Finance and Administration Committee

Agenda

Date:	Thursday September 17, 2026
Location:	Lindsay Education Centre Board Room
Time:	12:30 p.m.- 2pm

1. Call to order

2. Declaration of Possible Conflict of Interest

3. Approval of the Agenda

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings – May and June

5. Finance Department Reports

5.1 Insurance Year End Summary 2025-2026

5.2 Quarterly Report – Q3 2025/2026

6. Facilities Department Reports

6.1 Summer Renewal Projects

6.2 Verbal Update Re: Outdoor Education and Indigenous Centre

7. Transportation Department Reports

7.1 2025/2026 Year End Report

8. Next Meeting Dates

Tuesday November 10, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. – Muskoka Education Centre

Thursday February 11, 2027 at 12:30 p.m. – Lindsay Education Centre

Wednesday June 2, 2027 at 12:30 p.m. – Lindsay Education Centre

9. Adjournment

Finance and Administration Committee Meeting Minutes

Date:	Wednesday May 13, 2026
Location:	Lindsay Education Centre
Time:	1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call – Confirmation of Quorum – Call to Order

The Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. Declaration of Possible Conflict of Interest

None

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by B. Reain – Seconded by L. Clodd

Be it resolved that the Finance and Administration Committee agenda dated May 13, 2026 be approved.

Carried

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting – February 18, 2026

Moved by C. Wilcox – Seconded by J. Saunders

Be it resolved that the minutes of the February 18, 2026 Finance and Administration Committee meeting be adopted.

Carried

5. General Administration

None

6. Finance Department Reports

6.1 Verbal Overview of the 2026/27 Budget

The Superintendent of Business noted that the Ministry announced the Core Ed funding for 2026/2027 just prior to the meeting. The Board's goal is a balanced budget. Staff will work on inputting the final details into the budget now that the numbers have been released.

6.2 Second Quarter Report (Q2) – 2025/2026

The Superintendent of Business reviewed the report for Committee and answered questions in regard to supply costs, summer capital project spending, enrolment and board growth.

Moved by J. Saunders – Seconded by L. Clodd

Be it resolved that the Finance and Administration Committee approves the 2025-2026 second quarter (Q2) report as received on May 13, 2026.

Carried

7. Facility Department Reports

7.1 Facility Services Cost Saving Measures Summary

The Senior Manager of Facility Services made a presentation regarding operational cost saving measures that the department is implementing. He answered questions in regard to buying Canadian initiatives and recycling costs for the board facilities.

7.2 Outdoor Education and Indigenous Centre Verbal Update

The Senior Manager of Facility Services provided an update on the construction of the centre.

7.3 Verbal Overview of Facilities Department KPIs

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

7.4 Renewal Plan Verbal Update

The Senior Manager of Facility Services reviewed the summer projects. He noted that some project timelines and purchases have been impacted by tariffs.

8. Transportation Department Reports

8.1 Verbal Transportation Department Updates:

- Opt-In/Out
- SMCDSB Integration
- Winter Weather and Cancellations
- Department KPIs

The Transportation Supervisor provided an end of year update on the above noted matters and answered questions in regard to opt-in and out of transportation and the costs to the board related to these new requirements.

9. Tentative Meeting Dates for 2026/2027 *for discussion

- *Special Meeting for Budget June 17, 2026 at the Lindsay Education Centre
- Thursday September 17, 2026 at the Muskoka Education Centre
- Thursday November 12, 2026 at the Lindsay Education Centre

- Thursday February 11, 2027 at the Muskoka Education Centre
- Thursday May 13, 2027 at the Lindsay Education Centre

There were no concerns with the proposed dates and locations for the above noted 2026/2027 committee meetings.

10. Adjournment

Moved by J. Saunders – Seconded by B. Reain

Be it resolved that the May 13, 2026 Finance and Administration Committee meeting adjourn at 1:50 p.m. and the next meeting be held on Thursday September 17, 2026 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried

Special Finance and Administration Committee Minutes

Date:	Wednesday June 17, 2026
Location:	Lindsay Education Centre – Muskoka Education Centre
Time:	11:00 a.m.

1. Roll Call – Confirmation of Quorum - Call to order

The Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. and confirmed a quorum.

