

**RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON APRIL 25, 2023**

**at 3:35 PM**

***Chairperson S. Humphries in the Chair.***

**TRUSTEES Present:** D. Dobson; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; D. Kaiser; B. Morris; J. Primeau; T. Novosedlik (Student Trustee)

**TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret):** L. Boland; A. Beggs (Student Trustee)

**STAFF:** P. Buffone; J. Poirier; J. Barnes; R. Cousineau; J. Smith; K. Riddell; M. Caplan Jamieson; S. McIntyre

**STAFF Absent (With Regret):**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson S. Humphries called the meeting to order.

**2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Trustee M. Guenette read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**3. INVOCATION**

The invocation was read by Trustee B. Morris.

**4. APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA**

MOVED BY J. PRIMEAU seconded by D. Kaiser that the Renfrew County District School Board approves the amended 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 B. MORRIS seconded by D. Dobson that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Board Meeting on March 28, 2023.

**The motion was CARRIED**

**7. PRESENTATION – INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION & EXCURSIONS**

Superintendent K. Riddell welcomed Arnprior District High School teacher Lidia Pritchard and three students, Emma Durocher, Ruby Britnell, and Owen Quinn, who discussed their experiences with International Education. They spoke about overseas excursions that have been taking place in the district's secondary schools for many years. These excursions have included visits to Europe to learning about the Second World War, among other things. The presenters highlighted the importance of providing equitable access and opportunities for all students to participate in educational excursions and international exchange programs. They emphasized that such experiences can enhance learning and broaden students' horizons. This past March Break, ADHS travelled to Italy and Greece, which was participated by 56 students and 11 chaperones. During this visit, they toured several museums and tried out the local cuisine. Such a unique experience!

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD

### **Committee of the Whole Open Session Report – April 25, 2023**

Trustee B. Morris, Acting Chairperson of Committee of the Whole, presented the Open Session Report of Committee of the Whole from today's meeting.

MOVED BY B. MORRIS seconded by M. Guenette 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 – April 25, 2023**

Trustee B. Morris, Acting Chairperson of Committee of the Whole, presented the Closed Session Report of Committee of the Whole from today's meeting.

MOVED BY B. MORRIS seconded by M. Guenette that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Closed Session Report of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

**The motion was CARRIED**

### **Equity & Inclusion Committee**

Trustee D. Kaiser, Chairperson of the Equity and Inclusion Committee, presented the Open Session Report of the Equity & Inclusion Committee meeting held on April 11, 2023. Board Chairperson S. Humphries was Acting Chairperson for the Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting that day, as such, presented a summary of the discussion.

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting held on April 11, 2023.

**The motion was CARRIED**

### **Finance & Resources Committee**

Trustee M. Guenette, Acting Chairperson of the Finance & Resources Committee, presented the Open Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on April 11, 2023.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by B. Morris that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on April 11, 2023.

**The motion was CARRIED**

### **Special Education Advisory Committee**

Trustee M. Guenette presented the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on April 19, 2023.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by J. Primeau that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on April 19, 2023.

**The motion was CARRIED**

## 9. UPDATES

### **a) Director**

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

### **(b) Chair**

Chairperson S. Humphries presented her Chair's Report and added that the Policy Review Committee met last week. See Appendix "B"

### **(c) Student Trustees**

Student Trustees T. Novosedlik and A. Beggs presented their Student Trustees' Report. See Appendix "C".

**(d) OPSBA**

Chairperson S. Humphries and Trustee K. Dougherty reported that OPSBA's Board Meeting will take place this weekend, while their Annual General Meeting is scheduled for June 8-10<sup>th</sup> at Blue Mountain Resort.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairperson S. Humphries referenced correspondence received from *What Now Lanark County* regarding their event in Almonte on May 6, 2023.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

None to report.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY B. MORRIS seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of April 25, 2023 be adjourned. Time: 4:45 PM

**The motion was CARRIED**

## RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
CLOSED SESSION REPORT  
April 25, 2023**

TRUSTEES: B. Morris (Acting Chair); S. Humphries; D. Dobson; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; D. Kaiser;  
(Present) J. Primeau

TRUSTEES: L. Boland; T. Novosedlik & A. Beggs (Student Trustees)  
(Regrets)

STAFF: P. Buffone; J. Poirier; J. Barnes; R. Cousineau; J. Smith; K. Riddell; M. Caplan Jamieson;  
(Present) S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan

STAFF:  
(Regrets)

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on April 25, 2023 and discussed the following item in Closed Session:

1. Finance & Resources Committee Meeting Closed Session Report – April 11, 2023.

**The following recommendation was made:**

**Finance & Resources Committee Meeting Closed Session Report – April 11, 2023**

**THAT the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Closed Session Report of the Finance & Resources Committee Meeting – April 11, 2023.**

**The motion was CARRIED.**

I move that the Board adopts this report.

