

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

to be held electronically via Google Meet  
in the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom  
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive  
on Tuesday, December 8, 2020  
at the conclusion of the Organizational Board Meeting

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<b>AGENDA AND RECOMMENDED MOTIONS</b>
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**A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

\*Chair

Motion:

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of December 8, 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, November 17 2020 be approved.

**2. Tenders/Requests for Proposals**

\*SBO

**a) Motion:**

That the Board award the contract for Jean Hanson Public School, window replacement and interior renovations-tender #2021-01 to \_\_\_\_\_ for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**b) Motion:**

That the Board award the contract for Lansdowne Public School, entrance upgrades and interior renovations-tender #2021-02 to \_\_\_\_\_ for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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

Audit Committee

i) Audit Committee Annual Report \*Chair AC

ii) 2019/20 Financial Statements \*SBO

Motion:

That the 2019/20 Financial Statements be approved.

F. **NEW BUSINESS** \*Chair

1. **Rainbow International COVID-19 Update**

Motion:

That the Board approve the K-12 Designated Learning Institutions (DLI) Framework to ensure readiness to accept international students in Rainbow Schools.

2. **Director's Annual Report** \*Director

3. **Intensive Program in Human Rights for School Board Leaders** \*Chair

Motion:

That the Board approve the attendance of the following trustees at the *Intensive Human Rights Program for School Board Leaders* to be held via video conference at specified dates during December 2020 and January 2021.

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

Motion:

That \_\_\_\_\_ be granted a leave of absence from the December 8, 2020 Board meeting.

5. **Director's Remarks** \*Director

6. **Other Items** \*Chair

OPSBA Director  
Student Trustee

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

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

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

**G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

\*Chair

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Parent Involvement Committee minutes May 12, 2020 (official)

Parent Involvement Committee AGM minutes Oct 20, 2020 (official)

Special Education Advisory Committee minutes November 4, 2020 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

**H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

\*Chair

Student Senate Meeting January 4, 2021 5:00 pm

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting January 5, 2021 7:00 pm

Special Education Advisory Committee January 6, 2021 12:00 pm

Environmental Education Committee Meeting January 6, 2021 3:30 pm

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting January 12, 2021 5:00 pm Boardroom

School Year Calendar Meeting January 13, 2021 3:00 PM Boardroom

Board Meeting January 26, 2021 5:00 pm Boardroom

Equity & Inclusion Education Committee February 11, 2021 4:00 pm

First Nation Advisory Committee February 18, 2021 10:00 am

**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, November 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

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Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), A. Gibson, J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly, D. Morrison,  
K. St. Jean, M. Stringer, Student Trustee Lafrance  
Absent: B. Clement, 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, C. Whitson  
Others: D. Kitching, T. Hayes, C. McDonald, M. McKelvey

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

**A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: 20-R106, J.Hunda/M.Stringer

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of November 17, 2020 be approved.

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

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

**C. PRESENTATION**

Fred Yackman (Co-chair of Save A.B. Ellis Committee and Director of Rainbow Community District Non-Profit Corporation) provided trustees with a history of the former A.B. Ellis PS and their vision for the future of this building.

Trustees were provided with backup documents and had the opportunity to ask clarifying questions of the ten-minute presentation.

**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-R107, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 27, 2020 be approved.

Poll Vote

*Bob Clement: Absent*  
*Linda Debassige: Absent*  
*Doreen Dewar: Absent*  
*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. 2020-2021 School Year Update**

Director Blaseg provided a detailed update on the 2020-2021 school year, including a chronology of events since the October 27 Board Meeting. The presentation included information on Ministry memos, protocols for the safe use of lockers, remote learning during inclement weather, our close working relationship with Public Health Sudbury and Districts as well as an update of the positive COVID cases at Lasalle SS, Northeastern Elementary School and the YMCA daycare located in Markstay PS.

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

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

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Honorarium for Trustees 2020/2021**

Superintendent Bazinet provided details about the Honorarium for Trustees spreadsheet.

**2. Trustee Expenditures 2019/2020**

Superintendent of Business Bazinet explained the details on the Trustee Expenses spreadsheet.

3. **Insurance Renewal**

Superintendent of Business Bazinet provided a report on the cost of insurance, referring to the documents included with the agenda.

Motion: 20-R108, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That the 2021 Renewal of Insurance for liability, property, crime and fleet automobile with the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange for \$282,762.04 be approved.

