

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 22, 2022
at 3:55 p.m.

Chairperson B. Morris in the Chair.

TRUSTEES Present: M. Adam; L. Boland; N. Edge; M. Guenette; S. Humphries; D. Kaiser; D. Shields; J. Abbott & T. Novosedlik (Student Trustees)

TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret):

STAFF: P. Buffone; J. Poirier; S. Blok; R. Cousineau; J. Barnes; J. Laderoute; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan

STAFF Absent (With Regret): D. Jenkins

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson B. Morris called the meeting to order.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chairperson B. Morris read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

3. INVOCATION

The invocation was read by Student Trustee Taylor Novosedlik.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY L. BOLAND seconded by D. Shields that the Renfrew County District School Board approves the agenda order for today's meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chairperson B. Morris expressed condolences to the family of the late Ted Barron of Cobden. In the late 1960s, Mr. Barron was a teacher at Eganville District High School and Opeongo High School. Mr. Barron later served as Trustee and Chair of the Renfrew County Board of Education in the early 1980s to mid 1990s. Sympathies were extended to Mr. Barron's wife, Daphne, their two children Chris and Julie and their families.

5. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chairperson B. Morris asked for declarations of conflict. None were forthcoming.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY L. BOLAND seconded by M. Guenette that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Board Meeting on January 25, 2022 and Special Board Meeting of February 8, 2022.

The motion was CARRIED

7. PRESENTATION

There was no presentation today.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

Committee of the Whole Open & Closed Session Reports – February 22, 2022

D. Kaiser, Chairperson of Committee of the Whole, presented the Open Session Report of Committee of the Whole from today’s meeting.

MOVED BY D. KAISER, seconded by D. Shields that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Open Session Report of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

D. Kaiser, Chairperson of Committee of the Whole, presented the Closed Session Report of Committee of the Whole from today’s meeting.

MOVED BY D. KAISER, seconded by M. Guenette that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Closed 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 February 8, 2022.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by D. Kaiser that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Open Session Report of the Program & Student Achievement Committee meeting held on February 8, 2022.

At the request of Trustee N. Edge, a recorded vote was taken:

Trustee	Yes	No
M. Adam	X	
L. Boland	X	
N. Edge		X
M. Guenette	X	
S. Humphries	X	
D. Kaiser	X	
B. Morris	X	
D. Shields	X	
Student Trustee J. Abbott	X*	
Student Trustee T. Novosedlik	X*	
Results of the Recorded Vote:		7 Yes 1 No

***NOTE:** Section 55 of the Education Act states: "...(a) a recorded non-binding vote that includes the student trustee’s vote; and (b) a recorded binding vote that does not include the student trustee’s vote. 2006, c. 10, s. 6.." This is a provincial legislative provision which is intended to give voice to student trustees and supersedes anything in the Board By-laws and Standing Rules regarding recorded votes.

The motion was CARRIED

Finance & Resources Committee

Trustee L. Boland, Chairperson of the Finance & Resources Committee, presented the Open Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on February 8, 2022.

MOVED BY L. BOLAND, seconded by N. Edge that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Open Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on February 8, 2022.

The motion was CARRIED

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee M. Guenette presented the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 16, 2022.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by L. Boland that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 16, 2022.

The motion was CARRIED

9. **UPDATES**

(a) Director

Director of Education P. Buffone presented his Director's Report. See Appendix "A".

(b) Chair

Board Chairperson B. Morris presented is Chair's Report. See Appendix "B".

(c) Student Trustees

Student Trustees J. Abbott & T. Novosedlik presented the Student Trustees Report. See Appendix "C".

(d) OPSBA

Trustee S. Humphries advised that the Joint Education Program & Policy Working Group are meeting tomorrow, as well as the Board of Directors this weekend. Trustee M. Adam also provided an update including: the announcement of Grants for Student Needs (GSNs), the upcoming provincial election, student masking, Community Use of Schools, and; the Municipal & School Board election this coming Fall.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None to report.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairperson B. Morris announced that the Board of Trustees are very pleased to report that Director of Education Pino Buffone's employment contract has been renewed, effective immediately, for another five-year term. Chair Morris praised Director Buffone for the exemplary relationship he has with the Board and acknowledged his efforts for the past five years to support students, staff and school communities. Congratulations Director Buffone!

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY D. SHIELDS seconded by M. Guenette that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of February 22, 2022 be adjourned. Time: 4:54 PM

The motion was CARRIED

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OPEN SESSION REPORT
February 22, 2022**

TRUSTEES: D. Kaiser (Chair); M. Adam; L. Boland; N. Edge; M. Guenette; S. Humphries; B. Morris;
(Present) D. Shields; J. Abbott & T. Novosedlik (Student Trustees)

TRUSTEES:
(Regrets)

STAFF: P. Buffone; J. Poirier; S. Blok; R. Cousineau; J. Barnes; J. Laderoute; S. McIntyre;
(Present) H. MacMillan

STAFF: D. Jenkins
(Regrets)

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on February 22, 2022 and discussed the following items in Open Session:

1. Work Plan for Staff for 2021-2022 School Year: Mid-Year Update;
2. Strategic Communications Plan;
3. Display of Photos of Past Board Chairpersons.

