District School Board
Ontario North East

Meeting of the Board

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:15 p.m.
Schumacher Board Office and Microsoft Teams Meeting

AGENDA

Item		Topic	Presenter	Page
1.0		Call to Order		
	1.1	Territorial Acknowledgement		
	1.2	Quorum		
		Motion: THAT the Board approve the absence of the following Trustees from the April 7, 2026, meeting of the Board:		
	1.3	Approval of the Agenda		
		Motion: THAT the Board approve the agenda for the Meeting of the Board dated April 7, 2026.		
	1.4	Declaration of Conflict of Interest		
2.0		Consent Agenda		
	2.1	Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held March 3, 2026		3
	2.2	2026-2027 Draft Meeting of the Board Calendar		9
		Motion: THAT the Board approve the consent agenda		
3.0		Items for Information Only		
	3.1	Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting held December 10, 2025		11
	3.2	Minutes of the Joint Transportation and Governance Committee Meeting held December 18, 2025		20
	3.3	Cash Disbursements Report: February 2026		22
4.0		Unfinished Business		
5.0		Chair's Report		23
6.0		Board Committee Reports		
	6.1	Governance and Policy Committee Chair Report		24
		Motion: THAT the Board approve the revised policies Policy 1.1.10 – Electronic Meetings Policy 1.1.11 – Student Trustees Policy 1.1.12 – Trustee Code of Conduct Policy 1.1.13 – Student Senate Constitution Policy 1.2.13 – Criminal Record Checks		
7.0		Director's Report		53

8.0	Staff Reports		
8.1	Strategic Plan Vignette	Communications Manager Denis	
8.2	Strategic Plan Monitoring of Goals	Administrative Council	53
8.3	2026-2027 Elementary and Secondary Preliminary Staffing	Superintendent McLean	
	Motion: THAT the Board approve the 2026-2027 Preliminary Staffing Complement of: 321.7 FTE for the Elementary panel and 222.17 FTE for the Secondary Panel		

9.0 Student Trustee Report

10.0 Reports from Advisory Committees and Statutory Committees

11.0 Other Business

12.0 Trustee Motions for Consideration (Introduced at a Previous Meeting)

13.0 Trustee Notices of Motion (Discussion for Next Meeting)

14.0 Correspondence / Announcements

15.0	Items for Future Meetings
15.1	September 2026: Strategic Plan Year-end Monitoring of Goals and Actions

16.0 Adjournment

Motion: THAT we do now adjourn

District School Board
Ontario North East

Meeting of the Board

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:15 pm
Schumacher Board Office and Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Bob Brush
Jonathan Byer, Chair
Dennis Draves
Crystal Hewey – Vice-Chair
Steve Meunier
Brian Peever
Rosemary Pochopsky
Cindy Pye-Reasbeck
Doug Walsh
Larry Wiwchar

EXCUSED TRUSTEE ABSENCES

Howard Archibald

STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Andrew Cull
Summer Nickoshie

STUDENT TRUSTEES ABSENT

Sawsan Alahmed

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Lesleigh Dye	Director of Education
Lisa Edwards	Superintendent of Business/Finance and Treasurer
Kirsten Elvestad	Superintendent of Education
Al McLean	Superintendent of Education and Human Resources
Chad Mowbray	Superintendent of Education

RECORDING SECRETARY

Melanie Demers	Executive Assistant to the Director of Education Lesleigh Dye

STAFF PRESENT

Melanie Demers	Executive Assistant to the Director of Education, Lesleigh Dye
Andréanne Denis	Communications Officer
Larry Souliere	Information Services Coordinator

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Session was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chair Byer

1.1 **TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The meeting opened by respectfully acknowledging being situated on the Traditional Territory of the Cree, Ojibway and Oji-Cree people of the Mattagami First Nation, located in Treaty 9 Territory, and the Métis who have chosen to settle in this area.

1.2 **QUORUM**

9367-26 PYE-REASBECK / WALSH

THAT the board approve the absence of the following Trustees from the March 3, 2026, meeting of the Board:
- Trustee Archibald
- Student Trustee Alahmed

CARRIED

1.3 **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

9368-26 PEEVER / POCHOPSKY

THAT the Board add, under 11.0 Other Business, 11.4 Borrowing Resolution

CARRIED

9369-26 POCHOPSKY / PEEVER

THAT the Board defer under 11.0 Other Business, 11.3 Numbered Motion 2026-69

CARRIED

9370-26 HEWEY / WALSH

THAT the Board approve the agenda for the Meeting of the Board dated March 3, 2026, as amended.

CARRIED

1.4 **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Trustees were asked to declare conflicts of interest as they arise and must do so in writing in the log kept in the Chair's office.

Trustees declaring a conflict are to disconnect from Microsoft Teams at the time of the discussion and will receive a text from the Director of Education / Secretary of the Board when they are welcome to join.

2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

9371-26 POCHOPSKY / MEUNIER

THAT the Board approve the consent agenda

CARRIED

3.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

3.1 Personnel Report: December 2025 & January 2026
3.2 Budget Process 2026-2027

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NIL

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Byer discussed the implementation of the new by-law and changes to committee schedules and the process for linking standing committees to board meetings.

6.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Governance and Policy Committee Chair's Report

9372-26 WICHAR / HEWEY — **THAT** the Board approve the DSB1 Committee Terms of Reference

CARRIED

6.2 Finance and Property Committee Chair's Report

7.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Dye highlighted that DSB1 is continuing its achievement journey by sharing attendance and student achievement data in clear visual formats and celebrating student pathway opportunities through the Timmins High & Vocational School SHSM Expo. Staff connection and well-being were supported through the February staff fun day, alongside community partnership support for student nutrition at Schumacher Public School. Director Dye also introduced the March student art contest which will refresh device backgrounds across DSB1 (deployment expected in April 2026), and Generative AI guidelines for staff and students are in final review with release expected this spring.

8.0 STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Strategic Plan Vignette
8.2 Trustee Distribution and Determination

9373-26 POCHOPSKY / WALSH — **THAT** the Board approve the Trustee Distribution and Determination as presented.

CARRIED

9.0 STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Student Trustee Nickoshie and Student Trustee Alahmed attended the OSTA-AECO Student Action Conference in February. The Student Senate projects were highlighted including the inclusivity, career, and mentorship. The inclusivity project focuses on inclusivity and awareness for high support classes to participate in activities and events. The career pathways project is planning to invite a guest speaker via zoom to overcome transportation barriers, with outreach to businesses and professionals to assist. The mentorship and integration project aims to bridge gaps between grade 8 and grade 9 by involving senior students in activities with a system implementation.

10.0 REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND STATUTORY COMMITTEES

NIL

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS
11.1 Election of Student Discipline Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair Byer called for nominations three times for Chair of the Student Discipline Committee

Trustee Peever nominated Trustee Walsh
Trustee Walsh accepted the nomination

9374-26 BRUSH / HEWEY	**THAT** nominations for Chair be closed **CARRIED**
9375-26 POCHOPSKY / PYE-REASBECK	**THAT** Trustee Walsh be appointed Chair of the Student Discipline Committee **CARRIED**

Chair Byer called for nominations three times for Vice-Chair of the Student Discipline Committee

Trustee Peever nominated Trustee Pye-Reasbeck
Trustee Pye-Reasbeck accepted the nomination

9376-26 BRUSH / MEUNIER	**THAT** nominations for Vice-Chair be closed **CARRIED**
9377-26 POCHOPSKY / WALSH	**THAT** Trustee be appointed Vice-Chair of the Student Discipline Committee **CARRIED**

11.2 OPSBA Public Education Symposium Trustee Report: Trustee Pye-Reasbeck
Trustee Pye-Reasbeck presented a report on the Public Education Symposium, highlighting sessions on student leadership, public policy, and sexual assault and harassment in Ontario schools.

11.3 Borrowing Resolution

9378-26 WIWCHAR / BRUSH

THAT

1. Any one of, the Chair or Vice-Chair and any one of, the Director of Education or Superintendent of Business is/are hereby authorized to borrow on behalf of District School Board Ontario North East (the “Corporation”) from THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA (the “Bank”) from time to time by way of promissory note or bankers’ acceptance a sum or sums not exceeding at any one time Fifteen Million, Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($15,300,000) to meet, until the current revenue has been received, current expenditures of the Corporation for the year ended 2026.
2. Any one of, the Chair or Vice-Chair and any one of, the Director of Education or

Superintendent of Business is/are hereby authorized to sign, make or draw on behalf of the Corporation and to furnish to the Bank form time to time promissory notes or bankers' acceptances sealed with the corporate seal for the sum or sums so borrowed with interest or any other charges at such rate as the Bank may from time to time determine.

3. Any one of, the Chair or Vice-Chair and any one of, the Director of Education or Superintendent of Business is/are hereby authorized and directed to furnish to the Bank at the time of each borrowing and at such other times as the Bank may from time to time request, a statement showing the nature and amount of the estimated revenues of the current year not yet collected or where the estimates for the year have not been adopted, a statement showing the nature and amount of the estimated revenues of the Corporation as set forth in the estimates adopted for the next preceding year that have not been repaid.
4. Any one of, the Chair or Vice-Chair and any one of, the Director of Education or Superintendent of Business is/are hereby authorized and directed to apply in payment of all sums borrowed from the Bank, and of any interest thereon and any other charges in connection therewith, all of the moneys hereafter collected or received on account or realized in respect of the taxes levied for the current year and for any preceding years and all of the moneys collected or received from any other source.

CARRIED

12.0 TRUSTEE MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION (Introduced at a Previous Meeting)
NIL

13.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION (Discussion for Next Meeting)
NIL

14.0 CORRESPONDENCE / ANNOUNCEMENTS
14.1 Letter dated November 27, 2025: Heritage Property Request for Schumacher Public School
14.2 Letter dated July 11, 2025: Disposition of Property

15.0 ITEMS FOR FURTURE MEETINGS
15.1 April 2026: Strategic Plan Monitoring of Goals
15.2 September 2026: Strategic Plan Year-End Monitoring of Goals and Actions

16.0 ADJOURNMENT
9379-26 MEUNIER / PEEVER **THAT** we do now adjourn

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD **CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

Ontario
Ministry of Education

Ontario School Year Calendar 2026 - 2027

LEGEND

- H Statutory Holiday
- B Board Designated Holiday
- O Ontario Day (School Day)

MONTH	First Week					Second Week					Third Week					Fourth Week					Fifth Week					PA Days	Instr. Days	Exam Days
	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F			
August	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31 P						0	
September		1	2	3	4	7 H	8 BM	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22 G/P	23	24	25	28 P	29	30				21	
October				1	2	5	6 SA BM	7	8	9	12 H	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26 P	27	28	29	30		21	
November	2	3 F/P BM	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17 G/P	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27 P	30						21	
December		1 SA BM	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21 B	22 B	23 B	24 B	25 B	28 B	29 B	30 B	31 B			14	
January					1 B	4	5	6	7	8	11	12 G/P BM	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25 E	26 E	27 E	28 E	29 P		20	
February	1	2 F/P BM	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 H	16 SA	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26							19	
March	1	2 G/P BM	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 B	16 B	17 B	18 B	19 B	22	23	24	25	26 H	29 H	30	31				16	
April				1	2	5	6 F/P BM	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16 P	19	20 SA	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30		22	
May	3	4 G/P BM	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24 H	25	26	27	28	31						20	
June		1 F/P BM	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11 P	14	15 SA	16	17	18 E	21 E	22 E	23 E	24 E	25 E	28	29	30				22	
July				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30		0	
																									TOTAL		196	

District School Board
Ontario North East

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

December 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Committee Members Attendance:

Skye Pomainville	Chair of the Committee, Parent – Timmins
Amanda Portelance	Parent Representative – Kirkland Lake
Amy Elston	Parent Representative – Timmins
Emilie Runnalls	Parent Representative – Kerns
Michelle Fiset	Parent Representative – Elk Lake
Shannon Wittmaack	Parent Representative – New Liskeard
Kirsten Elvestad	Superintendent of Education
Jonathan Byer	Trustee, Chair of the Board
Shannon Sayeau	Principal Representative

Committee Members Regrets:

Ashley Mitchell	Vice-Chair of the Committee, Parent - Temagami
Crystal Hewey	Trustee, Vice-Chair of the Board

Guests Attendance:

Crystal Young, School Council Member, JHKPS
Elizabeth Kazienko, Mental Health Lead (Presenter)
Julie Hutnick-Whitehead, Vice-Principal TPS
Lesleigh Dye, Director of Education
Lesley Delaurier, Vice-Principal CoPS
Megan Selin, Principal WEMPS
Viktoriia Ganiman, School Council Member, RRBPS

Recording Secretary: Shanyn Bradford, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Skye Pomaineville, Chair of the Committee.

