

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
held in the Boardroom
on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.

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

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

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 16-R132, J.Hunda/D.Morrison

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of October 25, 2016 be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition of item #3a, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Public Education Symposium 2017 under F NEW BUSINESS. - Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

1. Community Presentation

Robin White and Tina McDonald provided a presentation on behalf of the Lively Action Committee.

2. Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Update

Superintendent Noble provided trustees with an update of SHSM programs in Rainbow schools.

Information was provided about Arts and Culture SHSM, Business SHSM, Construction SHSM, Energy SHSM, Environment SHSM, Health and Wellness SHSM, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) SHSM, Manufacturing SHSM, Mining SHSM and Sports SHSM provided at secondary schools throughout the board.

The individual school makes the decision as to which SHSM programs are offered and how many SHSM programs are offered. The school must apply for funding.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

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

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 16-R133, B.Clement/J.Kosmerly

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on September 27, 2016 be approved. - **Carried**

2. Tenders/Requests for Proposals NIL

3. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

Audit Committee (AC)

2015/2016 External Audit Plan – Report from KPMG

Audit Committee Chair Morrison provided an update for trustees.

Motion: 16-R134, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That the 2015/2016 External Audit Plan be approved. - **Carried**

4. Capital and Accommodation Plan – Update #3

Superintendent of Business Bazinet provided trustees with an update including information regarding community and facilities partnerships, school information profiles and supplemental information posted on the website, online feedback gathered at public meetings and next steps in the capital and accommodation plan process. Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions and share feedback.

Motion: 16-R135, J.Kosmerly/G.Santala

That the Special Board Meeting to decide accommodation review outcomes scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2017 be rescheduled to Tuesday, February 7, 2017. - **Carried**

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Finance

Honorarium for Trustees

Superintendent of Business Bazinet reviewed the Honorarium for Trustees effective December 1, 2016. The “base amount” remains the same. However, the total honourarium per trustee continues to decrease because of declining enrolment.

2. **OSTA-AECO Fees**

Motion: 16-R136, J.Hunda/D.Morrison

That the 2016/17 membership fees in the Ontario Student Trustees' Association be approved. - **Carried**

3a) **Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Public Education Symposium 2017**

Motion: 16-R137, B.Clement/D.Morrison

That the Board approve the attendance of the following trustees at the OPSBA Public Education Symposium 2017 in Toronto January 19-21, 2017:

Chair Dewar, Trustee Campbell, Trustee Clement, Trustee Hunda, Trustee Fox, Trustee Killens, Trustee Kosmerly - **Carried**

3b) **Requests for Leave of Absence**

Motion: 16-R138, J.Kosmerly/D.Morrison

That Trustee Campbell be granted a leave of absence from the October 25, 2016 Board meeting. - **Carried**

4. **Director's Remarks**

Director Blaseg provided a brief update on the OSSLT assessment that was scheduled for October 20, 2016. Computer difficulties caused widespread frustration among students and staff. Superintendent Noble reported that 90% of Rainbow students completed the test: the highest percentage in the province. Because there is no indication that these completed tests will be recognized, it is recommended that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Education.

Motion: 16-R139, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That a letter be sent to the Minister of Education respectfully requesting that the Ministry of Education urge EQAO to score the test and report the results.

- **Carried unanimously**

Friday, October 28, 2016 is a Professional Development Day.

Elementary level:

During the morning our focus is on reviewing and interpreting a profile for a student with a Learning Disability (LD). The goal is to enhance teacher knowledge /skillset to better facilitate the learning of students with LD traits.

In the afternoon we will focus on math concepts.

At the end of the day we will bring the two together ie: teaching, students a math lesson, with LD strategies as a focus.

Secondary Level:

We will focus on building our understanding of diagnostic reports and developing Student Learning Profiles, specifically looking at:

- Glossary of terms.pptx

- Psych report.pdf
- SL report.pdf
- EQAO activities.pdf

On October 14th the Director had the opportunity to participate in OPSBA's Northern Regional Meeting. It was a great opportunity to hear trustees and directors speak to northern challenges. It would appear are all facing similar challenges including: declining enrolment, implementation of the School Board Efficiencies and Modernization (SBEM) strategy and supporting our most vulnerable students.

On November 9 and 10 the ministry will be holding its 2017-2018 Education and Funding Engagement/consultation. Most senior staff is required to attend. Like previous years this consultation will form the basis for the 2017-2018 GSN announcement next spring.

We have reminded all staff to be mindful of Halloween costumes come Monday. We have given direction to remind students that if they are wearing outfits they must be respectful and culturally appropriate.

For Remembrance Day, Friday, November 11, we have offered to pay for busing (up to a maximum of two buses) should any school want to participate at his or her community ceremony.

