

**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 Wednesday, July 15, 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 July 15, 2020 be approved.
- B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST** \*Chair
- C. PRESENTATIONS NIL** \*Chair
- 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, June 9, 2020 be approved.
2. Pandemic Operational Update \*Director
3. Tenders/Requests for Proposals NIL \*SBO
4. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees NIL \*Chair
- F. NEW BUSINESS** \*Chair
1. 2020/21 Budget Presentation
2. Parent/Student/Staff Survey Results
3. September School Re-opening Plan (draft)
4. 2020-2021 Revised School Year Structure

Motion:

That the Board approve the *revised* 2020-2021 School Year Structure for elementary and secondary schools.

5. **Requests for Leave of Absence** \*Chair

Motion:

That \_\_\_\_\_ be granted a leave of absence from the July 15, 2020 Board meeting.

6. **Director's Remarks** \*Director

7. **Other Items** \*Chair

OPSBA Director  
Student Trustee

8. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** \*Chair

*Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.*

9. **Chairperson's Remarks** \*Chair

- G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** \*Chair

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Special Education Advisory Committee minutes May 13, 2020 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

Letter to OPSBA dated July 6, 2020

- H. **FUTURE MEETINGS** \*Chair

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting August 11, 2020 5:00 pm

Board Meeting August 18, 2020 5:00 pm

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, June 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

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Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), B. Clement, A. Gibson, J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly,  
D. Morrison, K. St. Jean, M. Stringer  
Absent: L. Debassige, Student Trustee C. Gauvreau  
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, N. Mousseau

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-R58, J.Kosmerly/K.St. Jean

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of June 9, 2020 be approved as amended. The amendment being the revision to the wording for item 4 b) motion to read “partial roof replacement”.

Poll vote

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

– Carried

**B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL**

**C. PRESENTATION**

Mary Jago, Mental Health Lead, spoke about supporting mentally healthy schools.

The presentation included: the vision for student mental health and well-being in Ontario, the strategy overview in Rainbow Schools, the key priorities, data from the mental health team and their work, how to access the mental health team, challenges, considerations, community service providers, plans for September, traumatic event

response and celebrations. A video produced by Rainbow's Mental Health team was viewed.

Trustees had the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

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

No meeting held. No report.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

Motion: 20-R59, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

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

Poll Vote

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

**– Carried**

**2. Pandemic Operational Update**

Director Blaseg and the Superintendents shared information with trustees on many items including student attendance during distance learning, feedback gathered from parents on what has worked well with distance learning and what has not worked as well, assessment and evaluation at the elementary and secondary levels, summer learning update (virtual), special education summer programs, mental health team, health and safety, human resources, transportation, deliveries to schools, communications, National Indigenous History Month and graduations.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

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

Superintendent Bazinet advised that GSN information from the Ministry of Education has been delayed. Also, access to EFIS (Education Finance Information System) is required in order to calculate revenues for the 2020-2021 school year. These delays will effect upcoming Board meeting dates scheduled to review and approve the Board Budget for 2020-2021.

4. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**

a) **Motion: 20-R60, J.Kosmerly/B.Clement**

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 Raw Group for \$313,796.

**Poll Vote**

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

**– Carried**

b) **Motion: 20-R61, D.Morrison/M.Stringer**

That the Board award the contract for Alexander Public School, partial roof replacement and interior renovations-tender #2020-07 to Proserpi Co. Ltd for \$247,900.

**Poll Vote**

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

**– Carried**

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

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

**Motion: 20-R62, J.Hunda/M.Stringer**

That Trustee L. Debassige and Student Trustee C. Gauvreau be granted a leave of absence from the June 9, 2020 Board meeting.

