

**RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 23, 2021**

**at 2:35 p.m.**

***Acting Chairperson D. Kaiser in the Chair.***

**TRUSTEES Present:** M. Adam; L. Boland; M. Guenette; S. Humphries; B. Morris; D. Shields; J. Abbott & T. Novosedlik (Student Trustees)

**TRUSTEES Absent (With Regret):** N. Edge

**STAFF:** P. Buffone; B. McIntyre; J. Poirier; S. Blok; R. Cousineau; J. Barnes; J. Laderoute; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan; P. Burnette; P. Brazeau; J. Lavoie; D. Neff; A. Harris

**STAFF Absent (With Regret):**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chairperson D. Kaiser called the meeting to order.

**2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Chairperson B. Morris read the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**3. INVOCATION**

The invocation was read by Chairperson B. Morris.

**4. APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA**

MOVED BY D. SHIELDS seconded by M. Adam 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**

Acting Chairperson D. Kaiser asked for declarations of conflict. None were forthcoming.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED BY M. ADAM seconded by S. Humphries that the Renfrew County District School Board confirms the minutes of the Board Meeting on October 26, 2021 and Special Board Meeting of November 18, 2021.

**The motion was CARRIED**

**7. PRESENTATION - Secondary Experiential Learning and Specialty Program**

Superintendent J. Poirier introduced Peter Burnette - Principal of Experiential Learning, Pat Brazeau – SHSM Coordinator, Joe Lavoie – Fellowes HS Vice-Principal, Duane Neff – Fellowes HS Coop Teacher, and Alex Harris - OYAP Coordinator.

Principal Burnette explained the importance programs have for every pathway, allowing students various opportunities for different aspects of their life. Mr. Burnette, Mr. Brazeau and Mr. Harris proceeded with an interview-type conversation with Mr. Lavoie and Mr. Neff. The initial steps when students express interest in a Coop program will have them explain their goals, interests, hobbies, and career direction in order that a suitable placement can be arranged. The value of experiential learning for students is evident and has changed perspectives on educational plans.

The delegation spoke of growing strong community partnerships so to provide more opportunity for our youth. A video testimonial from Grade 12 student Madison Harris was shown describing how her coop placement is leading her to becoming a registered apprentice made possible by the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP).

Acting Chairperson D. Kaiser expressed gratitude to the educators on behalf of the Board for their passion and the value this method of learning has for our youth.

## 8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

### **Committee of the Whole Open & Closed Session Reports – November 23, 2021**

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

**The motion was CARRIED**

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 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**

### **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 November 9, 2021.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by S. Humphries that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Program & Student Achievement Committee meeting held on November 9, 2021.

**The motion was CARRIED**

### **Equity & Inclusion Committee**

Trustee M. Adam, Chairperson of the Equity and Inclusion Committee, presented the Open Session Report of the Equity & Inclusion Committee meeting held on November 9, 2021.

MOVED BY M. ADAM, seconded by L. Boland that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Open Session Report of the Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting held on November 9, 2021.

**The motion was CARRIED**

### **Special Education Advisory Committee**

Trustee M. Guenette presented the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on November 17, 2021.

MOVED BY M. GUENETTE, seconded by S. Humphries that the Renfrew County District School Board receives the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on November 17, 2021.

**The motion was CARRIED**

### **Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Update**

Trustee M. Adam presented an update of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee. See Appendix "A"

9. **UPDATES**

**(a) Director**

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

**(b) Chair**

Board Chairperson B. Morris presented is Chair's Report. See Appendix "C".

**(c) Student Trustees**

Student Trustees J. Abbott & T. Novosedlik presented the Student Trustees Report. See Appendix "D".

**(d) OPSBA**

Trustee S. Humphries' reported on OPSBA's recent meeting and activities including Project Compass, submission of Board input for GSN purposes, and OPSBA's recent hire of a Director of Equity & Inclusion. Trustee Humphries reminded Trustees OPSBA's Public Education Symposium (PES) will be held virtually in January 2022.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None to report.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Vaccination for Children Ages 5-11

Superintendent B. McIntyre explained details of the Ministry of Health's recent announcement of the COVID-19 vaccination for children ages 5-11. RCDSB will continue to partner with the Renfrew County & District Health Unit by offering our school sites for this purpose. Mr. McIntyre emphasized that this activity will not occur during instructional time, rather will likely take place on weekends. Custodians will continue to support our buildings to remain safe and clean.

