

**RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON MARCH 28, 2023**  
**at 3:45 PM**

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

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

**TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret):** L. Boland

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

**STAFF Absent (With Regret):**

*Chairperson S. Humphries acknowledged and welcomed former Member of Provincial Parliament, Mr. Sean Conway, who was in attendance at today's Board Meeting.*

**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 Trustee D. Kaiser.

**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 K. DOUGHERTY seconded by D. Dobson that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Board Meeting on February 28, 2023.

**The motion was CARRIED**

**7. PRESENTATION – SPECIAL EDUCATION: SPECIAL PROJECT ON TIERED SUPPORTS UPDATE**

Superintendent J. Smith introduced key members of the Special Services Department, including Shannon Cassidy-Rouleau, Principal of Tiered Supports, Derek Tackney and Melissa Wylie who are Itinerant School Support Counsellors. They provided an update on the special projects and where they stand at this time. The team discussed the experiences of students and highlighted the findings of the 2019 Special Education Review, which included

academic and behaviour-based areas. The team also emphasised the importance of creating safe spaces for students to learn and how they plan to improve precision using core resources.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD

### Committee of the Whole Open Session Report – March 28, 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 K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

**The motion was CARRIED**

### Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee M. Guenette presented the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on March 22, 2023.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by D. Kaiser that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on March 22, 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 an update on OPSBA's Eastern Regional meeting that took place in Stittsville. It was the first in-person meeting since 2019, and they remarked how great it was to finally have the opportunity to network face-to-face with everyone. During the meeting, Trustees had the chance to tour a new school, which opened in January. Trustee Dougherty reported that the meeting included discussion of OPSBA's strategic plan. They also were delighted to have a presentation from the Ottawa-Carleton DSB about two programs: Student Achievement through Equity (SATE) and a community outreach program. During the meeting, updates from other Boards were shared. Looking ahead, the next regional meeting and the Annual General Meeting will be held on June 8-9, 2023.

Chairperson Humphries added that there is a \$1,000 scholarship available from the region for students who will be going into the trades. A Trustee from our District will be required to be part of the Review Committee. Interested Trustees are to reach out to Chairperson Humphries.

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE

None to report.

## 11. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson S. Humphries expressed the importance of good community partnerships as they are essential to the success of our organization, and our need to continue making meaningful connections. As such at the end of April, RCI will host the annual Canadian Federation of University Women – Renfrew District (CFUW) Book Fair on April 28-29, 2023. It is an excellent opportunity to engage with the community and promote literacy. All proceeds from the book fair will go towards scholarships at the local high schools. Promotion of this event will be displayed on the digital sign at RCI to attract as many participants as possible.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY B. MORRIS seconded by K. Dougherty that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of March 28, 2023 be adjourned. Time: 5:10 PM

**The motion was CARRIED**

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

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

TRUSTEES: L. Boland  
(Regrets)

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

STAFF:  
(Regrets)

---

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

1. Annual Action Plan for Special Services;
2. Preliminary Data Collection Survey;
3. Transportation of Students (OSBIE);
4. 2023 Long-term Enrolment Report;
5. CNL Meeting Update.

No recommendations were made.

I move that the Board receives this report.

B. Morris  
Acting Chairperson

---

ADOPTED - March 28, 2023

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Open Session: x

Closed Session:

### **REPORT TO BOARD**

March 22, 2023

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

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

**GUESTS:**

**ABSENT:** (With Regrets) J. Smith

The Special Education Advisory Committee met in person and virtually on Wednesday March 23, 2023 and discussed the following

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

No recommendations were made.

Amy MacKenzie,  
Chairperson

---

ADOPTED - March 28, 2023



**Board Meeting  
Director's Update - Pino Buffone  
28 March 2023**

As we head 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, for instance, on Wednesday 01 March 2023 & Thursday 02 March 2023, Cobden District Public School held a wonderful musical production entitled "Willy Wonka Junior"... an inspiring artistic performance for students, staff and the school community!

At the secondary level, a number of educators from across the county met on Thursday 09 March 2023 to continue their professional learning and deliberation related to the creation of a 'de-stream framework' for the organization... as an outcome of the 'Rethink@Secondary' initiative.

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.

