

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON JUNE 18, 2024
at 2:33 PM

Chairperson S. Humphries in the Chair.

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

TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret):

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

STAFF Absent (With Regret):

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. 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. SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Presentation to 2022-2024 Student Trustee Ava Beggs

Student Trustee G. Ding and Executive Officer of Public Affairs M. Caplan Jamieson gave a [tribute](#) to outgoing Student Trustee A. Beggs. The Trustees also thanked Ava for her time and efforts, expressing that it had been a delight to have her at the board table. They conveyed their pride in her accomplishments at OSTA-AECO, noting that their student trustees excel at the provincial level. They wished her all the best in her future endeavors.

Superintendent Kristin Riddell

Chairperson S. Humphries announced that the Board of Trustees congratulates Superintendent Kristin Riddell on her recent appointment as Superintendent at Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. We extend our congratulations to Superintendent Riddell and wish her continued success in her new position.

Superintendent Renald Cousineau

The Director of Education, K. Niemi, announced that today is the last Board Meeting Superintendent Renald Cousineau will be joining us as he will be retiring from the RCDSB. Director Niemi thanked Renald for his years of service with the RCDSB and for his leadership in support of student learning. Trustees also extended their appreciation for his work with schools and the positive collaboration he always had with the Board. His leadership on the equity file has been particularly appreciated, as well as his contributions to safe schools and the IEAC Committee, where he developed valuable insights. Renald's knowledge and passion for his work have earned him the utmost respect across the District.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED M. GUENETTE seconded by K. Rajamani that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the [minutes](#) of the May 28, 2024 Board Meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

9. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director of Education K. Niemi presented her Director's Report, beginning with a warm welcome to the new Superintendent Cary Kronwald and extending best wishes to the retiring Superintendent Renald Cousineau and Superintendent Kristin Riddell who has accepted a superintendent position with the Ottawa-Carleton DSB. The Director thanked Student Trustee Ava Beggs for her leadership over the past two years and wished her all the best in her next educational journey.

Director Niemi highlighted the significance of June as Indigenous and Pride Month, recognizing the dedicated learning taking place. She acknowledged Principal of Equity, Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression Amy Johnson for her contributions to Pride Week activities and learning. Senior staff will be attending a mini-powwow at EDPS this week. Additionally, the Director stated that Superintendent Cousineau and Superintendent Kronwald visited and toured the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan earlier today.

Director Niemi noted that June is a highlight of the school year. Student celebrations, including Grade 6 celebrations, Grade 8, Grade 12 and Continuing Education graduations. We wish all students the very best!

10. **PRESENTATION – 2024-2025 Budget**

Superintendent J. Barnes and Manager of Finance T. Hoffman presented the [2024-2025 Budget](#).

Chairperson S. Humphries acknowledged the dedicated efforts of Superintendent J. Barnes, Manager of Finance T. Hoffman, and the Finance Department team. They are to be commended for their hard work throughout the preceding months in preparing the 2024-2025 budget.

11. **STAFF REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

None to report.

12. **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 June 11, 2024.

MOVED BY L. BOLAND, seconded by D. Dobson that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on June 11, 2024.

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 June 11, 2024.

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES seconded by K. Rajamani that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting held on June 11, 2024.

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 June 11, 2024.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Open Session Report of the Program & Student Achievement Committee meeting held on June 11, 2024.

The motion was CARRIED

Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

Trustee C. Ruddy provided a summary of the Indigenous Education Advisory Council meeting held on June 13, 2024. Trustee Ruddy stated that at the recent IEAC meeting, the committee discussed and reviewed the terms of reference, reflected on the past year's activities, and made plans for upcoming summer programming. Additionally, they began preparations for the next school year and received an update on the smudging administrative procedure. The meeting included a brainstorming session for drafting a letter to parents about smudging, a review of the district's action plans, and provided a valuable networking opportunity. The session concluded with a special celebration of retiring Superintendent Renald Cousineau.

MOVED BY C. RUDDY, seconded by M. Guenette that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Indigenous Education Advisory Council meeting held on June 13, 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 May 30, 2024.

MOVED BY K. RAJAMANI, seconded by M. Guenette that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on May 30, 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. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Open Session Report of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Chairperson S. Humphries stated that preparations are well underway for the AGM in Toronto, scheduled for the first week of July. OPSBA is actively getting ready for this significant event.

Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortia Update

Vice-Chairperson L. Boland stated that the RCJTC meeting took place on Wednesday, June 12th, where the year-to-date financials were reviewed. Additionally, RCJTC General Manager Bob White announced his retirement effective July 19th.

MOVED BY L. BOLAND, seconded by M. Guenette that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortia Update.

The motion was CARRIED

12. **UPDATES**

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

Student Trustees: Student Trustee G. Ding reported that they are finishing up this year's work with OSTA-ACO.

13. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None to report.

14. **OTHER BUSINESS**

2024-2025 Meeting Dates

Director of Education K. Niemi shared that Board Meeting dates are being finalizing for next year and they will be shared shortly. It is recommended that a Board Meeting not be scheduled in August due to staff summer vacations and the focus on school start-up.

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES, seconded by L. Boland that the first meeting of the Renfrew County District School Board will be in September 2024.

The motion was CARRIED

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES seconded by K. Rajamani that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of June 18, 2024 be adjourned. Time: 3:49 PM

The motion was CARRIED