Timetabling for Secondary Schools - Semester Model

Superintendent J. Poirier shared that the Ministry of Education has announced that all secondary schools will be permitted to resume regular timetabling of 4 courses a day starting in February 2022. Ms. Poirier indicated that the Ministry has further added that with approval from local Public Health Units, the semester model can resume prior to the start of the winter semester. As such, we are awaiting direction in this regard from the Renfrew County & District Health Unit.

Clean Air Schools Initiative

Communications Manager J. Laderoute indicated that a demonstration event for the Clean Air Schools Program is taking place at Pine View PS tomorrow, November 24<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00-7:00 PM. The event will live demo the importance of HVAC optimization, as well as the aerosol duct cleaning process.

Petawawa Family of Schools Boundary Review – Public Information Session

Director of Education P. Buffone stated that on December 8, 2021 we are hosting a virtual information session for the Petawawa Family of Schools community as a follow-up to the recent Board decision to shift Herman Street PS grade 7 and 8 students to Valour JK-12 School and introduce Early French Immersion at Pine View PS effective September 2022. The event will be an opportunity to provide details and explain the process and timelines.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY D. SHIELDS seconded by M. Adam that the Renfrew County District School Board meeting of November 23, 2021 be adjourned. Time: 4:36 PM

**The motion was CARRIED**

RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
OPEN SESSION REPORT  
November 23, 2021**

TRUSTEES:	S. Humphries (Acting Chair); D. Kaiser; M. Adam; L. Boland; M. Guenette; B. Morris; D. Shields; J. Abbott & T. Novosedlik (Student Trustees)
TRUSTEES: (Regrets)	N. Edge
STAFF:	P. Buffone; B. McIntyre; J. Poirier; S. Blok; R. Cousineau; J. Barnes; J. Laderoute; S. McIntyre; H. MacMillan; B. Murray; T. Hoffman
GUEST:	T. Sylvestre – External Auditor

The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on November 23, 2021 and discussed the following items in Open Session:

1. Audit Committee Meeting Open Session Report – November 17, 2021 (Including Draft Consolidated Financial Statements;
2. Accumulated Surplus/Appropriation Transfers Report;
3. Capital Priorities 2021-2022;
4. Committee Structures & December Election Process.

The following recommendations were made:

**Audit Committee Meeting Open Session Report – November 17, 2021 (Including Draft Consolidated Financial Statements:**

**(1) Draft Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended August 31, 2021**

That the Renfrew County District School Board adopt the draft 2020-2021 Financial Statements, as audited and reported upon by Welch LLP, at their November 23, 2021 Board Meeting subject to Board approval of the internally restricted accumulated surplus transfers.

**(2) 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, 2021* and the *Annual Report to the Board of Trustees and Forwarded to the Ministry of Education for the Year Ended August 31, 2021* and that both reports be adopted by the Renfrew County District School Board at the November 23, 2021 Board Meeting.

**Accumulated Surplus/Appropriation Transfers Report**

THAT the Renfrew County District School Board approves the internal appropriation in the 2020/2021 year as follows.

**Accumulated Surplus/Internally Appropriated**

1. Transfer of \$1,151,456 from internally appropriated for Retirement Gratuities to fund the current year amortization of the future benefit for retirement gratuities.
2. Transfer of \$500,000 into ICT Plan Internally Appropriated funds to fund the future year expenditures.

Transfer of \$301,000 into Renewal Non-Instructional Appropriated funds internally restricted for Administrative Projects.

**Capital Priorities 2021-2022**

**THAT the Renfrew County District School Board approve the 2021-2022 Capital Priorities as presented in the amount of \$15,222,170.**

I move that the Board adopts this report.

