

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON MARCH 22, 2022
at 3:10 p.m.

Chairperson B. Morris in the Chair.

TRUSTEES

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

TRUSTEES

Absent (With Regret): N. Edge

STAFF:

P. Buffone; J. Poirier; S. Blok; R. Cousineau; J. Barnes; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan; L. Conway

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 Trustee Mike Guenette.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY D. SHIELDS seconded by S. Humphries that the Renfrew County District School Board approves the agenda order for today's meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

5. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE seconded by L. Boland that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Board Meeting on February 22, 2022 and Special Board Meeting of February 25, 2022.

The motion was CARRIED

7. PRESENTATION – INSPIRED LEARNING, GLOBAL INQUIRY AND OTHER PROJECTS

Superintendent R. Cousineau introduced Lisa Conway, Elementary Virtual School Teacher who shared her experiences collaborating with Garfield Gini Newman (University of Toronto Professor) in their Global Inquiry Project. Ms. Conway highlighted the various learning opportunities provided to her students through tailored inquiry lessons, global and local collaborations as well as leveraging technology to inspire and challenge student learning in Grades 2 and 3.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Committee of the Whole Open & Closed Session Reports – March 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 S. Humphries that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts 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 March 8, 2022.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by L. Boland that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Program & Student Achievement Committee meeting held on March 8, 2022.

The motion was CARRIED

Finance & Resources Committee

Trustee S. Humphries, Acting Chairperson of the Finance & Resources Committee, presented the Open Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on March 8, 2022.

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES, seconded by D. Kaiser that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on March 8, 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 shared that the OPSBA Board of Directors met last month and discussed the following: Equity and Diversity training; 2022 Municipal Election Resources will be developed by May; 2022 Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium is scheduled on April 28th; input was provided by OPSBA on the Provision of Health Services in education settings; one online credit will be granted to current Grade 9 co-hort due to the amount of remote learning; OPSBA developed COVID-19 Transition paper with over 8000 responses to their survey; Project Compass – a major in-depth review of OPSBA has been completed; and, nomination forms for this year's OPSBA Awards are available online recognizing trustees, teachers, educations workers, student or community members who are making a difference in their school or community. Next Board of Directors meeting is in person on April 29/30th.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None to report.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- (1) Director of Education, P. Buffone, announced that today is the last Board Meeting Superintendent Steve Blok will be joining us as he will be retiring from the RCDSB. Director Buffone thanked Mr. Blok for his many years of service with the RCDSB and for his leadership in support of student learning. Trustees also extended their appreciation for Mr. Blok's work with schools and the positive collaboration he always had with the Board. Congratulations and best wishes to Superintendent Blok!
- (2) Chairperson B. Morris extended thoughts and prayers for families and children in Ukraine as they are going through such dangerous and difficult times.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY M. ADAM seconded by L. Boland that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of March 22, 2022 be adjourned. Time: 4:30 PM

The motion was CARRIED

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

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

TRUSTEES: M. Adam; N. Edge
(Regrets)

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

STAFF: D. Jenkins
(Regrets)

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

1. Trustee Determination & Distribution.

The following recommendation was made:

Trustee Determination & Distribution

THAT the Renfrew County District School Board approve the Trustee Determination and Distribution Report, 8 Trustees as presented, in preparation for the 2022 election.

I move that the Board adopts this report.

D. Kaiser
Chairperson

ADOPTED - March 22, 2022

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

TRUSTEES: D. Kaiser (Chair); L. Boland; M. Guenette; S. Humphries; B. Morris; D. Shields
(Present)

TRUSTEES: M. Adam; N. Edge
(Regrets)

STAFF: P. Buffone
(Present)

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

1. Personnel Matter: The Proposed Re-structure of the Director's Office & Public Relations;
2. Finance & Resources Committee Meeting Closed Session Report – March 8, 2022.

The following recommendation was made:

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

THAT the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Closed Session Report of the Finance & Resources Committee – March 8, 2022.

I move that the Board adopts this report.

D. Kaiser
Chairperson

ADOPTED - March 22, 2022



PROGRAM AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

Open Session: X

Closed Session: _____

REPORT TO BOARD

March 8, 2022

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	M. Guenette (Chair), D. Shields, B. Morris, S. Humphries, D. Kaiser
Administration:	P. Buffone, R. Cousineau, J. Poirier, J. Barnes, S. Blok, J. Laderoute, S. McIntyre, H. MacMillan, A. Garcia
Guests:	S. Gagne, N. Matthieu, J. Wroe, M. Knockleby

ABSENT: (With Regrets) M. Adam, D. Jenkins, N. Edge, L. Boland, J. Abbott (Student Trustee), T. Novosedlik (Student Trustee)

The Program and Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 to discuss the following item(s):

1. Annual Action Plan for School Effectiveness and Student Success - Primary/Junior Update

No recommendations were made:

Mike Guenette
Chairperson

ADOPTED - March 22, 2022

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Open Session: X

Closed Session: _____

REPORT TO BOARD

March 8, 2022

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	S. Humphries (Acting Chair), M. Guenette, D. Kaiser, B. Morris, D. Shields, J. Abbott and T. Novosedlik (Student Trustees)
Administration:	P. Buffone, J. Barnes, S. Blok, R. Cousineau, J. Poirier, J. Laderoute, S. McIntyre, H. MacMillan, T. Hoffman, M. McCaw, J. Smith
Guests:	

ABSENT: (With Regrets) M. Adam, L. Boland (arrived 2:15 p.m.), N. Edge, D. Jenkins

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

1. Community Use of Schools;
2. Budget 2022-2023; and
3. Special Acknowledgement.

No recommendations were made.