2. Declaration of Possible Conflicts of Interest

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by B. Reain – Seconded by L. Clodd

Be it resolved that the Special Finance and Administration Committee agenda dated June 17, 2026 be approved.

Carried

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

None

5. General Administration Reports

5.1 Continuing Education Operational Review

The Superintendent of Business presented the report to Committee and answered questions regarding enrolment tracking and Ministry online courses.

6. Finance Department Reports

6.1 2026/2027 TLDSB Budget

The Board’s Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent of Business presented the 2026/2027 Budget to Committee. There were no significant questions in this regard.

Moved by L. Clodd – Seconded by B. Reain

Be it resolved that the Finance and Administration Committee approves the 2026/2027 budget in an amount of $290,355,845 as presented on June 17, 2026; and that the motion be advanced to the Special Board meeting being held on June 17, 2026 for ratification.

Carried

7. Facility Department Reports

None

8. Transportation Department Reports

None

9. Meeting Dates for 2026/2027

- Thursday September 17, 2026 at the Muskoka Education Centre
- Thursday November 12, 2026 at the Lindsay Education Centre
- Thursday February 11, 2027 at the Muskoka Education Centre
- Thursday May 13, 2027 at the Lindsay Education Centre

10. Adjournment

Moved by B. Reain – Seconded by J. Saunders

Be it resolved that the Special Finance and Administration Committee meeting adjourn at 11:41 a.m. and the next meeting be held on September 17, 2026 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried

Trillium Lakelands District School Board
Finance and Administration Committee Report

Date: September 17, 2026
To: Finance and Administration Committee Members
Origin: Nicole Britton, Superintendent of Business
Subject: OSBIE Insurance Year End Summary 2025-2026

Purpose

To provide information on the year end summary - August 31, 2026 – for insurance and reporting to Ontario School Boards Insurance Exchange (OSBIE).

Context

OSBIE is a school board owned, non-profit insurance program with 120 members, representing 80 school boards/school auth and 40 joint ventures in Ontario. The primary goals of the Exchange are to insure member school boards against losses and to promote safe school practices.

Content

OSBIE provides insurance to TLDSB for liability, property, boiler, crime, auto, cyber, legal expenses, facility user insurance, school council coverage (where council elects to pay for premium) and AD&D (accidental death and dismemberment). OSBIE also provides certificates of insurance and evidence of insurance certificates for school field trips.

In 2025/26, there were two (2) new claims made to OSBIE; both for property matters. Not including these claims, there are currently five (5) claims that are outstanding. Two (2) legal expense, and three (3) liability claims which includes one slip and fall, an environmental property matter and faulty equipment.

This year, OSBIE conducted InSITE Loss Control Inspections at 20 sites in the Board. These inspections looked at outdoor, fire safety, playground and property hazards. All schools scored GOOD on the rating scoresheets meaning our facilities had strong controls in place with only minor, non-critical gaps in loss control.

Two important areas of focus at the school level are slip and trip hazards in parking lots and school yards and the storage of combustibles on school property. These are areas that school staff can typically address internally and be mindful about in the day-to-day operations of the school. Some trip hazards may require workorders to be submitted for facility maintenance staff to repair. Areas to be addressed by the facility department staff include playground repairs and investigating evidence of recent water or current water in some areas.

Facilities staff are working to complete all corrective actions by the OSBIE provided deadlines which fall in the coming months. Some items have already been rectified.

Trillium Lakelands District School Board
Finance and Administration Committee Report

Date: September 17, 2026
To: Finance and Administration Committee Members
Origin: Superintendent of Business
Subject: Third Quarter Report of 2025/26 (Q3)

Purpose

To provide the Committee with an overview of the Board's Third Quarter (Q3) performance up to May 31, 2026, of the 25/26 fiscal year. This report covers the nine-month period from September through May.

Context

The Finance Department monitors annual spending by departments throughout the school board and prepares summaries every quarter to support the Board's fiduciary accountability.

Content

The third quarter represents the first nine months of the operational fiscal year.

