

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
to be held in the boardroom
on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA AND RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Chair

Motion:

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of July 5, 2016 be approved.

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

*Chair

C. PRESENTATIONS

*Chair

1. St. John's Ambulance Life-saving Award presented by Colin Pick
2. Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury Teacher of the Year Award presented by Liz Brett-Dickie
3. Union Gas Rebate presented by Gerald Laforest

D. REPORT FROM THE IN-CAMERA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD

*Director

E. OLD BUSINESS

*Director

1. Previous Minutes

*Chair

a) Motion:

That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting - Budget held on May 24, 2016 be approved.

b) Motion:

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on May 25, 2016 be approved.

2. Tenders/Requests for Proposals

*SBO

a) Motion:

That the Board award the contract for moving services – tender #2016-22 to _____ .

3. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

*Chair

a) Governance By-Law 10: In-Camera (closed) Meetings

Motion:

That **Governance By-Law 10.2** "*With the exception of the Executive Secretary or designate, any and all recording and/or notetaking of in-camera meetings is expressly prohibited*" be approved.

b). Governance By-Law 13: Conflict of Interest

Notice of Motion:

That *Governance By-Law 13.4.2: Conflict of Interest* be amended to read "Any potential conflict of interest by a member of the board shall be declared in writing to the Secretary of the Board and/or at a board meeting as per the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act" be approved.

c) Governance By-Law 14: Electronic Meetings

Notice of Motion:

That *Governance By-Law 14: Electronic Meetings* be amended as follows:

"14.8 Board members who participate in In-Camera meetings of the Board and/or in-camera meetings of committees of the Board shall maintain rules of confidentiality and are subject to Governance By-Law 10.2 and Board Policy No. GOV-05 Code of Conduct: Board Members" be approved.

d) Notice of Motion:

That *Governance By-Law 14: Electronic Meetings* be amended as follows:

"14.9 Board members who participate in in-camera meetings by electronic means, must participate from a room which is closed to any other person so that no other person can hear that member or other members of the Board" be approved.

e) **2016/17 Budget**

Motion:

That the Rainbow District School Board 2016/17 budget be approved.

F. NEW BUSINESS

*Chair

1. **OPSBA First Nation Trustees Council Planning and Networking Meeting**

*Chair

Motion:

That the Board approve the attendance of Trustee Fox at the OPSBA First Nation Trustees Council Planning and Networking Meeting in Toronto on August 23-24, 2016.

2. **Requests for Leave of Absence** *Chair
- Motion:
That _____ be granted a leave of absence from the July 5, 2016 Board meeting.
3. **Director's Remarks** *Director
- Presentation to outgoing Student Trustee
4. **Other Items** *Chair
- OPSBA Delegate
Student Trustee
5. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** *Chair
- Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.*
6. **Chairperson's Remarks** *Chair
- G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** *Chair
1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
First Nation Advisory Committee minutes February 11, 2016 (official)
Equity and Inclusive Education minutes March 10, 2016 (official)
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) minutes May 4, 2016 (official)
2. **Non-Staff Communications**
Letter to MP Paul Lefebvre, MP Carol Hughes and MP Marc Serré dated June 1, 2016
Letter from OPSBA dated June 8, 2016
Letter to Minister Mitzie Hunter dated June 15, 2016
- H. **FUTURE MEETINGS** *Chair
- Strategic Planning Committee Monday, July 11, 2016 5:00 pm Boardroom
Board Tuesday, August 30, 2016 5:00 pm Boardroom
Strategic Planning Committee September 13, 2016 5:00 pm Boardroom
- I. **ADJOURNMENT** *Chair
- Motion:
That we do now adjourn at _____ p.m.

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - BUDGET
held in the boardroom
on Tuesday May 24, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), T. Campbell, B. Clement, J. Hunda, G. Fox,
L. Killens, J. Kosmerly, D. Morrison, G. Santala
Absent: Student Trustee Urban
Officials: N. Blaseg – Director
D. Bazinet – Superintendent of Business
B. Bourget, L. Dye, J. Noble, K. Wachnuk - Superintendents of
Education
N. Charette, H. Thirkill
Others: K. Kozman, R. MacLeod, N. Mousseau, and member of public

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 16-R72, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Special Board Meeting - Budget of May 24, 2016 be approved. – **Carried**

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. 2016/17 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Superintendent Bazinet distributed copies of the 2016/17 budget presentation with a line-by-line clarification.

