

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2022
at 4:00 PM

Chairperson S. Humphries in the Chair.

TRUSTEES Present: L. Boland; D. Dobson; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; B. Morris; A. Beggs (Student Trustee)

TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret): D. Kaiser; J. Primeau; T. Novosedlik (Student Trustee)

STAFF: P. Buffone; J. Poirier; J. Barnes; R. Cousineau; J. Smith; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan; S. Gagne; C. Brunet; M. Reid

STAFF Absent (With Regret): K. Riddell

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 Vice-Chairperson L. Boland.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY B. MORRIS seconded by M. Guenette 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 S. Humphries asked for declarations of conflict. None were forthcoming.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED D. DOBSON seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Inaugural Board Meeting on November 15, 2022.

The motion was CARRIED

7. PRESENTATION – Building Staff Capacity in FSL

Superintendent of Education R. Cousineau introduced Catherine Brunet (Secondary FSL Teacher), Melanie Reid (Elementary FSL Teacher) and Shelley Gagne (Principal of Program Services K-6). Their presentation provided an overview of professional learning opportunities and support that is offered to our French as a Second Language Teachers across the district. Teachers Brunet and Reid passionately shared their experiences that range from a district level, a regional level and an international level and how these opportunities have had an impact on their teaching practice and as well, how it has resulted in positive outcomes for students.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Committee of the Whole Open Session Report – November 29, 2022

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 B. Morris that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Open Session Report of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

Committee of the Whole Closed Session Report – November 29, 2022

Vice-Chairperson L. Boland, Chairperson of Committee of the Whole, presented the Closed Session Report of Committee of the Whole from today's meeting.

MOVED BY L. BOLAND, 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

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee B. Morris presented the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on November 16, 2022.

MOVED BY B. MORRIS, seconded by D. Dobson that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on November 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

None to report.

(c) Student Trustees

Student Trustee A. Beggs presented the Student Trustees Report. See Appendix "B".

(d) OPSBA

Chairperson S. Humphries and Trustee K. Dougherty provided a re-cap of the OPSBA Board Meeting from this past weekend. Items discussed included: face masks, survey by Nanos Research regarding spending on public education as a future investment, training for Advocacy Day and, meeting with MPPs at Queen's Park.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairperson S. Humphries referenced a copy of a letter received from Durham DSB to the Minister of Education.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee M. Guenette gave an overview of an article on Dual Credits.

Chairperson S. Humphries reminded Trustees that the New Trustee Orientation Program session and Committee Meetings are scheduled for December 6, 2022. Thus, the Board Meeting has moved to December 20, 2022.

Trustee B. Morris' remarks from the November 15, 2022 Inaugural Meeting on Director of Education P. Buffone completing his Doctorate in Education is attached. See Appendix "C"

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES seconded by B. Morris that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of November 29, 2022 be adjourned. Time: 5:19 PM

The motion was CARRIED

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OPEN SESSION REPORT
November 29, 2022**

TRUSTEES:	L. Boland (Chair); S. Humphries; D. Dobson; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; B. Morris; J. Primeau; A. Beggs (Student Trustee)
TRUSTEES: (Regrets)	D. Kaiser; T. Novosedlik (Student Trustee)
STAFF:	P. Buffone; J. Poirier; J. Barnes; R. Cousineau; J. Smith; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan; T. Hoffman; B. Murray
STAFF: (Regrets)	K. Riddell
GUEST:	T. Sylvestre – External Auditor

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on November 29, 2022 and discussed the following items in Open Session:

1. Audit Committee Meeting Open Session Report – November 23, 2022 (Including Draft Consolidated Financial Statements;
2. Accumulated Surplus/Appropriation Transfers Report;
3. Capital Priorities 2022-2023.

The following recommendations were made:

1. **Audit Committee Meeting Open Session Report – November 23, 2022 (Including Draft Consolidated Financial Statements:**
 1. **2022-23 Regional Internal Audit Update**
That the Renfrew County District School Board Audit Committee receives for information the November 23, 2022 RIAT Update.
 2. **2022-23 Internal Audit Charter**
That the Renfrew County District School Board Audit Committee approve the 2022-23 Regional Internal Audit Team Charter.
 3. **Draft Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended August 31, 2022**
That the Renfrew County District School Board adopt the draft 2021-2022 Financial Statements, as audited and reported upon by Welch LLP, at their November 29, 2022 Board Meeting subject to Board approval of the internally restricted accumulated surplus transfers.