We acknowledge as a School Board, that we are guests on the lands of the Anishinaabe, Algonquin and Cree people, located in the Robinson-Huron and Treaty 9 territory. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.

2. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting began with introductions, participants sharing their role or interest in PIC, as well as the school community they are a part of.

3. Appointments to the Committee

Chair Pomaineville shared that the Chair and Vice-Chair positions will be held by the current members for 2025-26, as the second year of their term on the executive. She invited all parents present at the meeting to become a part of the committee. Namely:

- Amy Elston – parent, school council chair for WEMPS
- Amanda Portelance – parent, school council member CenPS
- Emilie Runnalls – parent, school council chair for KPS
- Michelle Fiset – parent, school council member ELPS
- Shannon Wittmaack – parent, school council co-chair TDSS

All confirmed their nominations and interest in becoming members of the Committee.

MOTION: That the nominees as listed above be appointed to the Parent Involvement Committee.

- Moved by: Michelle Fiset
- Seconded by: Shannon Wittmaack

CARRIED

4. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was shared and reviewed. No changes were requested.

MOTION: That the agenda for this Parent Involvement Committee meeting dated December 10, 2025, be approved.

- Moved by: Emilie Runnals

CARRIED

5. Review of Minutes

The Minutes from the Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on December 11, 2024, and the informal meeting notes of the meetings held on February 19, April 16, and October 29, 2025, were reviewed. No changes or corrections were requested.

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the PIC meeting held December 11, 2024, and accept the informal meeting notes of the meetings held on February 19, April 16, and October 29, 2025.

- Moved by: Michelle Fiset

CARRIED

6. Presentations

a. **Caring for Students Beyond the Classroom** (Mental Health Lead Kazienko)

Lead Elizabeth Kazienko outlined the board's Mental health services, how they are organized and how they work with community services. She discussed signs to watch for that may indicate a child needs help, how to start conversations, and who they can reach out to. The presentation slides are included at the end of the Minutes.

Chair Pomaineville thanked her for her presentation.

7. Strategic Plan Vignette

The vignette for November (Learning beyond the classroom) was played. The link is in the agenda, or you can visit the DSB1 YouTube channel to view this vignette and more.

8. Correspondence

Nil.

9. Other Items

Shannon Wittmaack asked about how the board deals with destruction of school property. Their school council had a lengthy discussion about the bathrooms vandalized there. Superintendent Elvestad said it is not happening board-wide, but that these tend to be localized issues that happen periodically. The school council is the right place for these discussions, since responses would vary depending on individual school needs.

Amy Elston asked, with the recent decrease in EAs, what supports are being put in place to prevent children from falling through the cracks now. Is anything coming from the Ministry? What is the board/school response? Director Dye shared that the board knew, when we were so generously supported by Jordan's Principle, that it would not last forever. During that time, the board did not reduce their own EAs, rather continued to increase, and have just now added more based on our revised estimates. We also have transitional EAs providing temporary help to children for specific strategies. The Special Education team works closely with schools, monitoring student needs based on feedback/requests by teachers, principals, and families, ensuring EAs are placed where they are most needed. Amy wondered how the increase in EAs corresponds with our enrolment numbers. Director Dye confirmed that there is a correlation, as our number of students with special needs has also increased over that timeframe.

10. Future Meeting Dates & Topics

- **a.** Meeting Dates:
    - i. February 25, 2026
    - ii. April 22, 2026
- **b.** Topics for Discussion: new suggestions made for future meetings:

- Math & Literacy supports – where the board is right now and what supports are being put in place to improve - with regards to the Right to Read report of 2022, and the most recent EQAO results.

  (Director Dye shared that the Board has staffing in place specifically to support math and literacy in schools, and agrees that there is much that could be shared and discussed on the topic)

- Trustees – with discussion about if the Ministry is going to do away with them, does the board have a plan for how they will proceed either way? Director Dye shared that school boards are not part of this discussion, and it isn't something we can influence. It is solely a Miniter of Education decision.

- Qualified Staff – the problems in finding qualified teachers, EAs, Social Workers, ECEs, CYW's, etc., and with filling the positions with unqualified people. What are our recruitment strategies, are they effective, and what else can be done?

- Outdoor Learning – is full-on just outdoor learning something the board has thought about as an alternative program?

11. Lollipop Moments

Emilie Runnalls shared that her kids are new to DSB1 this year. They are typical farm kids who don't like school as they would much rather be outdoors. This is the first year her grade 5 kid has liked going to school. As a parent, it is a great feeling when your kids are happy at school and feel like they belong.

Director Dye shared that one of our schools reached out to her today to let her know that a former student, one of our former student trustees, made a significant financial donation to their school. It is such a heart-warming thing to see, especially from a young adult just starting out.

Director Dye was also happy to report that 14 of our schools are now at pre-pandemic attendance levels. There is still room for improvement, but to get here is incredible!

Shannon Wittmaack agreed that the work being done at the schools to encourage attendance & engagement is amazing. There are all sorts of programs and activities, even student-run activities. The opportunities are great and really meet the kids where they are, engaging them in their education by creating opportunities for them to explore their interests, rather than just rote desk work.

Principal Shannon Sayeau agreed there are some amazing things going on in our schools, and that our website is always sharing stories about the great things being done. She encouraged everyone to check them out!

12. Adjournment

Chair Pomaineville thanked everyone for coming out tonight, and for their great participation.

MOTION: To adjourn and report to the Board.

- Moved by: Shannon Wittmaack
- Seconded by: Michelle Fiset

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The Minutes were approved by the Committee on February 25, 2026.

Signed:

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD **CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**

Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that we are situated on the traditional territories of the Cree, Ojibway, Oji-Cree and Algonquin Peoples. We commit to actions to better serve students, families and communities who identify as First Nation, Métis and Inuit.

Our Vision

Preparing our learners for their future success.

Our Mission

Providing meaningful growth opportunities.

Our Strategic Priorities

Achieve

Belong

Create

Our Approach to Mental Health

Proactive and Inclusive Services

- DSB1 provides accessible mental health support prioritizing early identification and timely intervention.

Social-Emotional Learning

- Focus on classroom strategies that build coping and stress management skills for student wellness.

Personalized Support

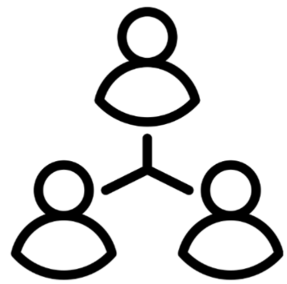
- Small group and individual sessions address common challenges like anxiety with tailored care.

Collaboration with Educators

- Working together to create safe and supportive learning environments for all students to thrive.

Who Does the Team Consist of?

- Child & Youth Workers: 15
- School Social Workers:7
- Attendance Counselors: 3
- Mental Health Lead:1



How We Help

Dedicated Mental Health Professionals

- The team includes Child and Youth Workers and School Social Workers committed to supporting student well-being.

Comprehensive Services

- Services range from classroom-based programs to individualized interventions tailored to student needs.

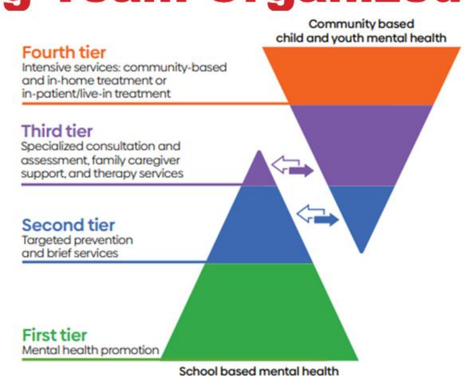
Collaborative Approach

- Collaboration with families, educators, and community partners strengthens support and empowers students.

Empowering Student Success

- Focus on fostering resilience and passion for learning to help students thrive academically and emotionally.

How is the Mental Health & Wellbeing Team Organized?

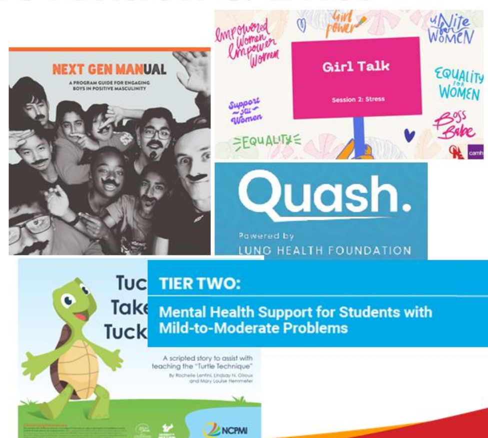


Tier 1: Mental Health Promotion

- MH Lit in Action (GR 9-12)
- MH Lit Grades (GR 7-8)
- Kids Have Stress too (JK/1)
- Stress Lessons (GR 4)
- Everyday Speech
- Keys to Wellness
- Taming Angry
- Social Emotional Learning (Geared to classroom needs)
- From Stressed Out to Chilled Out (GR 7)
- Roots of Empathy
- Many more…

Tier 2: Targeting Prevention & Brief Services

- Girl Talk
- Social Emotional Learning Groups
- Keys to Wellness
- Bullying Prevention
- Taming Anger
- Tucker the Turtle
- Boys Group
- Strength-Based Resiliency Training
- Emotional Regulation
- Friendship Building
- Many more…
- One at a Time Services / Individual Supports



Tier 3: Intervention & Community Pathways

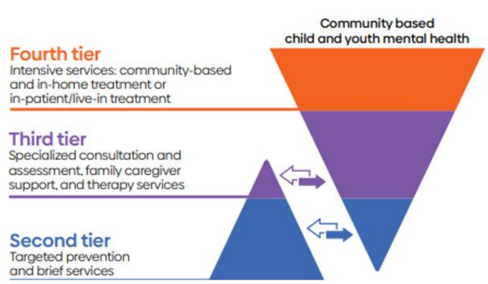
Kids Help Phone (young people in Canada)
Call: 1-800-668-6868
Text: CONNECT or FIRST NATIONS, INUIT or METIS to 686868
Online chat: Kidshelpphone.ca

NEOFACS (youth up to 18 years old)
Chat: 705-360-7100

9-8-8 Suicide Crisis Helpline (all youth)
Call or text: 9-8-8

Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre (youth in Timmins)
Chat: 705-264-2200

TIER THREE:
Strong System Pathways for Students and Families needing More Intensive Support



Families May Consider Services if..

Identifying Unusual Behaviors

- Families should notice if their child's behaviors are unusual or disruptive to daily life or routines.

Recognizing Key Behavioral Changes

- Withdrawal, irritability, and persistent sadness are important signs that need attention.

Importance of Early Intervention

- Early recognition helps families seek support before mental health issues worsen.

Trusting Instincts

- Families should trust their instincts when something feels off and explore further.

Starting the Conversation About Mental Health with your Child

Create Safe Environment

- Choose quiet moments and reassure your child they can share anything without judgment.

Encourage Open Dialogue

- Use gentle observations and open-ended questions to promote honest communication.

Respond with Empathy

- Remain calm if child shuts down and thank them if they disclose serious feelings; seek professional help when necessary.

Foster Trust and Acceptance

- Your love and acceptance help your child cope with challenges and feel safe to seek support.

How to Access Supports

Engage with School Staff

- Discuss your concerns with teachers or school administrators to share observations about your child's mental health.

Explore Online Resources

- Utilize mental health portals and online resources to find additional support and information for your child.

Collaborative Approach

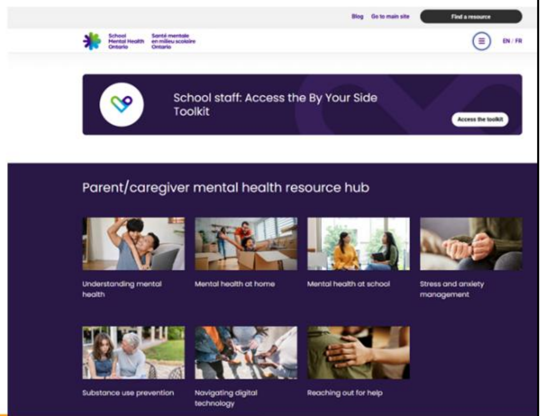
- Working together with the school ensures timely and appropriate support for your child's mental health needs.

Prioritize Child’s Well-being

- Taking proactive steps shows your child that their mental health is important and help is available.

School Mental Health Ontario

- Parent/caregiver resources to support mental health learning and well-being for every family



External Support Options

Kids Help Phone

- Provides 24/7 phone, text, and online support for children's mental health needs.

Hope for Wellness Help Line

- Offers culturally appropriate mental health support via phone and online.

One Stop Talk

- Accessible mental health resource complementing school-based supports through phone and online.