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

As part of the Secondary School Review, the 'Transition Working Group' will be established this spring season - in order to coordinate the work of each sub-committee - related to the 'Rethink@Secondary' initiative. A number of sub-committees by key area of focus will begin and/or continue their collective work, including: Student Success Initiatives (resource guide for educators); Experiential Learning Opportunities (handbook for experiential learning); Transitions to/from Secondary School (protocol of promising practices); as well as, Program Pathways (de-stream framework) mentioned above. In addition, the 'Other Considerations' noted in the recommendations approved by the Board of Trustees will also be addressed, such as the potential exploration of a return to a subject council structure, for instance. A summary report of the follow-up will be prepared for the Board Meeting in June 2023.



**Board Meeting**  
**Chair's Update - Susan Humphries**  
**28 March 2023**

**Meeting with CNL:**

On March 7th, a very interesting meeting was held with key staff at CNL. Jeff Griffin, VP Science and Technology; Gina Strati, Director, Science and Technology Partnerships Program; Josh Bowle, Director, Science and Technology, Stakeholder Engagement; Brittany Pearsoll, Senior Recruitment Coordinator in Talent Acquisition; Philip Kompass, Manager Corporate Communications and Marissa Breeze, Communications Officer-External Relations met with several staff from RCDSB including Kristen Riddell, Meredith Caplan Jamieson, Peter Burnette, Alex Harris, Pat Brazeau, Pino Buffone and me. We both spoke about our Vision and Mission and it was most interesting to hear about the expansion of CNL as well as their focus on reaching out to various stakeholders. They spoke about the development of partnerships with several universities in Ontario as well as their current support to students and the public in our District. Currently they offer tours on a monthly basis to any class of students who request it. The students spend the day at CNL and see various components of the facility. They also offer to provide speakers to classrooms when asked. As well they continue to provide support to the district science fair. We outlined our interest in collaborating with them on a specific Specialist High Skills Major program with a STEM focus to offer a more intensive experience for our senior academic students. This seemed to be a logical link to the partnerships that they are currently working on with several universities. They asked lots of questions and were interested in knowing more about this possibility. Our staff is in the process of identifying specifics and is working with CNL to move this idea forward. In the meantime, it would be a great opportunity for our Board of Trustees to set up a tour of our own at CNL and see the changes and progress that is being made there. Their three priorities of restoring and protecting Canada's environment, clean energy for today and tomorrow and contributing to the health of Canadians are of great interest to our Board, staff, students and stakeholders. We are looking forward to seeing the outcomes of this meeting- thanks to all who participated.

**Meeting with EQAO CEO and Chair:**

Pino and I had a very informative Zoom call with the EQAO CEO Dan Koenig and Chair Dr. Cameron Montgomery just prior to March break. They spoke about the changes occurring and how this year will be the new baseline due to several reasons including a new curriculum and a new computer adaptive assessment that has been implemented. Dr. Cameron has offered to speak to our Board and we are looking forward to hearing more details at a meeting this spring.

**March Break 2023:**

It was wonderful to see several of our secondary school students experiencing life changing opportunities to travel on a study tour to Europe during March break! Congratulations and thank you to all staff, students, parents/guardians and community supporters for making this happen -*"Travel is rich with learning opportunities, and the ultimate souvenir is a broader perspective."* **Rick Steves.**

I sincerely hope that all students and staff enjoyed the break and are re-energized to finish the school year journey to the end of June!



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

### **Report Prepared By:**

**Taylor Novosedlik and Ava Beggs**

These past few weeks Taylor and I have been working hard to recruit possible candidates for our 2023-25 student trustee who will be elected in April. We ran two information sessions on March 9th. Both sessions included information on the history, responsibilities, requirements, benefits, and much more. I ran the second session and Taylor ran the first. We had a good turnout of students who were interested in the role and who engaged in the presentation. Taylor and I are beyond excited to have our senate elect an incoming student trustee and we look forward to passing on our knowledge and experience!

Taylor and I have also been put contact with Superintendent Poirier who is going to be helping us learn further details about our boards policies on sexual abuse against students. This is a topic that I am extremely passionate about and I look forward to advocating for students and making sure we have explicit definitions of sexual assault and sexual violence, exact guidelines for reporting and handling cases of sexual violence, and clearly outlined procedures for filing complaints and conducting investigations.