

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2023
at 4:05 PM

Chairperson S. Humphries in the Chair.

TRUSTEES Present: D. Dobson; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; B. Morris; T. Novosedlik & A. Beggs (Student Trustees)

TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret): D. Kaiser; L. Boland; J. Primeau

STAFF: P. Buffone; J. Poirier; J. Barnes; R. Cousineau; K. Riddell; M. Caplan Jamieson; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan; A. Gagan

STAFF Absent (With Regret): J. Smith

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 Chairperson S. Humphries.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY B. MORRIS seconded by D. Dobson 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 M. GUENETTE seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Board Meeting on January 24, 2023.

The motion was CARRIED

7. PRESENTATION – ADULT & CONTINUING EDUCATION: *WHAT DO WE ACTUALLY DO?*

Superintendent R. Cousineau welcomed Ann Gagan, Principal of Adult & Continuing Education and Elementary Virtual School who gave an overview of Adult & Continuing Education. Principal Gagan provided information about the location of the four sites, the programs currently offered at each and how the program can support K-12. In addition, Principal Gagan reviewed the challenges of Adult & Continuing Education as we emerge from the pandemic, work to support diverse learners and look at ways to sustain and improve the program. A brief overview of each program was given with anecdotes and success stories of Adult & Continuing Education students and graduates.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Committee of the Whole Open Session Report – February 28, 2023

Board Chairperson S. Humphries, Acting Chairperson of Committee of the Whole, presented the Open Session Report of Committee of the Whole from today's meeting.

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES 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 – February 28, 2023

Board Chairperson S. Humphries, Acting Chairperson of Committee of the Whole, presented the Closed Session Report of Committee of the Whole from today's meeting.

MOVED BY S. HUMPHRIES, 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

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 14, 2023.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by B. Morris that the Renfrew County District School Board adopts the Open Session Report of the Program & Student Achievement Committee meeting held on February 14, 2023.

The motion was CARRIED

Finance & Resources Committee

Trustee B. Morris, Chairperson of the Finance & Resources Committee, presented the Open Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on February 14, 2023.

MOVED BY B. MORRIS, seconded by D. Dobson that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on February 14, 2023.

The motion was CARRIED

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee M. Guenette presented the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 15, 2023.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by B. Morris that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 15, 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. 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 gave several highlights of the recent Public Education Symposium (PES) they and Vice-Chair L. Boland attended. Key points shared from the informative sessions: inspirational speakers who spoke about the global impact of the pandemic, Truth & Reconciliation, Roberts Rules of Order, Right to Read, and labour market implications.

Discussion at the Board of Directors meeting from last weekend included the annual Advocacy Day at Queen's Park, Children & Youth Mental Health and funding, FSL expansion, teacher shortages, SHSM Education, Strategic Plan Survey, and Trustees' safety.

The OPSBA's Board of Directors next meeting is scheduled in April.

OPSBA's Eastern Regional meeting will be in Kanata on Saturday, March 25, 2023.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairperson S. Humphries referenced copies of letters received from District School Board of Niagara and Avon Maitland District School Board.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Executive Officer of Public Affairs, M. Caplan Jamieson, stated today the RCDSB Parent Involvement Committee sent a survey (Thought Exchange) to parents/guardians seeking their input on how might PIC and the District support them as a partner in their children's education journey. PIC's message stated that "*When parents/guardians are partners in their children's learning, have open communication between home and school, and set high expectations for children, it strengthens student achievement and wellbeing*".

The successful Valentine's Day Fundraising Campaign was an opportunity to raise awareness to donate in support of the Student Support Fund (SSF). Monies raised for the SSF will help children and families in need for things such as basic needs (food, clothing), inclusion in speciality food days, field trips, extracurricular activities, and post-secondary application fees.

