

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOUIS RIEL SCHOOL DIVISION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
50 Monterey Road, Winnipeg
Hybrid Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS: Chris Sigurdson, Chair
Sandy Nemeth, Trustee
Irene Nordheim, Trustee
Ryan Palmquist, Trustee
Cindy Turner, Trustee
Ian Walker, Trustee

REGRETS: Pamela Kolochuk, Trustee
Chipalo Simunyola, Trustee

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Christian Michalik, Superintendent & CEO
Jamie Rudnicki, Secretary-Treasurer & CFO
Jeff Anderson, Assistant Superintendent Policy, Planning & Research
Amarbeer Bhandari, Director of Facilities and Maintenance, virtual
Ron Cadez, Assistant Superintendent Student, Clinical, & Instructional Services
Darcy Cormack, Assistant Superintendent Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Services
Clarke Hagan, Director of Information Technology Services
Michelle Jean-Paul, Assistant Superintendent Staff Services
Corey Kapilik, Director of School and Classroom Supports, virtual
Deneen Madden, Executive Assistant
Lenore Polvorosa, Executive Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The March 18 Regular Board Meeting of the Louis Riel School Division (LRSD) Board of Trustees was called to order by Chris Sigurdson, Chair, LRSD Board of Trustees at 6:33 p.m.

1.1 LRSD Land Acknowledgement Read by Trustee Walker

The Louis Riel School Division (LRSD) brings together a community of schools on the traditional land of the Anishinaabek, Ininewak, and Dakota. Our division is located on the

National Homeland of the Red River Métis. We recognize that Manitoba is also the traditional land of the Anishininwak and Dene.

We respect the treaties made on this land and acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and present. We dedicate ourselves to authentic alliances with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation.

We recognize and honour Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, the source of Winnipeg's life-sustaining drinking water, as well as the Treaty Territories that generate and provide the electricity that powers daily activity throughout the province and beyond.

The ongoing development of LRSD's land acknowledgement is guided by our Indigenous Council of Grandmothers and Grandfathers, and we thank them for their generosity and collaboration.

1.2 Welcome and Announcements

The Chair welcomed everyone participating in the hybrid meeting and advised that Board meetings are audio recorded for accuracy. Unless approved, photographs, personal recordings, audio, visual or otherwise, are not permitted.

1.3 Affirmation of Vision and Mission

The Chair read the division's Vision and Mission statements.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

2.1 Approval of Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting – March 18, 2025

Cindy Turner, Trustee, left the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Cindy Turner, Trustee, joined the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Ryan Palmquist, Trustee, left the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Ryan Palmquist, Trustee, joined the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

2024-074

Moved by Trustee Walker

Seconded by Trustee Turner

THAT the Mar. 18 agenda for the Regular Board Meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2.2 Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – March 4, 2025

As there were no changes, the March 4 minutes of the Regular Board Meeting were accepted as distributed.

2.3 Approval of Minutes of the Special Board Meeting - March 11, 2025

As there were no changes, the March 11 minutes of the Special Board Meeting were accepted as distributed.

3. LRSD NEWS

3.1 News from the Board of Trustees Provided by Trustee Palmquist

Trustee Palmquist highlighted the following:

- GSA movie night at École Varennes
- Winakwa Community Centre Greenspace Rehabilitation

3.2 News from Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Provided by Assistant Superintendent Anderson

Assistant Superintendent Anderson highlighted the following:

- Collège Béliveau
- École Howden
- École Provencher
- École Van Belleghem
- Frontenac School
- General Vanier School
- Windsor Park Collegiate

4. BOARD EDUCATION

4.1 Jordan's Principle Funding

Superintendent Michalik and Corey Kapilik, Director of School and Classroom Supports, provided an update regarding funding in LRSD for Jordan's Principle.

5. FINANCE AND AUDIT

5.1 Budget 2025-2026

Secretary-Treasurer Rudnicki shared the 2025-2026 Budget spotlight story, press release, and related infographic.

6. STAFFING

6.1 Personnel Updates - Vice-Principal Appointment

2024-075

Moved by Trustee Nemeth

Seconded by Trustee Walker

THAT Lindsey Trudeau be appointed vice-principal at Lavallee School, effective Aug. 1, 2025.