B. Morris  
Acting Chairperson

ADOPTED - April 25, 2023

## RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
OPEN SESSION REPORT  
April 25, 2023**

TRUSTEES: B. Morris (Acting Chair); S. Humphries; D. Dobson; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; D. Kaiser;  
(Present) J. Primeau

TRUSTEES: L. Boland; T. Novosedlik & A. Beggs (Student Trustees)  
(Regrets)

STAFF: P. Buffone; J. Poirier; J. Barnes; R. Cousineau; J. Smith; K. Riddell; M. Caplan Jamieson;  
(Present) S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan; S. Halliday

STAFF:  
(Regrets)

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on April 25, 2023 and discussed the following items in Open Session:

1. Health & Safety Update;
2. Update regarding International Education Initiatives for the District.

No recommendations were made.

I move that the Board receives this report.

B. Morris  
Acting Chairperson

ADOPTED - April 25, 2023



## EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Open Session:   x  

Closed Session: \_\_\_\_\_

### REPORT TO BOARD

**APRIL 11, 2023**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Committee Members:	S. Humphries (Acting Chairperson), M. Guenette, B. Morris (via teleconference), K. Dougherty, L. Boland, A. Beggs (Student Trustee)
	Administration:	P. Buffone, R. Cousineau, J. Barnes, K. Riddell, J. Smith, Meredith Caplan-Jamieson, H. MacMillan, A. Garcia
	Guests:	S. Gagne, K. Recoskie
<b>ABSENT:</b>	(With Regrets)	D. Kaiser (Chair), D. Dobson, J. Primeau, T. Novosedlik (Student Trustee)

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The Equity & Inclusion Committee met on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 to discuss the following item(s):

1. Student Support Fund - Report

No recommendations were made.

S. Humphries  
Acting Chairperson

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ADOPTED - April 25, 2023



INSPIRE. EMPOWER. ACHIEVE.

## FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Open Session:   X  

Closed Session: \_\_\_\_\_

### REPORT TO BOARD

**April 11, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: M. Guenette (Acting Chair), S. Humphries, B. Morris, L. Boland, K. Dougherty, A. Beggs (Student Trustee)

Administration: P. Buffone, J. Barnes, R. Cousineau, K. Riddell, J. Smith, M. Caplan Jamieson, H. MacMillan

Guests:

**ABSENT:** (With Regrets) D. Kaiser, D. Dobson, J. Primeau, J. Poirier, T. Novosedlik (Student Trustee)

The Finance and Resources Committee met on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 to discuss the following item(s):

1. Community Use of Schools

No recommendations were made.

M. Guenette  
Acting Chairperson

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ADOPTED - April 25, 2023



INSPIRE. EMPOWER. ACHIEVE.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Open Session: x

Closed Session:

### REPORT TO BOARD

April 19, 2023

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: M. Guenette, B. Morris, D. Lacombe, S. Tait, N. Tabbert, C. Brash, L. Rigby, S. Smith, M. Wagner

**ADMINISTRATION:** A. McGregor, A. MacDougall-Popke, J. Smith, A. Hilts

**GUESTS:**

**ABSENT:** (With Regrets) A. MacKenzie, A. Desrochers

The Special Education Advisory Committee met in person and virtually on Wednesday April 19, 2023 and discussed the following:

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

No recommendations were made.

Amy MacKenzie,  
Chairperson

ADOPTED - April 25, 2023





**Board Meeting  
Director's Update - Pino Buffone  
25 April 2023**

Now that we are fully into the spring season, I would like to highlight a number of activities and events, initiatives and/or projects taking place across the system as they relate to the achievement, equity and well-being of our students, staff and school communities.

At the elementary level, on Monday 17 April and Tuesday 18 April 2023, the primary students at Champlain Discovery Public School experienced the joy of duckling hatching after a month-long incubation period in their classrooms. To date, four ducklings have hatched with a total of nine expected in the coming days.

At the secondary level, on Tuesday 11 April 2023, secondary students at Mackenzie Community School prepared a display of anti-racism and anti-oppression education through their art work and graphic displays on site in a celebration of equality for all.

As always, the District continues to follow the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health 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; as well as, the continuation of funding for enhanced cleaning standards and ventilation and filtration improvements at all sites.

**Transition Working Group - Secondary School Review - Spring 2023**

As part of the Secondary School Review, the 'Transition Working Group' has met and will be meeting on Monday, April 24th (PM) and Monday, May 29th (PM), 2023. The Working Group has/will discuss progress made by each sub-committee, including: Program Pathways (creation of de-stream framework); Student Success Initiatives (resource guide for educators); Experiential Learning Opportunities (handbook for experiential learning); as well as Transitions to/from Secondary School (protocol of promising practices). In addition, the 'Other Considerations' noted in the recommendations approved by the Board of Trustees will also be addressed, such as potential supports for artistic and athletic endeavours, system-wide, for example. A summary report of the follow-up will be prepared for the Board Meeting in June 2023.