One change was noted on page 7 as follows:

- the 2016/17 Special Education budget ~~approved~~ **recommended** by the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) May 4, 2016

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

D. NEW BUSINESS

Requests for Leave of Absence

Motion: 16-R73, B.Clement/J.Kosmerly

That Student Trustee Urban be granted a leave of absence from the May 24, 2016 Special Board Meeting - Budget. – **Carried**

E. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 16-R74, G.Santala/D.Morrison

That we now adjourn at 6:15 p.m. – **Carried**.

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

held in the Library
of Sudbury Secondary School, 154 College Street, Sudbury
on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), B. Clement, G. Fox, J. Hunda, L. Killens, J. Kosmerly, G. Santala
Absent: T. Campbell, D. Morrison, Student Trustee Urban
Officials: N. Blaseg – Director
D. Bazinet - Superintendent of Business
B. Bourget, L. Dye, J. Noble, K. Wachnuk - Superintendents
H. Thirkill
Others: N. Mousseau, member of the public

Chair Dewar requested that cell phones be turned off during the meeting.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 16-R75, G.Santala/J.Kosmerly
That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of May 25, 2016 be approved.
Trustee Killens requested a poll vote.

*Tyler Campbell: Absent
Bob Clement: In Favour
Doreen Dewar: In Favour*

*Judy Hunda: In Favour
Grace Fox: In Favour
Larry Killens: Opposed*

*Judy Kosmerly: In Favour
Dena Morrison: Absent
Gord Santala: In Favour*

- Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS NIL

D. REPORT FROM THE IN-CAMERA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD NIL

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

- a) Motion: 16-R76, G.Santala/J.Kosmerly
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on April 26, 2016 be approved. - **Carried**
- b) Motion: 16-R77, J.Hunda/B.Clement
That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on May 10, 2016 be approved. - **Carried**

2. Tenders/Requests for Proposals

a) Alexander Public School - Siteworks

Motion: 16-R78, G.Santala/B.Clement

That the Board award the contract for Alexander Public School, siteworks - tender #2016-17 to Interpaving Limited for \$175,875. - **Carried**

b) Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School - Renovations

Motion: 16-R79, J.Kosmerly/G.Santala

That the Board award the contract for Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, renovations - tender #2016-20 to Prosperi Co. Ltd. for \$1,884,487. - **Carried**

3. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

a) Strategic Planning Committee

Notice of Motion: 16-R80, B.Clement

That I or someone on my behalf shall move or cause to be moved at the next Board meeting that **Governance By-Law 10.2** "*With the exception of the Executive Secretary or designate, any and all recording and/or notetaking of in-camera meetings is expressly prohibited*" be approved.

b) Special Education Plan 2016-2017

Motion: 16-R81, B.Clement/J.Kosmerly

That the Special Education Plan be approved. - **Carried**

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Requests for Leave of Absence

Motion: 16-R82, G.Santala/B.Clement

That Trustee Campbell, Trustee Morrison and Student Trustee Urban be granted a leave of absence from the May 25, 2016 Board meeting. - **Carried**

2. Director's Remarks

Director Blaseg advised of principal and vice principal appointments and transfers.

3. Other Items

OPSBA Delegate – Trustee Clement reported that he would be attending a Director's meeting in Toronto at the end of May. Trustee Clement reminded trustees that updates can be found on the OPSBA website.

Student Trustee - NIL

4. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** NIL

5. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Chair Dewar spoke of the busy time of year. She encouraged trustees to enjoy attending the many celebrations of success starting with the presentation of Board Awards following the meeting. She also encouraged attending as many graduations as possible in June.

Chair Dewar made reference to a letter from the Canadian Schools Boards Association.