**Poll Vote**

*Bob Clement: In-favour  
Linda Debassige: Absent  
Doreen Dewar: In-favour  
Anita Gibson: In-favour  
Judy Hunda: In-favour  
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*

*Dena Morrison: In-favour*  
*Kerrie St Jean: In-favour*  
*Margaret Stringer: In-favour*  
*Student Trustee Colleen Gauvreau: Absent*

– **Carried**

## 2. **Director's Remarks**

Administration Placements were announced:

- Lindsay Bennett appointed as Acting Vice Principal of Valleyview Public School effective September 2, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
- Nicole Nicholas-Bayer appointed as Vice Principal of Manitoulin Secondary School Effective August 24, 2020.
- Dawn McCann appointed as acting Vice Principal of Manitoulin Secondary School effective September 2, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

**Ugliest School maintenance program** Approximately 20 schools in the Greater City of Sudbury are eligible to receive schoolyard maintenance. Previous winners of the award will be evaluated to see which sites require touch ups over the summer holidays. Funding for the project is provided by Glencore.

**Teachable moments** Review of current programming that is focussing on racism. Examples from elementary and secondary schools were presented.

### **Invitation for naming K to 12 school in Chelmsford**

The public that resides along the 144 corridor are being asked to submit ideas/suggestions for the naming of the K-12 school in Chelmsford.

**Childcare** The Ministry has indicated childcare will expand but we are waiting for details. We anticipate news on the expansion to happen at any time. Since the Ministry announcement earlier today we have been inundated with provider requests to access schools. We anticipate many childcare sites to open soon. Having said that, we understand access to each daycare has a maximum capacity of 10 children.

**Retrieval initiative** This was started on Wednesday, June 3 and continues until tomorrow. To date, 80 - 90 % of students have retrieved their belongings from their school.

**Face Shields** Northeastern Principal, Ron Hodkinson, produced 40 face shields for the system. We anticipate that PPE's for the September start up may include equipment such as these, especially for staff working with students that require close contact.

### **Report Cards and Devices.**

- Reminder - all report cards will be mailed home.
- Gr 12 students graduating will be expected to return any loaned devices prior to receiving their report card.
- All students leaving the board will be expected to return their loaned devices prior to receiving their report cards.

- This return procedure will span June 29 to July 3 and by appointment only.
- All other loaned devices will remain with students until the September start up.

**Itinerary:**

May 20 Google meet:  
 Manager of ABA  
 Chief Psychologist  
 Virtual meeting with Northeastern Elementary Teacher classroom

May 21 Teleconference – Deputy Ministry of Education  
 Exec Council

May 22 Google meet:  
 Mental Health Lead  
 Teleconference – Minister of Education

May 25 Google meet RE: Childcare  
 Superintendent Judy Nobel  
 System Principal Lesley Fisher  
 Google meet RE: ISP transitions  
 Superintendent Kathy Wachnuk  
 System Principal Colleen McDonald  
 ABA Manager Brien Managhan  
 Google Meet RE: Mental Health  
 Superintendent Kathy Wachnuk  
 Mental Health Lead Mary Jago  
 PCODE – teleconference

May 26 Exec Council

May 28 Teleconference – Deputy Ministry of Education  
 Exec Council  
 Teleconference Public Health

May 29 Exec Council  
 Directors meeting

June 1 Mental Health – Meeting  
 Minister of Education – Teleconference  
 PCODE – Teleconference

June 2 Exec Council

June 4 Deputy Minister of Education – Teleconference  
 Greening initiative (Wayne Hugli)

June 8 Review of CTC programming

Mental Health Review (COVID)  
Minister of Education Teleconference

June 9      Exec Council  
                 Board Meeting

3.      **Other Items**

OPSBA Director, Trustee Clement reported that he attended the OPSBA Directors' meeting via ZOOM on Saturday, May 23, 2020 with 64 other participants. He advised that GSNs were part of discussions but contract negotiations were not discussed.

Student Trustee – n/a

4.      **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Clement advised that on June 5, residents of Espanola and the surrounding area gathered at the Espanola town offices in a peaceful protest to support the world-wide movement 'Black Lives Matter'. He also advised that construction of the new French Language school in Espanola continues to be delayed. The new target date to have students attending classes in the building is January 2021.