S. Humphries  
Acting Chairperson

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ADOPTED - November 23, 2021

## RENFREW COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
CLOSED SESSION REPORT  
November 23, 2021**

TRUSTEES: S. Humphries (Acting Chair); D. Kaiser; M. Adam; L. Boland; M. Guenette; B. Morris;  
D. Shields; J. Abbott & T. Novosedlik (Student Trustees)

TRUSTEES: N. Edge  
(Regrets)

STAFF: P. Buffone; B. McIntyre; J. Poirier; S. Blok; R. Cousineau; J. Barnes; J. Laderoute; S. McIntyre;  
H. MacMillan; T. Hoffman

GUEST: T. Sylvestre – External Auditor

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The Committee of the Whole of the Renfrew County District School Board met on November 23, 2021 and discussed the following item in Closed Session:

1. Audit Committee Meeting Closed Session Report – November 17, 2021.

No recommendations were made.

I move that the Board receives this report.

S. Humphries  
Acting Chairperson

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ADOPTED - November 23, 2021

## PROGRAM AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

Open Session:   **x**  

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

### REPORT TO BOARD

**November 9, 2021**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Committee Members:	M. Guenette (Chair), S. Humphries, B. Morris, M. Adam, L. Boland, J. Abbott (Student Trustee), T. Novosedlik (Student Trustee)
	Administration:	P. Buffone, B. McIntyre, R. Cousineau, S. Blok, J. Poirier, J. Barnes, J. Laderoute, S. McIntyre, S. McCafferty, H. MacMillan
	Guests:	M. Knockleby (ACES), J. Smith (CASS), P. Burnette, A. Harris, P. Brazeau
<b>ABSENT:</b>	(With Regrets)	D. Shields, D. Kaiser, N. Edge

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The Program and Student Achievement Committee met on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 to discuss the following items:

1. Secondary – SHSM, OYAP, Dual Credit & Co-Op - Report

No recommendations were made.

M. Guenette  
Chairperson

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ADOPTED - November 23, 2021

## EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Open Session:   **x**  

Closed Session:           

### REPORT TO BOARD

**November 9, 2021**

**PRESENT:**

Committee Members:	M. Adam (Chair), M. Guenette, S. Humphries, B. Morris, L. Boland, J. Abbott (Student Trustee), T. Novosedlik (Student Trustee)
Administration:	P. Buffone, B. McIntyre, R. Cousineau, S. Blok, J. Poirier, J. Barnes, J. Laderoute, S. McIntyre, S. McCafferty, H MacMillan
Guests:	M. Knockleby (ACES), J. Smith (CASS), A. Johnson

**ABSENT:** (With Regrets) D. Shields, D. Kaiser, N. Edge

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The Equity and Inclusion Committee met on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 to discuss the following items:

1. Equity & Anti-Racism Action Plan - Report
2. Professional Learning Session - Equity and Human Rights

No recommendations were made.

M. Adam  
Chairperson

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ADOPTED - November 23, 2021



## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Open Session: X

Closed Session:

### REPORT TO BOARD

November 17, 2021

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: M. Guenette, B. Morris, A. MacKenzie, D. Lacombe

**ADMINISTRATION:** J. Poirier, B. Smith, M. Ingram, L. Rigby, C. Barber,  
S. Smith, A. MacDougall-Popke, A. Hilts

**ABSENT:** (With Regrets) A. Bergeron, N. Tabbert

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The Special Education Advisory Committee met on Wednesday November 17, 2021 and discussed the following:

1. Staff Update
  - SIP Funding
2. Report from the Board
3. Association Report

No recommendations were made.

Amy MacKenzie,  
Chairperson

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ADOPTED - November 23, 2021

Report to Board, 23 November, 2021

## Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting, 21 October, 2021

Very positive meeting with lots of good news to share.