Revenue:
The Board has experienced higher than expected enrolment relative to the projections used in the Revised budget process in the fall from a review of preliminary data. With enrolment driving grants in the Core Ed funding model, an increase of $1.3M has been added to the operating grant allocation. Additionally, revenue generated from the Community Use of Schools has increased modestly, exceeding our initial forecasts for this time of year.

Expenditures:
As of May 31, 2026, the Board reflected year-to-date expenditures of approximately $221.7 million, representing 78.7% of the total budget. This aligned with spend observed during the same period in 2024/25.

At Q3 the Board is tracking toward a balanced final position with a small net surplus of $15 thousand. The additional revenue generated is absorbing the budget strains that were reported in the previous quarter.

While overall Board spending remained stable through Q3, staff actively managed the following pressures during the year:

- Supply Staff: Classroom Teachers supply staff costs ran at 98.6% of their allocation at Q3, compared to 76.2% at the same point in the prior year. The Board has expended $6.44 million to date, which is $1.32 million higher than Q3 of 2024/25. The variance was driven from both the elementary and secondary panels by an increase in long-term illness replacement costs.
- Facilities Services Budget strain remained evident in both the Maintenance and Custodial lines. Custodial operations past it's Q3 target due to winter weather conditions requiring

additional snowplowing costs. Maintenance costs are higher than expected in the areas of general repairs, playground expenses, and portable repairs. Mid-year expenditure mitigation controls implemented by the Facilities team were maintained to contain costs through the final months of the fiscal year.

With the fiscal year now concluded, staff are finalizing year-end reconciliations in preparation for the upcoming annual audit, ensuring final spending aligns with Ministry funding envelopes.

Action

That the Finance and Administration Committee approves the 2025-2026 second quarter (Q3) report as presented on September 17, 2026.

INCLUSIONS

Appendix A – Enrolment
Appendix B – Revenue Summary
Appendix C – Quarterly Expense Report
Appendix D – Financial Summary

Board Enrolment Summary

	2025-26				2024-25
	Revised Estimates	Enrolment used for Budget	Variance		Final Enrolment
Elementary					
JK / SK	2,205	2,182	23		2,211
Grades 1 to 3	3,650	3,640	10		3,651
Grades 4 to 8	6,159	6,100	59		6,049
Other Pupils	25	24	1		22
Total Elementary	**12,039**	**11,946**	**93**		**11,933**
Secondary					
Day school 9 to 12	5,151	4,941	210		5,100
Independent Study	535	460	75		522
Other Pupils	28	25	3		41
Total Secondary	**5,714**	**5,426**	**288**		**5,663**
Total K to 12 Enrolment	**17,753**	**17,372**	**381**		**17,596**
Adult Ed, Con-ed, High Credits	**175**	**137**	**38**		**185**

Revenue Summary

	Third Quarter Projection	Revised Estimates 2025/26	Estimates used for 2025/26 Budget	Variance Revised Estimates to Estimates	2024/25 Financial Statements	% Change from Prior Year Actuals
Operating Allocations						
Classroom Staffing Fund	133,840,415	132,540,415	131,584,905	955,510	128,064,385	4.5%
Learning Resources Fund	39,968,987	39,968,987	39,315,713	653,274	39,080,824	2.3%
Special Education Fund *	36,335,954	36,335,954	36,077,860	258,094	35,222,490	3.2%
School Facilities Fund	25,617,574	25,617,574	25,117,235	500,339	24,904,206	2.9%
Student Transporation Fund *	19,223,979	19,223,979	19,270,760	(46,781)	18,464,019	4.1%
School Board Administration Fund *	6,980,607	6,980,607	7,214,401	(233,794)	7,266,077	(3.9%)
Permanent financing for Non-Perm Financed	586,743	586,743	586,743	-	586,743	0.0%
Temporary Accomodation	-	-	400,000	(400,000)	-	0.0%
Total Allocation for Operating Purposes	**262,554,259**	**261,254,259**	**259,567,617**	**1,686,642**	**253,588,744**	3.5%
Other Operating Grants / Revenues						
Deferred Operating Grants from Prior Year	-	-	-	-	7,241,733	(100.0%)
REP Grants	2,584,266	2,584,266	2,427,300	156,966	3,716,837	(30.5%)
MGCS - In-Kind Grant - PPE	-	-	-	-	298,452	(100.0%)
Federal Grants & Fees	429,976	429,976	402,917	27,059	697,346	(38.3%)
Transportation Recovery	1,835,000	1,835,000	1,600,000	235,000	1,912,881	(4.1%)
Short Term investments	400,000	400,000	400,000	-	651,305	(38.6%)
Secondments & Releases	973,423	973,423	906,411	67,012	1,014,603	(4.1%)
Minor Tangible Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	(1,768,841)	(100.0%)
Other Revenue	1,747,228	1,677,228	1,649,234	27,994	2,171,972	(19.6%)
Bill 124 - 2019/20 to 2022/23	-	-	-	-	36,196	(100.0%)
	7,969,893	7,899,893	7,385,862	514,031	15,972,484	(50.1%)
Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	13,022,507	13,022,507	11,720,066	1,302,441	12,234,585	6.4%
Grant for Debt Interest	668,014	668,014	668,126	(112)	809,666	(17.5%)
Deferred Revenue from Current Year	-	-	-	-	(8,697,282)	(100.0%)
Sub-total	**284,214,673**	**282,844,673**	**279,341,671**	**- 3,503,002**	**- 273,908,197**	**3.8%**
Accumulated Surplus	-	-	-		-	0.0%
Total Budget	**284,214,673**	**282,844,673**	**279,341,671**	**3,503,002**	**273,908,197**	**3.8%**

