

Public Schools Branch
Board of Trustees Public Meeting
June 11, 2026

Minutes

The Public Schools Branch Board of Trustees hosted a public meeting in person at Three Oaks Senior High School on Thursday, June 11, 2026.

Present: Andrew MacFarlane, Board Chair
Karen Clare, Vice-Chair
Andrew Avery, Trustee
Emily McKeown, Trustee
Peter Fullerton, Trustee
Dennis Lewis, Appointed Trustee
Wade Czank, Trustee
Marcella Byrne, Trustee
Andrew Rose, Appointed Trustee
Stephanie Arnold, Appointed Trustee
Tracy Beaulieu, Director Public Schools Branch
Rob MacAdam, Assistant Director Public Schools Branch
Natasha Monaghan, Executive Assistant
Matt MacLeod, Senior Communications Officer Public Schools Branch
Members of the Public

Regrets: Gaylene Carragher, Trustee

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Chair Andrew MacFarlane welcomed all in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Andrew Avery and seconded by Emily McKeown that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF THE May 14, 2026, BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

It was moved by Emily McKeown and seconded by Peter Fullerton that the minutes from the May 14, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried.

4. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Andrew MacFarlane shared the following report:

**Public Schools Branch
Board of Trustees
Chair's Report
June 2026**

As the school year-end draws near, this is an incredibly busy time for everyone in the school community. The Board of Trustees wishes students every success as they finish exams, complete their studies, and take part in the many year-end activities that make this time of year so meaningful.

Last month, I had the opportunity to meet with Marv Bernstein, Prince Edward Island's Youth and Child Advocate, and Erica Evans, Director of Advocacy Services. Learning more about the work they do on behalf of children and youth across the Island gave me an even greater appreciation for their children-first approach and how closely that aligns with our own student-first focus as a Board. It was also valuable to hear about the autonomy of their Child and Youth Advisory Committee and the important voice it brings to issues affecting young people today.

Those conversations also reinforced something central to the work of this Board: public education is strongest when students feel safe, supported, and heard. As Trustees, our role is to govern responsibly, set clear direction, and help build public confidence by ensuring that our decisions, priorities, and policies keep student well-being at the centre of our work. We know that student success depends on strong relationships among schools, families, communities, and partner organizations. The more we listen, collaborate, and learn from one another, the better positioned we are to support inclusive, caring, and responsive school communities across PEI.

This past month has also brought heartache to many with the passing of young student Isabella Bastardo-Jiménez. Islanders grieve alongside her family as they face this unimaginable loss, and our thoughts remain with all who knew and loved her.

Recently, our newest School Board Trustee, Dennis Lewis, was appointed by the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils. We look forward to welcoming Dennis to the Board of Trustees and to the contribution he will make to our work on behalf of students and families.

At the Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation's Annual General Meeting in April, I had the opportunity to meet the new President, Tom Deelstra. In the coming weeks, I look forward to discussing how the Federation and the Board of Trustees can continue to work together in support of students. Over the last several months, Trustees have also attended Home and School Association meetings in their zones, and we value the opportunity to hear directly from school communities at the grassroots level.

It was also a privilege to attend this year's retirement dinner, which was a fantastic evening of celebration. More than 90 employees were recognized, along with their families, in a warm and well-

deserved tribute to their years of service. The meal and service were exceptional, and I was very thankful to have been invited.

In the weeks ahead, the Board of Trustees still has several important priorities to complete. At the same time, we are looking ahead by refining our goals and shaping a vision for how we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of students and families. We remain committed to thoughtful governance, strong community relationships, student safety, and the public trust placed in us.

Remember the student.

Andrew MacFarlane CD

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

School Board Trustee Zone 5 (Charlottetown & Stratford Family of Schools)

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5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Tracy Beaulieu shared the following report:

Director of Public Schools Branch Update

First and most importantly, I wish to acknowledge the profound tragedy that recently struck our school community. Losing a child is never easy, but the acute trauma surrounding this situation is like nothing we have experienced in recent years. Our thoughts and hearts go out to the family who has had to endure this unimaginable loss and to those who were a witness to such a tragedy.