The Board's Committee meetings previously scheduled for March 7th has been cancelled. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is March 28, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE seconded by B. Morris that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of February 28, 2023 be adjourned. Time: 5:45 PM

The motion was CARRIED

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OPEN SESSION REPORT
February 28, 2023**

TRUSTEES: L. Boland; S. Humphries (Acting Chair); D. Dobson; K. Dougherty; M. Guenette; B. Morris; J. Primeau; T. Novosedlik & A. Beggs (Student Trustees)

TRUSTEES: D. Kaiser
(Regrets)

STAFF: P. Buffone; J. Poirier; J. Barnes; R. Cousineau; K. Riddell; M. Caplan Jamieson;
S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan; B. Murray

STAFF: J. Smith
(Regrets)

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on February 28, 2023 and discussed the following items in Open Session:

1. RCDSB Programs – Secondary;
2. Mid-Year Update regarding Work Plan for Staff for the 2022-2023 School Year;
3. School Excursion Request – Arnprior District High School.

The following recommendation was made:

School Excursion Request – Arnprior District High School

THAT the Renfrew County District School Board approve the excursion request from Arnprior District High School, in principle, to travel to Venice, The Alps, Paris and London from March 7-17, 2024.

I move that the Board adopts this report.

S. Humphries
Acting Chairperson

ADOPTED - February 28, 2023

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
CLOSED SESSION REPORT
February 28, 2023**

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

TRUSTEES: D. Kaiser
(Regrets)

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

STAFF: J. Smith
(Regrets)

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 Trustees Novosedlik and Beggs were not present during today's Committee of the Whole Closed Session.

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on February 28, 2023 and discussed the following items in Closed Session:

1. Keys Building;
2. Finance & Resources Committee Meeting Closed Session Report – February 14, 2023;
3. Tri-Board Virtual Schooling Option.

The following recommendations were made:

Keys Building

THAT the Renfrew County DSB adopts the Closed Session Report presented on February 28, 2023 regarding the Keys Building.

Finance & Resources Committee Meeting Closed Session Report – February 14, 2023

THAT the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Closed Session Report of the Finance & Resources Committee – February 14, 2023.

I move that the Board adopts this report.

S. Humphries
Acting Chairperson

ADOPTED - February 28, 2023

PROGRAM AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

Open Session: **x**

Closed Session: _____

REPORT TO BOARD

February 14, 2023

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	M. Guenette (Chair), D. Dobson, D. Kaiser, B. Morris, J. Primeau, K. Dougherty (Virtual), L. Boland, A. Beggs (Student Trustee) (Virtual)
Administration:	P. Buffone, R. Cousineau, J. Poirier, J. Barnes, K. Riddell, J. Smith, M. Jamieson , R. Coleman, S. McCafferty
Guests:	S. Gagne, K Recoskie, C. Beattie, J. Belleau, W. Mayes

ABSENT: (With Regrets) S. Humphries, T. Novosedlik (Student Trustee)

The Program and Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday February 14, 2023 to discuss the following items:

1. School Effectiveness and Student Success Action Plan – Secondary - Report
2. School Year Calendar - Report

The following recommendation was made:

2. School Year Calendar – Report

THAT the Renfrew County District School Board submit the proposed regular school year calendar for the 2023-2024 school year for approval by the Ministry of Education.

M. Guenette
Chairperson



INSPIRE. EMPOWER. ACHIEVE.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Open Session: X

Closed Session: _____

REPORT TO BOARD

February 14, 2023

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	B. Morris (Chair), D. Dobson, L. Boland, M. Guenette, D. Kaiser, D. Shields, J. Primeau, K. Dougherty, A. Beggs (Student Trustee)
Administration:	P. Buffone, R. Cousineau, J. Poirier, K. Riddell, J. Smith, M. Caplan Jamieson, S. McIntyre, R. Coleman
Guests:	B. White

ABSENT: (With Regrets) S. Humphries

The Finance and Resources Committee met on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 to discuss the following item(s):

1. RCJTC Inclement Weather; and
2. OSBIE - Students Driving Students to Excursions.

No recommendations were made.

B. Morris
Chairperson

ADOPTED - February 28, 2023



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Open Session: x

Closed Session:

REPORT TO BOARD

February 15, 2023

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

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

GUESTS:

ABSENT: (With Regrets) B. Morris, A. Desrochers

The Special Education Advisory Committee met in person and virtually on Wednesday February 15, 2023 and discussed the following:

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

No recommendations were made.