**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**

4. **Budget Development Process**

Motion: 20-R109, J.Hunda/D.Morrison

That the 2021-22 Budget Development Process be approved.

**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**

5. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

Motion: 20-R110, M.Stringer/K.St.Jean

That Bob Clement and Linda Debassige be granted leaves of absence from the November 17, 2020 Board meeting.

**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*

6. **Director's Remarks**

Director Blaseg reminded everyone that the flu shot is every bit as important as it always has been and encouraged everyone to get it. Secondly, Director reminded that it is imperative that we all reinforce Public Health messaging as it relates to all COVID interventions.

Director thanked all schools for holding Remembrance Day ceremonies and noted how remarkable it is that we are finding unique ways to acknowledge special dates and traditions. As the holiday season approaches, we will continue to encourage our staff /students /parents and community stakeholders to somehow reach out to those who are less fortunate. Today Director Blaseg advised schools that they could hold virtual fundraisers, with conditions, so they could carry on holiday traditions. We look forward to schools holding online or virtual events to celebrate awards, concerts and/or other special events. Director Blaseg is so proud of all staff and their collective efforts to make this year as normal as possible.

Director Blaseg thanked trustees for participating in virtual graduation/award ceremonies by sending recorded messages of congratulations.

**Itinerary**

October 28, 2020	Agenda Setting
October 29, 2020	Deputy Minister teleconference
October 30, 2020	Public Health (4 local Boards) Teleconference
November 3, 2020	Exec Council Safe Schools Meeting
November 4, 2020	Agenda Setting Minister of Education teleconference
November 5, 2020	Deputy Minister teleconference School Visit – Churchill P.S.
November 6, 2020	Public Health (4 local Boards) Teleconference Manitoulin Secondary School visit – Opening new wing
November 9, 2020	ETFO meeting Minister of Education teleconference
November 10, 2020	Exec Council United Way Meeting
November 11, 2020	Remembrance Day ceremony

## Interviews (Finance)

November 12, 2020	Deputy Minister Teleconference School/Site Visits - Lasalle SS and Chelmsford VDCS
November 13, 2020	Public Health (4 local Boards) Teleconference S.O. meetings
November 16, 2020	Agenda setting Minister of Education Teleconference S.O. meeting
November 17, 2020	Exec Council Board meeting

### 7. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – NIL

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Lafrance provided trustees with an update on the recent work of the Student Senate Committee. She reported that the students are working on the end-of-year virtual conference with the topic being “*Equity*”. Student Senators are putting together a survey for students to complete to gather feedback about equity in Rainbow Schools.

### 8. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Gibson asked for clarification about electronic Board Meetings, whether the current meeting formats would continue for the remainder of the school year, including the upcoming Organizational Meeting of the Board. Director advised meetings would continue electronically as per Ministry of Education and that more information about the Organizational Board meeting would be provided at the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

Trustee Morrison commended staff for work being done when a positive COVID case is confirmed by Public Health in a Rainbow school. Trustee Morrison shared information around the Northeastern case, which was the first incident involving transportation. She commented on the confidentiality of Public Health.

### 9. **Chairperson’s Remarks**

Students and staff went paperless in support of World Paper Free Day on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. This green initiative challenged schools to create 21<sup>st</sup> century paperless classrooms by avoiding the use of printers, photocopiers, hard copy reading materials, and paper-based assignments for the day.

Students and staff in Rainbow Schools walked in harmony wearing their favourite moccasins in celebration of Rock Your Mocs Day on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a global movement, now in its ninth year, celebrated annually on November 15<sup>th</sup>.



Before I draw your attention to some of the up-coming activities that will be taking place in and around our schools, I would like to point out that each and every activity, each and every month, occurs solely on the basis of the efforts of our RDSB staff. And while I am pleased to announce some of our Board-wide events, please know that each and every school is a hive of activities, too numerous to mention, but all aimed directly at student well-being and achievement.

So, to all administrators, educators and support staff, on behalf of the members of the Board, "Thank you!"

### **Circle your Calendars:**

"Life Interrupted: A Pathway Toward Resilience and Growth" will air on Eastlink channel 10 or 610 on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. Presented by the Rainbow District School Board's Mental Health Team, Life Interrupted supports parents/guardians as their children transition back to school whether learning in person or online.

Participants will explore "thought jars" and the many benefits of practising mindfulness, as well as gain strategies for talking and listening to children while navigating the potential grief and loss they may experience during a pandemic.

