

**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, August 18, 2020 at 5:20 p.m.

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Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), L. Debassige, B. Clement, A. Gibson, J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly, D. Morrison, K. St. Jean, M. Stringer  
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, C. Whitson  
Others: G. Gauthier, T. Hayes, S. Ackroyd, D. Digby, 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-R72, J.Hunda/D.Morrison

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of August 18, 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: In-favour*  
*Margaret Stringer: In-favour*

– Carried

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

**C. PRESENTATION**

Superintendent Noble provided a high level overview of the changes in the Math Curriculum from grade 1 to 8 being implemented in September.

Superintendent Noble addressed the rationale behind the updates, guiding principles, high impact instructional practices, key changes, assessment and evaluation and supports and professional learning resources.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

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

No report

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

Motion: 20-R73, J.Kosmerly/D.Morrison

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on July 15, 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: In-favour*

*Margaret Stringer: In-favour*

**– Carried**

**2. Capital Update**

Superintendent Bazinet shared information with trustees regarding the on-going capital projects.

Sandi Ackroyd, Manager of Capital Planning, spoke about individual projects at Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, Lasalle Secondary School, Espanola High School, S. Geiger Public School, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, Churchill Public School, Manitoulin Secondary School and the new French Immersion elementary school as well as the dome located on the Lasalle Secondary School site.

Superintendent Bazinet shared information about the Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School revitalization project.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

**3. Tenders/Requests for Proposals**

Motion: 20-R74, B.Clement/D.Morrison

That the Board award the contract for Broadband Internet Services – RFP 2020-08, as follows:

To Eastlink – 33 locations

To Vianet – 13 locations.

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: In-favour*  
*Margaret Stringer: In-favour*

– Carried

#### 4. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees**

##### a) **2020/2021 Budget**

Motion: 20-R75, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly

That the Rainbow District School Board 2020/2021 budget be approved.

##### Poll Vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*Doreen Dewar: In-favour*  
*Anita Gibson: Opposed*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Dena Morrison: In-favour*  
*Kerrie St Jean: In-favour*  
*Margaret Stringer: In-favour*

– Carried

##### b) **September School Reopening**

Director Blaseg provided a detailed update on the fall return to class for Rainbow students, balancing health and safety with student success that met the approval of the Ministry of Education.

Trustees shared their appreciation for the hard work that has been done by staff to secure a safe reopening plan for Rainbow students and staff.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

Motion 20-R76, M.Stringer/J.Kosmerly

Be it resolved that all students K-12 in Rainbow Schools wear masks at school.

Motion 20-R77, M.Stringer/D.Morrison

That Motion 20-R76 be deferred to the September 1, 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*

**– Carried**

Motion 20-R78, M.Stringer/J.Kosmerly

That the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education to advise of our deep concern that its planning for re-opening schools in September does not adequately provide for a safe re-opening as recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee.

Amendment A20-R01, M.Stringer/B.Clement

That Motion 20-R78 be amended by the removal of, “.....does not adequately provide for a safe re-opening as recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee” and the addition of .... “*has placed challenging expectations on Boards in regard to optimal physical distancing in classrooms and on buses, and to request that the Minister provide additional new funding to achieve these expectations*”.

Poll Vote

*Bob Clement: Abstained*

*Linda Debassige: Absent*

*Doreen Dewar: Opposed*

*Anita Gibson: Opposed*

*Judy Hunda: Opposed*

*Judy Kosmerly: Opposed*

*Dena Morrison: Opposed*

*Kerrie St Jean: Opposed*

*Margaret Stringer: In-favour*

**– Defeated**

Amendment A20-R02, M.Stringer/D.Morrison

That Motion 20-R78 be amended by the removal of, “.....does not adequately provide for a safe re-opening as recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee” and the addition of “..... *has placed challenging expectations on Boards in regards to optimal physical distancing in classrooms and on buses*”.

Poll Vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour*

*Linda Debassige: Absent*

*Doreen Dewar: In-favour*

*Anita Gibson: Opposed*

*Judy Hunda: In-favour*

*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*

*Dena Morrison: In-favour*

*Kerrie St Jean: In-favour*

*Margaret Stringer: In-favour*

**– Carried**

Motion 20-R78, M.Stringer/J.Kosmerly

That the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education to advise of our deep concern that its plan for reopening schools in September has placed challenging expectations on boards in regards to optimal physical distancing in classrooms and on buses.