Trustee Morrison thanked Director Blaseg for sharing information about all the planning that has taken place for Rainbow students and families.

Trustee St. Jean, who is the representative for the Blind and Low-vision Exceptionality on the the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) advised that she is in two days of virtual meetings. She spoke about a future meeting of the Accessibility Committee.

Trustee Hunda expressed interest in hearing more about the reopening of child care after the Ministry announcement earlier today.

5.      **Chairperson's Remarks**

I would like to provide a brief report on the teleconference that was held yesterday with the Minister of Education, Ministry staff and school board chairs across the province.

Phase 2 of re-opening begins this Friday, June 12 in Ontario.

The Minister is welcoming input on guidance for the safe return to school in September.

Schools need to be prepared for all potential scenarios.

Everything will be done with health and safety first and foremost.



The GSN's are close to being ready and will be out soon.

The importance of mental health and well-being will be reflected in the GSNs.

The province continues to invest in broadband and technology.

The Minister has invited Board Chairs to ask questions through the weekly Monday teleconferences. Questions must be submitted by the previous Thursday. If you have a question, please send it to me.

In closing, I want to say that Covid 19 has changed our lives ..... forever.

I never thought I would see another event that could or would impact society on a world-wide scale.

But I did. We all did.

Two weeks ago, yesterday, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd, an African-American man, died in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

As I watch the protests from my "covid 19 cocoon", there are realities that I have come to accept.

Systemic racism exists.

The first step to addressing systemic racism is to recognize that systemic racism exists.

Recognizing systemic racism can lead to lasting, meaningful change.

Lasting, meaningful change comes with education.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to our entire educational community who, by their very roles in our society, carry with them the hope for change during these difficult times.

## **G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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**

Board Meeting June 30, 2020 5:00 pm via Google Meet  
Board Meeting September 1, 2020 5:00 pm

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 20-R63, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That we now adjourn at 7:30 p.m. – **Carried.**

Unofficial

**RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OVERVIEW OF THE  
SCHOOL YEAR 2020/21 for  
Elementary and Secondary Schools**

**REVISED July 7, 2020**

1. **Structure of School Year**

Labour Day	September 7
First School Day (students)	September 8
Thanksgiving	October 12
Christmas Break	December 21 – January 1
Family Day	February 15
Mid Winter Break	March 15 – 19
Good Friday	April 2
Easter Monday	April 5
Victoria Day	May 24
Last School Day (students)	June 29
First Semester (secondary)	September 8 – February 4
Second Semester (secondary)	February 5 – June 29

2. **Professional Activity Days** (7 days)

September 1  
September 2  
September 3  
October 2  
November 23  
February 5  
April 19  
June 11

3. **Examination Days**

January 29 – February 4  
June 23 – 29

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

**Wednesday, May 13, 2020**

**Time: 12:00 PM**

**Held via Teleconference due to COVID-19**

**Present:**

**SEAC Members:**

Julie Contini	Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury
Luciano Contini	Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury
Natasha Delaney (Vice-Chair)	Autism Ontario – Sudbury Chapter
Doreen Dewar	Chair -Rainbow District School Board
Wendy Larouche (Chair)	Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury
Cereena Rows	FASD Consultant
Kerrie St.Jean	Trustee
Margaret Stringer	Trustee
Daryl Walker	N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre

**Staff:**

Karin Kozman	Manager of Finance
Colleen McDonald	Principal of Special Education Programs and Services
Joanne Taillon	Special Education Consultant
Kathy Wachnuk	Superintendent

**Regrets:**

Robert Silvestri	NOARC
Julia Ritchie	CCR Parent Advisory/ Ontario Autism Coalition

**1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

W.Larouche welcomed everyone.

**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:**

That the agenda for the SEAC meeting of May 13, 2020 be approved.

All in favour.

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:**

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

All in favour.

Motion carried.

**7.0 Business Arising**

**8.0 New Business**

Special Education Budget 2020-2021

Karin Kozman, Manager of Finance, highlighted the changes and shared the proposed special education revenue and expenditures for 2020-2021.