I also want to extend my deepest gratitude to our staff across the Public Schools Branch who wrapped their arms around our students and each other during this incredibly difficult time. Your efforts to provide comfort and continuity in the face of your own immense sorrow will not be forgotten any time soon. We also extend our deepest gratitude to our First Responders for their unwavering dedication and critical role in showing up every day to support people in their time of need. Their efforts do not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated.

This is a reminder that our educators and support staff show up for kids daily, often navigating personal challenges, and deserve absolute respect, kindness, and appreciation. The influence of our words and actions can either uplift or undermine those around us. To foster safe and encouraging settings, the Minister of Education and the school authorities will partner to create a *Code of Conduct* involving students, staff, and parents in the upcoming school year. We are eager to work alongside our school community to develop this new framework. As adults, it is essential that we demonstrate the empathy, respect, and positive communication we expect from our students. The objective in creating this policy is to build a collective awareness regarding the duty each of us holds in establishing school settings where every person can feel safe.

Promoting the importance of kindness and giving back to our school community, while also connecting the curriculum to real life experiences, remains a central piece of the school experience. The Three Oaks Senior High School welding class served as a prime example of this. These students

undertook a significant initiative by constructing welding booths and tables specifically designed for the new Stratford High School. Their project led to a meeting with the Minister of Education and other political leaders, where they shared their work and experience. The commitment shown by our students is truly inspiring, and we take great pride in their efforts to demonstrate for future students what is possible by acquiring these skills and how they can contribute to the success of others.

Building on the great work of our trades teachers and students, I am so proud to acknowledge the incredible success our students demonstrated at the recent Skills Canada National Competition in Toronto. Eleven students received medals and this is a new record for PEI. It was reported that they were a pleasure to watch and they certainly did an amazing job of representing PEI and the education system.

As we continue to recognize several significant milestones achieved by both our staff and students, we were honoured to host a wonderful evening dedicated to our retirees. It was an opportunity to share a meal together and get a wee brief glimpse into their careers and honor their incredible contributions. Hearing their stories highlighted just how often our staff go above and beyond what is expected of them. We thank all of our retirees for their lifetime of service and wish them the absolute best in their next chapters.

In the upcoming weeks, we will also be celebrating our graduates as they conclude their time with us at the PSB and enter their new chapter. Their graduation marks the successful completion of years of hard work, dedication, and countless achievements. We are incredibly proud of them and want to celebrate not just their academic achievements, but the individuals they have become. We watched them walk through our doors on their first day of school and we wish them much success and happiness wherever their path leads them as they take their final exit.

While the schools and students are preparing for the end, many are now actively moving forward with staffing our schools and preparing for the upcoming year. School administrators and branch staff play an integral role in ensuring our environments are fully operational and ready for September, and I wish to formally recognize this massive behind-the-scenes effort.

Thank you to our entire PSB community for your resilience, your dedication to our youth, and your continued kindness to one another. I wish everyone a safe and wonderful conclusion to the school year.

Warmly,
Tracy Beaulieu
Director of the Public Schools Branch

EAL/FAL Update

Thank you to our EAL/FAL Counselling Consultant for her support to students, schools, and staff in collaboration with the Student Services Crisis Response Team during the recent tragic incident. We appreciate you and your work.

Spring 2026 Language Reassessments and Kindergarten Assessments

Level B English/French language assessments have been completed for 986 multilingual learners receiving English/French language instructional support in the PSB and CSLF. 204 multilingual learners in kindergarten have had English or French language assessments to determine service recommendations in grade 1 for the 2026-2027 school year.