* Restrictions on Funding usage

Quarterly Expense Report

Expense Category	25/26 Revised Budget	25/26 Budget	Committed	Expended	Total	% Expended of Budget	Projected Year End	24/25 Budget (Revised)	24/25 Third Quarter	% Expended of Budget	Year to Year change
Instructional											
Classroom Teachers											
Elementary	87,690,473	87,789,585	-	68,164,758	68,164,758	77.6%	88,707,451	84,497,339	65,083,108	77.0%	(3,081,650)
Secondary	44,717,338	44,924,032		34,293,794	34,293,794	76.3%	44,867,125	43,714,501	34,509,364	78.9%	215,570
Classroom Teachers Supply Staff	6,623,070	6,531,259		6,440,401	6,440,401	98.6%	7,180,677	6,722,270	5,123,115	76.2%	(1,317,286)
Teacher Assistants	15,677,229	16,169,016		13,845,640	13,845,640	85.6%	15,350,600	15,312,792	13,131,737	85.8%	(713,903)
Teacher Assistants Supply Staff	2,642,447	2,702,577		2,276,100	2,276,100	84.2%	2,623,502	2,484,528	2,036,739	82.0%	(239,361)
Early Childhood Educator	5,350,875	5,213,597		4,770,898	4,770,898	91.5%	5,292,308	4,969,840	4,359,184	87.7%	(411,714)
Early Childhood Educator Supply Staff	467,043	449,953		239,496	239,496	53.2%	265,670	238,646	281,757	118.1%	42,262
School Based Technology	228,423	228,423	47,377	196,136	243,513	85.9%	243,648	184,916	149,460	80.8%	(46,677)
Textbooks, Materials, Supplies & Equipment											
Elementary	4,820,790	4,636,851	638,992	3,382,671	4,021,663	73.0%	4,172,192	5,756,941	3,199,192	55.6%	(183,479)
Secondary	3,699,704	3,714,803	382,337	2,433,872	2,816,209	65.5%	2,966,767	4,244,991	2,585,718	60.9%	151,846
Professionals, Paraprofessionals & Tech	9,735,998	9,913,716	63,673	8,084,755	8,148,428	81.6%	9,964,002	8,533,779	6,747,991	79.1%	(1,336,764)
Library & Guidance	3,500,324	3,542,388		2,675,524	2,675,524	75.5%	3,374,590	3,358,143	2,739,297	81.6%	63,773
Staff Development	1,847,379	1,814,879	16,255	1,800,684	1,816,939	99.2%	2,000,760	1,758,079	1,386,578	78.9%	(414,107)
Department Heads	229,593	260,250		221,027	221,027	84.9%	287,335	303,004	235,643	77.8%	14,616
Coordinators & Consultants	3,927,964	3,913,281	153	3,036,259	3,036,413	77.6%	3,975,698	3,862,430	3,039,272	78.7%	3,012
Principals and Vice-Principals	11,529,406	11,522,173	1,340	8,711,030	8,712,371	75.6%	11,614,707	10,986,274	8,412,337	76.6%	(298,693)
School Office - Admin & Supplies	6,294,955	6,300,738	4,884	5,056,543	5,061,427	80.3%	5,802,590	5,887,152	4,987,088	84.7%	(69,455)
Continuing Education	1,300,509	1,201,791	7,839	584,067	591,906	48.6%	1,169,478	1,561,648	741,133	47.5%	157,066