**Context Set for Adult & Continuing Education Review - Fall 2023**

On Tuesday 18 April 2023, members of the Adult & Continuing Education Department met with Chair Humphries, Superintendent Cousineau, System Principal Gagan and myself to provide an overview of Credits, ESL (English as a Second Language) and LBS (Literacy Basic Skills) in order to set the context for the cyclical review of the department planned for the Fall of 2023. A report outlining details of the review will be provided at the Board Meeting in August 2023 with a final report (potentially including recommendations) to come to the Board of Trustees by the end of the calendar year of 2023.



**Board Meeting**  
**Chair's Update - Susan Humphries**  
**25 April 2023**

I had the pleasure of speaking with a Grade 5/6 class at AJ Charbonneau Public School in Arnprior earlier this month. The students were studying the roles of government and had already worked on the provincial and federal components. Both Trustee Dougherty and I spoke about the role of the trustee, how we work with other levels of government and the importance of student voice through our Student Trustees as well as direct contact with our schools. Many thanks to Mr. Nic Edge who was on a placement in this class and well known around our trustee table as he was both a Student Trustee and a municipally elected Trustee.

Student Trustee elections were held earlier this month and it was interesting to hear from the 3 candidates as they described how they saw the role, what their priorities would be and why they should be selected. All candidates did an excellent job and described a variety of potential initiatives including: strengthening community involvement, inviting guest speakers to discuss sensitive topics of interest, equity for the betterment of the student body, environmental projects (creating gardens, planting trees), celebrating cultures and broadening robotics across the District. Congratulations to all candidates for putting their names forward and thinking carefully about what their role should/could be as a Student Trustee. Our Student Trustee report will provide the name of the winning candidate.....I am happy that I did not have to vote!

As Director Buffone mentioned, we had an excellent presentation by several staff of Adult and Continuing Education in preparation for a fulsome review of these programs in the fall of 2023. It is an interesting component of the work provided by our Board as it touches individuals of all ages, from all communities, with a variety of needs and provides so many opportunities for these individual to achieve their goals and find their pathways to success. It is a complex system with funding from a number of sources and thankfully we have passionate staff who are working very hard to provide the support that these adults/students need to be successful. I am looking forward to hearing more during the review.

Earlier this week, the Ministry of Education announced a variety of things including some proposed legislation entitled "The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act". Among many other things, the proposed legislation will allow the Ministry to focus boards in important areas of student achievement including reading, writing and math. I want to acknowledge and thank our staff who are already doing great work in these areas and we know that we are making significant progress in helping our students "catch up" and exceed expectations.

We are thankful that the Ministry released the Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) information this week which allows us to establish our budget for the next school year. Thank you to our staff for working through all of the details and to our Trustees who will be reviewing and defining how our budget will look for the school year 2023-2024. Stay tuned!



## **Student Trustees' Report for Tuesday, April 28, 2023**

### **Report Prepared By:**

### **Taylor Novosedlik and Ava Beggs**

This past month has been pretty beneficial for us, with an executive retreat on my end, in-person student senate meeting, student trustee elections and some meetings. At the beginning of the month, I headed down to Toronto for an exec meeting, during which consisted of lots of planning for our upcoming conference in May, different scholarships that are floating around OSTA, and a brief recap on the Health Curriculum survey. After many long hours of planning, we finalized our AGM agenda, I can confidently say that the executive team is excited for this conference but it is bittersweet considering we are all outgoings. The highlight of this conference will be the elections for the Presidents and Vice-Presidents.

At our Senate meeting/elections we listened to three strong candidates who were interested in the role, after their insightful presentations, a brief question period, and then the voting block- it was revealed that the incoming student trustee for the 2023-2025 term for the RCDSB is Grace Ding who is from Mackenzie HS. Grace is very eager to begin her role, and has stated from her presentation that she is prepared and ready to showcase her ideas to our board. We have also heard from 3 of the candidates that they are planning on joining our Senate next year. In conclusion I have no doubt in my mind that Ava and Grace will be a powerful team, and I'm very excited to see what they accomplish from an outside view.

Following all of that, we had our regular scheduled meeting which consisted of school updates and planning for May's mental health week. This year, in order to keep it concise across schools we decided that we would have set days for the senators to bring back. Although we encourage our senators to make the days flexible and catering to their schools, the days overall seem very achievable! On Monday we have sidewalk chalk, Tuesday is "eat and educate", Wednesday is a fun outdoor collaborative painting activity, Thursday is set for support counselors to talk about the resources of the RCDSB, and lastly Friday is geared towards a "pick your own adventure" day- with lots of activities to pick from. Students will also be encouraged to wear green.

Lastly, we briefly discussed our plans for the next meeting which will be held at Parliament! More details to come following that meeting.