

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2023

at 12:00 Noon

TRUSTEES Present: L. Boland; D. Dobson; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; S. Humphries; J. Primeau; C. Ruddy;

TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret): D. Kaiser; A. Beggs & G. Ding (Student Trustees)

STAFF: E. Kelly; J. Barnes; J. Poirier; R. Cousineau; J. Smith; K. Riddell; M. Caplan Jamieson; S. McIntyre

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order. Erin Kelly, Interim Director of Education and Secretary to the Board, chaired the meeting until the election of the Chairperson.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Territorial Acknowledgement was read by Interim Director of Education E. Kelly.

3. INVOCATION

The invocation was read by Interim Director of Education E. Kelly.

4. APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board approves the amended agenda for today's meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

5. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Interim Director of Education E. Kelly asked for declarations of conflict. None were forthcoming.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY L. BOLAND seconded by D. Dobson that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Board Meeting on October 24, 2023.

The motion was CARRIED

7. RECOGNITION OF THE LATE TRUSTEE BRYON MORRIS

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Trustee Bryon Morris, a devoted educator and long-time trustee, who recently passed away. The Board of Trustees and Staff spoke of Trustee Morris' unwavering dedication to education and his significant contributions to the Renfrew County District School Board. The moment of observation and reflections stands as a sincere tribute to Bryon's lasting influence on us all - a reminder of the profound impact he had on our lives and the enduring legacy he leaves behind. Condolences were extended to his wife, Jennifer, their children and grandchildren as they go through this difficult time of loss.

Letters received from the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and the Ottawa Catholic School Board were acknowledged extending their condolences on the passing of Trustee Morris.

8. **ELECTION – CHAIRPERSON**

The Interim Director of Education presided during the election of the Chairperson and asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Chairperson.

MOVED BY L. BOLAND, seconded by D. Dobson that Trustee Susan Humphries be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Board for the coming year.

Trustee Susan Humphries indicated that she was willing to serve as Chairperson of the Board.

The motion was CARRIED

Trustee Susan Humphries assumed her position as Chairperson of the Board.

ELECTION – VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Susan Humphries presided during the election of the Vice-Chairperson and asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice-Chairperson.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by D. Dobson that Trustee Leo Boland be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Board for the coming year.

Trustee Leo Boland indicated that he was willing to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

The motion was CARRIED

Trustee Leo Boland assumed his position of Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

9. **ELECTION – COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

The Board proceeded to set up the Committee Structure and agreed that all members of the Board would sit on the Finance & Resources Committee, Program & Student Achievement Committee, Equity & Inclusion Committee and the Committee of the Whole.

Trustees elected the Chairpersons of the following Standing Committees:

CHAIRPERSON – FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MOVED BY K. DOUGHERTY, seconded by C. Ruddy that Vice-Chairperson Leo Boland be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Finance & Resources Committee.

Vice-Chairperson Leo Boland indicated that he was willing to serve as Chairperson of the Finance & Resources Committee.

The motion was CARRIED

Vice-Chairperson Leo Boland was declared Chairperson of the Finance & Resources Committee.

CHAIRPERSON – PROGRAM & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

MOVED BY L. BOLAND, seconded by J. Primeau that Trustee Mike Guenette be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Program & Student Achievement Committee.

Trustee Mike Guenette indicated that he was willing to serve as Chairperson of the Program & Student Achievement Committee.

The motion was CARRIED

Trustee Mike Guenette was declared Chairperson of the Program & Student Achievement Committee.

CHAIRPERSON – EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

MOVED BY L BOLAND, seconded by M. Guenette that Trustee David Kaiser be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Equity & Inclusion Committee.

Trustee David Kaiser had previously confirmed, through the Board Chairperson, that he was willing to serve as Chairperson of the Equity & Inclusion Committee.

The motion was CARRIED

Trustee David Kaiser was declared Chairperson of the Equity & Inclusion Committee.

STATUTORY, STANDING AND OTHER COMMITTEES. Appendix "A"

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE seconded by L. Boland that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the Trustee membership on the following Committees: Audit, Parent Involvement Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, Supervised Alternative Learning, Discipline, Policy Review, Director's Review, Indigenous Education Advisory, Student Senate, School Year Calendar, Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium Board of Directors, and Ontario Public School Boards' Association: Director, Alternate Director, Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate.