Motion: 16-R83, J.Hunda/B.Clement

That Rainbow District School Board endorse the Canadian School Boards Association's support of BILL C-241, An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities) - **carried unanimously**

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) minutes Mar 2, 2016 (official)

Parent Involvement Committee minutes April 5, 2016 (official)

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) minutes Apr 6, 2016 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

Email from Premier Kathleen Wynne dated May 6, 2016

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Special Education Advisory Cmttee June 1, 2016 12:00 pm Education Centre

Strategic Planning Committee June 7, 2016 5:00 pm Boardroom

Student Senate Meeting June 13, 2016 5:00 pm Boardroom

Board Meeting July 5, 2016 5:00 pm Boardroom

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 16-R84, G.Santala/B.Clement

That we now adjourn at 6:05 p.m. – **Carried.**

MINUTES OF THE
FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Sagamok Anishnawbek
Thursday, February 11, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Members Present: Anna-Marie Abitong, Sagamok Anishnawbek
Carlene Assinewai, Aundeck Omni Kaning
Beverly Roy-Carter, M'Chigeeng First Nation
Nancy Cada, Sheshegwaning First Nation
Robert Pitfield, Wahnapiatae First Nation
Brenda Francis, Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute
Kelly Lee Assinewe, N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre
Kathy Dokis, Principal of First Nation, Métis
and Inuit Education and Program, Rainbow District School Board
Lesleigh Dye, Superintendent, Rainbow District School Board
Grace Fox, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board
Bob Clement, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board
Doreen Dewar, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board

Members Absent With Regret: Kim Nootchtai, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
Cynthia Trudeau, Sheguiandah First Nation
Sharon Goulaïs, Dokis First Nation
Charles Shawanda, Whitefish River First Nation
Dominic Beaudry, Wikwemikong First Nation

Members Absent: Kevin Mossip, Zhiibaahaasing First Nation

Recording Minutes: Alicia Marshall, Rainbow District School Board

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

Host Anna-Marie Abitong welcomed everyone. Trustee Fox did opening. The Girls Drumming Group performed a welcome song and a special Valentine's love song.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2015 MEETING

Trustee Fox confirmed that the letter requesting full time principal for FNMI was sent to the Director of Education and also to Diane Cayen-Arnold for Budget Proposal.

Discussion ensued regarding Aboriginal Support Workers.
Superintendent Dye and Kathy Dokis will be conducting interviews on March 9th 2016 to fill 2 full-time Aboriginal Support Worker permanent positions.

When hired, Superintendent Dye will call communities with contact information for the new workers.

ACTION: Attach job description for Aboriginal Support Worker to minutes.

Superintendent Dye reiterated that first and foremost they are to support students. Their secondary role is educating the staff to help build their understanding of First Nation culture.

Challenges that arise filling these positions occur due to temporary employment vs. permanent employment. Funding is year to year, therefore permanency cannot be guaranteed. Currently there are 12 Aboriginal Support Workers, 11 identify as FNMI.

General discussion occurred regarding Native Language teachers:

- Difficulty filling positions
- Incorporation of drama, dance and arts into their teachings
- How are strategies of teaching the language working? What measures are being taken to ensure this?

Kathy Dokis will be meeting with students at Manitoulin Secondary School and Espanola High School to get feedback from the students regarding their attendance. Superintendent Dye and Kathy Dokis will also meet with communities.

Kelly-Lee Assinewe motioned to accept minutes. Robert Pitfield seconded. Motion carried.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Superintendent Dye announced calling for nominations for Chair. Kelly-Lee Assinewe was nominated by Anna-Marie Abitong. Seconded by Trustee Fox. Accepted by Kelly-Lee Assinewe. No other nominations were brought forward. Nominations closed.

Chair Assinewe called for nominations for Vice Chair.

Beverly Roy-Carter nominated Anna-Marie Abitong. Anna-Marie Abitong declined.

Carlene Assinewe nominated Nancy Cada. Nancy Cada declined.

Anna-Marie Abitong nominated Grace Fox. Seconded by Robert Pitfield. Grace Fox accepts on basis as a trustee of RDSB to support FNAC.

No other nominations were brought forward. Nominations closed.