District School Board
Ontario North East

Thank you
Meegwetch
Merci

North East Tri-Board Student Transportation
Service du transport scolaire des trois-conseils du Nord Est

SCHOOL BUS SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF COCHRANE AND TIMISKAMING
LE TRANSPORT SCOLAIRE AUX DISTRICTS SCOLAIRE DE COCHRANE ET TIMISKAMING

JOINT TRANSPORTATION AND GOVERNANCE Committee

Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

PRESENT

Ryan Hartling	Transportation Supervisor
David Bernotas	Conseil Scolaire Public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario
Liliane Francis	Conseil Scolaire Public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario
Natalie Joncas-Raymond	Conseil Scolaire Public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario
Renee Baril	Conseil Scolaire Public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario
Jonathan Byer	District School Board Ontario North East
Lesleigh Dye	District School Board Ontario North East
Lisa Edwards	District School Board Ontario North East
Rosemary Pochopsky	District School Board Ontario North East -Chair
Glenn Sheculski	Northeastern Catholic District School Board
Keld Scott	Northeastern Catholic District School Board
Trisha Weltz	Northeastern Catholic District School Board

ABSENT

Elizabeth King	Northeastern Catholic District School Board

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jessica Hardy	Executive Assistant District School Board Ontario North East

CALL TO ORDER

Rosemary Pochopsky, Chair of the Joint Transportation and Governance Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

BERNOTAS — **THAT** the agenda for the Joint Transportation and Governance Committee dated December 18, 2025, be approved. with the following additions:

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

SHECULSKI — **THAT** the minutes for the Joint Transportation and Governance Committee dated September 18, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED

2025-2026 BUDGET UPDATE

The Transportation Supervisor provided an update on the 2025-2026 budget highlighting no abnormalities except Bus Planner software. Invoices would be verified and brought back to the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

i. **2025-2026 JOINT TRANSPORTATION AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

February 19, 2026-10:00 am
May 14, 2026-10:00 am-Budget Meeting
May 21, 2026- 10:00 am

ADJOURNMENT

BERNOTAS — **THAT** this Joint Transportation and Governance Committee now adjourn.

CARRIED

The committee adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

District School Board
Ontario North East

Board Report

Title	February 2026 Cash Disbursements
Date	April 7, 2026
Presenter	Superintendent Edwards
Strategic Priority	Achieve
Background and Information	Cash Disbursements for the month of February 2026 total **$13,435,104.15.** Should Trustees have any questions regarding the details of these disbursements, please contact the Superintendent of Business and Finance.

District School Board
Ontario North East

Chair's Report

April 7, 2026

Achieve: Uphold high expectations in diverse learning and working environments.

Trustee Self-Assessment Results *Artificial intelligence tools were used to assist in analyzing survey data. All findings were reviewed and validated by DSB1 staff.*

The list of our DSB1 celebrations and graduations was shared in a recent updates email from Director Dye. When you have an opportunity, please let Ms. Demers know which events you are planning to attend so we can ensure there is at least one trustee and/or a senior staff member present at each event.

Belong: Build inclusive communities where all feel supported and valued.

There are two upcoming professional development opportunities for Trustees to consider. If you are interested and your professional development budget permits, please make arrangements to attend through Ms. Demers.

Canadian School Boards Association conference. **The Fairmont Chateau Whistler, BC | July 5-8, 2026. "**This gathering is committed to supporting boards of education in their governance work through sessions on: Truth and Reconciliation, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Student Success, Leadership, Emerging issues: AI and Climate Change". https://www.cdnsba.org/2026-whistler/

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Annual Meeting. **Brookstreet Hotel, Ottawa | June 4 to 6, 2026. "**Join OPSBA during this pivotal moment for public education governance in Ontario. Come together at the 2026 Annual Meeting and Program to align, prepare, and govern for the public good. Whether a moment of renewal or transition, we will gather to network, learn, and strengthen our leadership for what's next." https://www.opsba.org/event/2026-annual-meeting-program/

Create: Foster collaboration, innovation and skill development in all learners.

The transition to our new by-law and the implementation of the revised governance structure are nearing completion, although the process has taken longer than initially anticipated. The Governance and Policy Committee has begun transitioning any remaining legacy by-laws not incorporated into the new by-law into Board policies (e.g., electronic meetings). The Student Achievement and Well-Being Committee is the final standing committee to meet and is scheduled for April 21st.

District School Board
Ontario North East

Board Report

Title	Governance and Policy Committee Board report
Date	April 7th, 2026
Presenter	Brian Peever
Strategic Priority	**Well-Being:** Ensuring leadership changes prioritize the emotional, social and academic well-being of students and staff.
Background and Information	The committee met on March 10th, 2026 to reviewed and revised several governance and policies and to elect a Vice Chair. I was pleased that Crystal Hewey accepted the nomination of Vice/Chair. The committee then reviewed and made revisions to several governance and policy documents, resulting in approval recommendations for updated policies on electronic meetings, student trustees, trustee code of conduct, student senate constitution, and police record checks, while deferring policies on brand standards, policy development, display of flags, and copyright for further revision and consistency. The committee also discussed procedural clarity, stakeholder input and alignment with legal requirements, highlighting both progress and the need for further work on certain policies. These policies will be brought back to the committee for further review. We also discussed Principal/Vice-Principal and will review this policy at our next governance and policy committee meeting.
Recommendation	**THAT**: The Governance and Policy Committee recommend that the Board approve the following draft Policies: Draft Policy 1.1.10 – Electronic Meetings Draft Policy 1.1.11 – Student Trustees Draft Policy 1.1.12 – Trustee Code of Conduct Draft Policy 1.1.13 – Student Senate Constitution Draft Policy 1.2.13 – Criminal Record Checks

District School Board
Ontario North East

Policy 1.1.10
Section 1.1: Board and Committees
Approved:

Electronic Meetings

1.0 Rationale

District School Board Ontario North East serves a large and geographically diverse region. In order to support effective governance, ensure continuity of operations, and promote equitable participation in Board and committee meetings, it is necessary to permit the use of electronic means for meeting attendance where appropriate.

Electronic participation supports Trustees, Student Trustees, and senior staff in fulfilling their governance responsibilities while balancing professional, personal, health, accessibility, and academic commitments. It also enhances transparency and public accessibility to Board proceedings, consistent with legislative requirements and the principles of openness, accountability, and community engagement.

This by-law establishes a clear and consistent framework governing the use of electronic meeting technology, ensuring that meetings conducted with electronic participation remain secure, accessible, legally compliant, and procedurally sound, while preserving the integrity of Board decision-making.

2.0 Definitions

Board: District School Board Ontario North East.

Chair: the Chair of the Board, or their designate, as applicable.

Committee: any committee of the Board, including a Committee of the Whole.

Electronic Means / Electronic Participation: participation in a meeting through technological aids such as videoconferencing, teleconferencing, or other real-time communication technology that allows participants to communicate simultaneously and instantaneously.

Meeting: any regular or special meeting of the Board or a committee of the Board.

Physically Present: attendance in person at the designated meeting location identified in the approved schedule of meetings.

Student Trustee: a Student Trustee appointed or elected in accordance with applicable legislation and Board policy.

Trustee: a duly elected or appointed member of the Board, including the Chair and Vice-Chair.

3.0 Policy

District School Board Ontario North East is committed to conducting its meetings in a manner that is transparent, accessible, inclusive, and compliant with applicable legislation, including the *Education Act*, Ontario Regulation 463/97, and related statutes.

The Board permits the use of electronic means to support participation in meetings of the Board and its committees, subject to the conditions and limitations set out in this policy. Electronic participation is intended to complement, not replace, physical attendance, except where permitted or required by legislation or authorized under this by-law.

The Board shall ensure that:

- Electronic meetings and electronic participation are conducted in a manner that preserves quorum, voting integrity, and procedural fairness;
- Members of the public are provided with appropriate access to Board and committee meetings, except where meetings are lawfully closed;
- Secure and confidential processes are in place for meetings or portions of meetings that are closed to the public;
- Trustees, Student Trustees, and staff participating electronically are able to fully hear, be heard, and participate in deliberations and decision-making.

This policy supports effective governance while recognizing the operational realities of the Board's jurisdiction and the diverse needs of its members, and shall be applied consistently and in accordance with all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements

4.0 Attendance: Trustees

4.1 At the request of any Trustee, including a Student Trustee of the Board, to participate in a meeting of a committee of the Board or a meeting of the Board (regular or special), including a Committee of the Whole Board (regular or special), through electronic means, the Board shall provide electronic means. The participant must provide contact information to the Director of Education / Secretary of the Board or designate. The Board shall refuse to provide a Trustee with electronic means of participating in those meetings (except Student Trustees may always participate in these meeting by electronic means and do not require approval to do so) and the Trustee must be physically present in the meeting room:

4.1.1 Unless the Trustee complies with s. 4.2 or 4.3 and receives written approval from the Chair of the Board, or in the case of the Chair, written approval of the Vice-Chair of the Board before the meeting begins based on the one or more of the circumstances in s. 4.5 below; or

4.1.2 If to do so is necessary to ensure compliance with 5.8 below; or

4.1.3 If to do so is necessary to ensure compliance with the following:

a. the Chair of the Board or designate shall be physically present in the meeting room of the board for at least half of the meetings of the board during each 12-month period beginning November 15, 2022; and

b. a Trustee shall be physically present in the meeting room of the board for at least 3 regular meetings of the board during each 12-month period beginning November 15, 2022 (and pro-rated for trustees elected or appointed to fill a vacancy on the board in accordance with ss. 7(9) and ss.11(2) of Ontario Regulation 463/97). [On September 1, 2025, s.1 (1.1.3) is revoked]

4.2 If a Trustee proposes to participate in a meeting described in s. 4 by electronic means, the Trustee shall submit a request in writing and the reasons for the request to the Chair of the Board before the meeting begins

4.3 If the Trustee making a request under s.4 is the Chair of the Board, the Chair shall submit the request and reasons to the Vice-Chair of the Board, or if the Board has no Vice-Chair, to another Trustee of the Board.

4.4 The Chair, Vice-Chair, or other Trustee, as applicable, may approve a request if they are satisfied that one or more of the circumstances identified in s.4.5 exist.

4.5 Effective January 29, 2024, the circumstances are:

4.5.1 the distance from the Trustee's primary place of residence within the area of jurisdiction of the Board to the meeting location is 125 kilometers or more;
4.5.2 weather conditions do not allow the Trustee to travel to the meeting location safely;
4.5.3 the Trustee cannot be physically present at a meeting due to health-related issues;
4.5.4 the Trustee has a disability that makes it challenging to be physically present at a meeting; or,
4.5.5 the Trustee cannot be physically present due to family responsibilities in respect of:

i. the Trustee's spouse;
ii. a parent, step-parent, or foster parent of the Trustee or the Trustee's spouse;
iii. a child, step-child, foster child, or child who is under legal guardianship of the Trustee or the Trustee's spouse;
iv. a relative of the Trustee who is dependent on the Trustee for care or assistance; or,
v. a person who is dependent on the Trustee for care or assistance and who considers the Trustee to be like a family member.

4.6 The Chair shall not approve a request for a Trustee to participate by electronic means in a regular board meeting or regular committee of the whole board meeting if the request would result in fewer than one Trustee of the Board, in addition to the Chair of the Board or their designate, being physically present in the meeting room.

4.7 The Vice-Chair or other member of the board shall not approve a request for the Chair of the Board to participate by electronic means in a regular board meeting or regular committee of the whole board meeting unless the Chair's designate will be physically present in the meeting room.

4.8 The Chair of a committee of the Board, other than the Chair of a committee of the whole board, or their designate shall be physically present in the meeting room of every regular meeting of a committee of the board. The committee chair or designate may participate by electronic means, if approved in accordance with s.1, and provided that at least one other member of the committee, who is also a Trustee of the board, is physically present in the meeting room.

4.9 A Trustee who participates in a meeting through electronic means in accordance with Ontario Regulation 463/97 is deemed to be present at the meeting.

4.10 The electronic means provided for in s.1 shall permit all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other simultaneously and instantaneously.

4.11 Effective September 1, 2025, if a Trustee fails to be physically present at a regular meeting of the Board or a regular meeting of the committee of the whole board unless their request to attend electronically is approved as set out above and in accordance with Ontario Regulation 463/97, the trustee's seat is vacated. (s.228(1) (e) of the Education Act)

4.12 A Trustee vacates their seat if they absent themselves without being authorized by resolution of the Board entered in the minutes, from three consecutive regular meetings of the Board (s.228(1)(b) of the Education Act.

4.13 The Director of Education or their designate must be physically present in the meeting room for each meeting of the board and each meeting of a committee of the board, including a committee of the whole, except when all schools of the board are closed pursuant to s. 1.14 below.