A friendly reminder that you can drop off gently used winter clothing items in support of The Winter Clothing Drive powered by Cooper Equipment Rentals at the Sudbury Women's Centre, Pregnancy Care Centre & Infant Food Bank and Better Beginnings, Better Futures.

As always, parents are reminded to use the school screening tool for COVID-19 as part of your morning routine. A link to the school screening tool is available on the Board's website.

Once again, this month I have chosen two quotes to share with you. They are about coping and they go hand in hand. The first is from author, producer Geraldine Soloy who said: "May your life be filled, as mine has been, with love and laughter; and remember, when things are rough all you need is ... Chocolate."

The second quote comes from an anonymous source. Quote: "Chocolate comes from cocoa, which is a tree. That makes it a plant... so chocolate is a salad."

Please refer to previous quote.

Thank you and stay safe.

## **G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

### **1. Reports from Officials and Staff**

Equity and Inclusive Education Committee Minutes November 7, 2019 (official)

Environmental Education Committee Minutes November 20, 2019 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

First Nation Advisory Committee November 19, 2020 10:00 am  
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting November 24, 2020 5:00 pm Boardroom  
Parent Involvement Committee Meeting December 1, 2020 7:00 pm  
Special Education Advisory Committee December 2, 2020 12:00 pm  
Audit Committee Meeting December 7, 2020 3:00 pm  
Student Senate Meeting December 7, 2020 5:00 pm  
Board Meeting (organizational) December 8, 2020 5:00 pm Boardroom  
Equity & Inclusion Education Committee February 11, 2021 4:00 pm

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 20-R111, D.Morrison/K.St.Jean

That we now adjourn at 6:14 p.m. – **Carried.**



# Intensive Human Rights Program for School Board Leaders

This program is designed to provide school board leaders with a foundational understanding of human rights standards and equity relevant to Ontario's publicly funded school boards.

The program will cover the principles of Ontario's Human Rights Code, with a focus on addressing systemic inequality. Each session features a keynote lecture delivered by a respected human rights expert and facilitated small group discussions of case studies professionally designed to help integrate a human rights and equity-based approach to your responsibilities as school board leaders.

This program will consist of two half-day sessions, and each half-day session will be offered on several dates. Note that some sessions will contain content specific to Catholic boards.

Participants will receive a certificate of completion after completing both parts of the program.

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## PROGRAM

Developed in Consultation w/ OPSBA, Public Board Council of OSTA-AECO	Developed in Consultation w/ OCSTA, Catholic Board Council of OSTA-AECO
Part 1 offered on: Wed, December 16, 8:30am – 12:00pm Mon, January 25, 5:30 – 9:00pm	Part 1 offered on: Fri, January 15, 8:30am – 12:30pm
Welcome and program overview Land acknowledgment and facilitated exercise	Opening prayer Welcome and program overview Land acknowledgment and facilitated exercise
Part A: Perspectives on students' experiences of discrimination and systemic inequities  Part B: Public Board Council, Ontario Student Trustees' Association	Part A: Perspectives on students' experiences of discrimination and systemic inequities  Part B: Catholic Board Council, Ontario Student Trustees' Association presentation
Pastoral address	
Speaker: <i>Njeri Sojourner-Campbell, Hicks Morley Hamilton Stewart Storie LLP</i> "Principled Leadership: School Board Leaders, Anti-Black Racism, and the <i>Ontario Human Rights Code</i> "	
Case studies – discussion in facilitated small groups	
Wrap-up and evaluation	
<b>Part 2 dates TBD</b>	
Welcome and program overview Land acknowledgment	
Lecture: Indigenous rights and legal issues that arise in relation to anti-Indigenous racism  Panel: Indigenous and racialized Trustees' perspectives on combatting racism and systemic inequities	
Case studies – discussion in facilitated small groups	
Wrap-up and evaluation form	

# Registration Process

Note: This program is offered in two parts. Part 1 session dates and registration are available now. You will be notified when session dates and registration are available for Part 2.

## **STEP ONE:**

- Request registration access: [Click here](#)

## **STEP TWO:**

- You will receive an email with a link to the Program Page. This is where you will select the sessions you will attend.
- Please select ONE of the available Part 1 sessions.