**Motion 3:**

Moved by: N.Delaney

Seconded by: D.Walker

That the SEAC recommend the proposed 2020-2021 special education budget be approved by the Board.

Motion carried.

Special Education Staffing 2020-2021

Superintendent Wachnuk shared the proposed special education staffing for 2020-2021 and highlighted changes.

**Motion 4:**

Moved by: D.Walker

Seconded by: N.Delaney

That the SEAC recommend the proposed 2020-2021 special education staffing be approved by the Board.

Motion carried.

Requests for Leaves of Absence

**Motion 5:**

Moved by: D.Walker

Seconded by: N.Delaney

That the SEAC approve the absences of Robert Silvestri and Julia Ritchie from the May 13, 2020 SEAC meeting.

Motion carried.

**9.0 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Wachnuk shared information regarding Distance Learning:

The academic focus remains on Literacy and Numeracy.

The Lexia Reading Program has been made available to all students.

Daily Empower Reading lessons are occurring virtually.

Chromebooks and other SEA equipment are now in the hands of the students.

IPRC and Preschool Transition Meetings are taking place virtually.

Social Workers continue to support the students on their caseloads.

The Board website has two phone numbers that parents can access for Mental Health support.

**10.0 Special Education Staff Report**

Principal McDonald shared that Special Education System Staff continue to meet weekly to provide updates on how they are connecting and supporting students, parents and school staff.

Empower Reading training has been offered virtually for teachers who need updates by the Sick Kids trainer

If required, virtual training for BMS Trainers (Behaviour Management System) will be offered in June.

## 11.0 Board Report

Trustee Stringer informed the SEAC that almost all of the collective agreements have been ratified. During COVID-19, communication at all levels is important. The student and teacher connections are impressive. Resources pertaining to at-home learning, mental health and COVID-10 are available on the Board website.

Trustee St.Jean added that, despite the circumstances and the learning curve, parents are coping well by supporting each other.

The next Board meeting will be held virtually on May 19, 2020.

## 12.0 Chairperson's Report

W. Larouche and the LDAS remain connected with families. The LDAO SEAC Circular will be shared with SEAC via email. Other information and resources are available on line. ([www.ldatschool.ca](http://www.ldatschool.ca) and [www.ldathome.ca](http://www.ldathome.ca))

## 13.0 Association Reports

### Wendy Larouche: LDA Sudbury

The office is closed but programs are running in virtual format. Virtual meetings are being held with parents and the community at large. Resources are shared with parents via email or by phone. Available to attend IPRC meetings upon request. Crafts with Crystal -every Monday and Friday from 1:00-2:00PM  
Journey To Success -every Tuesday and Thursday beginning at 10:00AM  
Let's Talk Tuesdays -every Tuesday from 11:00-11:45AM  
We are Not Alone -meet with parents one on one, virtually by appointment  
Let's Talk Science -every Wednesday in June at 11:00AM  
Lunch with Youth Ambassadors -Thursday in June at noon, join LDAS youth ambassadors for a virtual lunch.  
Facebook Fridays -posting of resources and general information

### Daryl Walker / Kelly Lee Assinewe: N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre

All 24+ Programs from NNFC continue to work from home with clients and community members via phone and email. NNFC started a Facebook page to keep in touch with community members and clients. It provides them with resources in the community, Traditional teachings, Cultural information along with information and the steps that NNFC is taking to keep safe. NNFC Alternative School continues to reach out to the students and provide them with school work. Tablets/Chromebooks were also provided. NNFC will cancel the June 21, 2020 Indigenous Day event at Bell Park, but will

reschedule an event for September 2020.

At this time, NNFC is unsure when the doors will open again.

Julie Contini: Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury

Connecting with families via email and Facebook.

Sharing resources with families and members.

The World Down Syndrome Day Pancake Breakfast needed to be cancelled.

Hoping to host another event over the summer.

Families are encouraged to gather over Zoom to keep members connected.