The motion was CARRIED

10. **REPORTS TO THE BOARD FOR ACTION - SYSTEM****Signing Officer Resolution**

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board approves the Signing Officer Resolution as follows:

Whereas Renfrew County District School Board appoints signing officers each year,
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the signing officers for 2024 be:

- (i) The Chairperson of the Board, Susan Humphries
- (ii) A Pembroke Area Trustee, Leo Boland
- (iii) The Interim Director of Education, Erin Kelly
- (iv) The Superintendent of Business – Corporate Services, Jennifer Barnes

The motion was CARRIED

Borrowing Resolution

MOVED BY L. BOLAND, seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board approves the Borrowing Resolution as follows:

Whereas Renfrew County District School Board, 1270 Pembroke Street West, Pembroke, Ontario, deems it necessary to borrow funds not to exceed \$12,000,000 at any one time to meet, until revenues are collected, the current expenditures of the Board for 2024,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED as follows:

1. The signing officers are hereby authorized to borrow from the Bank of Montreal, Pembroke, Ontario, from time to time, a sum or sums not exceeding at any one time \$12,000,000 to meet, until revenues are collected, the current expenditures of the Board for 2024.
2. The signing officers are hereby authorized to sign on behalf of the Board and to secure with the Bank a line of credit for the sum or sums as borrowed with interest at such rate as the Bank from time to time may determine or as governed by an interest calculation agreement with the bank.
3. The Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to furnish to the said Bank as it may from time to time request a statement showing the nature and amount of the estimated revenues of the current year not yet

collected of the estimated revenues of the Board as set forth in the estimates adopted for the next preceding year and also showing the total of any amounts borrowed in the current year and in any preceding year, that have not been repaid.

4. All sums borrowed from the said Bank shall, with interest thereon, be a charge upon the whole or any part or parts of the revenues of the Board for the current year and for any preceding years, as and when such revenues are received.
5. The Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to apply in payment of all sums borrowed from the said Bank, with interest thereon, all of the money hereafter collected or received on account or realized in respect of revenues for the current year and for any preceding years.

The motion was CARRIED

11. **CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS**

Chairperson S. Humphries presented her Chairperson Address. Appendix "B".

12. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None to report.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY L. BOLAND seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board Organizational Meeting of November 15, 2023 be adjourned. Time: 12:58 PM

The motion was CARRIED

2024 Committees of the Board

STATUTORY COMMITTEES		ADMINISTRATION
Audit (3)	1. Chair of Finance & Resources: Leo Boland 2. Susan Humphries 3. Mike Guenette	Director of Education Jennifer Barnes Tammy Hoffman Dawn White
PIC (2) Parent Involvement Committee	1. David Kaiser 2. Jodie Primeau	Director of Education Meredith Caplan Jamieson
SEAC (4) Special Education Advisory Committee	1. Mike Guenette 2. Jodie Primeau Alternates: 1. Kim Dougherty 2. David Dobson	Jenny Smith Angela McGregor-Stewart Alicia Hilts
SAL (1) Student Alternative Learning	Trustee for the Family of Schools supporting the individual student	Renald Cousineau Jenny Smith Kristin Riddell
Discipline (3)	1. Chair of the Board: Susan Humphries 2. David Dobson 3. Jodie Primeau	Renald Cousineau Jenny Smith Kristin Riddell
STANDING COMMITTEE		
Finance & Resources	Chair: Leo Boland All Trustees	Administration Meredith Caplan Jamieson Dawn White Danielle Beauchamp
Program & Student Achievement	Chair: Mike Guenette All Trustees	Administration Meredith Caplan Jamieson Sharon McCafferty Aimee Garcia
Equity & Inclusion	Chair: David Kaiser All Trustees	Administration Meredith Caplan Jamieson Sharon McCafferty Aimee Garcia
Committee of the Whole	Chair: Vice Chair of the Board: Leo Boland All Trustees	Administration Meredith Caplan Jamieson Shelley McIntyre
Policy Review (4)	1. Chair of the Board: Susan Humphries 2. OPSBA Board Director: Kim Dougherty 3. David Kaiser 4. Christina Ruddy	Director of Education Meredith Caplan Jamieson
Director's Review (5)	1. Chair of the Board: Susan Humphries 2. Vice-Chair of the Board: Leo Boland 3. Chair of Program & Student Achievement: Mike Guenette 4. Past Chair 5. Director of Education	Director of Education Meredith Caplan Jamieson
IEAC (4) Indigenous Education Advisory Council	1. Indigenous Trustee: Christina Ruddy 2. Leo Boland 3. Kim Dougherty 4. Mike Guenette	Renald Cousineau Aimee Garcia
OTHER		
Student Senate (2)	1. Susan Humphries 2. David Dobson	Director of Education Meredith Caplan Jamieson Hannah MacMillan
School Year Calendar (1)	1. Jodie Primeau	Jenny Smith Alicia Hilts
OPSBA (4) Ontario Public School Board Association	1. Director: Kim Dougherty 2. Alternate Director: Leo Boland 3. Voting Delegate: Kim Dougherty 4. Alternate Voting Delegate: Susan Humphries	Director of Education Meredith Caplan Jamieson
RCJTC (2) Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium	1. Chair of Finance & Resources: Leo Boland 2. David Kaiser	Jennifer Barnes Dawn White
AD HOC (as needed)		