Total Instructional	**210,283,520**	**210,829,312**	**1,162,851**	**166,213,656**	**167,376,507**	**78.8%**	**209,859,100**	**204,377,273**	**158,748,711**	**77.7%**	**(7,464,945)**
Non- Instructional											
Transportation	21,108,763	20,870,761		16,772,853	16,772,853	80.4%	20,174,588	20,243,737	18,433,591	91.1%	1,660,739
Amortization	13,937,900	12,635,411		6,968,935	6,968,935	55.2%	13,937,900	13,362,000	10,032,405	75.1%	3,063,470
TCA	13,303,200	12,013,500		6,651,603	6,651,603	55.4%	13,303,200	12,776,400	9,582,300	75.0%	2,930,697
ARO	634,700	621,911		317,332	317,332	51.0%	634,700	585,600	450,105	76.9%	132,773
Secondments & Releases	1,117,616	1,050,042		1,081,019	1,081,019	103.0%	1,117,616	1,014,877	861,356	0.0%	(219,662)
Long Term Debt Interest	1,254,757	1,254,869		644,268	644,268	51.3%	1,254,757	1,337,489	700,319	52.4%	56,051
IT	1,113,264	1,136,838	2,489	1,039,232	1,041,721	91.4%	1,148,961	1,044,578	1,153,170	110.4%	113,938
Admin & Governance	7,290,156	6,758,322	20,332	5,828,323	5,848,655	86.2%	7,471,097	6,170,262	5,207,596	84.4%	(620,727)
Tuition Commissions	104,425	70,158			-	0.0%	104,425	109,997		0.0%	-
PPE - In-Kind Expense	-	-		21,202	21,202	0.0%	-		20,780	0.0%	(422)
Provision for Contingencies	-	-			-	0.0%	-	2,520,684		0.0%	-
Facilities											
Compensation	15,541,182	15,535,528		11,385,415	11,385,415	73.3%	15,180,553	15,114,018	10,959,500	72.5%	(425,915)
Utilities	6,090,700	5,190,700	-	3,607,707	3,607,707	69.5%	6,028,561	4,865,810	4,145,930	85.2%	538,223
Maintenance Operations	2,336,940	1,692,700	168,366	2,155,033	2,323,399	127.3%	3,356,749	1,768,400	1,886,496	106.7%	(268,537)
Custodial Operations	2,795,803	2,437,400	1,183	3,931,383	3,932,566	161.3%	4,004,291	2,567,250	3,723,021	145.0%	(208,363)
Other	636,700	636,700	20,538	695,636	716,174	109.3%	560,636	485,000	624,822	128.8%	(70,814)
Total Facilities	27,401,325	**25,493,028**	**190,087**	**21,775,174**	**21,965,261**	**85.4%**	**29,130,790**	**24,800,478**	**21,339,769**	**86.0%**	**(435,405)**
Total Non-Instructional	**73,328,206**	**69,269,429**	**212,908**	**54,131,006**	**54,343,914**	**78.1%**	**74,340,134**	**70,604,102**	**57,748,988**	**81.8%**	**3,617,982**
Total	**283,611,726**	**280,098,741**	**1,375,758**	**220,344,662**	**221,720,420**	**78.7%**	**284,199,234**	**274,981,375**	**216,497,699**	**78.7%**	**(3,846,963)**

Trillium Lakelands DSB
2025-2026 Financial Summary
as of the Period Ending May 31, 2026

