

**RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
held in the Boardroom  
on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

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Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), B. Clement, G. Fox, J. Hunda, L. Killens (via phone), J. Kosmerly, D. Morrison, G. Santala, Student Trustee K. Yao

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.

Chair Dewar stated: "Before we begin tonight's meeting, please join me to observe a moment of silence for the victims of the senseless tragedy at the mosque in Quebec City.

We reaffirm our commitment to embrace diversity, equity and inclusion as we nurture safe and welcoming learning environments for all."

Silence.

**A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: 17-R27, J.Kosmerly/D.Morrison

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of January 31, 2017 be approved as amended. The amendment being the removal of NIL on item **D**. - **Carried**

**B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Trustee Santala declared a conflict with item **D** on the agenda as his wife is an employee of the Board.

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

Truth and Reconciliation

Superintendent Lesleigh Dye and Kathy Dokis, Principal of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education, provided trustees with an informative presentation.

Trustees had the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

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

Director Blaseg announced that Trustee Morrison was acclaimed Chair of the Labour Relations Committee for 2017.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

- a) Motion: 17-R28, J.Kosmerly/B.Clement  
That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on December 12, 2016 be approved. - **Carried**
- b) Motion: 17-R29, J.Hunda/G.Santala  
That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held on December 13, 2016 be approved. - **Carried**
- c) Motion: 17-R30, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly  
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on December 13, 2016 be approved. - **Carried**

Trustee Killens requested that the minutes be amended.

Amendment to the Motion: L.Killens/J.Hunda  
That the minutes be amended. - **Defeated**

**2. Tenders/Requests for Proposals NIL**

**3. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees NIL**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Revised Estimates 2016-17**

Superintendent Bazinet distributed the revised budget estimate document and reviewed with trustees.

**2. Requests for Leave of Absence NIL**

**3. Ontario Student Trustee Association – Board Council Conference**

Motion: 17-R31, J.Hunda/B.Clement  
That the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Katie Yao at the OSTA Board Council Conference in Ottawa February 16 to 19, 2017. - **Carried**

**4. Director's Remarks**

Director Blaseg reported on the OSSLT Results. Nearly 700 Rainbow students passed the Ontario Secondary Literacy Test that was held last fall. As you might recall this was the first attempt at an on-line version of the assessment. Throughout the morning, on the day of the test, students and staff had to

overcome many challenges related to the electronic version. As a result hundreds of students were unable to verify if their efforts were compromised by challenges associated with the delivery of the test. EQAO did release possible rationale that could explain what happened to students who made an attempt but were unsuccessful.

As reported by EQAO

*Include students who:*

- *Logged in but were unable to start the test*
- *Logged in but for whom EQAO did not receive sufficient work to provide a result; and*
- *Logged in and for whom EQAO received sufficient work to allow for a result but who were not successful (This outcome could have been affected by the technical issues experienced on the day of the test, so it may not accurately reflect the students ability.)*

The 700 plus students that did not have a positive outcome/experience will have a second opportunity to attempt the test (paper version) in spring 2017. Finally we want to impress upon everyone that it is a tribute to staff and students that so many students persevered and were successful in spite of all the challenges the day presented. As a result 671 students were successful in attaining their OSSLT requirement. We are thrilled these students will be recognized for their efforts. A special thanks to the Trustees for lending their voice in supporting efforts to ensure student assessments that did go forward were counted.

The Director reminded trustees of the upcoming Professional Activity day on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Elementary teachers will be focused on Assessment and Evaluation and secondary teachers will be completing first semester grade placements and prepping for second semester. Support staff will continue to participate in certifications (ie: B.M.S. training) and other related professional growth activities.

Monday, February 6 is the first day of the second semester. Director Blaseg reminded trustees of the recent appointments of Jamie Mohammed as principal of Manitoulin Secondary School and Margaret Stringer as interim principal at Little Current Public School starting the first day of semester two.

### **Itinerary**

December 14	School Visit - Barrydowne College Agenda setting
December 16	School Visit - Sudbury Secondary School
December 19	School Visits – Queen Elizabeth Public School, Markstay Public School, Monetteville Public School

December 20	Executive Council School Visit – Chelmsford Public School
December 22	School Visit - Sudbury Secondary School Manitoulin Secondary School Awards Evening
December 23	School Visit – Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School
January 10	Executive Council
January 11	Agenda Setting
January 13	Student Achievement Team meeting People for Education –Teleconference
January 16	Student Achievement Team meeting
January 17	Ministry of Education Field Officers meeting Exec Council Strategic Planning Committee meeting
January 18	School Year Calendar Committee meeting
January 19-21	Public Education Symposium – Toronto
January 24	Exec Council
January 25-27	CODE meetings – Toronto
January 30	Exec Council
January 31	Exec Council / RDPC Agenda Setting

5. **Other Items**

OPSBA Delegate - Trustee Clement reported that he recently attended the Public Education Symposium (PES) in Toronto. He reminded trustees that Minister Hunter has been invited to visit Rainbow District School Board.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Yao informed that the Student Senate continues to prepare for the annual Stand Up Speak Out conference which will be held in early May at Cambrian College. Three keynote speakers have been booked and now they are looking for speakers for the breakout sessions.