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4. **Annual Reports to the Board from the Audit Committee**

That the Audit Committee approve the *Annual Report to the Board of Trustees for the Year Ended August 31, 2022* and the *Annual Report to the Board of Trustees and Forwarded to the Ministry of Education for the Year Ended August 31, 2022* and that both reports be adopted by the Renfrew County District School Board at the November 29, 2022 Board Meeting.

2. **Capital Priorities 2022-2023**

THAT the Renfrew County District School Board approve the 2022-2023 Capital Priorities as presented in the amount of \$10,860,400.

I move that the Board adopts this report.

L. Boland
Chairperson

ADOPTED - November 29, 2022

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CLOSED SESSION REPORT
November 29, 2022**

TRUSTEES:	L. Boland (Chair); S. Humphries; D. Dobson; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; B. Morris; J. Primeau; A. Beggs (Student Trustee)*
TRUSTEES: (Regrets)	D. Kaiser; T. Novosedlik (Student Trustee)
STAFF:	P. Buffone; J. Poirier; J. Barnes; R. Cousineau; J. Smith; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan; T. Hoffman
STAFF: (Regrets)	K. Riddell
GUEST:	T. Sylvestre – External Auditor

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on November 23, 2022 and discussed the following items in Closed Session:

1. CUPE Collective Bargaining;
2. Audit Committee Meeting Closed Session Report – November 23, 2022.

**As per Board Policy 24, Student Trustees are excluded from a closed session meeting of the Board when the subject matter under consideration involves Section 207 of the Education Act. As such, Student Trustee Beggs was not present during COW Closed Session.*

No recommendations were made.

I move that the Board receives this report.

L. Boland
Chairperson

ADOPTED - November 29, 2022



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Open Session: x

Closed Session:

REPORT TO BOARD

November 17, 2022

PRESENT: Committee Members: B. Morris, A. Desrochers, D. Lacombe, L. A. MacKenzie, S. Tait, N. Tabbert, C. Brash, L. Rigby, S. Smith, A. MacDougall-Popke

ADMINISTRATION: J. Smith, A. McGregor, A. Hilts

GUESTS: RCDSB Literacy Intervention Support Teachers

ABSENT: (With Regrets) M. Guenette, A. Bergeron

The Special Education Advisory Committee met in person and virtually on Wednesday November 17, 2022 and discussed the following:

1. Staff Updates
2. Report from the Board
3. Association Reports

No recommendations were made.

Amy MacKenzie,
Chairperson

ADOPTED - November 29, 2022



**Board Meeting
Director's Update - Pino Buffone
29 November 2022**

As the fall season continues to progress quickly, and the days become shorter and shorter over the coming months, I would like to provide a few rays of sunlight for us all through activities and events, initiatives and/or projects across the system...

- the eight site visits of the 're-think@secondary' initiative have now fully taken place, with a start of consultations involving staff of Adult & Continuing Education on Thursday 29 September 2022 at the Board Office through to Renfrew Collegiate Institute on Friday 25 November 2022. The consultative sessions have been tremendously insightful and genuinely pragmatic in nature. As previously mentioned, the feedback gathered will inform recommendations brought forth to the Board of Trustees later this fall/winter;
- the initiative regarding the review of secondary schools will also capture input from a number of stakeholder groups, including IEAC, PIC, SEAC and Student Senate at their fall meetings, as well as through a ThoughtExchange (TE) platform with an overarching prompt related to public education at the secondary level to take place in the next few weeks; and,
- the District continues to follow the advice provided by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, as outlined in the guideline for 2022-2023 Health and Safety Measures in Schools, including: optional masking for students, staff and visitors in schools, school board offices, and on student transportation (except in cases where staff are required to perform an Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure); endorsement of appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette in schools and workplaces; and, the continuation of funding for enhanced cleaning standards and ventilation and filtration improvements at all sites.

Algonquin College - Pembroke Campus - 10th Anniversary - October 28th, 2022

On Friday 28 October 2022, Algonquin College-Pembroke Campus celebrated its tenth anniversary on site. It was an authentic, aspirational event that showcased testimonials of students - many from our District - through their post-secondary pathways in pursuit of their passions. The District is grateful for and looks forward to continued, constructive partnerships with AC-Pembroke into the future.

