

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 Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 5:05 p.m.

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

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-R64, B.Clement/J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of July 15, 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: In-favour

– Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. PRESENTATION NIL

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

1. Motion: 20-R65, D.Morrison/M.Stringer

That the Board ratify the tentative local (permanent teachers) agreement between the Rainbow District School Board and the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario Rainbow Local as recommended by the Labour Relations Committee.

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: In-favour

– Carried

2. Motion: 20-R66, D.Morrison/K.St.Jean

That the Board ratify the tentative local agreement between the Rainbow District School Board and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, the Teachers' Bargaining unit, District 3 as recommended by the Labour Relations Committee.

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: In-favour

– Carried

3. Motion: 20-R67, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That the Board approve the changes to the terms and conditions of employment for non-unionized employees as recommended by the Labour Relations Committee.

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: In-favour

– Carried

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 20-R68, J.Kosmerly/K.St.Jean

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 9, 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: In-favour

– Carried

2. **Pandemic Operational Update**

Director Blaseg and the Superintendents shared information with trustees on many items including: distance learning survey results, distance learning final attendance, Special Education resources, the mental health team, summer psychoeducation assessments and speech and language assessments, staffing update, negotiating update, health and safety protocols, transportation, student devices, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), letters to parents sent during the month of June, feature stories created to showcase staff and student learning together while safely apart, a tribute to the Class of 2020, the Guide for Students and Parents, summer school registration update, Special Education summer program, summer mental health services and programs, communication and collaboration with Ministry of Education and other Boards and important dates for the next few weeks.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

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

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

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **2020/21 Budget Presentation**

Superintendent Bazinet provided line-by-line clarification of the distributed 2020/2021 budget presentation.

Superintendent Bazinet advised that the changes to the dates originally outlined in the Budget Development Process that was presented at the November 19, 2019 Board Meeting are due to the late release of the GSNs and the technical papers by the Ministry of Education.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

Trustees thanked Superintendent Bazinet and the entire central services staff for the comprehensive 2020/2021 budget presentation.

Trustees were encouraged to submit questions by email to Heather Thirkill prior to the August 11 Strategic Planning Committee meeting.

2. Parent/Student/Staff Survey Results

Superintendent Noble shared feedback from surveys that were completed online by parents, students and staff between June 22 and June 30, 2020.

Parents, students and staff provided valuable information regarding returning to school, riding a bus, successes and concerns with distance learning, concerns with a possible COVID outbreak, precautions and safety measures in place as well as mental health concerns.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

3. September School Re-opening Plan (draft)

Director Blaseg provided information regarding Ministry expectations regarding schools opening in September.

Rainbow DSB has gathered stakeholder input from more than 4100 responses to surveys, Public Health, Sudbury Student Consortium, coterminous boards and the federations when creating plans for return to school. Top priority is always the health and safety of staff and students.

Director Blaseg explained the Ministry has requested that board create models to be shared and approved by Ministry staff during the last week of July. The Ministry of Education is scheduled to make an announcement regarding return to school for the province on August 4, 2020.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

4. 2020-2021 Revised School Year Structure

Motion: 20-R69, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

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

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. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

Motion: 20-R70, J.Hunda/D.Morrison

That Trustee L. Debassige be granted a leave of absence from the July 15, 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

6. **Director's Remarks**

Director Blaseg provide an update on Summer Program registrations:

- Secondary schools 325 students
- CODE Summer Learning Program grades 1-8 105 students.
- Special Education Summer programming 140 students

Social work support will continue during summer months. Nine social workers, on a rotating schedule, will support the system throughout during July and August.

Transition and Kindergarten camps will be offered during the last two weeks of August. This will prepare students with significant special needs and orient students for entry to school on September 8.

Director Blaseg has continuous contact with the Ministry of Education and coterminous boards. There are also weekly tele-conferences with the Deputy Minister. Updates are focused on the pandemic and the prospects of returning to school in September. To date, there have been several google meetings with coterminous boards (along with Huron Superior Catholic DSB for transportation reasons) to brainstorm ideas about reopening of schools.

Rainbow DSB administration will consult with the minister about our plan during the week of July 27. The Minister of Education will announce the provincial plan on August 4.

Note:

- We are under a time crunch for organizing transportation.
(Typically, it takes 6 weeks to organize)
- Sept 1, 2 and 3 are PD days
- School is still scheduled to begin Tuesday, Sept 8.

As soon as we know what the parameters are for September reopening we will inform trustees and the community.

Director Blaseg thanked trustees, parents, students and staff for their patience and collective courage in meeting the demands and challenges forced upon us over the last several months. Providing the best possible education, implementing Public Health protocols to maintain health and safety and providing tools to work daily under a pandemic environment has been our number one priority.

Going forward there are many hurdles to overcome but each and every person associated with this crisis has the same end game in mind: return to normal operations with the health and safety of all as the most important consideration.

Director Blaseg thanked all for ongoing support as it has been thoughtful and appreciated.

Itinerary

June 10	Agenda Setting
June 11	FNAC
June 12	Exec Council
June 15	P.A. Day CODE
June 16	Exec Council School Visit, Chelmsford VDCS
June 17	Directors meeting
June 18	Ministry of Education – Deputy Minister teleconference Exec Council
June 19	School visit Manitoulin SS visit With Trustee Debassige
June 25	Ministry of Education – Deputy Minister teleconference Exec Council
June 29	Minister of Education - teleconference Exec Council
July 6	Agenda Setting
July 7	Google meet – Local Boards Exec Council
July 8	Google meet – Regional Boards

July 14 Exec Council
 Labour Relations Committee Meeting

July 15 Board Meeting

7. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director, Trustee Clement reported that he attended the OPSBA Directors' meeting via ZOOM on July 10, 2020. He advised that safe re-opening of schools was the main topic of conversation.

Student Trustee – n/a

8. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Morrison commented on re-opening plans for sport, band, choir, vocal, etc. during these uncertain times.

Trustee Kosmerly commented that she felt more reassured about the re-opening after hearing the plans that are being considered.

9 **Chairperson's Remarks**

We must all remain vigilant to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The thought for the month comes from Franklin D. Roosevelt who said
"When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot, and hang on."

Thank you

G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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**

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**

Motion: 20-R71, D.Morrison/M.Stringer

That we now adjourn at 8:30 p.m. – **Carried.**