The following recommendation was made:

Strategic Communications Plan

THAT the Board of Trustees with the Renfrew County District School Board approve Strategic Communications Plan 2022-2025.

I move that the Board adopts this report.

D. Kaiser
Chairperson

ADOPTED - February 22, 2022

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CLOSED SESSION REPORT
February 22, 2022**

TRUSTEES: D. Kaiser (Chair); M. Adam; L. Boland; N. Edge; M. Guenette; S. Humphries; B. Morris;
(Present) D. Shields; J. Abbott & T. Novosedlik (Student Trustees)

TRUSTEES:
(Regrets)

STAFF: P. Buffone; J. Poirier; S. Blok; R. Cousineau; J. Barnes; J. Laderoute; S. McIntyre;
(Present) H. MacMillan

STAFF: D. Jenkins
(Regrets)

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on February 22, 2022 and discussed the following item in Closed Session:

1. Finance & Resources Committee Meeting Closed Session Report – February 8, 2022.

No recommendations were made.

I move that the Board receives this report.

D. Kaiser
Chairperson

ADOPTED - February 22, 2022

PROGRAM AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

Open Session: **x**

Closed Session: _____

REPORT TO BOARD

February 8, 2022

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	M. Guenette (Chair), M. Adam, S. Humphries, B. Morris, N. Edge, D. Kaiser, L. Boland, J. Abbott (Student Trustee), T. Novosedlik (Student Trustee)
Administration:	P. Buffone, R. Cousineau, J. Poirier, B. McIntyre, J. Barnes, S. Blok, J. Laderoute, S. McIntyre, H. MacMillan, S. McCafferty, A. Garcia
Guests:	J. Smith, B. Smith, M. Ingram, L. Rigby, S. Cassidy-Rouleau, C.Barber, A. Maccougall-Popke, S.Smith

ABSENT: (With Regrets) D. Shields

The Program and Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday February 8, 2022 to discuss the following items:

1. School Year Calendar - Report
2. Secondary School Review – Program Pathway for French-as-a-Second Language
3. Special Education Plan – Report

The following recommendations were made:

1. School Year Calendar - Report

THAT the Renfrew County District School Board submit the proposed modified school year calendar for the 2021-2022 school year for approval by the Ministry of Education.

2. Secondary School Review – Program Pathway for French-as-a-Second Language

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education Ontario has announced, as part of its efforts to ensure all students can reach their full potential, that all Grade 9 subjects will be offered in one stream beginning in September 2022,

AND WHEREAS the Renfrew County District School Board continues to endorse a system-wide commitment to FSL programming, K-12, initially established through the 'elementary phase of the vision exercise,

AND WHEREAS a key objective of the Renfrew County District School Board, as an integral part of the 'secondary phase' of the vision exercise, is to prioritize and promote ministry-recognized, certification-based programs for students in all program pathways,

THAT the Board of Trustees of the Renfrew County District School Board approve the multi-year expansion of FSL Programs for all secondary schools, for implementation over the next five-year period. This renewed program pathway will provide course selections that lead to FSL certification (extended and/or immersion) in all families of schools. This vision will ensure enhanced opportunities for all students, providing a clear and strong foundation for future success.

M. Guenette
Chairperson

ADOPTED - February 22, 2022

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Open Session: X

Closed Session: _____

REPORT TO BOARD

February 8, 2022

PRESENT:

Committee Members: L. Boland (Chair), M. Adam, M. Guenette, S. Humphries, D. Kaiser, B. Morris, J. Abbott and T. Novosedlik (Student Trustees)

Administration: P. Buffone, J. Barnes, S. Blok, R. Cousineau, D. Jenkins, J. Poirier, J. Laderoute, S. McIntyre, H. MacMillan, D. Fiebig, P. Burnette, T. Hoffman, J. Smith, M. Knockleby

Guests:

ABSENT: (With Regrets) N. Edge, D. Shields

The Finance and Resources Committee met on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 to discuss the following item(s):

1. ICT Plan 2022-2025; and
2. Annual Budgetary Process – COVID 19 Supports for Schools Report.

The following recommendations were made.

1. ICT Plan 2022-2025
THAT the Board of Trustees adopt the RCDSB's ICT Action Plan 2022-2025, and approve the utilization of funds from the ICT internally-restricted accumulated surplus in the amount of \$940 000 for the 2022-2023 school year to support the one-time implementation of the 1:1 device access plan for students in grades 7-12, system-wide.
2. Annual Budgetary Process – COVID 19 Supports for Schools Report
THAT the Board of Trustees approve an additional \$300,000 from Accumulated Surplus to support the safe operations of schools for the balance of the 2021-2022 school year.