Kelly-Lee Assinewe is the new Chair and Grace Fox is the Vice Chair.

4. NATIVE LANGUAGE AND NATIVE STUDIES COURSES IN RAINBOW SCHOOLS

Superintendent Dye reviewed Native Language and Native Studies courses in our schools. All students are welcome to take any Native Studies course. No courses are mandatory yet, although it is strongly encouraged to take NBE as the Grade 11 English.

Courses are based on Ministry curriculum. Sharla Peltier, FNMI Learning and Teaching Cultural Specialist, and Kathy Dokis work together for suggested resources.

Question brought forward by Beverly Roy-Carter regarding Native Immersion. Superintendent Dye explained an immersion program is not planned for the near future. RDSB has a reverse agreement with KTEI for the immersion program. Currently there are 3 students in that program.

Anna-Marie Abitong explained that they have tried immersion in the past and problems arose due to not having enough language teachers to teach the program.

KTEI is currently the only First Nation that offers immersion. They are currently in their 3rd year of the immersion program.

Superintendent Dye reviewed second semester courses being offered.

ACTION: Bring updated list of courses being offered to the May meeting.

Superintendent Dye reviewed FNMI Enrolment. Chair Assinewe asked where does Mishko-Deh-Wendam's enrolment fall?

Action – Add enrolment for Mishko-Deh-Wendam.

Superintendent Dye discussed the importance of self-identifying at schools.

5. SHKI-NESEWIN PROGRAM

Superintendent Dye shared this new pilot program in partnership with KTEI. This is a new program which officially starts on February 29, 2016. Students will be off-site this semester only. The intent is to have program running at Manitoulin Secondary School in September.

1 Grade and 1 students enrolled from MSS. They will receive 4.5 credits for the semester.

RDSB provides a teacher and KTEI provides a teacher. RDSB is covering costs of program to KTEI.

Brenda Francis further explained the program. It is new to KTEI as well. Moving forward, some things to consider:

- How will the program be implemented in the Provincial system?
- There are many internal and external factors. It is an integrated approach with a teacher, a language teacher, a tutor and an elder. One teacher will not be good for this type of program.
- Need to ensure that staff shares the same philosophy.

KTEI started this program in September. They have a 100% retention rate and their students will receive 5 credits. These are interdisciplinary credits.

This brought forward a general discussion of the number of First Nation students going into alternative ways of learning. Some points discussed:

- Is the curriculum uniform between these alternative styles of learning?
- If students are not prepared to go to secondary school – what is going wrong before that point?
- How will students re-engage once back in 'regular' programming?
- How do all parties evolve? Parents, teachers, school and students?

Brenda Francis discussed that the new program is not an 'alternative' program. It is a different way of delivery. They are trying to get away from the 'alternative' label.

way to look at these programs is holistic student development. These programs are culture-based education vs. provincial education system. Some will succeed in these programs, and some won't.

6. CHARTER OF COMMITMENT SURVEY

ACTION – Each First Nation representative to finish survey by the end of February.
Chair Assinewe to send out an email to members that are not present.

7. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Superintendent Dye and Kathy Dokis introduced the data in the Annual Report.

Trustee Fox asked from the data presented, what is the average population of students that are enrolled in alternative programs? And how many are in provincial system?

ACTION – Bring back these numbers in May at the secondary level.

Important note - Mishko-Deh-Wendam is not represented in the Annual Report.

Questions brought forward regarding report for the 2014-2015 Annual Report:

- Consider changing format to represent each section of the Annual Report in terms of Seven Social Factors.
- Can there be a break down for Native Studies pass rate data?
- Can there be further explanation in the report as to why some of the trends are happening?
- Can the Special Education data be represented for the past 5 years?
- Can the summary be made more comprehensive to outline all aspects through the Annual Report?

8. NEW BUSINESS

Sagamok partnering with RDSB for My Blueprint. Superintendent Dye to discuss this with Anna-Marie Abitong.