1. IE Lead Tina Nelson spoke about the close fit between the board's new strategic plan and the goals of the indigenous education initiatives and the associated action plan for the current school year. Referencing the strategic plan priorities, she noted the growing engagement **inspired** by partnership with the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan community since 2015, as well as more recent engagement with other indigenous peoples. Programs and activities in schools have not only **empowered** indigenous students, but have also enabled **excellent new learning** for all students and teachers as these initiatives have grown and spread through the system.
2. Building from the strategic plan, the IE action plan has four focus areas: engagement and awareness; supporting students; supporting educators; and using data. Some action items include a new self-identification form and outreach to make it easier to self-identify (aside: there are now about 420 self-identified indigenous students/staff), and the new IE page on the board website, that makes it easy for students, parents and others to access programs and services.
3. Following this overview, the committee heard reports from Jude Kelley at EDPS, Angela McGregor at OHS, Sandy Beinet at CDPS, and Michelle Belsher at Valour about the wide variety of curriculum connections, activities, engagement of teachers and volunteers contributing knowledge and skills, videos, books, artwork and much more – many of these happening in Education Week and the Day of Reconciliation.
4. Graduation Coach Judy Ellis reported that she has travelled around to all 7 high schools, met almost all Grade 12 indigenous students and is now starting to get to know students in Grades 9 and 11. She organised a session for Grade 12s for post-secondary admissions and trades qualifications, and 'in her spare time' has started some cultural activities at MCS and Valour.
5. Having left the best to last, the big new news is the hiring of a second graduation coach, Logan Wright, who is Metis. Both Judy Ellis and Logan Wright were hired in partnership with community stakeholders to ensure a good fit with the community, and interviews used a story-telling approach to connect with the job requirements.
6. Enabling this big new news is the big issue of funding. There's a lot of new funding available, and Superintendent Cousineau will in a moment reveal where it is coming from. But hearing about it, and about our need to set a vision for what we want to accomplish with it, effectively put an end to progress through the agenda, as every member of the committee was eager to tell all the good ideas about what can be done if more funds become available.
7. Call on Supt. Cousineau to outline for you the good news about the new funding for indigenous education, as well as anything else he might want to add to my report.



## **Board Meeting Director's Update - Pino Buffone 23 November 2021**

Despite the change in the weather and the shift in daylight savings time, the month of November has been as energetic and fast-paced as ever across the District. A number of exciting activities, events, initiatives and/or projects that have taken place over in our school communities this month include...

- Take Our Kids To Work Day... on Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021, schools across the system took part in TOKTW Day, an opportunity for our students to explore career options. At the secondary level, for instance, a virtual event took place to showcase opportunities at the secondary level, including SHSM, Co-Op, OYAP and Dual-Credit), as well as hear from employees in a variety of professions in the county such as Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, a global leader in STEM, in addition to other members of The Labour Market Group of Renfrew & Lanark. In particular, Job Talks Executive Director, Dr. Jon Callegher, provided an insightful keynote session related to 'five great reasons for a career in the skilled trades'. Our gratitude to Superintendent Jacqueline Poirier, System Principal at Secondary Jenny Smith, and OYAP/SHSM Coordinators Alex Harris and Pat Brazeau for organizing this wonderful day!
- Ceremonies of Remembrance... on Monday, November 8th, 2021, our schools acknowledged Indigenous Veterans Day... a time to recognize the bravery of many First Nation, Métis and Inuit who served in the First and Second World Wars, as well as the Korean War... and on Thursday, November 11th, 2021, sites across the system also took part in ceremonies to honour those who have sacrificed their lives for our collective freedom. It was truly a time to reflect and remember for us all!

### **Community EDI Forum - Tuesday 02 November 2021**

On Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021, System Principal of Equity, Amy Johnson, and I took part in a community forum related to equity, diversity and inclusivity at the Best Western in Pembroke. The session involved leaders from a number of community agencies, including Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County, and launched a very important discussion related to our collective efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination and systemic barriers throughout our organizations as an aspirational goal to strive towards. We made a commitment, as an organization, to host a future forum of the group at one of our school sites in the future, when health and safety protocols allow.

### **Visit to CFB Petawawa - Tuesday 02 November 2021**

On Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021, Communications Manager Laderoute and I met with Colonel John Vass and his staff to discuss our vibrant partnership and the growth currently taking place in the Petawawa area. We committed to providing the Human Resources Department of Garrison Petawawa with a flyer on the programs and/or services offered in the Petawawa Family of Schools, including the FSL programs available at the elementary and secondary levels at Herman Street PS, Pine View PS, and Valour JK-12 School for inclusion in their orientation packages for incoming military families. Of note, Colonel Vass was pleased to point out that he is a proud product of our system... having graduated from General Panet High School!