4.14 If all schools of the Board are closed under an order made in accordance with Ontario Regulation 463/97 then the requirement for the physical attendance at any meetings by a Trustee or the Director of Education is not required in accordance with that Regulation and all Trustees and Student Trustees may participate electronically as of right and without complying with s.1 above. In those circumstances, the meeting room of the Board or a Committee of the Board will not be open to permit physical attendance by members of the public.

4.15 Except those committee meetings from which the public has been excluded, the meeting room of the Board or of a committee of the board, as the case may be, shall be open to permit physical attendance by members of the public at every regular meeting of the Board or of the committee of the board, regardless of whether one or more trustees (including the student trustees) participate at such meetings electronically, unless all schools of the board are closed, as described in s.1.14 above.

4.16 The Board shall provide members of the public with the ability to connect electronically to a meeting of the board or of a committee of the board. The electronic means used shall permit the public to hear the meeting, and where permitted by the board (example, a delegate), to participate in a meeting then all participants in the meeting shall be able to communicate with each other simultaneously and instantaneously.

4.17 At all meetings at which a Trustee, including a Student Trustee, participates by electronic means, it is the responsibility of those Trustees to comply with the requirements of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act,* including, in the case of a meeting that is closed to the public, to disconnect from the electronic participation for so long as is necessary in order to so comply.

4.18 The Board shall ensure that appropriate processes are put in place to ensure the security and confidentiality of electronic participation in proceedings held during meetings that are closed to the public, including ensuring Student Trustees who participate through electronic means do not participate in any proceedings that are closed to the public under clause 207(2)(b) of the *Education Act (subject matter under consideration involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a trustee of the board or member of a committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or their parent or guardian).*

4.19 Trustees participating in an electronic meeting shall notify the Chair of the Board of their departure (either temporary or permanent) from the meeting before absenting themselves to ensure a quorum is maintained.

4.20 Trustees must request participation by electronic means at least 24 hours in advance through the office of the Director of Education / Secretary of the Board.

4.21 A schedule of meetings of the Board will be created and approved annually identifying the location of the meetings and whether it can be accessed electronically

5.0 Voting at Electronic Meetings

5.1 In preparation of Board motions, Trustees must indicate their willingness to let their name stand as mover and seconder. Prior to the vote, the Chair of the Board will read each motion and indicate the Trustee who has moved the motion and the Trustee who is seconding it.

5.2 The Chair of the Board will call the vote in a fair and transparent manner:

5.3 If a secret ballot is called and a Trustee is attending electronically (teleconference or videoconference) they will be permitted to vote. The Trustee may forward their vote electronically (text or email) to the Director of Education / Secretary of the Board.

5.4 The Director of Education / Secretary of the Board or designate will record the vote on a ballot and deposit it into the ballot box.

5.5 If a Trustee will be absent on the day of a secret ballot, and if the candidates for which they are voting and/or the issue requiring approval/disapproval of a decision is known prior to the meeting, the Trustee may place the name or a “yes” or “no” on a slip of paper and submit it in a sealed envelope to the Director of Education / Secretary of the Board. The envelope(s) will be opened by the Director of Education / Secretary of the Board at the time of voting and placed in the ballot box.

Appendices

References

District School Board
Ontario North East

Policy 1.1.11
Section 1.1: Board and Committees
Approved:

STUDENT TRUSTEES

1.0 Rationale

District School Board Ontario North East recognizes the importance of student voice in public education governance. Meaningful student participation at the Board level supports informed decision-making, strengthens transparency, and promotes policies and practices that reflect the lived experiences and perspectives of pupils.

The establishment of Student Trustee positions fulfills the requirements of Ontario legislation and affirms the Board's commitment to student engagement, leadership development, and democratic participation. By providing structured representation for students, the Board ensures that student perspectives are considered in Board deliberations while maintaining the governance responsibilities of elected Trustees.

2.0 Definitions

Student Trustee A full-time secondary school student, elected in accordance with applicable legislation and Board by-laws, who represents the interests, opinions, and concerns of students at meetings of the Board and, where applicable, Board committees.

Student Senate The recognized body through which Student Trustees communicate, consult, and report on matters related to student voice and representation within the Board.

Recorded Vote A vote taken at a Board or committee meeting in which the individual votes of members, including the Student Trustee where permitted, are formally recorded in the minutes, in accordance with the Education Act.

3.0 Policy

District School Board Ontario North East is committed to fostering student voice by providing for the participation of Student Trustees in Board governance, in accordance with the Education Act and Ontario regulations.

Student Trustees shall:

- Represent the interests, perspectives, and concerns of students at the Board level;
- Participate in Board meetings and, where appointed, Board committees, consistent with legislative requirements;
- Engage with and report to the Board's Student Senate;
- Have access to Board resources, information, and training opportunities necessary to fulfill their role.

4.0 Role of the Student Trustee

4.1 The function of the Student Trustee is to represent the interests of pupils at meetings of the Board.

4.2 As the representative of student opinion and concern at the Board level, the Student Trustee is obligated to make himself or herself available to the general concerns and views of the students they represent.

4.3 The Student Trustees will report regularly to the Board's Student Senate.

5.0 Eligibility

5.1 The candidates for the position of Student Trustee must be a full-time student at a secondary school in the senior division within the jurisdiction of District School Board Ontario North East.

6.0 Selection Process

See Policy 1.1.13 – Student Senate Constitution

7.0 Terms of Office

7.1 The term of office shall consist of one year or two years and starts on August 1 of the year in which the Student Trustee is elected. O. Reg. 354/18, s. 4 (1)

7.2 Student Trustees may serve a maximum of two (2) years in office.

7.3 The Student Trustee position for a two-year term of office shall be filled by a student from a different Secondary School each term. (As a result, no Secondary School shall have consecutive two-year Student Trustee.)

8.0 Representation at Board Meetings

8.1 Student Trustees will have a regular seat at the board table.

8.2 Student Trustees may be appointed to the various Committees of the Board. Appointment will take place at the annual Organization meeting.

8.3 The Chair of the Board and Vice-Chair of the Board may assign Trustees as Trustee Mentors to the Student Trustees.

8.4 A Student Trustee is not entitled to a "binding vote". (s.55(2))

8.5 A Student Trustee is entitled to request a recorded vote at any board meeting or committee meeting so that the student trustee's vote can be duly reported. (s. 55(3))

8.6 In the event that a Student Trustee requests a recorded vote, the *Education Act* requires that two votes actually occur, the first including the Student Trustee vote and the second without the Student Trustee's vote (s.55(3)(a) and (b)).

8.7 Student Trustees are allowed to participate in all Board meetings except those closed under clause 207(2).

8.8 Student trustees have the same access to Board resources and opportunities for training (s.55(7))

8.9 In the event the Student Trustee resigns from the position or fails to maintain satisfactory meeting attendance, the Board reserves the right to replace that Student Trustee. Section 228 1(b) of the Education Act will be used as a guideline to monitor such attendance.

9.0 Expenses

9.1 Board policy, "Trustee Expenses" will apply for travel and out-of-pocket expenses for the Student Trustee to fulfill their functions at Board and committee meetings.

9.2 Conference attendance for the Student Trustees will be at the discretion of the Board.

10.0 Honorarium

10.1 A Student Trustee is entitled to receive an honorarium of $2,500 from the Board in accordance with the regulations if the specified conditions are satisfied. 2006, c. 10, s. 6

Appendices

References

District School Board
Ontario North East

Policy 1.1.12
Section 1.1: Board and Committees
Approved:

TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

1.0 Rationale

District School Board Ontario North East Board of Trustees occupies positions of public trust and confidence. Trustees are responsible for discharging their duties in a professional, ethical, and impartial manner that fosters public confidence in the integrity of the Board. A Code of Conduct is required to uphold these expectations, ensure respectful and accountable governance, and maintain compliance with all relevant legislation.

A Trustee Code of Conduct further ensures that Trustees conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent, transparent, respectful, and aligned with the Board's mission, vision, and statutory responsibilities. It also reinforces the shared commitment to ethical behaviour, responsible stewardship of public resources, and effective governance.

2.0 Definitions

Trustees are elected or appointed members of District School Board Ontario North East Board of Trustees who is entrusted with the responsibility to represent the public and act in the best interests of students, staff, and the community.

Conflict of Interest is a situation in which the decisions and/or actions of a Trustee may be affected, or may be perceived by others to be affected, by the Trustee's personal, financial, or business interests, or those of a relative or business associate.

Pecuniary Interest is a direct or indirect financial interest as defined in the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, requiring disclosure and recusal from discussion and voting on related matters.

Confidential Information is information obtained during a Trustee's duties that is private, confidential, or legally privileged, including student, personnel, financial, business, and legal information, and information discussed in closed (in-camera) meetings.

Board Resources are all resources belonging to the Board, including financial resources, facilities, technology, equipment, staff services, and proprietary information. Trustees may not use Board resources for personal, financial, or business gain.

Gift is any item, hospitality, favour, or benefit received by a Trustee from an individual or entity that has dealings with the Board. Gifts may only be accepted under specific circumstances and must be reported where required.

3.0 Policy

Trustees of District School Board Ontario North East shall conduct themselves with integrity, professionalism, and respect at all times. Trustees are expected to act in the best interests of the Board and the public it serves, uphold the dignity of their office, and conduct all Board-related activities in a manner that inspires public confidence in the governance of the Board.

4.0 Integrity and Dignity of Office

4.1 Trustees shall at all times act with decorum and shall be respectful of other Trustees and members of staff, students, as well as the public.

4.2 Trustees of the Board shall discharge their duties loyally, faithfully, impartially and in a manner that will inspire public confidence in the abilities and integrity of the Board.

4.3 When acting or holding themself out as Trustees of the Board, a Trustee shall conduct themselves in a manner that would not discredit or compromise the integrity of the Board.

4.4 When acting or holding themself out as a Trustee, the Trustee shall treat persons equally without discrimination based on a person's race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status or disability.

4.5 Trustees of the Board shall recognize that the expenditure of school board funds is a public trust and endeavour to see that the funds are expended efficiently, in the best interests of the students.

4.6 Trustees, as leaders of the Board, must uphold the dignity of the office and conduct themselves in a professional manner, especially when attending Board events, or while on Board property.

4.7 Trustees shall ensure that their comments are issue-based and not personal, demeaning or disparaging with regard to Board staff or fellow Board members.

4.8 Trustees shall endeavour to participate in trustee development opportunities to enhance their ability to fulfill their obligations.

4.9 Any Trustee who resists the rule of the Board, uses offensive language, disobeys the decision of the Chair or the Board on points of order, or makes any disorderly noise or disturbance may, unless an apology is offered, be ordered by the Chair of the Board to leave for the remainder of the meeting, and in the case of refusal to do so, may, on the order of the Chair, be removed from the Board Room and Board Office. Such removal is to be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting. (See section 207(3) of the *Education Act*).

5.0 Compliance with Legislation

5.1 Trustees shall comply with Board Policies and Procedures, Ministry of Education requirements, as well as the provisions of the *Education Act* and Regulations, *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and any other Act or Regulation that may be applicable to the Trustee's duties.

5.2 Every Trustee of the Board shall comply with this Code of Conduct and uphold the spirit of the Code.

5.3 Every Trustee shall respect and understand the roles and duties of the individual Trustees, Board of Trustees, the Director of Education and the Chair of the Board.

3.0 Civil Behaviour

5.4 A Trustee of the Board shall not advance allegations of misconduct and/or a breach of this Code of Conduct that are trivial, frivolous, vexatious, made in bad faith or vindictive in nature against another Trustee of the Board.

5.5 When expressing individual views, Trustees shall respect the differing points of view of other Trustees on the Board, staff, students and the public.

5.6 Trustees shall at all times act with decorum and shall be respectful of other Trustees of the Board, staff, students and the public.

5.7 All Trustees of the Board shall endeavour to work with other Trustees of the Board and staff of the Board in a spirit of respect, openness, courtesy, and co-operation.

6.0 Meetings of the Board Trustee Absence

6.1 Trustees shall communicate absences from the Meeting of the Board forty-eight (48) hours in advance, not including Sundays, before the time of the meeting.

7.0 Additional Duties of the Chair of the Board

7.1 In addition to the duties of Trustees set out in the *Education Act*, the Chair of the Board is expected to comply with the additional duties.

"In addition to any other duties under the Act, the Chair of a Board shall,

(a) preside over meetings of the board;

(b) conduct the meetings in accordance with the board's procedures and practices for the conduct of board meetings;

(c) establish agendas for board meetings, in consultation with the board's Director of Education or the supervisory officer acting as the board's Director of Education;

(d) ensure that members of the board have the information needed for informed discussion of the agenda items;

(e) act as spokesperson to the public on behalf of the board, unless otherwise determined by the board;

(f) convey the decisions of the board to the board's Director of Education;

(g) provide leadership to the board in maintaining the board's focus on the multi-year plan established under section 169.1;

(h) provide leadership to the board in maintaining the board's focus on the board's mission and vision; and

(i) assume such other responsibilities as may be specified by the board."