Itinerary

September 28	Espanola High School/A.B. Ellis PS official opening Human Resources Manager interviews
September 29	Agenda Setting Meeting with Ministry of Labour
September 30	P.D. Day Meeting – Community Rep
October 4	Executive Council Information Services Manager interviews
October 5	Lasalle SS Awards Ceremony Churchill PS Fall Feast
October 6	C.B.C. radio interview Barrydowne College Fall Feast Meeting - Community Rep
October 11	Executive Council Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

- October 12 Homework committee meeting
Agenda Setting
Cambrian College – announcement
- October 13 Joan Mantle Music Trust announcement – Lasalle SS
OSSTF meeting
- October 14/15 OPSBA Northern Regional Meeting – Thunder Bay
- October 17 Executive Council
West Sudbury Planning Area Meeting at Lively DSS
- October 18 Director’s Meeting – Sudbury
Parent Involvement Committee AGM – Sudbury SS
- October 20 Executive Council
Valley North Planning Area Meeting at Chelmsford VDCS
- October 21 City of Sudbury - Meeting
- October 24 Executive Council
Student Achievement Meeting
Discipline Committee Meeting
New Sudbury Planning Area Meeting at Lasalle SS
- October 25 Executive Council
Board Meeting

5. **Other Items**

OPSBA Delegate - Trustee Clement attended a meeting on September 30, 2016 in Toronto. Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter was a guest speaker. There was much discussion about northern boards. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2016.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Yao informed that OSTA-AECO has been in close contact with EQAO concerning the recent OSSLT test. A letter has been sent outlining the events of that day. She has been contacted by other Student Trustees throughout the province.

The committee continues to prepare for this year’s talent show and the annual Stand Up Speak Out conference. She will be attending the Fall General Meeting November 17-20, 2016 in Toronto.

Work is being done to create a new facebook page about Student Senate with viewing privileges only.

6. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Clement thanked Superintendent Dye for her work with the Equity and Inclusive Education Committee. He commented on the diversity posters that are very visible in every school. He also reminded trustees about the *Embrace Diversity: Free To Be Me Conference* that will be hosted by Espanola High School on Thursday, October 27, 2016.

Trustee Killens thanked parents for advocating for students and community schools at recent public meetings for accommodation reviews.

Trustee Hunda thanked trustees for attending the New Sudbury Planning Area meeting on Monday, October 24, 2016. Parents from that area appreciated the information provided and the opportunity to provide feedback.

Trustee Fox expressed her regrets for not being able to attend public meetings to date.

7. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Thirteen Rainbow Schools will share a total of \$11,740 in Parents Reaching Out Grants from the Ministry of Education's Parent Engagement Office. The funds will help support School Council initiatives to further engage parents/guardians in their child's learning. Congratulations to all recipients.

Valley View Public School was among 150 nation-wide recipients of a 150th "Happy Birthday Canada" Celebration Garden. The school hosted a special planting ceremony on Thursday, October 13th to plant 500 red and 500 white tulips in the schoolyard. The celebration garden will be featured on Canada's Garden Route website. Congratulations.

Students in Rainbow Schools continue to receive new instruments thanks to generous donations to the Joan Mantle Music Trust. The Trust has reached \$200,000 in total funds raised since it was launched in the fall of 2008, as local businesses and individuals continue to make donations for the benefit of students in Rainbow Schools.

The long-standing tradition of Kids Caring for Kids Cancer Drive will continue tomorrow, Wednesday, October 26th when students and staff of Lockerby Composite School canvass the city and surrounding communities from 6 pm to 9 pm. This year marks the 21st anniversary of Lockerby's tribute to former student Laura Contesta, who started the campaign while fighting her own battle with cancer. To date, the school has raised over \$800,000 for pediatric care in the north.

Some 400 secondary school students are expected to visit Espanola High School on Thursday, October 27th for the *Embrace Diversity: Free To Be Me Conference*. This is Rainbow District School Board's eighth symposium aimed at creating and enhancing school-based supports for students who are lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual and questioning (LGBTQ) as well as those with friends and family members in these communities. Students can participate in the full-day or

half-day conference, which will kick-off at 10 am with a keynote address from activist, actor and comedian Derek Forgie and will continue throughout the day, with a variety of workshops to help create safe and inclusive spaces for all. At 5 pm in the school library, parents/guardians and educators are invited to attend a special workshop about identifying the warning signs of mental health issues.

The thought for the month is a Chinese Saying as follows: *“Learning is like rowing upstream: not to advance is to drop back.”*

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Reports from Officials and Staff

Equity and Inclusive Education minutes May 5, 2016 (official)
First Nation Advisory Committee minutes May 19, 2016 (official)
Audit Committee minutes June 23, 2016 (official)
First Nation Advisory Committee minutes September 21, 2016 (official)

2. Non-Staff Communications

Letter from Peel District School Board dated September 27, 2016
Letter from Bluewater District School Board dated October 4, 2016

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Parent Involvement Committee November 1, 2016 7:00 pm Boardroom
Special Education Advisory Cmttee Nov 2, 2016 12:00 pm Espanola High School
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Nov 8, 2016 5:00 pm Boardroom
First Nation Advisory Committee Nov 17, 2016 10:00 am Sheguiandah First Nation
Student Senate Meeting November 21, 2016 5:00 pm Boardroom
Board Meeting November 22, 2016 5:00 pm Boardroom
Special Board Meeting November 24, 2016 5:00 pm Boardroom

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 16-R140, D.Morrison/J.Hunda
That we now adjourn at 8:20 p.m. – **Carried.**