Amy MacKenzie,
Chairperson

ADOPTED - February 28, 2023



Board Meeting
Director's Update - Pino Buffone
28 February 2023

As we progress through the wonderful winter season, I would like to highlight a number of activities and events, initiatives and projects taking place across the system as they relate to the achievement, equity and well-being of our students, staff and school communities.

On Wednesday 22 February 2023, for instance, the District celebrated 'Pink Shirt Day', with schools choosing kindness and putting an end to bullying, including a social media campaign on this front by Renfrew Collegiate Institute.

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.

Ontario Winter Games - 03-05 & 10-12 February 2023

A great success! The Ontario Winter Games were tremendously well-received throughout the county... with all seven secondary sites of the District hosting events... and a number of students volunteering their time at these events. Games Manager, Cindy Burwell, was tremendously grateful for the collaboration of students and staff - as spectators and/or volunteers - in this extraordinary opportunity! Please visit www.renfrewcounty2023.ca for details!

Renewal of Indigenous Speaker Series – Winter 2023

The RCCDSB and RCDSB have resumed the Indigenous Speaker Series for the current school year, with two sessions scheduled for the month of February. The first session, held on Thursday 18 February 2023, featured Cody Coyote. The insightful session, entitled 'Healing Through Art' provided an opportunity to hear this talented artist's perspectives on overcoming bullying, racism and other life experiences through this medium. Live music from his albums "Mamawi" and "Ma'iinganag" was shared with participants.



Board Meeting
Chair's Update - Susan Humphries
28 February 2023

The Public Education Symposium, hosted by the Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA), returned to an in person format this year with a record attendance. It was a wonderful opportunity for both new and returning trustees to listen to some amazing speakers, participate in workshops and meet others who also have a passion for public education. New trustees were “buddied up” with returning trustees who reached out to them prior to the conference and committed to meeting up with their “buddy” at some time during the conference for coffee and a photo. This was a great idea to ensure new trustees felt welcomed and part of the group. More details about the conference will be shared later in this meeting.

A revised Good Governance Guide was introduced at the Public Education Symposium. I would encourage everyone to take a look. Hard copies were available to those attending and are being sent out to those trustees who could not attend. It is also available on the OPSBA website as a PDF. It is an excellent resource for everyone to better understand the role of the trustee and the governance part they play in managing our public education system. Past RCDSB Director of Education, Roger Clarke, was the lead on the revisions this year.

What a wonderful opportunity for Ms. Heather Dale’s grade 5/6 class from Central Public School in Renfrew to meet the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario at the Renfrew Public Library.

Ms. Dowdeswell was in Renfrew to open the Ontario Winter Games. Both Director Buffone and I, along with Mayor Sidney and other town of Renfrew staff, were fortunate to be part of this momentous occasion. She met with the class to read a story, and answered their questions with grace and thoughtfulness. Her main message was that you could be what you want to be but you must have patience and be open to new ideas and directions. Students also made and presented a token of appreciation to Ms. Dowdeswell for taking the time to meet with them.

And finally, a huge thank you to our staff at the various schools that participated in the Ontario Winter Games! Even though the weather did not cooperate, the many volunteers made it a huge success.



Student Trustees' Report for Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Report Prepared By:

Taylor Novosedlik and Ava Beggs

During February Taylor and I have both been working to adjust to our new semesters and prioritize our studies during this busy time. We are extremely grateful that we had the opportunity to attend OSTA-AECO's Board Council Conference. During this conference we networked with student trustees from across Ontario. Our sessions focused on adaptability and personal development as a representative of students. As PBC Regional Representative of Southern Ontario, I ran two different breakout sessions to catch up on what that region has been up to recently. Furthermore, during working group breakout sessions I attended equity, inclusion and student well being sessions. Within these groups the concept of intramurals is being looked into and adjusted so that everyone is included. We also took a look into different policies boards have for sexual abuse against staff and students.

I am feeling so inspired after seeing what other student trustees are doing in their roles and I am extremely excited for what's to come for public education and more specifically our school board. Taylor spent most of her weekend dedicating herself to making this conference a success. She helped run many different activities and sessions that were enjoyed by many. She was also responsible for being the photographer of this conference, to which she did amazing at and gave us all photos of memories that will last a lifetime. Overall this conference was beyond beneficial for us!