

**RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

to be held electronically via Google Meet  
and livestreamed from the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom  
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive  
on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

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<b>AGENDA AND RECOMMENDED MOTIONS</b>
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**Roll Call**

- A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** \*Chair

Motion:

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of June 9, 2020 be approved.

- B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST** \*Chair

- C. PRESENTATIONS** \*Chair

Mental Health - Mary Jago, Mental Health Lead

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

- E. OLD BUSINESS** \*Director

- 1. Previous Minutes** \*Chair

Motion:

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 be approved.

- 2. Pandemic Operational Update** \*Director

- 3. Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Update** \*SBO

- 4. Tenders/Requests for Proposals** \*SBO

a) Motion:

That the Board award the contract for Lockerby Composite School, Lively District Secondary School, Northeastern Elementary School, building lockdown security system installation-tender #2020-06 to \_\_\_\_\_ for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

b) Motion:

That the Board award the contract for Alexander Public School, roof replacement and interior renovations-tender #2020-07 to \_\_\_\_\_ for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

5. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees** \*Chair
- F. **NEW BUSINESS** \*Chair
1. **Requests for Leave of Absence** \*Chair
- Motion:  
That \_\_\_\_\_ be granted a leave of absence from the June 9, 2020 Board meeting.
2. **Director's Remarks** \*Director
3. **Other Items** \*Chair  
OPSBA Director  
Student Trustee
4. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** \*Chair  
*Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.*
5. **Chairperson's Remarks** \*Chair
- G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** \*Chair
1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**  
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes November 6, 2019 (official)
2. **Non-Staff Communications**  
Letter to Minister of Education dated June 1, 2020 Re: MACSE
- H. **FUTURE MEETINGS** \*Chair  
Board Meeting June 30, 2020 5:00 pm via Google Meet  
Board Meeting September 1, 2020 5:00 pm
- I. **ADJOURNMENT** \*Chair
- Motion:  
That we do now adjourn at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.

**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.

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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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

Unofficial

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

**Wednesday, November 6, 2019**

**Time: 12:00 PM**

**Room 125 – Rainbow District School Board**

**Present:**

**SEAC Members:**

Kelly Lee Assinewe	N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre (Alternate)
Julie Contini	Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury
Natasha Delaney (Vice-Chair)	Autism Ontario – Sudbury Chapter
Judy Kosmerly	Trustee
Wendy Larouche (Chair)	Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury
Cereena Rows	FASD Consultant
Robert Silvestri	NOARC
Margaret Stringer	Trustee

**Staff:**

Colleen McDonald	Principal of Special Education Programs and Services
Joanne Taillon	Special Education Consultant

**Regrets:**

Julia Ritchie	CCR Parent Advisory/ Ontario Autism Coalition
Kathy Wachnuk	Superintendent
Daryl Walker	N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre

**Absent:**

**1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

Wendy welcomed everyone. All attendees introduced themselves.

**2.0 Establish Quorum of Voting Members**

Quorum was established.

**3.0 SEAC Mission Statement**

N.Delaney read the mission statement aloud.

**4.0 Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion 1:**

Moved by: N.Delaney

Seconded by: C.Rows

That the agenda for the SEAC meeting of November 6, 2019 be approved.

Motion carried.

**5.0 Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were noted.

**6.0 Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Motion 2:**

Moved by: Trustee Kosmerly

Seconded by: R.Silvestri

That the minutes of the SEAC meeting of October 2, 2019 be approved.

Motion carried.

**7.0 Business Arising**

Director Blaseg asked the SEAC for feedback regarding the partial bus cancelation (morning only) that occurred for the first time on Friday, November 1, 2019. SEAC feedback was positive.

**8.0 New Business**

Principal McDonald shared Power Point presentations featuring the Special Education Summer Programs that were offered this past summer.

The Summer Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Eight Rainbow students with Autism attended Princess Anne school for half days during the month of July. The focus of this summer program was on

communication, social skills, fine and gross motor skills. This program was staffed with an Occupational Therapist from the Children's Treatment Centre, an Educational Assistant and a Teacher.

#### The Summer Social Emotional Program

Two Social Emotional Programs took place at Jean Hanson Public School. Twelve students participated in the full-day programs. A high level of support and accommodations were offered. The focus was on skill building through cooperative learning opportunities and community excursions.

#### Special Education Student Achievement 2018-2019 Presentation

Principal McDonald shared a Power Point presentation explaining the 2018-2019 results for the following assessments:

Grade 3 and grade 6 Reading, Writing and Math (EQAO)

Grade 3 and grade 6 Reading, Writing and Math (EQAO)

Grade 9 Applied and Academic Math Assessments

Grade 10 OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test)

The presentation focussed on the results obtained by Rainbow students with special education needs. Comparisons between the Province and the Board were discussed along with trends over time.

#### Requests for Leaves of Absence

##### **Motion 3:**

Moved by: N.Delaney

Seconded by: C.Rows

That the SEAC approve the absences Julia Ritchie and Kathy Wachnuk from the November 6, 2019 SEAC meeting.

