

MINUTES OF THE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOUIS RIEL SCHOOL DIVISION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
50 Monterey Road, Winnipeg
Hybrid Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Irene Nordheim, Acting Chair
- Peter Bjornson, Trustee
- Pamela Kolochuk, Trustee, virtual
- Sandy Nemeth, Trustee, virtual
- Ryan Palmquist, Trustee
- Chris Sigurdson, Trustee
- Chipalo Simunyola, Trustee, virtual
- Cindy Turner, Trustee
- Ian Walker, 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
- Mia Guenther, Assistant Superintendent, Staff Services
- Clarke Hagan, Director of Information Technology Services
- Corey Kapilik, Assistant Superintendent, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility & Anti-Racism
- Nicholas Kelly, Director of School and Classroom Supports, virtual
- Deneen Madden, Executive Assistant
- Lenore Polvorosa, Executive Assistant
- Derrick Sheldon, Director of Staff Services, virtual

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Jan. 27 Regular Board Meeting of the Louis Riel School Division (LRSD) Board of Trustees was called to order by Irene Nordheim, Acting Chair, LRSD Board of Trustees at 6:40 p.m.

1.1 LRSD Land Acknowledgement Read by Trustee Turner

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 Acting 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 Acting 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 – Jan. 27, 2026

2025-051

Moved by Trustee Walker

Seconded by Trustee Turner

THAT the Jan. 27 agenda for the Regular Board Meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2.2 Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – Jan. 13, 2026

As there were no changes, the Jan. 13 minutes of the Regular 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:

- Play structure funding meeting
- Round Dance in honour of Murray Sinclair-iban
- St. Vital Museum

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

Assistant Superintendent Anderson highlighted the following:

- École Sage Creek Bonavista
- École Provencher
- Collège Béliveau
- Frontenac School

4. FINANCE AND AUDIT

4.1 Budget Consultation Feedback Received

The Board discussed the survey feedback for the 2026/2027 Budget.

5. STAFFING

5.1 Principal - Appointment

2025-052

Moved by Trustee Simunyola

Seconded by Trustee Nemeth

THAT Ifetayo Aremu be appointed as principal at École Guyot, effective Aug. 1, 2026.

CARRIED

5.2 Vice-Principal - Appointment

2025-053

Moved by Trustee Bjornson

Seconded by Trustee Sigurdson

THAT Leeanna Rook be appointed as vice-principal at École St. Germain, effective Aug. 1, 2026.

CARRIED

6. SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

6.1 Controlled Access Measures in Schools

Amarbeer Bhandari, Director of Facilities, and Clarke Hagan, Director of Information Technology Systems, answered questions regarding controlled access measures in LRSD schools.

6.2 Workplace Safety & Health Committee - Second Quarter (Q2) Report

Theresa Niedermayer, Workplace Safety & Health Officer, provided an update regarding the Q2 Workplace Safety & Health Committee Report.

6.3 Leadership Team Meeting - Jan. 15, 2026

Assistant Superintendent Cadez shared highlights of the Leadership Team Meeting held on Jan. 15, 2026.

6.4 AI in Education Summit

Trustee Nemeth and Clarke Hagan, Director of Information Technology Systems, provided highlights from the AI in Education Summit held on Jan. 16, 2026.

7. POLICY

7.1 Revisions to Policy ACE

Assistant Superintendent Anderson shared an update regarding revisions to Policy ACE - Employment Accessibility Practices - Administrative Protocol that in order to ensure legislative compliance, clarification has been made to specific aspects related to pre-employment accessibility requirements, provision of individualized accommodation plans, and denial of accommodation requests.

7.2 Ratification of Amendments

2025-054

Moved by Trustee Walker

Seconded by Trustee Bjornson

THAT the following list of policies be amended:

- Policy DKB - Procedures for Reimbursement of Expenses Accommodations
- Policy EBCA - Emergency Preparedness
- Policy IMD/KHA - Observance of Remembrance Day

CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 School Board Correspondence – Received

The following correspondence was received by the Board:

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

- (Page 1) Letter from J. Connell, Assistant Deputy Minister, RE: The Indigenous Academic Achievement Grant (Jan. 12, 2026)
- (Page 3) Letter from Hon. Min. T. Schmidt RE: Website Information on the Office of the Commissioner of Teacher Professional Conduct (Jan. 21, 2026)

Education Funding Branch

- (Page 4) Letter RE: J.H. Bruns Collegiate – Science Lab Renewal Authorization to Proceed with Construction RFP (Jan. 19, 2026)
- (Page 6) Letter RE: Windsor Park Collegiate – Two Science Lab Renewals Authorization to Proceed with Construction RFP (Jan. 19, 2026)