CARRIED

6.2 Personnel Updates - Vice-Principal Transfers

2024-076

Moved by Trustee Palmquist

Seconded by Trustee Turner

THAT the following vice-principals be transferred, effective Aug. 1, 2025:

- Lisa Monson to Darwin School from Frontenac School
- Jennifer Sloan to Frontenac School from J.H. Bruns Collegiate
- Ifetayo Aremu to Collège Béliveau from École Sage Creek School
- Melanie Romas to J.H. Bruns Collegiate from General Vanier School

CARRIED

7. CHAIR INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

7.1 School Tour

The Chair shared highlights from the March 5 tour of the new French Immersion School serving Sage Creek and Bonavista.

7.2 Code of Conduct

The Chair advised that during a trustee meeting, the Board agreed that Trustee Palmquist breached the code of conduct; however, the Board agreed the breach did not warrant a sanction, but did warrant further board education in which all trustees will participate.

8. SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

8.1 Before-and-After School Care

Superintendent Michalik and Assistant Superintendent Anderson shared an update on strategic action 4.3 of our Multi-Year Strategic Plan. We are working to increase the availability of before-and-after school childcare in our schools.

8.2 Leadership Team Meeting - March 13, 2025

Superintendent Michalik shared an overview of the Leadership Team Meeting held on March 13, 2025.

8.3 Monthly Updates Regarding Communication Metrics

Superintendent Michalik provided the web analytics report for Sept. 4, 2024, to March 4, 2025.

9. POLICY

9.1 Legislative Update

Assistant Superintendent Anderson shared legislative updates regarding proposed bills affecting the education sector.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 School Board Correspondence – Received

The following correspondence was received by the Board:

- (Page 1) Memo RE: École Marie-Anne Gaboury – Mechanical Systems Replacement Authorization to proceed with Construction RFP March 12, 2025)

10.2 School Board Correspondence – Sent

The following was accepted as correspondence sent by the Board:

- (Page 1) Letter to Hon. Min. T. Schmidt (March 4, 2025)
- (Page 3) Letter to Hon. Min. M. Moyes (March 5, 2025)
- (Page 5) Letter to T. Blashko, MLA (March 5, 2025)
- (Page 7) Letter to R. Loiselle, MLA (March 5, 2025)

10.3 Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA) Correspondence – Received

The following MSBA correspondence was received by the Board:

- (Page 1) e-bulletin (March 5, 2025)
- (Page 2) Program Overview for March 20 to 21, 2025

11. ACTION ITEMS

11.1 Absence of the Vice-Chair

2024-077

Moved by Trustee Turner

Seconded by Trustee Walker

WHEREAS Trustee Darlene Gerrior has requested temporary medical leave from her duties; and,

WHEREAS the Board deems the request to be reasonable and necessary;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board authorize Trustee Gerrior's absence from her trustee duties, effective March 18, 2025; and,

THAT when able to resume to her duties, Trustee Gerrior writes to the Chair requesting reinstatement.

CARRIED

11.2 Election of an Interim Vice-Chair

2024-078

Moved by Trustee Turner

Seconded by Trustee Palmquist

THAT Trustee Ian Walker be declared Interim Vice-Chair of the Board of the Louis Riel School Division Board of Trustees for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year or until the return of Trustee Gerrior whichever occurs first.

CARRIED

11.3 Reconfiguration at École Varennes/École Henri-Bergeron Catchment Area - Draft Proposed Motion

2024-079

Moved by Trustee Palmquist

Seconded by Trustee Walker

WHEREAS the Louis Riel School Division has submitted a capital request to the Province of Manitoba for the construction of a new school with increased capacity to replace the existing École Varennes building; and,

WHEREAS enrolment at École Varennes is projected to far exceed building capacity beginning in the 2025-2026 school year; and,

WHEREAS École Henri-Bergeron is the nearest elementary school with space available; and,

WHEREAS both school administrations have advised families of the need for a change in grade configuration;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Superintendent's report and recommendation to address enrolment challenges at École Varennes School be received as information; and,