Cereena Rows: FASD Consultant

Supporting families remotely by delivering child, youth, and family-centered service to children and youth with FASD and/or suspected FASD and their families. The service is available for children/youth ages 0-18 and includes youth ages 18-21 who remain in school. A strengths-based support plan is developed. The support is provided using the neurobehavioral approach. System navigation is also provided. Information and training sessions via Zoom assist with building capacity with caregivers and within the community.

#### **14.0 Correspondence Addressed to SEAC**

April 29, 2020 SEAC Letter to Minister of Education from Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board

Trustee St.Jean shared that she sits on MACSE and reports that the Vice Chair position along with eleven other seats remain vacant. The next meeting will be held virtually.

Trustee Stringer shared the importance of geographic representation that includes both Community and Education partners to form a well-rounded group. Chair Dewar agrees that better representation is needed and that it is important to get people interested.

Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)

J.Contini and D.Walker asked about the purpose of the feedback information that MACSE (Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education) is collecting. (What are they doing with the information? Where is it going? What do they use it for?) It is recommended that the feedback information be sent to both Trustee St.Jean and Principal McDonald.

**Motion 6:**

Moved by: Trustee Stringer

Seconded by: N.Delaney

That the SEAC recommend to the Board to prepare a letter supporting the concerns addressed in the April 29, 2020 letter of the Nipissing Parry Sound Catholic District School Board, with emphasis on supporting geographical



representation.

As suggested by Chair Dewar, this letter would be addressed to the Ministry of Education and copied to others mentioned in the letter.

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

**16.0 Next Meeting Date**

The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2020 at 12:00 PM. It will be held virtually using Google Meet Video Conferencing. Principal McDonald will send out the invitations via email. The invitation will contain a link to connect to the meeting.

**17.0 Adjournment**

W. Larouche adjourned the meeting at 1:12 PM.



408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury, Ontario P3E 1P2 | Tel: 705.674.3171 | Toll Free: 1.888.421.2661 | [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca)

July 6, 2020

Cathy Abraham  
President  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association  
439 University Avenue, 18<sup>th</sup> floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 1Y8  
[President@opsba.org](mailto:President@opsba.org)

Dear Cathy Abraham:

On behalf of Rainbow District School Board, I would like to thank the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) for being a strong voice for public education.

We recognize that this past year, OPSBA worked diligently to represent us in negotiations at the provincial table. We appreciate your efforts and are pleased that central settlements were achieved.

The provincial settlements paved the way for us to engage in negotiations at the local level. We reached tentative agreements with our permanent teacher bargaining units prior to the end of the school year which puts us in good stead for the fall.

There is a clause in the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) central agreement, however, that will be, particularly problematic for Rainbow District School Board. We are referring to the default language on class size.

When Trustees ratified the central agreement with OSSTF at the regular meeting of the Board held on May 19, 2020, the following motion was approved:

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.*

Carried

The inclusion of this default language poses and will continue to pose significant challenges for Rainbow District School Board. The two-week timeline following central ratification was, quite simply, unreasonable.

As a result of the central agreement, the average class size in our secondary schools increases by two students. While this applies to all of our regular classrooms, the default language provides relief for only 10 per cent.

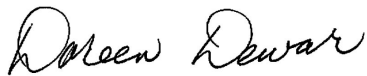
This will result in a reduction in electives, which will have a negative impact on the quality and scope of programs offered to students. There will be a direct effect on student success.

The adverse impact is much more pronounced in small schools and the definition of a small school is extremely different from board to board. A large school in the Rainbow Board may be considered small when compared to many school boards in Southern Ontario.

For these reasons, we are hereby requesting that OPSBA assist us in obtaining additional resources from the Ministry of Education for small schools so all students can have a good selection of course options.

It is also our sincere hope that OPSBA will refrain from including default language in central agreements going forward. While it may seem practical at the time, implementation is easier said than done.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doreen Dewar".

Doreen Dewar  
Chair

cc: Rusty Hick [RHick@opsba.org](mailto:RHick@opsba.org)  
School Board Chairs