

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

held electronically via Google Meet
and livestreamed from the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury
on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 5:35 p.m.

Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), B. Clement, L. Debassige, A. Gibson, J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly, D. Morrison, M. Stringer, Student Trustee C. Gauvreau
Absent: K. St. Jean
Officials: N. Blaseg – Director and Secretary of the Board
D. Bazinet - Superintendent of Business
B. Bourget, J. Noble, K. Wachnuk - Superintendents
N. Charette, H. Thirkill
Others: G. Gauthier, T. Hayes, N. Mousseau, Kerry Lynn Martel

Chair Dewar advised that the meeting was being live-streamed and archived.
Chair Dewar completed roll call to establish who was participating in the Google Meet Board meeting.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 20-R46, D.Morrison/L.Debassige

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of May 19, 2020 be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige – In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour
Student Trustee Colleen Gauvreau: In-favour

– Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. PRESENTATION

Superintendent Noble and Kerry-Lynn Martel (Computers in Education Co-ordinator K-12) provided details on Distance Learning in Rainbow Schools.

The presentation included information on the Framework K-8, Framework 9-12, Communication Platforms (Seesaw, Google Classroom), tools to support learning, synchronous and asynchronous learning and suggestions of how a parent/guardian can support student learning.

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

1. **Motion: 20-R47, D.Morrison/B.Clement**

That the Board ratify the tentative Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation of Ontario (OSSTF) teachers' provincial central agreement(s) as recommended by the Labour Relations Committee.

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige – In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: Opposed
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour
Student Trustee Colleen Gauvreau: In-favour

– Carried

2. **Motion: 20-R48, D.Morrison/J.Hunda**

That the Board ratify the tentative Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation of Ontario (OSSTF) education workers' provincial central agreements as recommended by the Labour Relations Committee.

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige – In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour
Student Trustee Colleen Gauvreau: In-favour

– Carried

3. **Motion: 20-R49, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly**

That the Board make OPSBA aware of the impact of central bargaining decisions on local bargaining and student success as recommended by the Labour Relations Committee.

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige – In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour
Student Trustee Colleen Gauvreau: In-favour

– Carried

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Previous Minutes**

a) **Motion: 20-R50, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly**

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 be approved.

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige – In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour
Student Trustee Colleen Gauvreau: In-favour

– Carried

b) **Motion: Motion: 20-R51, J.Kosmerly/M.Stringer**

That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 be approved.

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige – In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour
Student Trustee Colleen Gauvreau In-favour

– Carried

c) **Motion: 20-R52, J.Hunda/D.Morrison**

That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 be approved.

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige – In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour
Student Trustee Colleen Gauvreau: In-favour

– Carried

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

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

Special Education Plan 2020-2021

Motion: 20-R53, M.Stringer/J.Kosmerly

That the Special Education Plan 2020-2021 as recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) be approved.

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige – In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour

Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour
Student Trustee Colleen Gauvreau: In-favour

– **Carried**

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Pandemic Operational Update

Each superintendent provided an update from his/her portfolio:

Superintendent Noble spoke about assessment and evaluation, final report cards, kindergarten camp, Summer Learning Program, distance learning and credit recovery, summer co-op, summer e-learning opportunities and graduations. She also provided an update on a recent Student Senate meeting as well as the recent PIC meeting.

Superintendent Wachnuk spoke about the one-on-one support that Educational Assistants are providing, virtual IPRC meetings, virtual IEP meetings, Empower , Lexia, SEAC, summer programs for special education students, mental health and social workers.

Superintendent Bourget spoke about the new protocols for the on-line staffing process, adhering to staffing timelines, guidance of best practices for interviews via google meet, the local negotiation process as well as the health and safety protocols that have been put in place for distance learning.

Superintendent Bazinet provided an update on internet connectivity and devices loaned for over 2000 staff and students, the cost of this endeavour, information about childcare at Little Current PS, voluntary deployment offered to school board employees, transportation and capital construction projects.

Nicole Charette spoke about cancellations throughout the board such as the annual Board Awards, retirement dinner and the 50th anniversary of Manitoulin Secondary School. Nicole also highlighted the many distance learning resources that are on the board website.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions of the superintendents.

2. Short Term Borrowing Bylaw

Motion: 20-R54, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That the short term borrowing bylaw 2020-01 as attached be deemed to have been read three times and be approved.

