the meeting to order.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Vice-Chair L. Boland read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

3. INVOCATION

The invocation was read by Trustee D. Dobson.

4. ATTENDANCE

Attendance for today's meeting was recorded.

5. APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

MOVED BY K. RAJAMANI seconded by D. Dobson that the Renfrew County District School Board approves the amended agenda for today's meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED K. DOUGHERTY seconded by D. Dobson that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the [March 26, 2024](#) Board Meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

8. PRESENTATION – Entrepreneurs for Change - An Experiential Learning Opportunity

Superintendent of Education R. Cousineau welcomed Peter Burnette (Principal Lead of Experiential Learning), Mike Fitzmaurice, Mike Brohart and Caitlin Delahunt (TELT-Cs), Jennifer Spitznagel (Grade 7/8 Teacher – Champlain Discovery PS) and students from Champlain Discovery PS: Ash Ellsworth, Aaron Leduc-Smith, Liam Donnelly and Falon Frandsen.

Students were given an opportunity to explore challenges and needs in their local communities and create social enterprises to raise funds in support of that identified need. Ash, Aaron, Liam, and Falon shared what they

learned from their experiences. They reached out to local charities to form the partnership, they brainstormed ideas about possible ventures, made a pitch for seed money, created products, generated sales, fulfilled orders and in the end, made a difference for their charities. Students demonstrated Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurship, Creativity, Collaboration and Innovation and played a key role in their own learning.

9. STAFF REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Entrepreneurs for Change - An Experiential Learning Opportunity - [Report](#)

Superintendent of Education R. Cousineau explained that over the past three years, RCDSB students and staff have embraced the role of Difference Makers, fostering community engagement and honing essential skills in literacy, numeracy, and global competencies. This year, the successful initiative evolved into Entrepreneurs for Change, empowering students to develop entrepreneurial and financial literacy skills while addressing local needs aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative coincided with updates to language curriculums, emphasizing transferable skills like critical thinking, communication, and entrepreneurship, enabling students to take ownership of their learning journey. A highlight of the program will be a spring market event on May 10th, where student entrepreneurs will showcase their products, interact with local charities, and present proceeds, promising an enriching experience for all involved.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Finance & Resources Committee

Vice-Chairperson L. Boland, Chairperson of the Finance and Resources Committee, presented the [Open Session Report](#) of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on April 9, 2024.

MOVED BY L. BOLAND, seconded by K. RAJAMANI that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on April 9, 2024.

The motion was CARRIED

Program & Student Achievement Committee

Trustee K. Dougherty, Acting Chairperson of the Program & Student Achievement Committee, presented the [Open Session Report](#) of the Program & Student Achievement Committee meeting held on April 9, 2024.

MOVED BY K. DOUGHERTY, seconded by R. Rajamani that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Program & Student Achievement Committee meeting held on April 9, 2024.

The motion was CARRIED

Committee of the Whole Open Session Report

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 adopts the Open Session Report of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

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 April 17, 2024.

MOVED BY K. RAJAMANI, seconded by D. Dobson that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on April 17, 2024.

The motion was CARRIED

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee K. Rajamani presented the [OPSBA Report](#).

MOVED BY K. DOUGHERTY, seconded by D. Dobson that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) report.

The motion was CARRIED

Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Vice-Chair L. Boland provided a summary of the Indigenous Education Advisory Council meeting held on April 18, 2024. Vice-Chair Boland stated that the Smudging Administrative Procedure is nearly finalized. A revision has been made to the exam schedule ensuring no exams will be held on June 21, National Indigenous Day. An Indigenous speaker series, in partnership with other boards, is underway. The Committee discussed setting up the April 23rd Pow Wow at Opeongo, crafting the student achievement plan, updating partnerships related to mental health, hosting student voice forums, and developing cultural spaces within school sites.

MOVED BY L. BOLAND, seconded by K. Rajamani that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Indigenous Education Advisory Council meeting held on April 18, 2024.

The motion was CARRIED

11. **UPDATES**

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

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

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

12. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairperson S. Humphries received a [letter](#) from the Deputy Minister of Education in reply to our correspondence to the Minister of Education dated February 28, 2024, concerning Bill 98.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairperson S. Humphries announced that this Sunday, April 28th, commemorates the National Day of Mourning. In solidarity, flags at our school and administrative sites will be lowered as we honor the memory of those who have tragically lost their lives, endured injury or illness on the job, or faced work-related tragedies. Chair Humphries also gave a gentle reminder that there are three more sessions remaining in our Indigenous Speaker Series, scheduled for April 29th, May 9th, and May 22nd. All are welcome to attend. For further details and registration for each virtual session, please visit our website.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY K. RAJAMANI seconded by D. Kaiser that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of April 23, 2024 be adjourned. Time: 3:37 PM

The motion was CARRIED