Student Trustee Yao reported another busy month at OSTA, working at the committee level and she looks forward to the OSTA-AECO Board Council Conference in Ottawa in February.

6. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Morrison congratulated Katie Yao as she is one of the finalists selected nationwide for the Loran Award, worth \$100,000 over four years. Trustee Morrison also thanked Principal Ron Hodgkinson for the coasters provided to each trustee. Students at Cyril Varney Public School made the coasters with the use of their new laser cutter.

Trustee Kosmerly reported on the Public Education Symposium (PES) conference that she recently attended in Toronto along with the Director, Trustees Clement and Trustee Fox. She provided trustees with information about guest speakers and the sessions that she attended. She requested that the power point for the workshop on In-Camera Best Practices be provided to all trustees (see attached).

7. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Congratulations to our very own Student Trustee Katie Yao on having been chosen as one of only 84 finalists nationwide for the Loran Award. To have been shortlisted from 4400 applicants is an honour in and of itself. Katie, trustees and staff have known for some time what a truly outstanding young person you are. We are so very proud of you and we are extremely grateful to have you at our Board table to advocate for our students. Good luck.

I was privileged to attend the 2017 Public Education Symposium organized by OPSBA. I never fully appreciate the benefits of this opportunity until I get there. It was very informative and inspiring.

At the first LEGO League Regional Qualifier held in December 2016, the R. L. Beattie Baron Bots garnered first place overall for their robot and the highest overall score in the Project, Robot and Core Values categories. The Baron Bots will compete at the Provincial Championship in Waterloo this coming Saturday (February 4, 2017).

Students in Rainbow Schools collected 5,500 gently used winter clothing items for local families in need. The drive, spearheaded by Cooper Equipment Rental, helped to support Our Children, Our Future and include coats, snowsuits, boots and other accessory items.

Rainbow Schools collected 257,942 items for Edgar Burton Kids Helping Kids Food Drive. For the second year in a row, they topped the quarter million mark! A total of \$30,515 in monetary donations contributed to this impressive total.

Kindergarten Information Nights and Secondary School Information Nights continue to be held. The public is invited to check the Board website or contact specific schools for more information.

The process to fill the vacancy on the Board can also be found on the Board website. The deadline for applications is 4 pm on Monday, February 13, 2017.

As part of the Board's Environmental Committee's Go Green initiative staff and students in Rainbow Schools were challenged to compost organic waste on Monday, January 23. What will next month's challenge be? Ugly Sweater Day on Friday, February 10, as we turn down the heat to reduce our carbon footprint.

2016 has been quite different. We can all agree that the integrity of the Board has never before been attacked with, in my opinion, such vexatious zeal.

Kermit the frog sings a song about how "it's not easy being green." Sometimes it's not easy being a trustee but there can be no other position that is as rewarding. It is an honour and a privilege to work with our stellar staff, dedicated parents and outstanding community members. There can be no greater reward than to be part of the success of our young people.

So as we face the ups and downs, the slings and arrows, the critics and champions of 2017, let's never lose our focus to *bring learning to life enabling students to fulfill their aspirations.*

The thought for the month comes from an unknown author who wrote: "*Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goals.*"

We can and must keep our eyes on our goals.

## **G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

### **1. Reports from Officials and Staff**

Special Education Advisory Committee minutes October 5, 2016 (official)  
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes November 2, 2016 (official)

### **2. Non-Staff Communications**

Letter from Janet McDougald, Chair, Peel DSB dated December 2, 2016  
Letter from André Bidel, Chair, Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-  
Ontario dated December 5, 2016  
Letter to Sharon Walker, SEAC Chair, Near North DSB dated Dec 19, 2016  
Letter to Minister Mitzie Hunter dated December 19, 2016  
Letter from Jean-Marc Aubin, chair of the Conseil scolaire public du  
Grand Nord de l'Ontario dated December 21, 2016

Chair Dewar asked Trustees to refer to the letter from Peel DSB regarding their concern with the implementation of an additional \$50 fee to students who wish to make changes to the OUAC applications beginning with this year's cohort of applicants.

Motion: 17-R32, D.Morrison/G.Fox

That the Rainbow District School Board join Peel District School Board in writing a letter to Dave Wallace, Executive Director, Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC) urging a reconsideration of the implementation of an additional \$50 fee for students who wish to make changes to their OUAC applications.

- **Carried.**

**H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Special Education Advisory Cmttee Feb 1, 2017 12:00 pm Confederation SS Room 1003  
Student Senate Meeting February 6, 2017 5:00 pm Boardroom  
Special Board Meeting February 7, 2017 6:00 pm Boardroom  
Board Meeting February 21, 2017 5:00 pm Boardroom  
First Nation Advisory Committee Feb 23, 2017 10:00 am N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre  
Parent Involvement Committee February 28, 2017 7:00 pm Boardroom

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 17-R33, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly  
That we now adjourn at 7:20 p.m. – **Carried.**

Official