Estimated Financial Position

($Thousands)	Estimates	Q3 Projected	In-Year Change $	In-Year Change %
Revenue				
Operating Grants	259,568	262,554	2,987	1.1%
Other Grants Revenues	7,386	7,970	584	7.3%
Other	12,388	13,691	1,302	9.5%
Total Revenue	279,342	284,215	4,873	1.7%
Expenditures				
Classroom Instruction				-
Teachers	132,974	133,862	888	0.7%
Supply Staff	9,684	10,070	386	3.8%
Educational Assistants / ECE's	21,383	20,643	(740)	(3.6%)
Classroom Computers	228	244	15	6.2%
Textbooks and Supplies	8,352	7,139	(1,213)	(17.0%)
Professionals and Paraprofessionals	9,914	9,964	50	0.5%
Library & Guidance	3,542	3,375	(168)	(5.0%)
Staff Development	1,815	2,001	186	9.3%
Continuing Education	1,202	1,169	(32)	(2.8%)
Total Classroom	**189,093**	**188,466**	**(627)**	**(0.3%)**
Non-Classroom				
District Principal and Consultants	3,913	3,976	62	1.6%
Principals and Vice-Principals	11,522	11,615	93	0.8%
School Office	6,301	5,803	(498)	(8.6%)
Total Non-Classroom	**21,736**	**21,393**	**(343)**	**(1.6%)**
Other				
Board Administration	6,758	7,471	713	9.5%
Information Technology	1,137	1,149	12	1.1%
Transportation	20,871	20,175	(696)	(3.5%)
School Operations and Maintenance	25,493	29,131	3,638	12.5%
Amortization & Debt Repayment	13,890	15,193	1,302	8.6%
Secondments & Releases	1,050	1,118	68	6.0%
Other Non-Operating Expenses	70	104	(70)	(67.2%)
Total Other	**69,269**	**74,340**	**4,966**	**(32.9%)**
Total Expenditures	**280,099**	**284,199**	**3,996**	**1.4%**
In-Year Surplus (Deficit)	**(757)**	**15**	**0**	0.0%
Prior Year Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	24,942	24,942	0	0.0%
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	**24,185**	**24,957**	**0**	**0.0%**

Note: Forecast based on year-to-date actuals for the month ended

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounded display

Trillium Lakelands District School Board
Finance and Administration Committee Report

Date: September 17, 2026
To: Finance and Administration Committee Members
Origin: Daniel Whalen, Senior Manager of Facility Services
Kim Horrigan, Executive Officer of Facility Services, Transportation Services and Capital Innovation
Subject: Capital Renewal Projects – Summer 2026

Purpose

To provide a summary of the 2026 Summer Capital Renewal Projects.

Context

Each year, the Facility Services Department carries out renewal projects at schools across the board. During the summer months, empty schools and classrooms allow staff and contractors to work on larger scale projects that would otherwise impact school operations if carried out during the school year.

Content

During the summer of 2026, the following larger scale projects were carried out across the board:

- Washroom Renovation/Universal -1 location – $850,000
- Washroom Upgrades – 2 locations – $400,000
- Roof Replacement – 2 locations – $900,000
- Sewage System Replacement – 1 location – $700,000
- Window Replacement – 2 locations – $2,500,000
- PA System Upgrades – 3 locations – $160,000
- Locker Replacement – 2 locations – $110,000
- Entry System Additions - 6 locations – $70,000
- Boiler Upgrades/Replacement – 2 locations – $225,000
- Portable Refurbishment – 1 location – $75,000
- Portable Replacement – 2 locations – $750,000
- BAS Upgrades – 1 location – $30,000
- Parking Lot Curb Replacement – 1 location – $50,000
- Compressor & Airline Replacement – 1 location – $310,000
- Accessibility Upgrades – 1 location – $225,000
- LED Lighting Upgrades – 2 locations – $60,000

All projects are complete (reached completions with only minor deficiencies remaining). To date, approximately $13 million has been spent on capital renewal projects in 2025-2026.

Trillium Lakelands District School Board
Finance and Administration Committee Report

Date: September 17, 2026
To: Finance and Administration Committee Members
Origin: Patricia Hayward, Transportation Supervisor
Kim Horrigan, Executive Officer of Facility Services, Transportation Services and Capital Innovation
Subject: 2025-2026 Transportation Summary

Purpose

To provide the Committee with a summary overview of the Board's transportation operations and associated metrics, as well as actions taken in the system during the year focusing on efficiency and safety for 2025-2026.