THAT École Varennes be redesignated on a temporary basis to serve Kindergarten to Grade 6 students only, effective Sept. 2, 2025; and,

THAT École Henri-Bergeron be designated on a temporary basis as the catchment area school for Grade 7 and 8 students residing within the current École Varennes catchment area, effective Sept. 2, 2025; and,

THAT school bus transportation be provided at no cost to families to students affected by this change; and,

THAT school administration at both schools continue to work with staff, students, and families to promote a smooth transition; and,

THAT Senior Leadership continue to monitor enrolment patterns at both schools and advise the Board of changes; and,

THAT beginning in June 2026, students completing Grade 8 at École Henri-Bergeron be given the choice to attend either Collège Béliveau or Collège Jeanne-Sauvé; and,

THAT the Board continue to advocate for the construction of a new, larger school to replace École Varennes so that Grade 7 and 8 French Immersion students may once again access programming in their local community.

CARRIED

11.4 Island Lakes Community School Redirection - Motion

2024-080

Moved by Trustee Turner

Seconded by Trustee Walker

WHEREAS the Board has undertaken numerous projects to increase the student capacity of Island Lakes Community School (ILCS), such as installing modular classrooms, repurposing various spaces for regular instructional use, and adding washroom fixtures; and,

WHEREAS enrolment at ILCS is projected to continue growing as new homes are constructed and occupied; and,

WHEREAS the opening of a new elementary school in Sage Creek will ease enrolment pressures at Shamrock School;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Superintendent's report and recommendation to address enrolment pressures at ILCS for the 2025-2026 school year be received as information; and,

THAT the Superintendent monitor class size and composition at ILCS in consultation with the School Principal; and,

THAT, when deemed necessary by the Superintendent, enrolment at a given grade level be closed, with new registrants (and any siblings) redirected to Shamrock School; and,

THAT school bus transportation be provided at no cost to families; and,

THAT the Superintendent monitor class size and composition at Shamrock School in consultation with the School Principal and provide additional staff as deemed necessary; and,

THAT the Superintendent provide regular updates to the Board.

CARRIED

11.5 Sage Creek Redirection - Motion

2024-081

Moved by Trustee Walker

Seconded by Trustee Turner

WHEREAS Sage Creek School (SCS) will be designated to serve Kindergarten to Grade 8 English program students, effective September 2025; and,

WHEREAS certain spaces repurposed for regular instruction to mitigate enrolment pressures will be restored to their intended purpose over the summer, thereby reducing student capacity at SCS to a value closer to its original design capacity; and,

WHEREAS enrolment at SCS is projected to continue growing as new homes are constructed and occupied; and,

WHEREAS Shamrock School will have capacity to temporarily accommodate students from other school catchments,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Superintendent's report and recommendation to address enrolment pressures at SCS for the 2025-2026 school year be received as information; and,

THAT the Superintendent monitor class size and composition at SCS in consultation with the School Principal; and,

THAT, when deemed necessary by the Superintendent, enrolment at a given grade level be closed, with new registrants (and any siblings) redirected to Shamrock School; and,

THAT school bus transportation be provided at no cost to families; and,

THAT the Superintendent monitor class size and composition at Shamrock School in consultation with the School Principal and provide additional staff as deemed necessary; and,

THAT the Superintendent provide regular updates to the Board.

CARRIED

11.6 Board Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025 Amended

2024-082

Moved by Trustee Walker

Seconded by Trustee Nemeth

THAT the Board approve the revised list of Board Meeting dates for the 2024-2025 school year as passed by Motion 2023-109, changing the April 2025 regular board meeting dates to April 15 and April 29, 2025.

CARRIED

12. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

The following members of the public were in attendance and had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification from items on this evening's agenda:

- Charlene Sacher, virtual

- Derrick Sheldon, virtual
- Gerald Villegas
- Jay McGurran
- Jennifer MacDonald, virtual
- Lisa Harrison, virtual
- Sandra Saint-Cyr

13. ADJOURNMENT

The March 18 Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

"Original signed by C. Sigurdson"

Chair

"Original signed by J. Rudnicki"

Secretary-Treasurer