

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2022
at 3:39 PM

Chairperson B. Morris in the Chair.

TRUSTEES

Present: M. Adam; L. Boland; N. Edge; D. Kaiser; S. Humphries; D. Shields; T. Novosedlik & A. Beggs
 (Student Trustees)

TRUSTEES

Absent (With Regret): M. Guenette

STAFF:

P. Buffone; J. Poirier; J. Barnes; R. Cousineau; J. Smith; K. Riddell; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan

STAFF

Absent (With Regret):

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 Marjorie Adam.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED BY D. SHIELDS seconded by N. Edge 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 S. HUMPHRIES seconded by N. Edge that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Board Meeting on September 27, 2022.

The motion was CARRIED

7. **PRESENTATION – Acknowledgement & Recognition of Trustees Marjorie Adam, Nic Edge and Dave Shields**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chairperson B. Morris acknowledged and extended appreciation to Trustees Marjorie Adam, Nic Edge and Dave Shields. Today is the final regular Board Meeting they will be attending, as they will not be seeking re-election. Chairperson Morris thank each one individually for their years of service with the Renfrew County District School Board and presented them with a gift to commemorate their role of Trustee.

Trustees L. Boland, D. Kaiser and S. Humphries also praised them for their commitment to the Board and their school communities. Trustees Adam, Edge and Shields individually thanked their colleagues around the table for their support and for continually working together in the best interests of students.

Director of Education P. Buffone shared gratitude on behalf of all senior staff for their influence and impact on the renewed multi-year strategic plan, their encouragement and support to our organization through the visioning exercise, and, respect and admiration for their public service.

Trustee Shields' years of service was from 1985 – 1993 and 2003 to present. Trustee Adam served from 2014 to present and Trustee Edge served from 2018 to present and he also had served as a Student Trustee.

On behalf of all RCDSB students, staff and parents/guardians, thank you Trustees Marjorie Adam, Nic Edge & Dave Shields for your dedication to your role as Trustee. We wish you all the very best with your next adventure!

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Committee of the Whole Open Session Report – October 18, 2022

Vice-Chairperson 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 L. Boland that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

The motion was CARRIED

Committee of the Whole Closed Session Report – October 18, 2022

Vice-Chairperson 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 D. Shields that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Closed Session Report of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

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 his Chair's Report. See Appendix "B".

(c) Student Trustees

Student Trustees T. Novosedlik & A. Beggs presented the Student Trustees Report. See Appendix "C".

(d) OPSBA

MOVED BY M. ADAM, seconded by D. Kaiser that the Renfrew County District School Board move into Closed Session. Time: 4:45 PM

The motion was CARRIED

MOVED BY M. ADAM, seconded by D. Kaiser that the Renfrew County District School Board move out of Closed Session and into Open Session. Time: 4:51 PM

The motion was CARRIED

Trustees M. Adam & S. Humphries gave an overview of OPSBA related activities that included: meeting with the Minister of Education's Parliamentary Assistant; upcoming school board elections; 2022 Good Governance Guide resource for Trustees; social media campaigns; upcoming Advocacy Day at Queen's park and the Board of Directors meeting at the end of November; FSL Labour Market partnership; and a survey relating to education funding.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

None to report.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Trustees expressed their gratitude and acknowledged today's annual ECE Appreciation Day.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY D. SHIELDS seconded by M. Adam that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of October 18, 2022 be adjourned. Time: 5:07 PM

The motion was CARRIED

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CLOSED SESSION REPORT
October 18, 2022**

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

TRUSTEES: M. Guenette
(Regrets)

STAFF: P. Buffone; J. Poirier; R. Cousineau; J. Barnes; J. Smith; K. Riddell; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan

STAFF:
(Regrets)

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on October 18, 2022 and discussed the following item in Closed Session:

1. RCJTC Process.

No recommendations were made.

I move that the Board receives this report.

D. Kaiser
Chairperson

ADOPTED - October 18, 2022

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OPEN SESSION REPORT
October 18, 2022**

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

TRUSTEES: M. Guenette
(Regrets)

STAFF: P. Buffone; J. Poirier; R. Cousineau; J. Barnes; J. Smith; K. Riddell; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan;
L. LaRiviere

GUESTS: Jason Davis – County of Renfrew

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on October 18, 2022 and discussed the following items in Open Session:

1. Renfrewshire Partnership Proposal;
2. Enrolment, Staffing & Class Compliance;
3. Trustee Honorarium;
4. 2023 Committee Structures & November Chair & Vice-Chair Election Process;
5. Annual Action Plan for Mental Health & Wellness.

There are no recommendations.

I move that the Board receives this report.

D. Kaiser
Chairperson

ADOPTED - October 18, 2022



Board Meeting
Director's Update - Pino Buffone
18 October 2022

With the beautiful fall season upon us, I would like to share a few highlights of activities and events, initiatives and projects in our schools and workplaces across the system over the past month...