Data

To date, there are 4,016 multilingual learners in PEI public schools and 1,105 receiving English or French language support. Updated language scores and service recommendations are entered into the EAL/FAL database to generate consent forms for Parent-Feedback Sessions on June 22nd and June 23rd.

Staffing

Teacher postings have gone out for the Summer School Transition EAL Program (STEP) for new multilingual learners in grades 1-9 that will run from July 2nd-31st at Spring Park Elementary School.

Finance Update

The Finance team is currently progressing through the final fieldwork stage of the year-end financial audit and responding to auditor information requests. Draft financial statements are due June 15, 2026, with final signed statements due by June 30, 2026. Concurrently, we are preparing the 2026–27 budget for Board approval based on the 2026-27 Budget Letter. Our quarterly meeting was held on June 4, 2026 with the Payroll and Accounting teams providing an opportunity for the teams to connect, share knowledge and learn.

Student Services

Thank you to Counselling Consultants and the Psychology team who provided Crisis Response Support to staff, students and schools during the recent tragic accident. Your work is valued and appreciated. The following were key areas of focus for Student Services during the month of May.

Student Case Management and Decision-Making

Staff continue to review and respond to student transfer requests, with decisions guided by established criteria and informed through consultation with principals and Directors as required. Ongoing attention is also given to student placement requests, with planning discussions held in collaboration with school leadership to ensure appropriate and thoughtful outcomes for students.

Crisis Response

In response to the recent student death, crisis support was mobilized and provided to Stonepark, Sherwood, and Charlottetown Rural schools. Staff worked to ensure that students, staff, and school communities received the necessary support during a difficult time.

Program Development and Continuous Improvement

Work continues to support a division-wide update process, through which teams have identified key initiatives and their contributions to system priorities. As part of ongoing program planning efforts, a survey for the School Therapy Occupational Therapy (OT) Program was approved and distributed

to help inform future program direction. Collaboration with the PSB Policy team remains active, with a focus on reviewing and refining processes and procedures relevant to Student Services. Additionally, work is underway to explore expanded program delivery options, including providing enhanced support to students requiring American Sign Language (ASL) instruction, as well as strengthening supports for Alternative Education Programs.

Interdepartmental and External Collaboration

Active participation continues in cross-departmental discussions focused on students with complex medical needs, with ongoing collaboration and meetings ensuring a coordinated approach to supporting these students across relevant departments and agencies.

Leadership and Team Coordination

Efforts continue to support team coordination, scheduling, and divisional planning in preparation for the upcoming school year. Ongoing work also includes supporting staffing discussions, clarifying roles, and establishing clear program expectations across Student Services and within schools to ensure staff and teams are well-positioned heading into the new year.

Human Resources

Offence Declaration

The Offence Declaration process was officially launched in May using an automated form within PeopleSoft (the PSB's staff payroll software). All staff have been provided with a 30-day window to complete their acknowledgement, and compliance is being actively monitored.

Staffing

The team continues to make steady progress on staffing for the 2026–27 school year. The majority of Administrator positions have been filled, and we have now begun staffing for school-based roles. This phase of the process will continue over the coming months.

2026 Retiree Celebration

On Thursday, May 28, we hosted our annual Retiree Celebration, recognizing approximately 100 retirees from across the Board, including members of the Teachers' Federation, CUPE, and branch staff. The evening provided an opportunity to honour each individual's career and contributions, with personalized acknowledgements highlighting the meaningful impact they have had on students, colleagues, and the broader school community.

Property Update

Summer Construction

The Property Services team has concluded the planning phase throughout the month of May and is now prepared for the summer construction season. In collaboration with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, the team has spent the past month finalizing contractor agreements, coordinating material procurement, and establishing project timelines. The primary objective remains to optimize the eight-week summer break to execute necessary repairs and upgrades with minimal disruption to students and staff.