S. Humphries
Acting Chairperson

ADOPTED - March 22, 2022



**Board Meeting
Director's Update - Pino Buffone
22 March 2022**

With the provincial government's announcement of the 'lifting' of a number of health and safety measures, effective Monday 21 March 2022, the district is taking a very cautious and considerate approach to the resumption of in-person learning after the March Break. More specifically, although masking will no longer be required, schools and central departments will encourage optional masking if/as individuals choose. Further, although physical distancing is no longer in place, students and staff will continue to be encouraged to be judicious in their interactions while on site. The standards of etiquette for self and others, including regular hand washing, will continue to be expected of all stakeholders. In addition, it is expected that all students, staff and visitors now permitted to/from schools and central offices will continue to monitor themselves for symptoms, and follow protocols in place through public health officials. Most importantly, perhaps, kindness and compassion are the overarching (or underpinning!) traits that are expected from us all during this phase of adjustment and transition through the pandemic period. We're all in this together... and with respect to our individual choices and actions, we must remain appreciative and respectful of the comfort level of others, in any capacity, especially if it differs from our own comfort level!

I am very pleased, and grateful, to share that the multi-stage protocol to manage the potentially greater fluidity of absences for students and staff alike has proceeded smoothly. My sincerest thanks to our school and system administrators for their steady hand of leadership and operational management in order to ensure our schools remained open during the most challenging days of the impactful Omicron variant. For the purposes of overall stability, the protocol will remain in place for the balance of the school year if/as required.

Pink Shirt Day - Wednesday 23 February 2022

The last Wednesday of February each school year is designated, nationally and internationally, as anti-bullying day (or pink shirt day). An annual initiative that was started in our great country, members of senior administration - principals, vice-principals, senior managers and senior staff - all wore a pink-coloured shirt to stand against bullying on that day. It was a wonderful display of support for anti-bullying, and included ideas for 'random acts of kindness', district-wide.

Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant - Applications In!

Over the course of the past few weeks, a number of schools (seven in total) have submitted applications for access to the PRO grant. The Director's Office, with the support of Principal Deb Taylor as our Parent Involvement Committee representative, has reviewed the applications... and distributed funds as widely as possible over the coming weeks... so that these monies can be put into place for students, staff and school communities in the Spring of 2022. Of note, themes that have emerged include a focus on curriculum (achievement), mental health (well-being) and integration of Indigenous Education.



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

The Government, upon the advice of the Ontario Chief Officer of Health Dr. Moore, has lifted a number of health and safety measures in our schools, effective March 21. This will come as welcome news to many as we all are tired of restrictions imposed on us by COVID-19. We recognize, however, that while the pandemic is waning it is not yet over. Indeed, it could flare up again. We must remain vigilant. We encourage masking as a useful and voluntary safety measure, along with such basic safety measures as frequent hand washing and social distancing. We will continue to be vigilant with cleanliness standards in our schools. Thanks to all in our school communities for their diligent and cooperative efforts to keep everyone safe!

Over the past two years, we have kept a keen focus on student achievement while we dealt with the immense pressures of maintaining personal safety and individual mental health. We have made much progress and that continues. At the Program and Student Achievement Committee March 8, 2022, we were given an update on the Annual Action Plan for School Effectiveness and Student Success (Primary/Junior) by System Principal - Program Services Shelley Gagne. This focused on two initiatives in primary literacy and junior numeracy, two core areas we are working on. At the Finance and Resources Committee, also on March 8, we were updated on the status of the Community Use of Schools initiative offered by the RCDSB. This integral service offered by the District resumed February 22 in limited capacity and as of March 21 was opened up further. The Board also received a report on information regarding the 2022/2023 Budget. Such Budget updates are regular features of Finance and Resources Committee meetings as Trustees are kept up-to-date on this most important file.



Student Trustees' Report for Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Report Prepared By:

Jazzlyn Abbott and Taylor Novosedlik

Because of the amount of snow days we had in late February we had our second Senate meeting at the beginning of March, the meeting was very full of items and exciting. We had our Student Senate and Trustee orientation and informational session, which went amazing. We got a lot of people who were interested and even some who asked for additional information if they were unable to attend. Later on in the meeting, we also set the questions that will be provided to the student trustee applicants, and went over the process of the election, as a majority of the senate is new this year. We went on to discuss the elementary senate session, discussing some ideas we had for topics and plan on making "mini" agendas for each breakout room during the session. We then discussed the activities each school would like to do for mental health week, as well as go over and iron out any questions that could have arisen. After our lunch, we had a presentation from Director Buffone that was about the FSL curriculum that is currently in the process of being implemented. We went over the changes made to the policy handbook and discussed what changes will be made. Later on, we got into breakout rooms and discussed some ideas for the student senate handbook, which is currently in the making. It goes over topics such as responsibilities, roles, different phrases that might be new, social media information and a lot more. With the help of some starter questions, we got a lot of feedback from the senate that we then added to the handbook itself.