L. Boland
Chairperson

ADOPTED - February 22, 2022



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Open Session: X

Closed Session:

REPORT TO BOARD

February 16, 2022

PRESENT: Committee Members: B. Morris, A. MacKenzie, A. Bergeron, N. Tabbert,
D. Lacombe

ADMINISTRATION: J. Poirier, B. Smith, L. Rigby, C. Barber, S. Smith,
A. MacDougall-Popke, A. Hilts

ABSENT: (With Regrets) M. Ingram, M. Guenette

GUESTS: J. Lehman, K. Wright

The Special Education Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 and discussed the following:

1. Staff Update
Presentation by RCDSB ASD Coordinators
2. Report from the Board
3. Association Report

No recommendations were made.

Amy MacKenzie,
Chairperson



Board Meeting
Director's Update - Pino Buffone
22 February 2022

Since the return to in-person learning for the vast majority of our students and staff on Monday 17 January 2022, school-based and centrally-assigned staff have been working diligently to provide engaging, inspiring teaching and learning environments for all learners. To their great credit, through dedication and diligence, we have been able to keep schools open and ensure the continuity of learning for all students.

The multi-stage protocol to manage the potentially greater fluidity of absences for students and staff alike has proceeded steadily. My sincerest thanks to all stakeholders of our system - students, parents/guardians, staff, federation/union partners, trustees, and members of our school communities - for making the extraordinary happen!

Further, I am pleased to share that our staff in central buildings have returned to their workplaces, effective Monday 14 February 2022. This has been a welcome return for our organization... and I would like to express my gratitude to central staff for their flexibility and focus while working from home during this period of time.

Of note, the provincial government has announced upcoming changes to the public health parameters affecting schools and workplaces, and our District will continue to work collaboratively with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) implement revised recommendations accordingly.

School Visits - Winter & Spring 2022

I am pleased to share that I have resumed regular school visits, effective Tuesday 15 February 2022. The foci of my visits include: learning recovery and renewal; student and school safety; wellness as an organization; and, the implications of the 'vision exercise' at the elementary and secondary levels.



Board Meeting
Chair's Update - Bryon Morris
22 February 2022

As we near the end of the month of February we still are in the midst of the Omicron wave of the COVID-19 pandemic but, hopefully, the end is near and we will be entering a period of a 'new normal'.

The past two years certainly have been challenging but it is important to say that throughout this period we have maintained a keen focus on the work of the Board - the renewal of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, reshaping programming in our schools, as well as caring for the mental and physical well-being of students and staff alike. The Board of Trustees recognizes the challenges that all have been dealing with in these extraordinary times and we thank all of you for your dedication and resiliency. To the staff I would like to add that we have been very impressed with your professionalism, with your motivation to do the best for all of our students.

We have much to look forward to as a Board. We are very excited to be entering the second phase of our enhanced program pathway for French-as-a-Second Language (FSL). The Elementary phase of expanded French Immersion programming began in the Fall of 2017 and this Fall we will be beginning the Secondary phase of this initiative in a careful and measured way. Our long-term commitment to FSL programs K-12 endorses a healthy, vibrant bilingual environment for students, staff and our school communities. In this and other ways together we are reshaping the educational environment in our schools to better serve our students as they prepare for their lives in society.



Student Trustees' Report for Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Report Prepared By:

Jazzlyn Abbott and Taylor Novosedlik

Upcoming Student Senate Meeting:

Student Trustee Novosedlik: At our upcoming meeting we will be starting off with our Student Senate and Student Trustee orientation. At the moment we have 19 interested applicants overall between both roles. Later on in the session we will also be going over the Student Trustee election process to brief the Senate as to what to expect. We will be finalizing the details for May's mental health week by reviewing each school's chosen activities. We have already selected two board-wide days, a chalk art day and an outdoor yoga session. We will be holding a review and vote on the changes that we would like to make to the Student Senate policies. Additionally, we will go over the preliminary Student Senate handbook and have a working session to add, and make changes. Elementary reachout is still a goal of ours, and this meeting we will be planning the session that the elementary students will be sitting in on, which will be held in May.

Student Trustee Abbott: In the past few weeks, we have been focusing on reaching out to students across the Board to encourage attendance at the leadership orientation. We've done so by social media promotions, creating an introduction video which was shown in grade 10 classrooms across the Board, and reaching out to staff at every school. Finally, on January 31st we held the first meeting of the Equity Council with Equity Ministers from each school. We established a goal to celebrate Black History Month across the district, and brainstormed ideas to bring back to the student councils.

Updates at OSTA-AECO (Verbal Update): Student Trustee Abbott