Tenders were issued early for critical capital projects, including HVAC system replacements, roof remediation, classroom modernizations, and accessibility enhancements. This proactive approach allowed contractors to secure specialty materials during May, mitigating potential risks associated with global supply chain delays. Contract execution is currently underway, with pre-construction meetings nearing completion and materials being staged for delivery.

To ensure operational efficiency and safety, summer work has been organized into two mobilization schedules:

- **Early Starts:** Where feasible, select contractors have been authorized to begin preliminary work one to two weeks prior to the conclusion of the school year.
- **Standard Starts:** Significant interior renovations and demolition activities will commence immediately following the last day of school, once buildings are vacated.

Over the coming two weeks, staff will finalize site access for supervisors and review updated emergency safety protocols with all contractors. Upon the commencement of the summer break, property managers and school safety officers will initiate daily site inspections to ensure all projects are executed safely, to specification, and within the established timeframe.

Transportation and Risk Management Update

Student Travel

Year to date, over 2,000 extra-curricular school bus trips have been conducted, in addition to regular daily runs to and from school. With June expected to be especially busy with year-end celebratory activities, the 2025-26 school year projects to be the busiest travel year ever for PSB transportation services.

Approximately 150 off-island or overnight student travel opportunities have also been evaluated and approved this year. June 2026 destinations for PSB student travel include Quebec City, Ottawa, Toronto, Paris, and Italy.

New Buses

18 new PSB buses (3 of them wheelchair-accessible), are currently being built and are scheduled to be received prior to September. All are diesel. This number is down from 37 received last year. Provided our depot mechanics have success in addressing issues with our electric fleet, this number should address our status-quo needs for the 2026-7 school year.

Level 3 Charging Stations

Plans to install and activate Level 3 charging stations at PSB high schools have been paused, in light of exorbitant operational costs. Additional study and negotiation are underway at the Provincial level involving vendors, government officials, and Maritime Electric.

School Bus Driver Job Fair

The sixth annual PSB School Bus Driver job fair is scheduled for Saturday, June 13. Recruitment stations have been confirmed for the Montague Superstore, Canadian Tire lot in Charlottetown, and Three Oaks bus lot in Summerside. Since Covid, the PSB has recruited, trained, hired and managed between 30 and 50 new drivers every year to offset retirements, long term leaves, and attrition of our substitute pool.

School Bus Driver Training Options

The PSB was recently advised that JVI Driver Training Academy has been sold to TTCC (Transportation Training Centres of Canada), a national driver training organization. During their transition, courses have been indefinitely postponed, leading the PSB to seek alternative training options for potential new school bus drivers.

Routing Changes

Each school year the PSB reviews bus routes and will continue to do so. The transportation team makes adjustments to our routes daily that include times, stops, transfers, turn-arounds, addition or removal of students, etc. Those with questions or concerns with their student transportation should submit inquiries through our BusPlanner system or contacting the PSB transportation department so they can be reviewed. Staff contact families who have reached out when reviews are completed or if changes to bussing is made for their children.

6. QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL STUDY:

6/11/03

It was moved by Peter Fullerton and seconded by Andrew Avery that the Public Schools Branch requests the Government of PEI construct a permanent addition to Queen Elizabeth Elementary School in Kensington, PEI with sufficient space to provide six (6) classrooms, a minimum of eight (8) student support areas, and ancillary school design program areas (Physical Education, Music, Cafeteria, washrooms, administrative areas, custodial spaces, etc.) as appropriate for a school with a projected population of 500 students. Motion carried.

6b. It was moved by Peter Fullerton and seconded by Andrew Avery to continue monitoring the situation at Kensington Intermediate Senior High as recommended in the school study. Motion carried.

6/11/04

7. OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR:

It was moved by Karen Clare and seconded by Emily McKeown that Gaylene Carragher has resigned as Chair, Outreach and Engagement Committee effective May 31, 2026. Effective June 1, 2026 this position will remain vacant until further notice. Motion carried

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.



Chair Signature of Approval