Remaining Dates:

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Sheshegwaning First Nation

Equity and Inclusive Education Committee Agenda
Thursday, March 10, 2016
4:00 pm to 5:30 pm
Lockerby CS, Library

Agenda Items:

1. Review minutes from January 7, 2016

2. Dare To Stand Out, March 4, 2016

What went well:

- Positive turnout with almost 300 students
- Comfort level
- Great balance of workshops especially for younger students
- Committee did an amazing job
- Host school prepared the students well for the event

Wonderings:

- How do we engage parents?
 - Defining some of the terms including the term ally
 - Registration form and gender identification
 - Session for French Immersion sessions
 - More social time
3. Website update: Ron Hodgkinson shared that the website committee has met many times. There is a new tab called initiatives as well as a glossary of terms and FAQ section added.
 4. FNMI update: Lesleigh Dye shared that there will be Aboriginal Cultural Competency training hosted in April for all principals as well as representatives from schools. Interviews were hosted for the two permanent Aboriginal Support Worker positions.
 5. Equity posters update: Final submissions for the posters have been received. Rainbow will hire a photographer to take photos for each poster. Posters are to be finalized by the end of June 2016.
 6. Welcome to Newcomers update: Rainbow has 2 families from Syrian as well as some families from Eritrea. We are expecting one or two more families from Syria in the near future.
 7. Transgender Resource Guide Writing Team has begun work and will bring a draft copy of the guide to the May meeting.
 8. New business: Several Rainbow staff attended the Poverty Symposium hosted by Niagara DSB. Rainbow has established a Poverty Working Committee who will meet and bring details back to the May meeting.
 9. Next Meeting, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm, Lockerby:
Thursday, May 5, 2016

**MINUTES OF THE RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016
Time: 12:00 PM
The Gord Ewin Centre for Education**

Present:

SEAC Members:

Maureen Beaudry (Vice-Chair)	Canadian Hearing Society
Bob Clement	Trustee
Natasha Delaney	Autism Ontario – Sudbury
Judy Kosmerly	Trustee
Ron Lessard	Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury (Alternate)

Staff:

Karin Kozman	Manager of Finance
Colleen McDonald	Principal of Special Education Programs and Services
David Squarzolo	Special Education Consultant
Kathy Wachnuk	Superintendent of Schools

Regrets:

Kelly-Lee Assinewe	N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre
Wendy Larouche (Chair)	Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

R. Lessard welcomed everyone.

2.0 Establish Quorum of Voting Members

Quorum was established for the initial part of the meeting.

3.0 SEAC Mission Statement

M. Beaudry read aloud the mission statement.

4.0 New Business

Special Education Budget 2016-2017

Karin Kozman, Manager of Finance, reviewed the Board's proposed special education budget for 2016-2017. The High Needs Amount from the Ministry of Education is now referred to the Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount.

Special Education Staffing 2016-2017

Superintendent Wachnuk shared proposed staffing and program changes for 2016-2017. The Board will focus efforts at improving the achievement results on EQAO for students with special needs including the addition of math-focused teachers in four schools, adding two additional Social Workers, and opening an Intensive Support Program for students with learning disabilities. The Section 23 agreements with CFC for the classes at Chelmsford PS and Sudbury SS will not be renewed and those programs will be converted to Intensive Support Programs staffed and supported by the Board. The Board is looking to hire a Program Leader to support IEP improvements in schools.

Motion 1:

Moved by: Trustee Clement

Seconded by: M. Beaudry

That the SEAC recommend the 2016-2017 budget, program changes, staffing, and staffing proposals be approved by the Board.

Motion carried.

5.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion 2:

Moved by: M. Beaudry

Seconded by: Trustee Kosmerly

That the agenda for the SEAC meeting of May 4, 2016 be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

6.0 Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were noted.

7.0 Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Motion 3:

Moved by: N. Delaney

Seconded by: M. Beaudry

That the minutes of the SEAC meetings of March and April be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

8.0 Business Arising

None

9.0 New Business

Motion 4:

Moved by: Trustee Clement

Seconded by: M. Beaudry

That the SEAC approve the absences of Kelly-Lee Assinewe and Wendy Larouche from the May 4, 2016 SEAC meeting.

Motion carried.