### **Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour Comes to Pembroke - December 4th-6th, 2021**

Over the first weekend of December, the National Hockey League (NHL) and the Rogers Hometown Hockey Festival will be broadcasting community events related to the dynamic sport, past and present, from the Pembroke Memorial Centre (PMC). The events take on an additional special significance as it is the 70th anniversary of the PMC, having opened its doors to the public in 1951. A number of schools in the Pembroke area will take part in the festivities to celebrate community spirit, including: a colouring contest for children (K-8) and a "fill-the-net" food bank initiative for students (K-12). Our sincerest thanks to Jamie Bramburger of Algonquin College-Pembroke Campus for including our organization in the events, as a valued community partner.



**Board Meeting**  
**Chair's Update - Bryon Morris**  
**November 23, 2021**

While we still are in the grips of the pandemic there are signs that we may be headed toward a 'new normal'. Secondary students, in particular, are happy to hear the announcement that secondary schools may resume using a semester system for programming, effective second semester. The current Quad system, while addressing some Health and Safety issues in schools, has its own issues and the move back to the regular semester system reflects a growing demand throughout the Province for such a move.

At a Special Board meeting on Thursday, November 18, the Board of Trustees approved a recommendation to change student attendance structures as well as some program offerings in the Town of Petawawa. This was necessary to alleviate growing student numbers at Herman Street P.S. and have all three Petawawa schools offer French Immersion. A virtual Public Meeting will be held Wednesday December 8 for all interested parents/residents in the Town of Petawawa to explain in detail these positive changes and answer any questions people may have.

The Board of Trustees recently approved a 'Territorial Acknowledgement' to be read at the start of Board meetings. We are most pleased finally to have this in place as we seek to honour our First Nation, Metis and Inuit partners and forge a respectful and productive relationship with them.

As we head into the holiday season I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.



## Student Trustees' Report for Tuesday, November 23, 2021

### Report Prepared By:

**Jazzlyn Abbott and Taylor Novosedlik**

**Student Senate Update: Student Trustees Taylor Novosedlik and Jazzlyn Abbott**

### Student Trustee Taylor Novosedlik:

On November 18th we had our second Student Senate meeting, it was a packed agenda. Some key highlights that were discussed were our conversations about our social media, promoting mental health in partnership with Lisa Lariviere through the sharing of resources and hosting activities during Mental Health Week in May, our work on introducing elementary students to student government, and our secondary school review led by Director Buffone.

Jazzlyn and I have set dates for upcoming initiatives we would like to take on such as our mental health week, our Senators are to have meetings with their individual School Support Counsellors, and we would like to have any resources, speakers, etc. planned within the upcoming months. Specific dates are included in our minutes. We discussed our plan for grade 8 elementary outreach, and we will have a separate meeting with the elementary reachout committee, joined by the grade 7 and 8 Guidance Counsellor as well as System Principal Jenny Smith. Following that we will soon begin to reach out to elementary P's and VP's. After some discussion on our social media pages we have made some ideas for board challenges in December such as a winter photography, and a holiday recipes challenge. We also went over what type of content we would like to see on our Instagram, topics like education updates, opportunities for secondary schools, individual school accomplishments and interactive challenges were all discussed. With the assistance of Tina Nelson, we also discussed our plans for Indigenous outreach as part of our equity portfolio with Equity Ministers. Lastly, we made plans to once again host a Student Senate and Trustee orientation prior to this year's election. Our plan is to have each school find a minimum of three interested students who are preferably in graded 10 and 11.

### Student Trustee Jazzlyn Abbott:

In the past month, OSTA-AECO hosted our first hybrid conference, with around 70 Student Trustees in attendance between the virtual and in-person participation. With vaccine policies and mask mandates, we were able to host this in a safe environment. We received great feedback from our Student Trustees about the success of the conference, where we had the chance to introduce OSTA-AECO formally to new STs, have presentations to provide professional development, discussion periods to grow as a group, and special speakers such as Cathy Abraham and Deputy Minister Nancy Naylor. In our Public Board Council sessions, I was able to lead our group in chances to share learning experiences within our regions, and have a planning session regarding the publication we will be releasing about student success. The Executive Council has also been keeping busy while writing initial drafts of the *Student Blueprint* document, an election platform, and with the *Student Trustee: Today and Tomorrow*.