RCDSB Chairperson Susan Humphries November 15, 2023

Thank you to the Board of Trustees for re-electing me as your Chair. A special thank you to Trustee Boland for the nomination and Trustee Doherty for seconding my nomination and to the entire Board for your support and faith in my abilities.

This past year has been an interesting one with our DOE of 6 years Pino Buffone leaving for another position, losing a dedicated and long-term trustee Bryon Morris and at the same time welcoming and orienting 4 new trustees and an Interim DOE! This reminds us that we never know what is ahead and we need to be prepared for everything with a positive and cooperative attitude.

Our immediate work ahead is hiring a new DOE- this is the most important thing we do! And of course, we will also be welcoming a new trustee to fill our recent vacancy.

The next year will be interesting with many key areas that I know we will be focussing on. Be assured that there will be lots of conversations, discussions, information sharing and decisions to be made- exciting times!

Here are a few things that are top of mind for me:

- Continuing to deliver our French Immersion program across the District-there are a few schools where this needs some implementation.
- Receiving the report on our review of Continuing Education and Adult Education programming
- Focussing on our Math and literacy work
- Continuing to improve and expand our supports for Mental health for our students and staff
- Learning more about Diversity, equity and inclusion and how it impacts our District
- Continuing to work with our Indigenous partners to support our truth and reconciliation efforts
- Allowing our schools to renew their websites – the next step in our improvements to our social media presence. The communications team (Hannah and Connor) have helped us improve our public presence through all of our social media platforms.
- Delivering consistent programming across the district- a tremendous challenge but we have a plan to deliver a truly bilingual program for students no matter where they live
- Managing our ongoing issues around transportation of students to our schools
- Increasing the Public confidence in our work through transparency and wise use of resources
- and of course, continuing to follow our current strategic plan which keeps us focused on our vision, mission and goals at all times.,

I have also been fortunate to be one your representatives at the Ontario Public School Board Association. Being part of the provincial group allows us to discuss our good news stories as well as our issues and concerns with other Boards across the province. OPSBA has become a strong advisory group to the Ministry of Education - which can only be a benefit as we continue to find common ground to work closely with Minister Lecce.

A few comments about our Board of Trustees- we have a dedicated and hard-working team- a team that is truly focused on what is best for student achievement and well being in our District. And of course, our student trustees- the fact that we have 2 student trustees over a staggered 2-year term, speaks volumes about the importance of student voice. Ava and Grace (and those student trustees before them) have offered and will continue to offer, so much to our board - we are very proud of the work they are doing both within the District but also as an influence provincially. I am looking forward to continuing this term with a strong board of dedicated trustees. A special welcome to our Indigenous Trustee Ruddy who just joined us in June and is bringing significant skill sets to our Board table.

Whenever I have the opportunity, I tell parents and the public how fortunate we are to have such a strong, dedicated staff and especially our senior management team. We have been so fortunate to welcome Erin Kelly as our Interim DOE. She is bringing much experience and expertise and has helped us continue on the path with so many projects. Thank you for joining us!

The Senior team of Superintendents Barnes, Poirier, Cousineau, Smith and Riddell are providing excellent leadership in their areas of expertise and through their family of schools. Meredith Caplan Jamieson as Executive Officer of Public Affairs has been an amazing addition to the senior team this year just joining us in January. She has already made a significant impact in furthering our profile in the community. And to round out the team, I want to thank Shelley McIntyre who ensures that business runs smoothly and efficiently and always with care and courtesy. Thank you all for what you do every day.

In closing, I ask that you think about our motto:

Inspire - empower - achieve.

I firmly believe that this applies not only to the students and staff in our District but also to the Board of Trustees

I believe we are “inspired” by our students and staff;

I believe we are “empowered” by our constituents who elect us to represent them

and I believe we will “achieve” great things by working together toward a common goal- so well expressed in our Mission statement: “working together to foster outstanding educational experiences”

Thank you again for your support and I look forward to working with each of you during this upcoming year.

Susan Humphries
Chair of the Board
Renfrew County District School Board