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*

– **Carried**

**Motion 20-R79, M.Stringer/D.Morrison**

That the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education to urgently request that Rainbow DSB be made a designated Board as recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee.

**Poll Vote**

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

– **Defeated**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

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

**2. Director's Remarks**

Director Blaseg advised that there are currently 230 students registered for the summer Kindergarten camp scheduled for August 24 to 28, 2020 and 72 students registered for the Transition program also scheduled for August 24 to 28, 2020.

**Itinerary**

July 16	Local Coterminous Boards Google Meet Deputy Minister Teleconference with CODE North East Regional Google Meet NSI – Google meet FNAC portfolio meeting
July 17	CODE teleconference RDPC meeting OPC meeting
July 20	CODE teleconference
July 21	OPC meeting

July 22	Executive Council
July 23	Deputy Minister Teleconference Local Coterminous Boards Google Meet
July 27	CODE teleconference
July 28	Executive Council Assistant Deputy Ministry Teleconference
July 29	FNAC teleconference School Visit – Lasalle Secondary School
July 30	Local Coterminous Boards Google Meet Deputy Minister Teleconference with CODE North East Regional Google Meet Minister of Education teleconference
August 3	Assistant Deputy Minister Teleconference
August 4	Executive Council Agenda Setting Minister of Education Teleconference CODE teleconference
August 5	Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation Teleconference
August 6	Deputy Minister Teleconference with CODE Local Coterminous Boards Google Meet North East Regional Google Meet
August 10	Executive Council
August 11	Executive Council Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
August 12	Agenda Setting
August 13	Deputy Minister Teleconference with CODE North East Regional Google Meet Wahnapiatae First Nation Teleconference
August 17	FNAC Minister of Education Teleconference CODE teleconference
August 18	Exec Council Board Meeting

3. **Other Items** NIL

4. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

**Motion 20-R80, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda**

That the Board write to the Ministry of Education to express its grave concern that boards use reserve funds to enhance physical distancing and improve air quality.

**Poll Vote**

*Bob Clement: Absent*  
*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*

**– Carried unanimously**

5. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Yesterday, I was able to attend another teleconference with the chairs of school boards, Minister Lecce and his staff. I signed in to indicate that I had a question but once again, question period ended before I was recognized. Six different Boards were allowed multiple questions. Concerns included requests for more time, requests for more staff, and requests for more funds. The answers called on Boards to be creative.

So we must never forget the fact that Rainbow District School Board has been mandated to implement the Ontario Ministry of Education's plan to open schools in September. If we were to make our own plan, it might look very different.

In a news item by Sara McCleary published in the Sault newspaper on August 10, she said: "The Ontario government recently announced plans for getting kids back into classrooms next month. The plan has been heavily criticized since, and rightly so, given its many flaws. Nevertheless, I'm going to make a plea to everybody out there on behalf of all of the stressed out parents feeling the same as me: please stop bashing the plan on social media."

Later she goes on to say: "I can only imagine how those parents with no choice but to send their kids feel when they see those posts."

Then she suggests the following: "If they know they have to send their kids, offer them reassurance, help them come up with ideas about how to prepare their kids for school...."

And I would like to add, your school will do everything it possibly can to keep your children – our students – safe. From providing barrels of cleaning products to making use of outdoor spaces and every available indoor space. We all want the same thing and we're willing to work for it.

The saying about needing a village to raise a child has never been truer than NOW. We are very fortunate in that the rate of known cases in Sudbury, Manitoulin Island and Espanola is extremely low.

Our entire community needs to commit to keeping it that way.

Our public health units are poised to assist any way they can, parents and guardians will provide monitoring to ensure their children are healthy before attending school and our staff will protect themselves in order to protect their students.

This is not ideal but then having a world-wide pandemic is so-o-o not ideal.

Thank you and stay safe.

**G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

**H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Board Meeting September 1, 2020 5:00 pm

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting September 15, 2020 5:00 pm

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 20-R81, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That we now adjourn at 8:20 p.m. – **Carried.**