10.0 Superintendent's Report

Updates

Amber Perry is leaving the Board to take a position with the Simcoe County DSB. The Board has reached a tentative agreement with the Educational Assistants and is waiting for ratification. An agreement is not yet available with Early Childhood Educators.

11.0 Special Education Staff Report

Updates

Destination Readiness occurred at Lasalle Secondary School. Community partners presented to students and parents about the transition from secondary school.

Northeastern Elementary School hosted an Annual Awareness Day about learning differences with breakout sessions with various agency representatives.

Steve Marko and Sue Del Riccio gave a presentation on the A4 electronic tool at the recent Ontario Association for Developmental Education conference.

The Board sent 10 elementary and secondary teachers to the ASET Conference. The Board will be purchasing Google Read and Write licenses for every student between Grades 3 and 12.

Three RDSB staff provided Level 1 VTRA training for both Board and agency staffs. Board staff will receive Level 2 training with Kevin Cameron in October.

Principal McDonald is meeting with RDSB Principals during May and June to review any concerns and receive feedback about how best to support the teachers in their schools.

The Challenge Meet will take place on June 16 at Laurentian University.

12.0 Board Report

Updates

A contract has been signed with Principals and Vice-Principals.

Education Week this week will have a variety of activities occurring throughout the Board.

Discussions are ongoing about using the outdoor space at Wembley PS site.

The Board received a presentation from Superintendent Dye about the Kindergarten program and the introduction of Kindergarten Camp that will be piloted in eight schools allowing Kindergarten students to attend for the two weeks prior to the start of school.

Student senate will host a conference at Cambrian College called, "Stand Up Speak Out."

The Board Awards will take place on May 26 in the Sheridan Auditorium.

Trustees Clement and Kosmerly attended presentations on mental health that emphasized moving from policy to practice with collaboration.

Trustee Kosmerly reviewed online presentations from the Third Biennial FASD ONE Symposium in Toronto. Presentations from the conference can be accessed at www.fasdontario.ca/cms/resources/webinars/fasd-taking-action-in-ontario-symposium-2016/

13.0 Chairperson's Report

None

14.0 Information Sharing and Success Stories

LDAS (Ron Lessard)

The LDAS Youth Council had their first meetings. Many on the committee are students from the Rainbow Board. Huntington University has donated office space for the Northern Ontario Centre for Learning Differences. The Centre will be hosting a presentation for students in Grades 7 and 8 entitled, "School's Out But Count Us In." The presentation will take place on June 7 in the All Nations Church Auditorium and will be livestreamed.

Autism Ontario (Natasha Delaney)

Autism Ontario's Sudbury office has moved to 1191 Lansing Avenue. The other contact information remains the same. The walk for autism has been cancelled due to staff changes in the office. Other planned activities will continue. The Annual General Meeting is May and new members are welcome. A link to webinars for parents will be made available to the SEAC.

The Ministry will hold the Annual Parent Involvement Committee regional symposium at the Holiday Inn in Sudbury on May 14, 2016.

Jean Hanson PS black light performances are occurring this week. Graduation ceremonies for nine students will take place on June 14 at 11:30 AM.

15.0 Correspondence Addressed to SEAC

No correspondence was received.

16.0 Other Items/ Future Agenda Items/ Information Requests

- Special Education Invitation for Input results – 2016
- EQAO Achievement Data – 2016
- Childhood Trauma – Colleen McDonald & Sue Del Riccio – 2016

17.0 Next Meeting Date

June 1, 2016 from 12:00 until 2:00 PM. Location to be determined.

18.0 Adjournment

R. Lessard adjourned the meeting at 2:13 PM.

OFFICIAL



69 Young Street, Sudbury, Ontario P3E 3G5 | Tel: 705.674.3171 | Toll Free: 1.888.421.2661 | rainbowschools.ca

June 1, 2016

Paul Lefebvre, M.P.
Sudbury Constituency Office
152 Durham Street
Sudbury, ON P3E 3M7

Carol Hughes, M.P.
Algoma – Manitoulin – Kapuskasing Constituency Office
255 Highway 108 North,
Elliot Lake, ON P5A 2T1

Marc Serré, M.P.
Nickel Belt Constituency Office
2945 Highway 69 North, Suite 203
Val Caron, ON P3N 1N3

Dear Paul Lefebvre, Carol Hughes and Marc Serré:

At the May 25, 2016 meeting of Rainbow District School Board, Trustees unanimously passed the following motion:

Motion: 16-R83, J.Hunda/B.Clement

*That Rainbow District School Board endorse the Canadian School Boards Association's support of BILL C-241, An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities) - **carried***

If approved, school boards across Canada would receive a full rebate on the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The rebate is currently capped at 68 per cent.

