

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING HELD ON JUNE 1, 2023
at 11:45 AM

Chairperson S. Humphries in the Chair.

TRUSTEES Present: D. Dobson; M. Guenette; D. Kaiser (Virtually); B. Morris (Virtually); C. Ruddy

TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret): L. Boland; K. Dougherty; J. Primeau

STAFF Present: P. Buffone; J. Barnes; R. Cousineau; J. Smith; K. Riddell; M. Caplan Jamieson; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan; J. Ellis; T. Nelson

STAFF Absent (With Regret): J. Poirier

GUESTS: I. Sarazin; C. Sarazin; L. Lavalley; K. MacDonald; C. Bernard; S. Wilcox

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. Humphries called the meeting to order.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chairperson S. Humphries read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

3. INVOCATION

The invocation was read by Trustee D. Dobson.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY D. DOBSON seconded by M. Guenette 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 by M. GUENETTE seconded by D. Dobson that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Board Meeting on May 23, 2023.

The motion was CARRIED

7. INTRODUCTION OF INDIGENOUS TRUSTEE CHRISTINA RUDDY

Chairperson S. Humphries introduced and warmly welcomed Trustee Christina Ruddy (see Appendix "A") and presented her with RCDSB merchandise. The Director of Education, Dr. P. Buffone, facilitated the Declaration of Office & Oath of Allegiance. Director Buffone stated that Trustee Ruddy's participation brings an invaluable perspective to the discussions and decision-making processes of the board, which will benefit the entire student body and the broader community.

Earlier today, Elders Irvin Sarazin and his spouse, Carrie, from Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, participated in and initiated a smudging ceremony on the grounds of the Board Office. At the end of the ceremony, a Smudging Bowl and a Braid of Sweetgrass were presented as a gift to honour Trustee Ruddy. Councillor C. Bedford also congratulated Trustee Ruddy and presented her with a bowl as an expression of respect and to acknowledge Trustee Ruddy's arrival at the Board Table.

Trustee Ruddy expressed gratitude for the kind remarks and acknowledged the board's confidence in her.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None to report.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY D. DOBSON seconded by M. Guenette that the Renfrew County District School Board Special Board Meeting of June 1, 2023 be adjourned. Time: 12:05 PM

The motion was CARRIED



**Special Board Meeting
01 June 2023**

WELCOME of TRUSTEE CHRISTINA RUDDY

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we welcome Trustee Ruddy to the RCDSB table today, which symbolically aligns with the beginning of National Indigenous History Month.

Although the RCDSB works diligently to incorporate Indigenous teachings in our schools, we know that by having an Indigenous trustee around the board table, that we will further this work in a meaningful way. We are thankful for the leadership that Tina Nelson as VP of Indigenous Education provides as well as the curriculum being taught in Grade 9 Art and Grade 11 English. And I am sure you have seen the wonderful work, teaching and learning happening in our elementary schools, particularly Eganville PS and Cobden PS among others.

While the First Nation trustee has a unique role in working for the best interests of Indigenous students attending our schools, there is the parallel role of serving as a member of the school board to promote student success and well-being for all the students of the board. The First Nation trustee's fellow board members equally have a responsibility for all students including Indigenous students. Together we can work to ensure that the cultures, histories, perspectives and world-views of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples are fully represented in the teaching and learning environments throughout the board, thereby enriching the education experience for all students.

We are looking forward to working with Trustee Ruddy who brings a variety of experience and knowledge with her including time working with Friendship Centres, in post secondary institutions at Georgian College, Lakehead University and in partnership with the Ministry of Education. She has also collaborated with educators and administrators from multiple school boards across Turtle Island, worked as a mentor with Indigenous artists and has shared her experiences as an Algonquin artist and researcher at several conferences. In 2019 Trustee Ruddy became a published contributing author for the publication "My Best Ideas-Math!"

Thank you to the Pikwàkanagàn Chief and Council for appointing Trustee Ruddy. A special acknowledgement to Councillor Cathy Bernard and Shelley Wilcox, Manager, Education Services, as well as Elders Irvin Sarazin and his wife, Carrie, who are with us today, and to Lois Lavalley the mother of Trustee Ruddy.

*Susan Humphries, Chairperson
Renfrew County DSB*