8.0 Conflict of Interest

8.1 All Trustees are expected to comply with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, R.S.O., 1990, c. M-50 provisions, which requires a Trustee to declare and disclose the general nature of the interest for all direct and indirect pecuniary conflicts of interest and abstain from discussions and voting.

8.2 In all situations where a Trustee or their spouse, child or parent has a pecuniary interest in a matter before the Board, that Trustee must declare a conflict of interest, disclose the general nature of the interest, and abstain from discussions and voting with respect to that issue. Where such conflict of interest arises during an in-camera session of the Board, the Trustee must absent themselves from the room during discussion and deliberation of the issue for which they have a conflict.

8.3 It is an expectation of the Board that Trustees will not only comply with the requirements of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, but also avoid conflicts of interest as defined by this Code of Conduct.

8.4 Pursuant to this Code of Conduct a conflict of interest exists when the decisions and/or actions of a Trustee during the course of exercising their duties are affected by or perceived by another party or person to be affected by the Trustee's personal, financial or business interests or the personal, financial or business interests of a relative, and/or business associate of the Trustee.

8.5 Every Trustee is responsible and accountable for exercising good judgment and avoiding situations that might present a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest, and where a conflict of interest might exist each Trustee has an affirmative duty to disclose such conflict when it becomes apparent and filed in the Chair of the Board's office.

8.6 No Trustee shall use their position, authority or influence for personal, financial or material gain or personal business purposes or for the personal, financial or material gain or business purposes of a relative and/or business associate. Every Trustee shall uphold and enhance all Board business operations by:

8.6.1 Maintaining an unimpeachable standard of integrity in all their relationships, both inside and outside the Board;

8.6.2 Fostering the highest standard of professional competence amongst those for whom they are responsible;

8.6.3 Complying with and being seen to be complying with the letter and spirit of:
8.6.3.1 The laws of Canada and the Province of Ontario,
8.6.3.2 Contractual obligations applicable to the Board; and

8.6.4 Rejecting and denouncing any business practice that is improper or inappropriate or may appear to be improper or inappropriate.

8.7 A Trustee shall not use their position, authority or influence to give any person or organization special treatment that might, or might be perceived to, advance the interests of the Trustee, or the interests of a relative and/or business associate of the Trustee.

8.8 A Trustee must not participate in any decision or recommendation in which they or a relative or business associate may have a financial, commercial or business interest.

8.9 All Trustees shall disclose a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest, and the general nature of the interest, to the Board of Trustees.

9.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

9.1 Where a conflict of interest arises, or when a potential conflict of interest emerges, the Trustee has a duty to inform the Board of Trustees that such a conflict exists, the general nature of the conflict, and that they cannot participate in any decisions of the Board with respect to such issue. Further, the Trustee shall not discuss the issue with which they have a conflict with any Trustees.

9.2 Any personal interest that may impinge or might reasonably be deemed by others to impinge on a Trustee's impartiality or judgment in any matter relevant to their duties should be declared to the Board of Trustees and that Trustee should absent themselves from participating in any decisions related to such issue.

9.3 The Trustee will excuse themselves from the room when the issue is discussed during an in-camera meeting of the Committee of the Whole Board of Trustees.

9.4 The conflict of interest will be recorded, in writing, with a binder kept in the Chair of the Board's office.

10.0 Respect for Confidentiality

10.1 All Trustees acknowledge that as part of their duties to the Board they may be privy to private, confidential and/or legally privileged financial, business and/or commercial information belonging to the Board that may provide a financial, business, commercial or competitive advantage, and that they may be privy to private and confidential student and personnel information, and/or legal matters and opinions. Such information may include, but is not limited to, information relating to the Board's organizational structure, operations, business plans, technical projects, business costs, research data results, inventions, trade secrets or other work produced, developed by or for the Board.

10.2 No Trustee shall disclose confidential information obtained or made available to them in their role as a Trustee except as authorized by law or the Board. Confidential information includes personal information about an identifiable individual or information subject to solicitor-client privilege.

10.3 Every Trustee shall keep confidential any information disclosed or discussed at a meeting of the Board or committee of the Board, or part of a meeting of the Board or committee of the Board, that was closed to the public, and keep confidential the substance of deliberations of a meeting closed to the public, unless required to divulge such information by law or authorized by the Board to do so.

10.4 No Trustee shall use confidential information, including confidential information obtained by them or made available to them in their role as a Trustee for the purpose of personal gain or for the gain of the Trustee's parent, spouse or child and shall not use such confidential information in a manner that would be detrimental to the interests of the Board. [Parent, spouse and child have the same meaning as in Section 1 of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.]

10.5 Except as required by law, all Trustees and former Trustees agree not to use, directly or indirectly, for the Trustee's benefit or for the benefit of any person, organization, firm, or other entity, the Board's proprietary or confidential information disclosed or entrusted to that Trustee, and Trustees recognize that such inappropriate use of confidential information for their benefit may constitute a criminal breach of trust contrary to s.122 of the *Criminal Code* (Canada).

10.6 The confidentiality of business/corporate information received in the course of duties must be respected and should not be used for personal gain. Information given in the course of fulfilling duties should be true and fair and not designed to mislead. For example, it is considered unethical and damaging to the Board's reputation to allow vendor's proprietary/confidential information to pass to another vendor, potential vendor or any person with a financial interest in the information, whether potential or actual, direct or indirect.

10.7 Except as required by law, and in accordance with the *Education Act* and *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, all Trustees agree not to use or disclose the personal and/or educational information of students and their families that may come to the attention of such Trustee. Information received should not be discussed or reviewed in public or where another student, parent or member of the school community could accidentally overhear or read such information.

10.8 Except as required by law, and in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, all Trustees agree not to use or disclose the personal and/or employment information of Board employees and their families that may come to the attention of a Trustee. Information received should not be discussed or reviewed in public or where another employee or member of the public could accidentally overhear or read such information.

10.9 A Trustee’s duty of confidentiality with respect to private and confidential financial, business and/or commercial information, personnel information, student information, and legal matters and opinions survives their term as Trustee.

11.0 Avoidance of Personal Advantage and Conflict of Interest

11.1 No Trustee shall use or permit the use of Board resources for any purposes other than the business of the Board. No Trustee shall permit relatives and/or business associates to use Board resources. Trustees recognize that such inappropriate use of Board resources directly or indirectly for their benefit may constitute a criminal breach of trust contrary to s.122 of the *Criminal Code* (Canada).

11.2 All Trustees shall abide by Board Policies and Operational Procedures regarding the use of Board resources including information technology resources.

11.3 No Trustee shall accept a gift from any person, group or entity that has dealings with the Board if a reasonable person might conclude that the gift could influence the Trustee when performing their duties to the Board, unless
(a) the gift is of nominal value,
(b) the gift is given as an expression of courtesy or hospitality, and
(c) accepting the gift is reasonable in the circumstances.

11.4 A Trustee shall not use his or her office to advance the Trustee's interests or the interests of any family member or person or organization with whom or with which the Trustee is related or associated.

11.5 No Trustee shall use his or her office to obtain employment with the Board for the Trustee or a family member.

An invitation to attend a function where the invitation is connected directly with the performance of a Member’s duties of office (i.e. for which the Trustees has a ceremonial, presentational or representational official role) is not considered by this Code of Conduct, to be a gift. This type of attendance is considered to be fulfillment of official public duties.

10.0 Reporting Gifts & Hospitality

Trustees must notify the Chair of the Board by e-mail and the Chair of the Board must notify the Vice-Chair of the Board of any gifts and hospitality received including meals, over $200.00.

All forms (which are available from the Office of the Director) will be retained in the Office of the Chief Executive Officer and Secretary to the Board.

11.0 Upholding Decisions

11.0 All Trustees of the Board shall accept that authority rests with the Board, and that a Trustee has no individual authority other than that delegated by the Board.

11.1 Each Trustee shall uphold the implementation of any Board resolution after it is passed by the Board. A proper motion for reconsideration or rescission, if permitted by the Board's Rules of Order, can be brought by a Trustee.

11.2 A Trustee should be able to explain the rationale for a resolution passed by the Board. A Trustee may respectfully state his or her position on a resolution provided it does not in any way undermine the implementation of the resolution.

11.3 Each Trustee shall comply with Board policies, procedures, by-laws, and rules of order.

11.4 The Chair of the Board is the spokesperson to the public on behalf of the Board, unless otherwise determined by the Board. No other Trustee shall act as spokesperson to the public on behalf of the Board unless authorized by the Board. When individual Trustees express their opinions in public, they must make it clear that they are not speaking on behalf of the Board.

12.0 Identifying a Breach of the Code of Conduct

12.0 A Board member who has reasonable grounds to believe that another Board member has breached the Board's Code of Conduct may bring the alleged breach to the attention of the Board through the Chair of the Board.

12.1 Any allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct must be brought to the attention of the Chair of the Board as soon the alleged breach becomes known to the member of the Board reporting the alleged breach.

12.2 If the allegation is against the Chair of the Board, the Vice-Chair of the Board will conduct the review. If both the Chair of the Board and the Vice-Chair of the Board are involved in the allegation, the alternate Chair of the Board and alternate Vice-Chair of the Board will conduct the review. (By-Law No. 1)

12.3 There are two methods for conducting an investigation of an allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct:

12.3.1 Informal Review Process; or

12.3.2 Formal Review Process.

12.4 It is expected that whenever possible, allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct by a trustee shall be investigated using the Informal Review Process. It is recognized that from time to time a contravention of the Code of Conduct may occur that is trivial, or committed through inadvertence, or an error of judgment made in good faith. In the spirit of collegiality and the best interests of the Board, the first purpose of alerting a trustee to a breach of the Code of Conduct is to assist the trustee in understanding their obligations under the Code of Conduct. Only serious and/or recurring breaches of the Code by a trustee should be investigated following the Formal Review Process.

13.0 Informal Review Process

13.0 The Chair of the Board, on their own initiative, or at the request of a Trustee of the Board (without a formal written complaint) who alleges a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred, may meet informally with a Trustee of the Board who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct. The purpose of the meeting is to bring the allegation of the breach to the attention of the trustee and to discuss possible remedial measures to correct the offending behaviour. The informal review process is conducted in private.

13.1 If the allegation is against the Chair of the Board, the Vice-Chair of the Board will conduct the review. If both the Chair of the Board and the Vice-Chair of the Board are involved in the allegation, the alternate Chair of the Board and alternate Vice-Chair of the Board will conduct the review. (By-Law No. 1)

13.2 As a remedy, the parties may agree to a remedial measure that is appropriate to the nature of alleged breach, for example, an apology.

13.3 If the Chair of the Board and the trustee alleged to have breached this Code of Conduct cannot agree on a remedy, a formal complaint may be brought against the Trustee alleged to have breached this Code of Conduct and that complaint will be dealt with in accordance with the Formal Review Process below.

14.0 Formal Review Process

14.0 A Trustee who has reasonable grounds to believe that another Trustee of the Board has breached the Board's Code of Conduct will bring the breach to the attention of the Board by first providing to the Chair of the Board, a written, signed complaint setting out the following:

14.0.1 the name of the Trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct;

14.0.2 a statement of fact about the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct;

14.0.3 information as to when the breach came to the trustee's attention;

14.0.4 the grounds for the belief by the trustee that a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred;

14.0.5 the names and contact information of any witnesses to the breach or any other persons who have relevant information regarding the alleged breach.

14.1 If a written complaint is filed with the Chair of the Board then a Formal Review shall be undertaken, unless the complainant subsequently withdraws the complaint or agrees that the complaint may be dealt with in accordance with the Informal Review Process.

14.2 The Chair of the Board shall provide to all Trustees of the Board a confidential copy of the complaint within ten (10) day working days of receiving it. The complaint, any response to the complaint and the investigation of the complaint shall be confidential until it is before the Board of Trustees for a decision as to whether or not the Trustee has breached this Code of Conduct.

14.3 If the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board when conducting the formal review cannot agree on the final finding of facts, it shall be referred to an outside investigator to complete the formal review.

14.4 If a formal review of an allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct is undertaken, it shall be done by:

14.4.1 The Chair of the Board and Vice-Chair of the Board, if appropriate or the alternate Chair of the Board and Vice-Chair of the Board;

14.4.2 An outside consultant chosen by the Chair of the Board and Vice-Chair of the Board.

14.5 The Chair of the Board and Vice-Chair of the Board shall determine if the formal review will be undertaken by an outside consultant.