By charging the GST on school board purchases, the federal government is, in effect, adding a layer of taxation. This form of double taxation costs school boards millions of dollars annually. More importantly, it takes money away from the classroom and the students that we serve.

Rainbow District School Board continuously strives to innovate and to streamline in order to achieve efficiencies in the face of increasingly limited resources. Not only does the GST further erode our financial base, it also imposes a complicated and expensive administrative burden.

The current system of rebates, claims, and payments is onerous, and, in an effort to stretch our budget for the benefit of students, school boards feel compelled to engage expertise to help obtain the largest rebates possible while complying with regulations. The federal government recognizes the complexities of the current system. It has offered school boards courses on how to comply.

With this request, we are not asking the federal government to send new money to school boards. We are, however, asking the federal government to stop clawing back the support for education provided through provincial grants and federal transfer payments.

It makes no sense for school boards, as publicly funded – *taxpayer funded* - institutions, to take money away from student success to pay the GST. We are, in essence, transferring money from one level of government to another at the expense of students.

Rainbow District School Board, like other school boards across the country, wants to maintain the high quality of public education that Canada is renowned for around the world. We believe that it is the intent of the federal government to support school boards in their pursuit of excellence.

As such, we call on the federal government to ensure that school boards across Canada maximize the revenues that provincial taxpayers provide for public education.

On behalf of Rainbow District School Board, I urge you to support BILL C-241, An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities) and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doreen Dewar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doreen" and last name "Dewar" clearly distinguishable.

Doreen Dewar
Chair, Rainbow District School Board

cc Canadian School Boards Association
Ontario Public School Boards Association
Minister Liz Sandals



Leading Education's Advocates

Ontario Public School Boards' Association
439 University Avenue, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 1Y8
Tel: (416) 340-2540
Fax: (416) 340-7571
webmaster@opsba.org
www.opsba.org

Michael Barrett
President

Gail Anderson
Executive Director

June 8, 2016

TRUSTEES OF THE RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

The success of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) is strengthened by the commitment of our members to publicly funded education. We appreciate this opportunity to share with you the benefits of OPSBA membership and show highlights of our success this past year.

We invest our expertise and energy in ways that we know will have positive impacts on a wide variety of student needs across the province. Our voices are always rooted in our five priorities:

- *The Whole Child and Student Well-Being*
- *New Generation Education*
- *Trustees – Building Leadership Capacity*
- *Education Funding*
- *Labour Relations*

Throughout the past year, we have seen success on a number of our key action items, which include:

- The past school year saw an unprecedented Labour Relations role for the association as OPSBA successfully concluded and ratified seven central collective agreements for the first time as designated employer bargaining agent under the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act* (SBCBA). Agreements were reached with CUPE, ETFO Teachers, ETFO Education Workers, the Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario, the Ontario Council of Education Workers, OSSTF Teachers and OSSTF Education Workers. Since January 2016, OPSBA has also been involved in a comprehensive consultation process to review the SBCBA.
- The provincial government's legislative agenda has engaged OPSBA in a wide range of [advocacy work](#), including responses to Bill 181, the *Municipal Elections Modernization Act*, Bill 113, *Police Record Checks Reform Act*, and amendments to Regulation 444/98 (Disposition of Surplus Real Property).
- OPSBA was the founding member of the Ontario Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health. The Coalition's profile continues to grow and its ability to provide timely expert advice on issues is well-recognized. In April 2016, the Coalition held a successful fourth Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health in Toronto, attracting more than 700 attendees. The next Summit will be held on April 12 and 13, 2018.
- OPSBA's First Nation Trustees Council provides a strong voice in advocating for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education. The Council has engaged in a range of initiatives this year, with a primary focus on mandatory components in Ontario's elementary and secondary curriculum on FNMI histories that includes treaty education, the history and legacy of residential schools, and the impact of the *Indian Act*.
- Our five new and 14 updated [Professional Development Modules](#) were available in time for the beginning of the 2015-16 school year. Inspired by the thoughtfulness and commitment that trustees bring to their governance work, the modules include: What Makes a Great Board Chair?; First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education for school board trustees; Code of Conduct for Trustees; Social Media; and Internal Audit Committees.