Motion carried.

### **9.0 Superintendent's Report**

Deferred

### **10.0 Special Education Staff Report**

Principal McDonald shared that Empower training will be offered to ten additional Rainbow Schools. Results continue to be impressive in the Learning Disability class at Northeastern and at schools where Empower is offered. The focus is on early intervention. The profile of a good Empower Program candidate was explained.

Lexia, Core 5 and Power Up are also used to assist in closing gaps in literacy.

### **11.0 Board Report**

Trustee Kosmerly and Trustee Stringer provided highlights from the most recent Board meeting. Updates on the Capital and Accommodation Plan were shared. The October 22, 2019 Board meeting also included a presentation on the Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Corrections Facilities. SEAC received this



presentation at a previous meeting. Trustee Kosmerly and Trustee Stringer look forward to attending the Ontario Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Special Education Conference. It will be held in Toronto on November 29-30, 2019.

## **12.0 Chairperson's Report**

The November 2019 LDOA Circular will be shared with SEAC members via email. Some of the topics covered in the circular include information regarding the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Right to Read public inquiry and changes to the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant.

## **13.0 Association Reports**

### Julie Contini (Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury)

November 1-7 is Canadian Down Syndrome Awareness Week. On Friday, the flag was raised. On Sunday, there was sunny weather for the annual Go21 walk.

### Cereena Rows (FASD Consultant)

The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) training sessions for parents continue. Good feedback has been received.

Cereena clarified eligibility criteria and wait times regarding the Intensive Support and Treatment Program available through Child & Community Resources (CCR).

### Natasha Delaney (Autism Ontario -Sudbury Chapter)

Past events:

September 19: Social Etiquette Workshop for Adults on the Spectrum

September 21: Adventure Smart: Hug a Tree presentation and Scavenger Hunt

September 22: Greater Sudbury Fire Services Main Station Tour and Meet and Greet

October 6: Greater Sudbury Fire Services Main Station Tour

October 19: Autumn Walk for Awareness Fundraiser. All funds raised support Youth and Adult programs.

October 25: Spooktacular Soirée with prizes for best costume

November 3: Greater Sudbury Fire Station Tour and Meet and Greet

Upcoming events:

November 23: Special Screening of Frozen 2 at Silver City

November 23: Yoga and Wellness Day at Lockerby School from 12:30 - 4:30 pm

December 8: Greater Sudbury Fire Station Tour and Meet and Greet

December 15: Wagon Wheel Ranch Sleigh Ride at 11am

**14.0 Correspondence Addressed to SEAC**

None

**14.0 Other Items/ Future Agenda Items/ Information Requests**

**15.0 Next Meeting Date**

Wednesday December 4, 2019 at noon in room 125 at the RDSB Board Office,  
408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury.

**16.0 Adjournment**

W. Larouche adjourned the meeting at 1:37 pm.

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June 1, 2020

Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
Mowat Block,  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

### **Re: Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)**

Honourable Stephen Lecce:

At its regular meeting on May 19, 2020, Rainbow District School Board endorsed a recommendation from its Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) calling for greater geographical representation on the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE).

Trustees unanimously approved the following motion:

**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.*

The letter from the Nipissing Parry Sound Catholic District School Board is attached for ease of reference. In supporting the concerns addressed in this letter, Rainbow District School Board joins with other school boards in Ontario who also recognize an inequity within the current model of representation.

MACSE plays an important role by providing ongoing information and guidance to school boards and Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs). With the growing number of students with special needs and complex profiles, it is essential that representative members be selected from each of the SEACs in the six Ministry of Education regional areas.

This approach would allow MACSE membership to be more representative of the varying geographical contexts across the province of Ontario. The student needs of school boards in the North differ from school boards in Southern parts of the province. Rainbow District School Board, for instance, covers Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island, which include many rural areas with limited services.

While requesting geographic representation, we continue to advocate for the current structure of MACSE that includes representation of the various exceptionalities. This remains essential, as these individuals bring vast knowledge and experience and offer

valuable input to MACSE. We are supporting the requests for geographic representation along with the representation of the various exceptionalities.

In addition, we respectfully request that consideration be made to host MACSE meetings in a virtual environment. Distance learning has taught us that this approach is not only possible, but desirable to ensure a more active provincial advisory council.

Virtual meetings would facilitate timely input to SEACs throughout the school year, which would have a positive impact on students. This approach would enable and encourage participation by those who recognize the value in being part of MACSE, but are unable to travel to face-to-face meetings. This would particularly be helpful in removing barriers of time and distance for representatives from the Northern regions of the province.

We hope you will give our suggestions favourable consideration, thereby making the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education an even stronger inclusive voice for students across Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doreen Dewar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Doreen Dewar  
Chair

cc: Wendy Larouche, Chair, RDSB SEAC  
Leo de Jourdan, Chair, Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic DSB  
Anna Marie Bitonti, Director of Education, Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic DSB  
Marie Derosier, NPSC SEAC Chair, Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic DSB  
Hon. Vic Fedeli, MPP – Nipissing