- **Part 1 - OPTION 1:**  
December 16<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 am – 12:00pm/ET

- **Part 1 - OPTION 2:**  
January 15<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 am – 12:30pm/ET

- **Part 1 - OPTION 3:**  
January 25<sup>th</sup> – 5:30pm – 9:00 pm/ET

Developed in consultation with **OCSTA and the Catholic Board Council of OSTA-AECO**

Developed in consultation with **OPSBA and the Public Board Council of OSTA-AECO**

- Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis – register early to secure your place
- Each session is capped; only sessions with availability will show
- Registration will close 5 business days prior to each session date

## **Invoice Process:**

Each Board will be charged as follows:

- **Program Fee:** \$379 + HST /per person
  - this cost **includes participation** in both **Part 1 and Part 2**
- Osgoode Professional Development will generate an invoice for each Board, based on their number of registered attendees.
- *Invoices will be sent after all Part 1 sessions have been completed.*

## **Cancellations:**

- If a participant has to change sessions or cancel, they can so without penalty as long as the request is received by OPD no later than 5 business days prior to the program date.

## **Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7 pm  
Via Google Meet

### **Attendance**

#### **Sudbury site:**

Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Angelina Kasunich, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Allison Andlar, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Sara Pidgen, ETFO representative; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Espanola High School; Dan Koziar, Principal, Princess Anne Public School; Doreen Dewar, Board Chair; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee; Melanie Bertrand, Vice-Principal, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Kerry-Lynn Martel, Computers in Education Consultant; Norm Blaseg, Director of Education; Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

#### **Espanola Site:**

N/A

#### **Manitoulin Site:**

N/A

### **Call to Order: 7 pm**

#### **1. Welcome**

Chair Allison Andler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **2. Self-Introductions**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held via Google Meet.

#### **3. Distance Learning During the Pandemic**

##### **Computers in Education Consultant Kerry-Lynn Martel and Superintendent Judy Noble**

Rainbow District School Board rolled out its teacher-led Distance Learning Plan on April 6, 2020 as schools remained closed due to COVID-19. Teachers, students and parents/guardians adjusted to a new way of living and learning. Superintendent Judy Noble indicated that the Board worked quickly to safely deliver just over 2,000 devices to students. Approximately 130 families received Internet through Eastlink or cell phones provided by the Board in order to access data via hotspot. Some students are learning through paper packages being delivered to homes and assignments being returned to teachers following Public Health guidance. A number of students have joined frontline workers to support families financially or contribute to the greater good during the

pandemic. Support continues to be provided to students and families on academics and wellness, with a strong focus on mental health. The goal of distance learning is to ensure students are well, not adversely affected by school closures, and prepared as much as possible for the next school year and postsecondary studies. Kerry-Lynn Martel reviewed the two main platforms being used by schools – Seesaw for Kindergarten to Grade 6 and Google Classroom for Grades 7 to 12 in both live synchronous learning and pre-recorded asynchronous learning. She provided examples of lessons in each platform. A guide to both platforms is posted on the board website.

#### **4. Approval of Agenda**

*“That the agenda for the meeting on May 12, 2020 be approved, as amended.”*

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Seconded by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Carried

Amendment: Report of the Provincial Meeting with PIC Chairs

#### **5. Approval of Minutes**

*“That the minutes of the meeting on December 3, 2019 be approved.”*

Moved by: Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School

Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Carried

#### **6. Discussion based on presentation**

PIC members had an opportunity to ask questions throughout the presentation.

Parents/guardians were invited to provide their feedback with distance learning. Parents were very appreciative of teachers for demonstrating tremendous care and compassion for their students during this unprecedented time.

#### **7. Summary of PIC input – Distance Learning**

PIC Chair Allison Andler participated in a provincial meeting of PIC Chairs hosted by the Ministry of Education. Approximately 100 parents from across Ontario participated in the online meeting. Chair Andler provided a summary of distance learning feedback gathered from parents in Rainbow Schools. The feedback was based on an informal request for feedback from the PIC Chair to School Councils the week of April 20, 2020.

#### **Technology**

Variability in reviews of platforms, but mostly positive

Applauded access to technology

Paper mailouts were delayed.

Parents of multiple children or who have a child in multiple classes would appreciate consistency the classroom platform.

Livestreaming helped to keep kids engaged and maintain some social interaction.

In Grades 7 to 12, online classes with live interaction received the most positive reviews.

## **Teaching**

Parents admired the caring and effort of staff.

Teachers put their all into distance learning while managing their own life.

“The connection to her teacher has been priceless” was repeated multiple times as well as “teachers have been caring, innovative and accessible.”