- In early May, OPSBA President Michael Barrett spoke to media regarding the importance of autism intervention programs for children over the age of five after the government announced changes to eligibility for Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI), IBI wait lists and the automatic transition from IBI to Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) at age five. "We're hoping the government will give careful reconsideration to changes being made," President Barrett told [the Toronto Star](#). "It's never too late to correct a mistake." He also called on the government to show "the same courageous leadership" it demonstrated in April when it changed plans to close provincial schools for deaf students and those with severe learning disabilities.

In addition to the accomplishments noted above, our advocacy for student success and the governance role of school board trustees has extended well beyond the borders of Ontario. OPSBA responded with [strong public support](#) of the Quebec English School Boards Association in their fight against that province's Bill 86, which would have amended Quebec's Education Act to replace commissioners (trustees) with school councils. This spring, the government abandoned the legislation. We stand proudly alongside our colleagues in Quebec in defending the role of trustees, the only democratically elected position solely responsible for providing sound educational opportunities for all students.

More recently, OPSBA has emerged as a key signatory to a Canadian School Boards Association [letter](#) to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau supporting a private member's bill, Bill C-241 – *An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities)*. This proposed bill would amend the *Excise Tax Act* so as to increase the goods and services tax rebate rate for school authorities/boards from 68% to 100%, resulting in millions of dollars in savings for our member boards. We continue to advocate in support of Bill C-241 through all available channels and are promoting the [public petition on our website](#).

Our programs and services are highly cost effective. The financial benefits of membership far exceed not only the membership fee itself, but the outcomes that could be achieved by boards acting individually. Our interventions on copyright tariffs, natural gas rates and electricity rates have continued to create significant savings for all school boards and cover membership fees many times over. When this is combined with the indirect benefits created by OPSBA coordination and advocacy identified in this correspondence and our [Key Work](#) document, the value of membership speaks for itself.

Examples of 2015-16 savings realized for:

Rainbow District School Board

Savings in Copyright Fees: \$30,670

Savings in Energy Costs: \$129,500

The 2016-2017 OPSBA membership fee for your board is \$37,290.

OPSBA is an issues-driven, problem-solving organization dedicated to serving our members. We represent an influential force in the shaping of education policy and school board governance. You are invited to review more information about the valuable services OPSBA offers your board by clicking on the Key Work and Annual Report links at www.opsba.org.

We thank you for your membership and participation in OPSBA this coming year.

Best Regards,



Michael Barrett
President



Gail Anderson
Executive Director



69 Young Street, Sudbury, Ontario P3E 3G5 | Tel: 705.674.3171 | Toll Free: 1.888.421.2661 | rainbowschools.ca

June 15, 2016

Mitzie Hunter
Minister of Education
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Minister Hunter:

On behalf of the Trustees of Rainbow District School Board, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Education.

We look forward to working with you in the ongoing implementation of Ontario's renewed vision for education – achieving excellence, ensuring equity, promoting well-being and enhancing public confidence.

Rainbow District School Board is very proud of its progress in these important areas. We will continue to build on our successes to ensure that students gain the skills and the knowledge to be capable and contributing members of our global society.

As you begin your new role, please consider the need to maintain peace and stability in our schools, the impact of declining enrolment on school board budgets, and the need for multi-year funding to enable school boards to plan ahead. These remain priorities for Rainbow District School Board.

In closing, I would like to extend to you an invitation to visit our schools at any time. We welcome the opportunity to introduce you to our students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doreen Dewar".

Doreen Dewar
Chair