14.6 Regardless of who undertakes the formal review, it shall be undertaken using the following steps:

14.6.1 Procedural fairness and the rules of natural justice shall govern the formal review. The formal review will be conducted in private and, to the extent possible, protecting the confidentiality of the parties involved.

14.6.2 The formal review may involve both written and oral statements by any witnesses, the trustee bringing the complaint and the trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct.

14.6.3 The trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct shall receive details of the allegation and have an opportunity to respond to the allegations both in a private meeting with the person(s) undertaking the formal review and in writing.

14.6.4 It is expected that the formal review will be conducted within a reasonable period of time which will depend on the circumstances of the case. The trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct shall provide a written response to the allegations within 10 working days of receiving the written allegation, or such extended period of time as the investigators deem appropriate in the circumstance.

14.6.5 If the trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct refuses to participate in the formal review, the formal review will continue in their absence.

14.7 If the investigators, when conducting the formal review, discover that the subject-matter of the formal inquiry is being investigated by police, that a charge has been laid, or is being dealt with in accordance with a procedure established under another Act, the formal review shall be suspended until the police investigation, charge or matter under another Act has been finally disposed of. This shall be reported to the rest of the Board of trustees.

14.8 Once the formal review is complete, the investigators shall provide a confidential draft copy of their report containing the findings of fact to the trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct and the complainant. The purpose of providing the draft report to the parties is to ensure no errors of fact are contained in it. The two trustees shall have up to ten (10) working days (or such greater period of time as deemed appropriate by the investigators) from the receipt of the draft report to provide a written response. The written response is to respond to any inaccurate facts, no new details are to be provided.

14.9 The final report of the investigator(s) shall outline the finding of facts, but not contain a recommendation or opinion as to whether the Code of Conduct has been breached. This will be determined by the Board of Trustees as a whole.

15.0 Review Decision

15.0 The final report shall be delivered to the Board of Trustees, and a decision by the Board of Trustees shall be made as soon as practical after receipt of the final report by the Board.

15.1 The Board shall consider only the findings in the final report when voting on the decision and sanction. No trustee shall undertake their own investigation of the matter.

15.2 The determination of a breach of the Code of Conduct and the imposition of a sanction must be done by resolution of the Board at a meeting of the Board, and the vote on the resolution shall be open to the public. The resolution and the reasons for the decision shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Both resolutions shall be decided by a vote of at least 2/3 of the Trustees of the Board elected or appointed.

15.3 Despite s. 207 (1) of the *Education Act*, the part of the meeting of the Board during which a breach or alleged breach of the Board's Code of Conduct is considered may be closed to the public when the breach or alleged breach involves any of the matters described in clauses 207(2) (a) to (e) being:

15.3.1 the security of the property of the Board;

15.3.2 the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil or their parent or guardian;

15.3.3 the acquisition or disposal of a school site;

15.3.4 decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the Board; or

15.3.5 litigation affecting the Board.

15.4 The trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct:

15.4.1 may be present during the deliberations;

15.4.2 shall not participate in the deliberations;

15.4.3 shall not be required to answer any questions at that meeting; and

15.4.4 shall not vote on a resolution to determine whether or not there is a breach or the imposition of a sanction.

15.5 The trustee who filed the complaint may vote on the resolution to determine whether or not there is a breach and/or the imposition of a sanction.

15.6 The trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct shall not, in any way, after the final report is completed, influence the vote on the decision of breach or sanction, except to appeal after the decisions have been made.

16.0 Sanctions

16.0 If the Board determines that there has been no breach of the Code of Conduct or that a contravention occurred, although the Trustee took all reasonable measures to prevent it, or that a contravention occurred that was trivial, or committed through inadvertence, or an error of judgment made in good faith, no sanction shall be imposed.

16.1 The Board shall not impose a sanction that is more onerous than the above but may impose one that is less onerous such as a warning.

16.2 If the Board determines that a Board member has breached this Code of Conduct, the Board may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

16.2.1 censure of the Board member;

16.2.2 barring the Board member from attending all or part of a meeting of the Board or a meeting of a committee of the Board; or

16.2.3 barring the Board member from sitting on one or more committees of the Board, for the period of time specified by the Board, not to exceed six months.

16.3 The Board has no power to declare the Trustee’s seat vacant on its own.

16.4 A Board member who is barred from attending all or part of a meeting of the Board or a meeting of a committee of the Board is not entitled to receive any materials that relate to that meeting or that part of the meeting and that are not available to the members of the public.

16.5 A sanction barring a trustee from attending all or part of a meeting shall be deemed to be authorization for the trustee to be absent from the meeting, and therefore, not in violation of the Education Act regarding absences from meetings.

17.0 Appeal

17.0 If a Board determines that a Board member has breached this Code of Conduct, the Board shall:

17.0.1 give the Board member written notice of the determination and of any sanction imposed by the Board;

17.0.2 the notice shall inform the Board member that they may make written submissions to the Board in respect of the determination or sanction by the date specified in the notice that is at least 14 working days after the notice has been received by the Board member; and

17.0.3 consider any submissions made by the Board member and shall confirm or revoke the determination within 14 working days after the submissions are received from the Board member.

17.1 If the Board revokes a determination any sanction imposed by the Board is also revoked.

17.2 If the Board confirms a determination that a Board member has breached this Code of Conduct, the Board shall, within the 14 working days above, confirm, vary or revoke the sanction(s) imposed by the Board.

17.3 If a sanction is varied or revoked, the variation or revocation shall be deemed to be effective as of the date the original determination was made by the Board.

17.4 The Board decision to confirm or revoke a determination or confirm, vary or revoke a sanction shall be done by resolution at a meeting of the Board and the vote on the resolution shall be open to the public. Both resolutions shall be decided by a vote of at least 2/3 of the Board members elected or appointed.

17.5 The Board shall provide to the Trustee alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct written notice of the decision to confirm or revoke the determination together with reasons for the decision and written notice of any decision to confirm, vary or revoke a sanction. The Board member alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct shall not vote on those resolutions. The Board member who brought the complaint may vote.

17.6 The Board member who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct may be present during the deliberations regarding the above but may not participate in the deliberations and shall not be required to answer any questions at that meeting.

17.7 If appropriate, the original sanction may be stayed pending consideration of the appeal by the Board of the determination or sanction.

18.0 Refusal to Conduct Formal Review

18.0 A formal review shall not be conducted, unless the Board of Trustees are of the opinion that the complaint is:

18.0.1 trivial, frivolous, vexatious;

18.0.2 not made in good faith;

18.0.3 there are insufficient grounds for a formal review; or

18.0.4 there are no grounds for a formal review;

18.1 A confidential report stating the reasons for not conducting a formal review shall be provided to all trustees of the Board, who shall then have the responsibility of determining the next steps.

19.0 Administrative Matters

19.0 The Board shall do the following things by resolution at a meeting of the Board, and the vote on the resolution shall be open to the public:

19.0.1 Make a determination that a Board member has breached this Code of Conduct;

19.0.2 Impose a sanction on a Board member for a breach of this Code of Conduct;

19.0.3 Confirm or revoke a determination regarding a Board member's breach of this Code of Conduct; and

19.0.4 Confirm, vary or revoke a sanction after confirming or revoking a determination regarding a Board member's breach of this Code of Conduct.

19.1 The meeting may be closed to the public if the breach or alleged breach involves:

19.1.1 The security of the property of the Board;

19.1.2 The disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil or their parent or guardian;

19.1.3 The acquisition or disposal of a school site;

19.1.4 Decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the Board; or

19.1.5 Litigation affecting the Board.

19.2 A Board member who is alleged to have breached this Code of Conduct shall not vote on any of the resolutions listed above regarding the alleged breach(s).

19.3 In an election year, a Code of Conduct complaint involving a Trustee who is seeking re-election shall not be initiated during the period September 1st and ending after the first Board meeting following the election. If the trustee who is the subject of the complaint is not re-elected, no review shall be undertaken.

19.4 The Statutory Powers Procedure Act does not apply to any of the enforcement provisions under section 218.3 of the *Education Act*. No formal trial-type hearing will be conducted.

19.5 Nothing in this Code of Conduct prevents a Board member's breach of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act from being dealt with in accordance with that Act.

Appendices

References

District School Board Ontario North East

Policy 1.1.13
Section 1.1: Board and Committees
Approved:

STUDENT SENATE CONSTITUTION

1.0 Rationale

District School Board Ontario North East is committed to promoting meaningful student engagement and ensuring that student perspectives inform board-level decision-making. Establishing a formal Student Senate provides a structured mechanism through which students can contribute insight on matters affecting student learning, well-being, achievement, and school culture.

The Student Senate supports the democratic representation of student voice across the district by fostering communication between students, schools, and the Board. It also strengthens the role of Student Trustees by providing a representative advisory body that collaborates on student-related initiatives and supports the coordination of student leadership at the district level.

This policy affirms the Board's commitment to equity, inclusion, and Indigenous representation by ensuring that Indigenous student voice is formally reflected within student governance structures

2.0 Definitions

Student Senate A district-wide advisory body composed of elected student representatives that serves as a forum for student voice, consultation, and planning on student-related matters.

Student Senator A secondary school student elected or appointed to represent their school community on the Student Senate, in accordance with the requirements set out in the Student Senate Constitution.

Student Trustee A member of the Student Senate elected to represent all students of District School Board Ontario North East at official meetings of the Board, as regulated by Ontario Regulation 354/18.

Indigenous Student Representative A Student Senator or Student Trustee who self-identifies as Indigenous and represents Indigenous student voice within the Student Senate.

3.0 Policy

District School Board Ontario North East supports the establishment and ongoing operation of a Student Senate as an official advisory body to the Board. the Student Senate shall operate in a manner that reflects the principles of equity, inclusion, accountability, and respect, and that ensures broad representation of the student population, including Indigenous students.

The Student Senate shall:
- Provide informed advice and perspectives to the Board on matters related to student interests, issues, and activities;
- Serve as a conduit for communication and idea-sharing between students, schools, Student Trustees, and the Board;
- Support and strengthen the role of Student Trustees in representing student voice at Board meetings;
- Promote student leadership, engagement, and collaboration across the district;
- Oversee the election of Student Trustees in accordance with legislative and board requirements.

4.0 Role of the Student Senate

4.1 The mandate of the Student Senate shall be:

4.1.1 To provide the Board with active and effective insight into all matters of student-related issues and activities.

4.1.2 To act as a conduit for communication and idea sharing between the Board and its students in the intermediate and senior divisions, empowering the role of the Student Trustees and their mandate to represent student voice.

4.1.3 To support the Student Trustees in their task of coordinating initiatives which benefit and celebrate student achievement by collaboratively working towards a common goal.

4.1.4 To oversee the election of the incoming Student Trustees for the following academic year who will serve as the representatives of all DSB Ontario North East students at official School Board meetings.

4.2 A member of the Student Senate shall:

4.2.1 Represent the interests of students across the Board at every meeting of the Student Senate.

4.2.2 Liaise, represent, and gather information with and to their student council and to the students at their school on topics discussed at Student Senate meetings, and any issues arising from the student body.

4.2.3 Have good standing in attendance, academics and be dedicated to promoting student voice.

4.2.4 Plan inclusive activities and initiatives for students.

5.0 Senate Membership

5.1 The Student Senate shall consist of:

5.1.1 Three voting representatives from each secondary school;

5.1.2 One voting representative, whom identifies as Indigenous;

5.1.3 Three Student Trustees;

5.1.4 At least one advisor as determined by the Board.

6.0 Election of Student Senators

6.1 Each Secondary School will elect three (3) Student Senators, one of whom identifies as Indigenous, to the Student Senate such that all representatives must be in at least Grade 10; where a school has a Student Trustee, there can be three (3) representatives.

6.2 Each Secondary School must have elected or appointed their representatives to the Student

Senate by mid-February of an election year.

6.3 The term of a member of the Student Senate begins in the fall following their spring election.

6.4 Student Senators are eligible to serve on the Student Senate for one (1) additional year after the end of this term.

7.0 Election of Student Trustees Including one whom identifies as Indigenous

7.1 The Student Senate will be responsible for electing three (3) Student Trustees to serve as the representatives of all District School Board Ontario North East students at official School Board meetings for each academic year.

7.2 Only Student Senate Members may run for the position of Student Trustee.

~~7.3~~ Three Student Trustees, one of whom identifies as Indigenous, will be elected by the entire Student Senate Body. Each senator will elect a Student Trustee from two different regions of the Board.

~~7.4~~ An election for a Student Trustee position for a one-year term of office shall be held not later than the last day of February in each year. O. Reg. 354/18, s. 2.