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige – In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour

Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour
Student Trustee Colleen Gauvreau: In-favour

– Carried

3. **Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Update**

Superintendent Bazinet advised that GSN information from the Ministry of Education has been delayed. The board awaits access to EFIS (Education Finance Information System) to calculate revenues for the 2020-2021 school year. This delay will effect upcoming Board meeting dates scheduled to review and approved the Board Budget for 2020-2021.

4. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

Motion: 20-R55, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That Trustee K. St. Jean be granted a leave of absence from the May 19, 2020 Board meeting.

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige – In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour
Student Trustee Colleen Gauvreau: In-favour

– Carried

5. **Director's Remarks**

Administration Placements were announced:

Elementary:

Principal Pablo Gil-Alfau transferred to Levack PS effective August 17, 2020.

Secondary:

Vice Principal Carrie Wilson transferred to Chelmsford (CVDCS) effective August 17, 2020.

Vice Principal Darren Wilson transferred to Confederation SS effective August 17, 2020

Vice Principal Victoria Zymantas transferred to Lasalle SS effective August 17, 2020.

Over the past two weeks Director Blaseg met with all principals (47) via Google Meet. Administrators shared how proud they are of their staff commitment to making long distance learning work. The engagement from students is very high, ranging from 82% in kindergarten to 91% in grade 8. Secondary school percentages are

very similar; however, a number of schools are reporting senior level students working during the day. One principal estimated that as many as 80 students were working, some to replace frontline workers others to ensure the family has an income. Director has mixed feeling about this practice as it means students are more susceptible to COVID-19.

Continuity of Learning The vast majority of Rainbow teachers are using a hybrid of teaching platforms. Both synchronous and asynchronous models are being implemented. This format works best as it is much easier for families to modify routines so contacts between students and teachers and support staff are maximized.

Minister Lecce has announced that schools will remain closed until June 26. This announcement has triggered many considerations. Staff must review the Temporary Access Order as it relates to staff, childcare providers and the ability for staff and/or students to retrieve their possessions. Work continues with Public Health to ensure our protocols meet the desired threshold in order that our stakeholder's accessing our buildings is done in a compliant/safe manner.

Rainbow DSB is thankful to Better Beginnings and Better Futures (BBBF) for the donation of \$4100 to families via grocery gift cards. Forty-one schools were granted two \$50 gift cards each to distribute to families in need. Principals selected families and distributed gift cards.

The Director spoke about his pride in our executive staff. Their work and planning, since March 13th, has been outstanding. He was speaking about the superintendents, communications and our executive assistants. All have worked tirelessly to make our engagement with students and their families appear seamless. Thank you!

Itinerary

April 21	Labour Relations Meeting Board Meeting
April 22	Exec Council
April 23	Deputy Minister Teleconference Exec Council
April 24	Exec Council
April 28	Exec Council
April 30	Deputy Minister Teleconference Exec Council
May 1	PCODE Teleconference

- May 4 Google meet with school principals:
Manitoulin Secondary School
Little Current Public School
Central Manitoulin Public School
Assignack Public School
C.C. McLean Public school
- May 5 Exec Council
Google meet with school principals:
Espanola High School
A.B. Ellis Public School
S. Geiger Public School
- May 6 Agenda Setting
Google meet with school principals:
Monetville Public School
Markstay Public School
Adamsdale Public School
Churchill Public School
Cyril Varney Public School
- May 7 Deputy Minister Teleconference
Exec Council
Google meet with school principals:
Northeastern Elementary School
Carl A. Nesbitt Public School
Westmount Public School
Lasalle Secondary School
Lockerby Secondary School
- May 8 Google meet with school principals:
Redwood Acres Public School
C.R.Judd Public School
Valley View Public School
Confederation Secondary School
- May 11 Google meet with school principals:
Levack Public School
Larchwood Public School
Chelmsford Valley District Composite School
Chelmsford Public School
Exec Council
PCODE Teleconference
- May 12 Google meet with school principals:
R.H. Murray Public School
Walden Public School
Lively District Secondary School
Copper Cliff Public School

- May 13 Google meet with school principals:
Algonquin Road Public School
MacLeod Public School
Alexander Public School
Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School
Barrydowne College
R.L. Beattie Public School
Jean Hanson Public School
- May 14 Deputy Minister Teleconference
Exec Council
Google meet with school principals:
Princess Anne Public School
Sudbury Secondary School
Cecil Facer Secondary School
Queen Elizabeth Public School
Lansdowne Public School
- May 15 Google meet with school principals:
Principal of K-6 Programming
Principal of Special Education
Principal of 7-12 Programming
Principal of First Nations Programming
Seconded Principal with the Ministry of Education
- May 19 Exec Council
Labour Relations Meeting
Board Meetings