Central Public School - Playground Grand Opening - November 10th, 2022

On Thursday 10 November 2022, Central Public School celebrated the grand opening of its new playground... a wonderful refresh of the premises for the students, staff and the school community.

Remembrance Day Ceremonies - November 11th, 2022

As is the case each and every school year, schools across the system held ceremonies in honour of Remembrance Day on Friday 11 November 2022. It was inspiring to see the array of meaningful activities held at both the elementary and secondary levels, both in-person and/or on-line, including an interactive, thoughtful ceremony on site for elementary students at Valour JK-12 School that day.



Student Trustees' Report for Tuesday, November 29, 2022

Report Prepared By:

Taylor Novosedlik and Ava Beggs

In late October, we had FGM, held at the Marriot in Downtown Toronto and was a very busy and eventful weekend. I (Taylor) spend a lot of my time running sessions, photographing the conference, working with tech as well as running a few sessions of my own. I did however have the opportunity to listen in on some key speakers and have some 1:1 conversations with those guests. I (Ava) ran a public board council break out session for the southern region. During this time, we focused on finding common ground between all of the southern boards and deciding on a few main goals for the year that would benefit all students. I also had the opportunity to join the equity and inclusion working group which I am over the moon to be a part of. In this group, we discussed how to support survivors of sexual assault and what our boards should be doing in these situations. On top of that, we also did a lot of networking with different student trustees. Over that weekend, we learned a lot of valuable lessons that will not only be carried with us to future conferences, but we've brought these skills into things like senate and school. Although it was a busy weekend for us, I am very thankful to attend and am very much looking forward to BCC's.

On November 10th we had our second Senate meeting, it was held online but nonetheless was very productive. Beginning now, I believe it is important to start our meetings with a land acknowledgement, so as a group and with the help of Amy Charbonneau, we had a very meaningful conversation about what a land acknowledgement is, what it is compared to a territory acknowledgement and ways we can take action on what we are saying.

As a group, we believe it is important to not only state an acknowledgement, but understand the words we are saying to the fullest. As a group, we learned that we need to really listen and not just ignore it as dialogue - it's an act of reconciliation. November 12th, I (Taylor) had an online executive council meeting, at the meeting we debriefed completely from FGM, as well as complete our mandatory equity training. During that I learned many skills, but some memorable topics include: Finding ways to include more diverse voice as a student trustee, how to imply an inclusion lens on my work i complete, and realizing when i make decisions I need to not only look at who it is intended for- but see who else is benefited by that decision. Lastly, November 14th was our first equity meeting led by Alex Wright who is our senate representative for the group. The short meeting included updates from each school's equity minister, planning on how we can make school more inclusive for everyone around the holidays, as well as a very meaningful conversation on bullying, and how online social platforms play a huge role in this. Our biggest take away from that meeting was for everyone to have a meeting with their principal to discuss this issue, and hopefully an anti-bullying assembly can be arranged sometime in the near future to refresh everyone on the affects, consequences and ways of bullying.

Nov. 15, 2022

Gift to Pino Re: Completion of his Doctorate

The Board of Trustees has great confidence in our Director – Pino Buffone. He has vision and is very diligent in his work, in spite of labouring under extraordinary constraints. The past few years have been intense, as we all know, especially for our Director, as we have worked in the oppressive shadow of a global pandemic. He focused on the safety and mental well-being of all employees and students. As well, he never lost sight of the importance of the academic growth of our students, ensuring that the work of the Board continued in the face of COVID. We often marvelled on how he was able to do all that.

But there's more.

There's an old saying; 'The best teacher is the one who also is a student.' Pino was a practicing teacher, Principal, Superintendent, and then became our Director. He has always been searching for new horizons. At a time when people could be excused for 'hunkering down' Pino embarked on a journey of self-improvement. He began work on his Doctorate in Education at Western University. What a killing pace he set for himself!

The result: Pino completed his Doctorate in Education last month. This is a most impressive achievement for the student in Pino. So, Dr. Pino, congratulations of your extraordinary achievement. We are so proud of you.

At this point I would like Chair Humphries to make a little presentation on behalf of the Board of Trustees.