General

- (Page 8) Email from I. Prokipchuk (Jan. 13, 2026)
- (Page 13) Email from I. Prokipchuk (Jan. 20, 2026)

8.2 School Board Correspondence – Sent

The following was accepted as correspondence sent by the Board:

- (Page 1) Email to I. Prokipchuk (Jan. 20, 2026)

8.3 Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA) Correspondence – Received

The following was accepted as correspondence sent by the Board:

- (Page 1) Executive Highlights (Jan. 12, 2026)
- (Page 2) e-bulletin (Jan. 14, 2026)
- (Page 7) Memo RE: Deadline Extended – President’s Council Award (Jan. 14, 2026)
- (Page 8) Memo RE: 2026 Student Citizenship Awards Program (Jan. 21, 2026)

9. ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Motion to Amend Procedural By-Law - Public Question Period and Agenda Transparency

This item was deferred with the agreement of the mover and seconder. The motion will be reviewed and revised by the Chair, Vice-Chair, Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, and legal counsel, and be brought back to the Board for consideration later in the school year.

2025-055

WHEREAS the current placement of Public Question Period at the end of Board meetings limits stakeholders’ ability to ask questions or express concerns prior to the Board’s consideration of decision items; and,

WHEREAS meaningful public participation requires that agenda items be presented with sufficient context and detail so the public can prepare informed questions; and,

WHEREAS the Board is committed to transparency, accountability, and accessible governance practices; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Section I of the Procedural By-Law (Public Question Period) and Section F (Agenda) be amended to include the following provisions:

1. Timing of Public Question Period

1.1 Primary Question Period

Public Question Period shall occur prior to the Board’s consideration of decision items and shall follow Presentations and Delegations on the agenda.

1.2 Secondary Question Period

A second Public Question Period shall occur at the end of the meeting to allow stakeholders to ask questions arising from the discussion of agenda items.

2. Purpose and Scope

Questions posed during Public Question Period shall be limited to:

- items appearing on that meeting's agenda; and,
- seeking clarification or information relevant to those items.

Public Question Period shall not be used for debate, commentary, or matters not appearing on the agenda.

3. Agenda Transparency Requirements

3.1 Detail and Clarity of Agenda Items

All agenda items released to the public prior to Board meetings shall include sufficient relevant detail to allow stakeholders to understand the nature and purpose of each item.

3.2 Purpose of Detail Requirement

This detail shall be provided to ensure the public can attend meetings informed and prepared to ask questions during public question period.

3.3 Applicability

This requirement applies to all sections of the published agenda, including decision items, informational items, reports, and any accompanying summaries or descriptions.

4. Implementation

This amendment shall take effect at the next regular meeting of the Board and shall be reflected in all published agendas, procedures, and supporting documentation thereafter.

9.2 Motion to Amend Procedural By-Law - Board Code of Conduct BC

2025-056

Moved by Trustee Bjornson

Seconded by Trustee Walker

Trustee Kolochuk voted against

Trustee Simunyola voted against

That Motion 2025-056 receive a friendly amendment to insert the underlined text and to delete the stroked-out text; to now read as:

WHEREAS the expectation is that Trustees are to prioritize and accept responsibility to attend all regular and special meetings of the Board, and the legislation currently provides for punitive measures for consecutive absences; and,

WHEREAS Trustees participation and attendance is critical to make informed decisions on behalf of the electorate, and they are compensated for their service; and,

WHEREAS the Board is committed to transparency, accountability, and accessible governance practices; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT pursuant to Article 56(1) of The Public Schools Act, any trustee who misses more than three regular and/or special meetings of the Board, from the inaugural meeting to the following annual meeting or between consecutive annual meetings, Section II of the Procedural By-Law Board Code of Conduct (Guidelines, Subsection A Expectations, Item 6) be amended as follows:

1. ~~Prioritize and accept responsibility to attend all regular and special meetings of the Board and those committees on which they serve, and if unable to do so, advise the designated individuals of their pending absence. Should a trustee miss more than three regular and/or special meetings over a calendar year, unless for trustee related responsibilities, or medical or family emergencies, the Trustee's stipend will be reduced by \$500 for each unexcused absence.~~

CARRIED

10. 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:

- Ina Prokipchuk
- Melissa Martin, virtual
- Jay McGurran

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Jan. 27 Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

"Original signed by I. Nordheim"

Chair

"Original signed by J. Rudnicki"

Secretary-Treasurer