PRESENT:	
Trustees:	Chair Kelley Robertson, Vice-Chair Roberta Northmore, Greg Agar, Jane Bryce, Randy Campbell, Jack Fletcher, Malinda Little, Angela Richards, David Shortt
Student Trustees:	MJ Baldwin, Kaydence George, Mackenzie Rankin
Staff:	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gary Girardi, Superintendents of Education Emily Dixon, Ben Hazzard, Kelly Holbrough, Mary Mancini, and Eryn Smit, joining virtually, and Public Relations Officer Caress Lee
Regrets:	Trustees Ruth Ann Dodman and Janet Barnes, Associate Director Brian McKay
Recording Secretary:	Jaime Shannon, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Call to Order:	Chair Robertson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Chair Robertson read LKDSB Procedural By-Laws Section 3.19 *Decorum at Board Meetings*.
#2026-152 Approval of the Agenda	Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Jack Fletcher, "That the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of October 6, 2026 be approved, with the removal of Item 11. a)." CARRIED. Chair Robertson presented the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement.
Declaration of Conflict of Interest	None.
#2026-153 Approval of the Minutes Sept/22/2026	Moved by Greg Agar, seconded by David Shortt, "That the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 22, 2026." Chair Robertson noted friendly amendments under the OPSBA Report, including a grammatical correction regarding delays in collecting and accessing Jordan's Principle funding. CARRIED.
Business Arising	CEO Girardi followed up on a question raised at the previous meeting regarding Student Trustee attendance at Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) events. He reported that, based on Ministerial direction, Board funds cannot be used for Student Trustees to attend OSTA events. He noted that Student Trustees may attend at their own expense or with support from an external organization, provided the Board is not involved in the flow of funds. CEO Girardi relayed that the Board could explore other student leadership opportunities, noting that participation would require interest and support from schools. In response to a Student Trustee question, he advised that the student leadership opportunities may not previously have been broadly shared. In response to a Trustee question, he noted that external sponsorship could be

explored, subject to clear arrangements that do not involve Board administration of the funds.

CEO Girardi reported that numerous calls and emails have been received regarding the annual school reorganization process and split classes at Zone Township Central School. He advised that a frequently asked questions document had been posted on the school website to provide consistent responses and would be updated as new questions arise. He further noted that the school receives slightly more than $4,000 annually in rural funding support.

CEO Girardi advised that the Minister of Education had amended the regulation governing Trustee Honoraria. He noted that a revised LKDSB regulation, including reductions to Trustee, Chair and Vice-Chair honoraria, would be presented at the October 27, 2026 Board Meeting.

Motions Emanating from the Regular Board Private Session

None.

Vice-Chair Northmore reported that the Board had approved Trustee Barnes' absence.

#2026-154
Action of the Regular Board Private Session be the Action of the Board

Moved by Roberta Northmore, seconded by Jane Bryce,

"That the Action of the Board in Private Session be the Action of the Board."

CARRIED.

Presentation – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Superintendent Smit introduced System Coordinator Jenn Schatz and Inclusive Diversity Consultant Gillian Scott, who presented on the work of the Indigenous Education and Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice teams in support of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The presenters described a project that began at Gregory Drive Public School and developed into a board-wide webinar featuring the voice of a residential school survivor and a student-created song. A portion of the video was shown. The presenters reported that the webinar supported age-appropriate learning for students in Grades 5 to 12 and Board staff, with separate learning materials developed for Kindergarten to Grade 4. They noted that learning would continue during Treaty Week and throughout the school year.

In response to a Trustee question, System Coordinator Schatz clarified that the student webinar had been postponed because of bus cancellations; however, the session for Board staff and Trustees proceeded. They indicated that another viewing opportunity would be provided for Trustees who were unable to attend.

Student Trustees and Trustees commended the webinar's authentic Indigenous voice and age-appropriate resources while reflecting on the ongoing impacts of residential and day schools and the importance of Indigenous learning in Ontario's curriculum.

Presentation – LKDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2026/2027 to 2030/2031

CEO Girardi introduced Josh Fullan and Todd Harrison of Maximum City and noted that the Multi-Year Strategic Plan had been developed through extensive consultation with students, staff, families, community partners, Trustees, and First Nations partners.

Mr. Fullan and Mr. Harrison presented the 2026/2027 to 2030/2031 Multi-Year Strategic Plan. They reported that more than 2,700 community members contributed through surveys, classroom activities, visioning sessions, workshops, and Indigenous engagement. They relayed that the plan retains the Board's mission and vision and establishes Learning, Well-Being, and Trust as interconnected strategic priorities, supported by Belonging.

In response to a Trustee question, Mr. Fullan explained that the earth-tone elements in the graphic connect selected objectives to Belonging and to the Board's ongoing work in equity and anti-oppressive education.

A Trustee commended the clarity of the plan and identified the use of ampersands, and Mr. Harrison advised that the intended style was to use the ampersand in display text and the word "and" in body text.

A Student Trustee expressed support for the plan and noted that student voices and priorities, including mental health, well-being, and trust, were reflected throughout the consultation process and final document.

A Trustee expressed support for the work while noting that the plan should place greater emphasis on measurable educational outcomes and fiscal responsibility. CEO Girardi explained that the Strategic Plan is an overarching document and that annual Operational Plans would provide specific objectives, actions and outcomes. He advised that these plans would be brought forward to Trustees.