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Clement reported that he would be participating in an OPSBA teleconference on May 21 to vote on the OSSTF Collective Agreements on behalf of RDSB. He will be attending an OPSBA Directors’ meeting via teleconference on Saturday, May 23, 2020. Again he noted that northern boards have different needs and will speak at the meeting about this important matter once again.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Gauvreau advised that at the last Student Senate meeting held via google meet on Monday, May 4, student senators spoke about their experience with distance learning, both synchronous and asynchronous. Ava Lafrance from Confederation SS was chosen as the Student Trustee for the upcoming school year.

7. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Morrison spoke about the many unknowns to be faced when students return to the classroom such as how we will start up, social distancing and bussing.

Trustee Kosmerly advised that she attended PIC via google meet last week and commented that it was an excellent meeting. Parents shared personal thoughts about the struggles with distance learning. Kevin Cameron will speak at the PIC AGM scheduled for October 7, 2020.

Trustee Kosmerly recommended a new book titled *What to Say to Kids When Nothing Seems to Work: A Practical Guide for Parents and Caregivers* by Dr. Adele Lafrance and Dr. Ashley Miller.

Trustee Kosmerly advised of a new \$1000 scholarship through OPSBA for Northern Ontario students.

Trustee Stringer applauded all the hard work being done in the Rainbow Board for students and staff.

Trustee Stringer spoke about a letter, originally sent to SEAC, that she forwarded to trustees regarding the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE).

Motion: 20-R56, M.Stringer/D.Morrison

That the Board send a letter supporting the concerns addressed in the April 29, 2020 Nipissing Parry Sound Catholic DSB SEAC letter, with emphasis on geographical representation as recommended by Rainbow DSB SEAC.

Bob Clement: In-favour

Linda Debassige – In-favour

Doreen Dewar: In-favour

Anita Gibson: In-favour

Judy Hunda: In-favour

Judy Kosmerly: In-favour

Dena Morrison: In-favour

Kerrie St Jean: Absent

Margaret Stringer: In-favour

Student Trustee Colleen Gauvreau: In-favour

– Carried

Trustee Gibson was interested in the percentage of students that are bussed and she reiterated the challenge of social distancing on busses.

Trustee Gibson asked about tracking and signed approval of devices that were loaned to staff and students during the pandemic school closure period. Superintendent Bazinet explained that each school principal has managed the tagging, tracking and distribution of devices.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

On January 27, 2020, the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health identified the first presumptive confirmed case for the Wuhan novel coronavirus and life as we knew it changed forever.

On March 11, Public Health Sudbury & Districts confirmed the first positive Covid-19 case in the Sudbury and Manitoulin districts. The following day, all publicly funded

schools in Ontario were closed. Wisely and in the best interest of health and safety, schools have remained closed.

Just because the new normal is distance learning and the new slogan is *“learning together while safely apart”*, I’m happy to report that our vision of *“reaching minds and touching hearts”* continues.

A statement in an opinion piece in the Toronto Star on Thursday May 14 caught my eye. It said in part, *“Remote teaching during this pandemic will not replicate the classroom experience.”*

I repeat: *“Remote teaching during this pandemic will not replicate the classroom experience.”*

Why?

Because our classrooms provide the “leveling field” that so many of our students require. They *level* the playing field for all students within our catchment area. Our classrooms strive to fulfill the mantra *“What is necessary for some is good for all.”*

Congratulations to our students’ caregivers – moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles and in some cases, brothers and sisters, for working in partnership to keep students motivated and engaged. You have faced personal challenges on a daily basis while giving your ongoing support to students and staff and for that, we thank you.

Our staff also face daily personal challenges but they are doing a remarkable job of providing a variety of on-line learning experiences. The leadership of our administrators combined with the initiative of our staff, has resulted in the delivery of the best distance education possible.

And that education continues and will continue until we can open our classrooms to bring learning to life, enabling students to fulfill their aspirations.

Thought for the month comes from author, Joshua Marine who said: *“Challenges are what makes life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.”*

Thank you and stay safe.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
2. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Student Senate Meeting June 1, 2020 5:30 pm via Google Meet

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting June 9, 2020 5:00 pm via Google Meet

Board Meeting June 30, 2020 5:00 pm via Google Meet

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 20-R57, D.Morrison/B.Clement

That we now adjourn at 8:07 p.m. – **Carried.**

Official