~~7.5~~ An election for a Student Trustee position for a two-year term of office shall be held not later than April 30 in each year. O. Reg. 354/18, s. 2.

7.6 The term of office shall consist of one year or two years and starts on August 1 of the year in which the Student Trustee is elected. O. Reg. 354/18, s. 4 (1)

7.7 Student Trustees may serve a maximum of two (2) years in office.

7.8 The Student Trustee position for a two-year term of office shall be filled by a student from a different Secondary School each term. (As a result, no Secondary School shall have consecutive two-year Student Trustee.)

8.0 Meetings

8.1 Meetings of the Student Senate

8.1.1 The elected Student Trustees shall Co-Chair all meetings of the Student Senate

8.1.2 Monthly meetings of the Student Senate may occur either in-person or virtually.

8.1.3 A quorum exists if over 50% of Student Senate members are noted to be in attendance at duly scheduled in-person or virtual meetings.

8.2 Meetings of the Board

8.2.1 The Student Senate shall be officially represented at all meetings of the Board by the three Student Trustees.

8.2.2 The Student Trustees will bring regular updates to the Student Senate on activities of the Board.

9.0 Disqualifications

9.1 A member of the Student Senate is deemed disqualified from their position if:

9.1.1 The student is no longer enrolled as a student in a secondary school of the Board;

9.1.2 The student is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Student Senate without just cause.

9.1.3 The Student Trustees shall be responsible for tracking student absenteeism at Student Senate meetings.

10.0 Honorarium

10.1 A Student Senator is entitled to receive an honorarium of $250 from the Board, shall they be in attendance at 2/3 of the scheduled Student Senate meetings for the year.

Appendices

References
O. Reg. 354/18

District School Board Ontario North East

Policy 1.2.13
Section 1.2: System Policies and Procedures
Approved: January 18, 2005
Revised: May 6, 2025

~~CRIMINAL~~ POLICE RECORD ~~AND VULNERABLE SECTOR~~ CHECKS

1.0 Rationale

District School Board Ontario North East has the responsibility, under *The Education Act*, to provide a safe and secure working and learning environment for students and employees. The board is in a position of trust with regard to students and must strive to protect their intellectual, physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

2.0 Definitions

Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check: means a document concerning an individual :

a) that was prepared by a police force or service from national data on the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) database within six (6) months, and,

~~b)~~ that provides all information permitted to be disclosed in a basic criminal record check and includes additional information such as outstanding charges, warrants, certain judicial orders, and absolute and conditional discharges. ~~information concerning the individual's police record including Criminal Code (Canada) convictions, records of convictions under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, Narcotic Control Act and Food and Drugs Act and all outstanding warrants and charges.~~

Vulnerable Sector Check: means a document concerning an individual

a) that was prepared by a police force or service from national data on the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) database within six (6) months;

b) is an in-depth check that includes all information permitted to be disclosed in a CRJMC as well as applicable findings of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder, record suspensions related to sexually-based offences, and non-conviction charges-related information in certain circumstances and when a strict test is met. ~~that provides information concerning the individual's police record including Criminal Code (Canada) convictions, records of convictions under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, Narcotic Control Act and Food and Drugs Act and all outstanding warrants and charges; and~~

~~c) contains information resulting from a criminal record search of data maintained by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for sexual offences for which a pardon has not been granted or issued.~~

Offence Declaration: means, in respect of a Board:~~,~~

a) ~~a written~~ declaration signed by an individual ~~listing all of the individual's~~ declaring no convictions and/or charges for offences under the *Criminal Records Act (Canada)* ~~up to the date of the declaration: that are not included in a Criminal Record Check collected by the~~

~~Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) after December 31, 1998 or in the last criminal background check collected by the Board under this regulation; and~~ for which a pardon under Section 4.1 of the *Criminal Records Act (Canada)* has not been issued or granted, up to the date of declaration, that are not included in the last police check collected and/or since the last offence declaration, or

b) a written declaration listing all of the individual's new charges and/or convictions for offences under the Criminal Records Act (Canda) for which a pardon under Section 4.1 of the *Criminal Records Act (Canada)* has not been issued or granted, up to the date of declaration, that are not included in the last police check collected and/or since the last offence declaration.

Emergency Interim Offence Declaration: An offence declaration submitted to the Board that permits a new employee to commence their role prior to the submission of a police check. Proof of application for a police check must have been submitted to Human Resources. Additional measures may be put in place to protect students who interact with the individual until the police record check is collected.

Direct contact: in schools, this refers to direct 1:1 care, by a person in a position that has trust of or authority over vulnerable persons ~~any individual or group that a student interacts with or comes into close proximity to, who could have an influence on the student's learning environment, behaviour, or overall well-being~~.

Service Provider: means an individual who is not ~~an employee of~~ employed by the Board ~~and~~ but who ~~comes into~~ has direct and/or regular contact with ~~pupils on a regular basis at a school site of the Board in the normal course of~~ students while:

~~a)~~ providing goods or services under contract ~~with the Board~~, carrying out ~~his or her~~ employment functions for a contracted provider ~~as an employee of a person who provides goods or services under contract with the Board~~, or~~,~~

b) providing services to someone contracted by ~~a person who provides goods or services under contract with~~ the Minister.

Identification Card: means a wallet sized card, issued to an individual Service Provider who has been determined to present no unacceptable risk to students who may attend school property and come in direct and regular contact with students.

3.0 Policy

District School Board Ontario North East will not hire into its employ or continue to employ persons who will have direct and regular contact with students who have police records and/or patterns of behaviour which place students or staff at risk.

District School Board Ontario North East will not allow school access to *Service Providers* or *Others* who have direct and regular contact with students:

- who cannot provide evidence of a completed Vulnerable Sector Check or
- who have provided a Vulnerable Sector Check which has been adjudicated and found to present unacceptable risk to students and/or staff.

District School Board Ontario North East will not allow school access to *Service Providers* or *Others* who do not have direct and regular contact with students:

- who cannot provide evidence of a completed Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check, or
- who have provided a Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check which has been adjudicated and found to present unacceptable risk to students and/or staff.

District School Board
Ontario North East

Director’s Report

April 7, 2026

Achieve: Uphold high expectations in diverse learning and working environments.

The DSB1 Artificial Intelligence Working Group met for the fourth time recently to finalize the DSB1 Student and Staff Generative AI Guidelines and use cases. The guidelines will be launched to the system at the April 17 PA Day.

Students in the Culinary Arts SHSM at TH&VS recently attended the Restaurants Canada Show in Toronto. Students learned from industry professionals, and discovered new food trends, ingredients, and technologies shaping Canada’s restaurant industry.

Belong: Build inclusive communities where all feel supported and valued.

DSB1 secondary schools are hosting information and orientation sessions for incoming Grade 9 students. Thank you to the staff who plan these important sessions for students and families.

Several DSB1 elementary schools recently participated in the Great Big Crunch, a country-wide celebration of food literacy and local food. These events were held in connection with the schools’ student nutrition programs.

Create: Foster collaboration, innovation and skill development in all learners.

Regional Skills Competitions have taken place across our district. An increased number of schools and students are participating in these challenges. Administrative Council is grateful for the work of the Student Success team and school staff who dedicate so much time and energy to these exceptional learning opportunities for students.

The Director participated in an engagement session with the Town of Kapuskasing. The session was a forecasting exercise to imagine what Kapuskasing will look like in 2050.

Our Journey to Achieve, Belong, Create

Administrative Council
April 7, 2026

District School Board Ontario North East

1

Our Vision

Preparing our learners for their future success.

Our Mission

Providing meaningful growth opportunities.

2

Our Strategic Priorities

3

Achieve Goal

83% of Grade 9 students and 78% of Grade 10 students who are working towards an OSSD will earn all their credits.

4

Achieve Goal Progress

After Semester 1

Grade	Goal 2025-26	On-track	Same time last school year
9	83%	88.6%	85.2%
10	78%	76.9%	68.0%

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Subgroup Data

After Semester 1

Grade 9	Students that Identify as Indigenous	Students with IEPs
9	85.1%	85.7%
10	71.5%	73.5%

6

Challenges

- Credit accumulation for Grade 10 students
- Persistent Absenteeism
  - 87% of Grade 9 students at risk are persistently absent
  - 78% of Grade 10 students at risk are persistently absent

7

Next Steps

- Credit Recovery
- Indigenous Student Advisor interventions and support in pilot schools
- Attendance monitoring and wrap around support
- Patterns and trends for Grade 10 students at risk

8

Belong Goal

The persistently absent rate will be 42% or lower, and the attendance rate will be 88% or higher for students in K-12.

9

Attendance Matters Impact

"The greatest impact on attendance has come from shifting it from a reactive compliance issue to a proactive culture issue, rooted in belonging, barrier removal, and data-informed action at both the school and system level."

- K-6 School Leader

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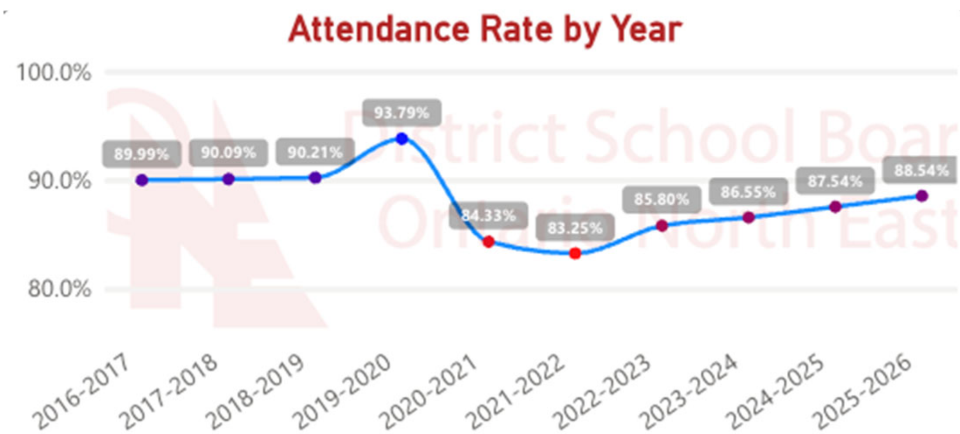
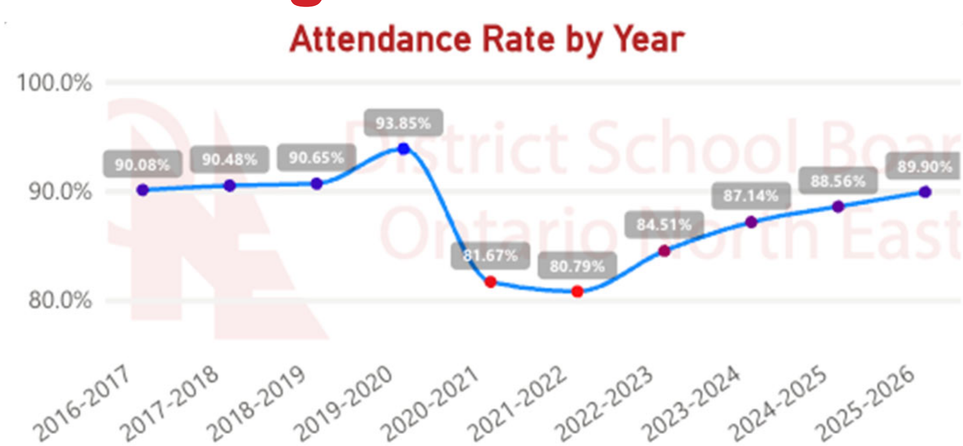
Attendance Rate, K to 12