Context

Transportation Services manages contracts with bus operators while ensuring financial accountability. The Department reviews school vehicle stops and routes for student safety, ensures school vehicle operators meet contracted legislative requirements for safety and service, responds to transportation change requests and inquiries, and offers school vehicle safety programs.

Content

<u>Contract Management</u>

- During the period from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026, all operators were under established contracts.
    - One operator was on an extension until August 31, 2026, which was not renewed; the routes were included in the competitive procurement for the Muskoka schools.
    - Two operators were in the final year of their extension agreements. Their routes, along with 16 new routes serving three SMCDSB schools in Muskoka, were competitively procured via a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The incumbent operators were successful, and their new route bundles and ten-year contracts commenced September 1, 2026.
    - Currently, only one operator remains under a one-year extension, pending procurement, further extension, or negotiation.
- The province-wide bus driver shortage impacted operations when spare drivers, mechanics, and licensed office staff were unavailable. This necessitated doubling routes, leading to student transport delays of an hour or more. Despite these challenges, total delays due to driver absences have decreased slightly from last year, with individual operators reporting fewer than five instances. Ongoing mitigation efforts are expected in an attempt to sustain this positive trend.
- Shared service agreements with Peterborough Victoria Northumberland Clarington Catholic DSB and Simcoe Muskoka Catholic DSB remain in place and agreements are being updated. Effective September 1, 2026 TLDSB Transportation Services will

manage all routing for the SMCDSB schools in Muskoka increasing the route count by 16 routes and approximately 680 riders.

Financial Accountability

- Operational budget of approximately $20,771, 659
- Recoveries from our partner boards of approximately $1,960,000

Operational Metrics and Efficiency

- Contracted 283 vehicles to operate 656 morning and afternoon runs across the district; an area that encompasses more than 11,500 square km.
- Almost 12,700 eligible students were transported just under 36,300 km each day.
- Cumulatively, drivers spend 843 hours behind the wheel each day.
- Ride times are minimized whenever possible; the average ride for TLDSB students was 24 minutes. Over 98% of all transported TLDSB students continue to have a ride time of 60 minutes or less with fewer than 2% of transported TLDSB students riding over 60 minutes. There were 69% of students who rode 30 minutes or less.
- The average distance TLDSB elementary students walked to a bus stop in was 220 meters, less than the TLDSB elementary walk to a bus stop distance of 800 metres. Secondary students, with a walk to bus stop distance of 1.6 km in policy, on average walked less than 400 meters to their assigned bus stop.
- There were 36 minor collisions, and one more serious collision during the school year.
- Transportation Services staff annually field hundreds of parent calls, in addition to calls from school staff, school bus operators, and the general public. Over 89% of parent inquiries were addressed within 48 hours, meeting the acknowledgement standards outlined in PPM 170. Of these interactions, fewer than 4% required escalation to a manager for resolution.
- The average on-time service rate for the fleet was over 98%.

Safety and Compliance

- Transportation Services continued to offer school bus safety programming for elementary students in 2025-2026, delivered in-person by an outside company, in an assembly format with age-appropriate content and delivery.
- The electronic sharing of information continued throughout 2025-2026 with the implementation of a new module. This software enables school staff and operators to submit requests directly via BusPlanner, allowing Transportation Services staff to process them more efficiently. The system now includes a parent portal, providing families with the ability to opt-out of transportation services for the 2026-2027 school year in compliance with Ministry requirements.
- The three most reported behaviour concerns on school vehicles continue to be, not respecting or abiding by the driver's instructions, disrespect or harassment of fellow passengers and leaving seats or standing while the bus is in motion.
- During the winter of 2025, all areas of the Board experienced varying winter weather and road conditions, which led to service cancellations. The Board is divided into five weather zones to minimize system-wide disruptions, particularly when weather events do not affect the entire region. Although the number of inclement weather days was significantly lower than in the previous year, Transportation Services continues to work with bus operators to minimize cancellations and reduce the impact of full system closures, balancing student safety with the need to minimize learning loss.