A Trustee encouraged the continued use of strategic plan graphics in Board materials as a visible reference for aligning Board business with Strategic Priorities. CEO Girardi noted that staff would explore opportunities to use the graphics and supporting materials throughout the system.

#2026-155
LKDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2026/2027 to 2030/2031
Report B-26-141

CEO Girardi presented the recommendation on the LKDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2026/2027 to 2030-2031.

Moved by Jane Bryce, seconded by Randy Campbell,

"That the Board reaffirm the LKDSB Vision and Mission Statements and approve the LKDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2026/2027 to 2030/2031."

CARRIED.

Indigenous Liaison Committee (ILC) Report
Report B-26-142

Vice-Chair Northmore presented the Indigenous Liaison Committee (ILC) Report.

In response to a Trustee question, Vice-Chair Northmore explained that Board Action Plan funds generally cannot be used for capital projects without special approval. Superintendent Smit added that the special-request process may provide clarity or enable the proposed use of funds.

In response to a Trustee question, Superintendent Hazzard described the July elementary mathematics lab hosted with the University of Michigan at Great Lakes Secondary School. He noted that six Bkejwanong First Nation staff members participated and that preliminary planning was underway to host a

future lab at the community school. He also described a partnership with Lakehead University to develop locally relevant, land-based mathematics resources for shared use.

In response to a Trustee question, CEO Girardi confirmed that unspent Board Action Plan funds remain available beyond the current guidelines. He noted, however, that the Board remains focused on using available funding to support priorities identified by the Committee and the Board.

In response to a Trustee question, Superintendent Smit explained that a fixed-term Indigenous Services Canada grant obtained by a First Nation partner funded 3.5 Educational Assistants serving students in LKDSB schools. He advised that the funding would be exhausted in February 2027 and that, if it were not renewed, possible BAP support would be considered through the Indigenous Liaison Committee and Indigenous Education Department.

Vice-Chair Northmore explained that Jordan's Principle funding had previously supported Educational Assistants but was no longer available for that purpose. She noted that First Nation communities may use other community funding to support staff and that differences between community needs and Ministry eligibility criteria can create funding gaps.

CEO Girardi advised that a significant portion of the outstanding Jordan's Principle funding had likely already been advanced by the Board to ensure students received timely supports, subject to confirmation with Associate Director McKay. He emphasized that the Board's local process aligned with Jordan's Principle requirements and that LKDSB funds had been used appropriately.

Vice-Chair Northmore clarified that Indigenous Services Canada and the Independent First Nations organization are separate entities and that most of the outstanding amount is owed by the latter. She further explained that First Nation communities, rather than the Board, initiate Jordan's Principle applications. Superintendent Smit confirmed that LKDSB works with First Nation communities to implement approved supports.

In response to a Trustee question, CEO Girardi advised that an outstanding reimbursement should not, in his understanding, prevent consideration of a separate eligible request.

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Update

Chair Robertson reported that a meeting for all Board Chairs would be held on October 15, 2026. She noted that Trustees continue to receive OPSBA updates by email and that she had no additional information to report.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report
Report B-26-143

Trustee Little presented the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report.

In response to a Trustee question regarding the Ministry of Education's review of inclusion policy, CEO Girardi reported that LKDSB had not been contacted to provide input at that time.

Correspondence

None.

New Business	None.
Trustee Questions	A Trustee asked whether the CEO would review and recommend changes to LKDSB policies, regulations, or procedural by-laws concerning election campaigns. CEO Girardi reported that existing Board by-laws do not provide sufficiently clear direction for Trustee candidates, although expectations for incumbent Trustees seeking re-election are clearer. He noted that staff had consulted municipal partners and would review the Board's by-laws and election processes after the election to identify clear expectations and any potential consequences. A Trustee asked whether two Trustee candidates had permission to hold an event on Board property and requested an investigation. CEO Girardi reported that he had not been informed of the event and was unaware of any request to use Board property. He noted that school properties are expected to remain neutral during an election campaign and confirmed that he would investigate what occurred. In response to a Trustee question, CEO Girardi explained that questions received from a Trustee candidate had been referred to the Chair to support a fair and transparent process. Chair Robertson confirmed that the individual did not have a child attending the affected school. She noted that elected Trustees have a role in receiving public inquiries and determining when operational information from administration is required, allowing administration to remain focused on student achievement. A Trustee suggested reviewing policies and procedures related to unauthorized events and trespassing on school property. A Trustee emphasized that activities on school property must be sanctioned by the Board and clarified that the social media page promoting the event was not an official municipal page. CEO Girardi cautioned against drawing conclusions before the circumstances were established. He advised that staff would investigate what occurred, including whether authorization had been requested, and report back. A Trustee requested an update on Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School. CEO Girardi reported that construction remained on schedule and that the Board expected to return to a portion of the building in early November. He noted that the technology wing would not yet be returned to the Board and therefore, some classes would continue at the college site.
Notices of Motion	None.
Announcements	The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on October 27, 2026 at the Sarnia Education Centre at 7:00 p.m.
Adjournment	There being no further business of the Board, Chair Robertson declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Chief Executive Officer