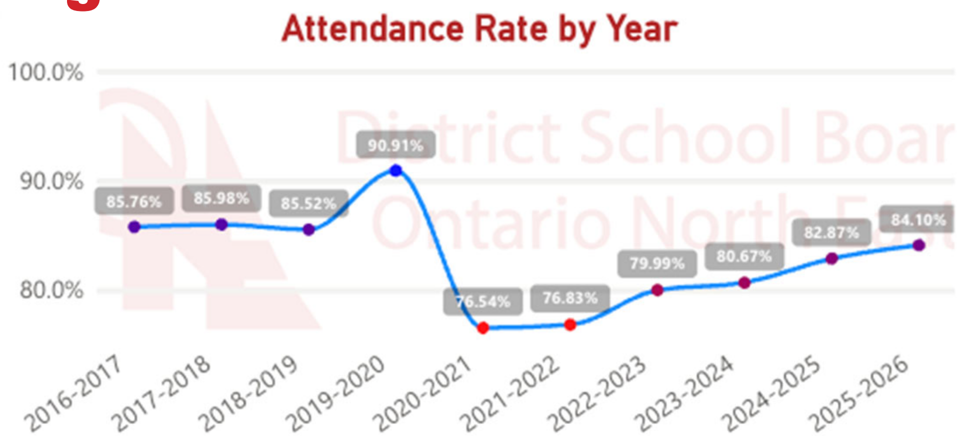
11

AR: Kindergarten



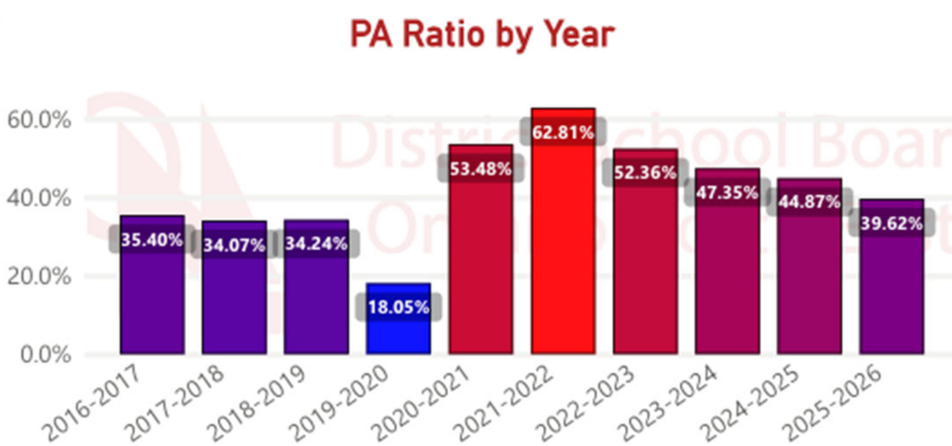
12

AR: Students who identify as Indigenous



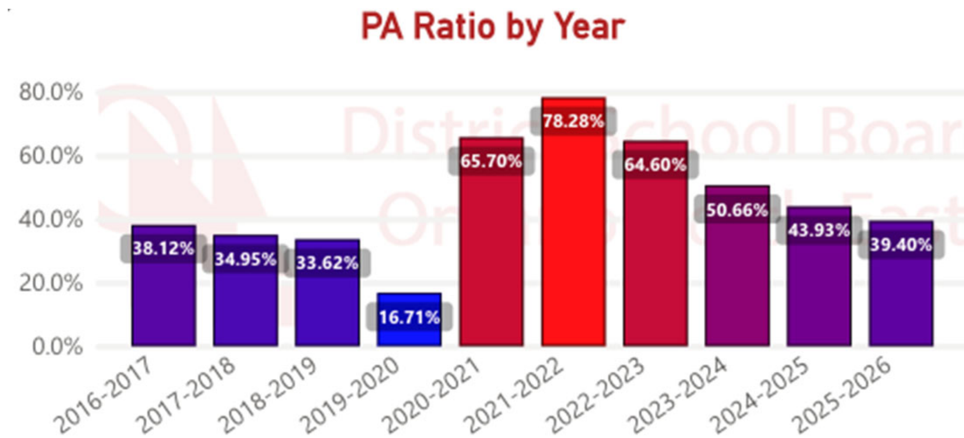
13

Persistent Absenteeism, K to 12



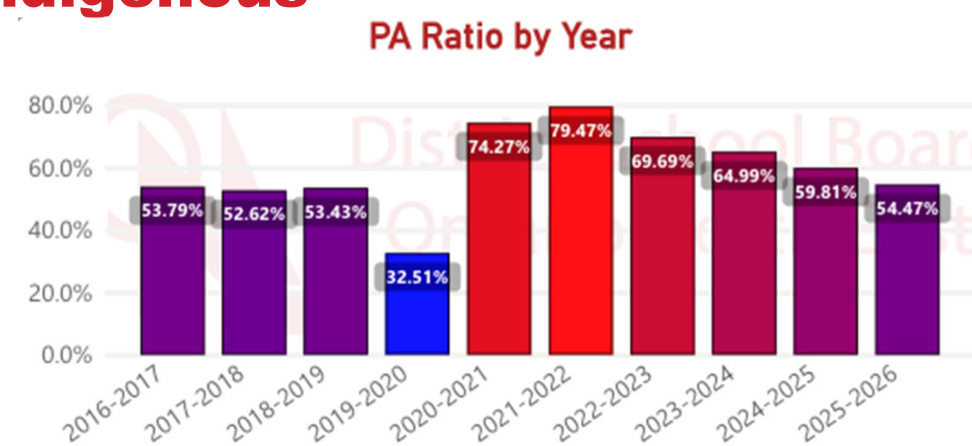
14

PA: Kindergarten



15

PA: Students who identify as Indigenous



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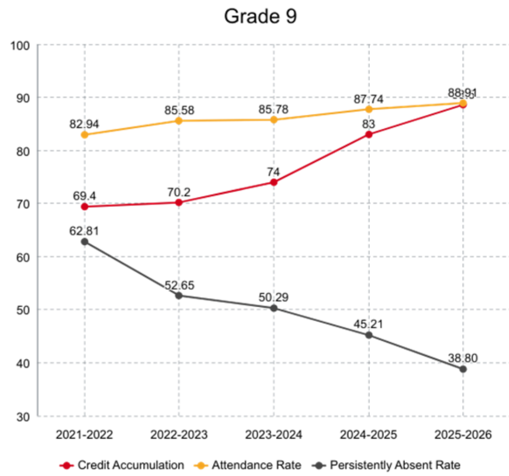
Grade 9 AR, PA and Credit Accumulation



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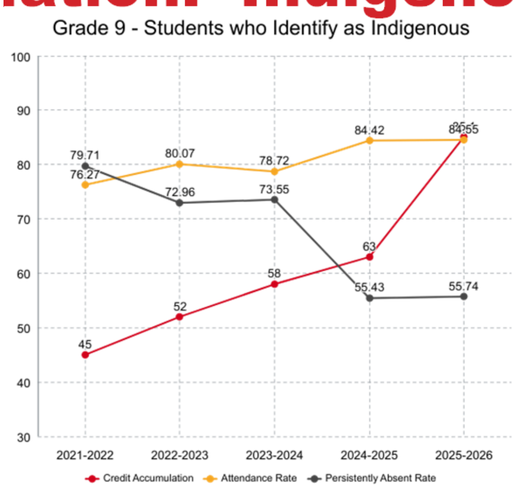
Grade 9 AR, PA and Credit Accumulation: Indigenous



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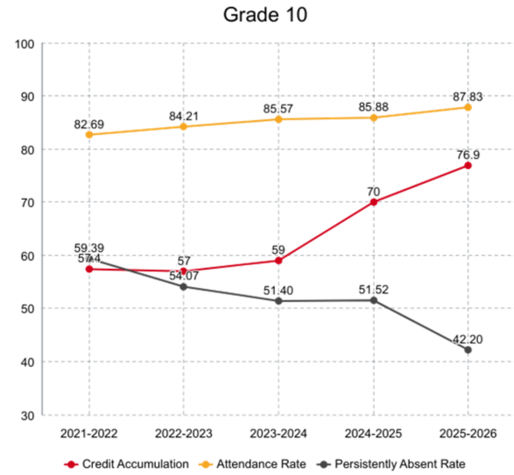
Grade 10 AR, PA and Credit Accumulation



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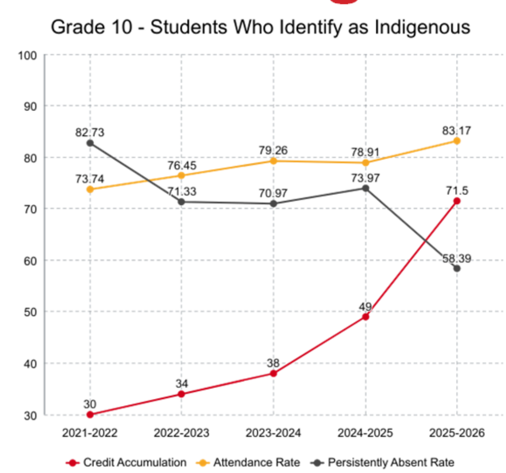
Grade 10 AR, PA and Credit Accumulation: Indigenous



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Cohort Data

Refer to printed copies

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
K	80.79	84.51	87.14	88.56	90.56 ↑
1	82.76	86.91	87.51	89.88	91.33 ↑
2	82.48	86.53	88.58	89.43	91.17 ↑
3	84.18	86.83	88.11	90.25	91.53 ↑
4	83.75	87.43	88.32	88.63	91.08 ↑
5	83.07	87.08	88.36	88.81	89.93 ↑
6	82.35	86.28	87.54	87.88	90.75 ↑
7	83.34	84.58	85.43	85.71	88.99 ↑
8	82.67	82.11	83.6	84.71	87.65 ↑
9	82.94	85.58	85.78	87.74	89.23 ↑
10	82.69	84.21	85.57	87.58	88.13 ↑
11	83.42	86.22	85.36	86.76	86.71 ↑
12	86.38	87.13	85.89	86.31	86.13 ↑
K-12	**83.25**	**85.8**	**86.55**	**87.54**	**88.81** ↑

Data captured February 7, 2026

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
K	78.28	64.6	50.66	43.93	35.16
1	72.59	52.38	47.06	37.35	28.29 ↓
2	71.69	52.47	42.41	36.73	32 ↓
3	63.93	51.88	41.45	32.99	27.86 ↓
4	67.23	49.09	43.7	40.28	31.72 ↓
5	67.47	51.53	41.93	42.89	37.72 ↓
6	69.18	53.11	48.78	42.8	29.9 ↓
7	67.06	60.66	52.24	56.88	41.33 ↓
8	64.21	69.14	59.73	60.89	46.25 ↓
9	62.81	52.65	50.29	45.21	37.01 ↓
10	59.39	54.07	51.04	51.52	40.74 ↓
11	56.78	46.67	49.93	47.88	44.38 ↓
12	40.37	38.73	40.95	41.81	42.16 ↓
K-12	**62.81**	**52.36**	**47.35**	**44.87**	**38.98** ↓

Data captured February 7, 2026

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Challenges

- Determine effective strategies to improve Grade 12 attendance.
- Maximize the month of September in 2026
- Ensure all staff understand the prevent, support, monitor strategies

22

Next Steps

- Continue to track cohort data to demonstrate impact.
- Continue to have attendance as SIPSA and Strategic Plan goals to maintain momentum.
- Ensure each portfolio continues to track attendance with their specific students.

23

Create Goal

80% of new DSB1 staff will report their onboarding was beneficial.

24

Create Goal Progress

- Surveys have been sent and responses are being compiled.
- Monthly feedback sessions to determine onboarding needs for all new hires.

25

Challenges

- Survey will only address those that attended the August 2025 session.
- Monthly sessions may not be attended by all new hires.

26

Next Steps

- School Administrators provide feedback on onboarding procedures.
- Incorporate monthly meetings topics into 2026-2027 onboarding plan.

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Goal Interim Report Card

	Goal	Progress
Achieve	83% of Grade 9 students and 78% of Grade 10 students who are working towards an OSSD will earn all their credits.	Gr. 9: 88.6% Gr. 10: 76.9%
Belong	The persistently absent rate will be 42% or lower, and the attendance rate will be 88% or higher for students in K to 12.	AR: 88.55% PA: 39.08%
Create	80% of new DSB1 staff will report their onboarding was beneficial.	Available in Fall 2026

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Ontario North East

Meegwetch
Thank You
Merci

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District School Board
Ontario North East

2025-2026 Strategic Plan Monitoring

April 7, 2026

Achieve

Goal	Progress	Next Steps
83% of Grade 9 students and 78% of Grade 10 students who are working towards an OSSD will earn all their credits.	At the end of semester 1, 88.6% of Grade 9 students have earned 4/4 credits and 76.9% of Grade 10 students have earned 12/12 credits.	• Credit Recovery • Indigenous Student Advisor interventions and support in pilot schools • Attendance monitoring and wrap around support • Patterns and trends for Grade 10 students at risk

Belong

Goal	Progress	Next Steps
The persistently absent rate will be 42% or lower, and the attendance rate will be 88% or higher for students in K to 12.	As of March 27, 2026, the persistently absent rate is 39.62% and the attendance rate is 88.54%.	• Continue to track cohort data to demonstrate impact. • Continue to have attendance as SIPSA and Strategic Plan goals to maintain momentum. • Ensure each portfolio continues to track attendance with their specific students.

Create

Goal	Progress	Next Steps
80% of new DSB1 staff will report their onboarding was beneficial.	Surveys have been sent and responses being compiled. Monthly feedback sessions to determine onboarding needs	• Analyze the survey results • Revise onboarding topics and school supports

Achieve · Belong · Create

District School Board
Ontario North East

2025-2026 Strategic Plan Monitoring

April 7, 2026

Achieve

Goal	Progress	Next Steps
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Create

Goal	Progress	Next Steps
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