- the 're-think@secondary' initiative is now underway with a very productive consultative session having taken place with the staff of Adult & Continuing Education on Thursday 29 September 2022 at the Board Office... and consultative sessions at all secondary sites taking place between Wednesday, October 19th and Wednesday, November 16th, 2022... and feedback gathered to inform recommendations brought forth by the Secondary School Review Committee to the Board of Trustees later this fall/winter;
- the initiative regarding the secondary school review 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; 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: ongoing 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, continuation of funding for enhanced cleaning standards and temporary additional staffing requirements, as well as ventilation and filtration improvements at all sites.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - September 30th, 2022

As an integral part of the District's efforts to address the 'Calls to Action' of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, schools and central departments recognized this 2nd annual day with a number of activities related to Indigenous Education, including the raising of 'Every Child Matters' flags on site.



Board Meeting
Chair's Update - Bryon Morris
18 October 2022

This is my last meeting of the Board of Trustees as Chair. When we meet next it will be at the Inaugural Meeting of the next Board of Trustees. Election Day is October 24, six days from now. There will be change at the Board table as three of our Members of the Board are retiring. Three new Trustees will be taking their places, joining the five of us who are returning.

I have been privileged to be your Chair for the past two years. We have had lively debates but we have been unified - unified is why we chose to run for election in the first place, to serve in the best possible way the students in our charge. Thank you to my fellow Trustees for being who you are, people who put others before self, people who have dedicated themselves to understanding how this large and complex organization works, people who have striven to make things work for the students in our charge. We are not a large School Board, certainly by provincial standards, but we consistently show leadership beyond our District, even at the Provincial level and, on occasion, internationally. Just one simple example of this leadership can be seen in what our colleagues, the Student Trustees, have accomplished in the last few years, particularly in their leadership activities with the Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA). We are so proud of them! Also, three of our elected Trustees, Dave Shields, Susan Humphries and Marjorie Adam, have done exemplary work for many years with the Ontario Public School Trustees Association (OPSBA). The Province recognizes the talent we have here in Renfrew County through their work.

I first became Chair two years ago when the pandemic was sweeping through our world including here in Renfrew County. Within a short period of time it had come to dominate everything that happened in our schools and our communities. We may have been the first Board to make the National News, closing a school briefly due to an outbreak of Covid-19, but we quickly adopted policies and procedures that met this challenge and allowed us to continue to provide the best possible education experience for our students, whether it be in-person or on-line learning. We are so proud of all employees of the Board who refused to give in to the virus and who doubled down on their efforts to best meet the needs of our students. Full credit goes to our teachers, school administration, support

staff (both in the schools and centrally), Senior Administration - everyone! We met the challenge! Everyone worked hard. The work of the Board went on. It still goes on.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the extraordinary efforts of our Director of Education, Pino Buffone. He led us through very trying times but because of his inspired leadership we are strong, progressive and have a clear vision of where we are going. On behalf of all our students and their families, Pino, thank you!

This Board has accomplished much to be proud of. In particular, I point to our new Strategic Plan, our roadmap for the next few years, as being of signal importance. The Board of Trustees and Senior Administration have established an extremely positive working relationship, the new Strategic Plan being proof of that.

Finally, I want to thank all of my fellow Trustees for their support. Vice-Chair Kaiser, in particular, was my 'rock'. I thank him for his direct manner and keen insight, always insisting that we can do better, that we fulfill our role as Trustees as fully as possible. Much of what we have accomplished is due to his perseverance. I also want to thank Past Chair Susan Humphries for being an active partner to Vice-Chair Kaiser and myself. In the very busy last two years, she has provided wise counsel, accepted the lead role in a number of tasks, and perhaps most importantly she has been a sounding board for ideas and concerns I may have had. We truly were a 'team'. Indeed, all Trustees worked as a team, seeing us through perilous times, keeping the work of the Board on track and keeping the needs of our students as their main focus.

I look forward to the next Board which begins its work November 15. I have every confidence that we shall build on the positive accomplishments of this Board, to the betterment of our efforts to enhance educational opportunities for all of our students.

Thank you.



Student Trustees' Report for Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Report Prepared By:

Taylor Novosedlik and Ava Beggs

This past month we had our first Student Senate meeting. We started off the meeting with a presentation on our upcoming/ongoing Secondary School Reviews which was followed by an open room brainstorming session on ways the Student Senate thinks we can foster opportunities for student voice. Following that we had our routine school updates, then we had elections for different positions within the senate.

With that we had plenty of interested people in all of the positions available, even receiving emails after the fact from people who thought about it and decided to get more involved. With that we ended the day with vision planning, this was a very insightful item and we were able to see what direction the senate wanted to go this year.

With that we made three goals for the year, prioritizing the success of our students, acknowledging environmental sustainability within our schools and relieving stress around exam periods. With just a few action items following this meeting we look forward to what the year has in store for not only us but for the whole team. FGM is approaching fast and with that comes lots of planning, we both have been very occupied with planning our individual sessions for the conference.

We leave this Thursday and are looking forward to talking all about the conference when we return.