Easy and consistent access to teachers was a positive predictor of satisfaction with the process.

A minority indicated that teachers were not accessible and provided minimal work/supports.

## **Social impacts**

Some parents indicated that it was difficult for children to learn when their basic emotional and mental needs were barely being met. Some families struggle with safety, food, housing, etc.

Schools need to set reasonable expectations that we will not meet all curriculum goals at this time and with this delivery system.

## **Equity**

Distance learning increases the divide between the haves and the have nots.

Students who are struggling fall further behind because they cannot work independently.

Effort and output varied across schools.

Parents expressed a desire for more standardized delivery to ensure all students get what they need for success.

## **Workload**

Most parents were satisfied, but some found the workload inadequate.

Schools need to be aware of the volume of at home learning and consider leaving weekends without assignments/homework.

Parents preferred smaller/broken up tasks over large involved projects.

## **Messaging**

Attendance reporting may have required some explanation prior to implementation.



Many parents took the attendance reporting as contradictory to previous messaging to work when you can, when it works for your family - when it was actually implemented as more of a safety and equity measure.

### **Sustainability**

There was a divide on the desire to go back to in school learning as soon as possible and safely and those in no rush to return to classrooms.

Input reflected that while distance learning is a valiant effort in a time of crisis, it is not equitable or sustainable, and despite best efforts from teachers and administrators, needs are not being met consistently.

Online learning is not built for those who learn differently, have stressors, challenges, existing inequities.

The added stress on families to take on distance learning during a time of crisis was repeated often by parents.

Grade 7 to 12 students are in a better position to manage in the short term.

For K to 6, it was largely perceived as ineffective, exhausting and unsustainable.

### **Miscellaneous**

Parents expressed frustration with lack of access to schools to pick up belongings.

Parents recommended wider/more frequent and more formal surveying of families to quickly assess needs, strengths, etc.

Parents expressed appreciation for schools who continued with Facebook postings, newsletters, school councils/student councils as a means to keep students and families engaged in the school community during this period of relative isolation.

## **8. Brainstorming for 2020-2021**

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020\***

**Annual General Meeting**

**Topic: Education in an Era of COVID-19**

\* The AGM was originally scheduled to take place on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 to coincide with the presentation on Safe Schools and Violence Threat Risk Assessment with guest speaker Kevin J. Cameron. The presentation was subsequently rescheduled to Wednesday, April 14, 2021 due to the pandemic.

### **Topics:**

**Physical Literacy and Outdoor Activities**

**Financial Literacy**

**Specialist High Skills Major – Red Seal**

**Mental Health and Mindfulness:**

## **Recovery and Resilience (or Bouncing Back After a Pandemic)**

**Tuesday, December 1, 2020**

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

**Tuesday, April 13, 2021\***

\*This date was later changed to Wednesday, April 14, 2021 with a special presentation from 6 pm to 8 pm on Safe Schools and Violence Threat Risk Assessment with guest speaker Kevin J. Cameron in the Lockerby Composite School Auditorium.

**Tuesday, May 11, 2021**

**Brainstorming for 2021-2022**

### **9. Communications Report**

Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor of Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning, reviewed the information and resources on the Board website for learning together while safely apart. The website featured sections on Distance Learning K to 12, Learning at Home, and COVID-19.

Distance Learning K to 12 provides an overview of the Rainbow District School Board's plan to provide continuity of education while schools remain closed to limit the spread of COVID-19, including expectations, planning for student success at home, administrative procedures related to technology and privacy, expectations for students when using a digital tool, online safety, student/teacher/parent/guardian responsibilities during distance learning, Guides for Parents on Google Classroom and Seesaw, distance learning recommendations by grades, assessment, reporting and evaluation, teaching and learning platforms, information for graduating students, communications, support for English language learners, support for students with special needs, and mental health supports and responding to urgent student needs.

Learn at Home provides access to the Ministry of Education's resources. Bilingual materials on Learn at Home continue to be added on a regular basis to provide new and compelling content throughout the period of school closures.

Mental Health provides phone numbers to access the Board's mental health team, the crisis line at Health Sciences North, mental health and wellness tips for families,

information on how to access child and youth mental health services through Compass, and links to resources including Kids Help Phone, Bell Let's Talk, School Mental Health Ontario and more. Rainbow District School Board recognizes that these are stressful times for students and families. Educators and support staff remain focused on supporting physical well-being, mental health and overall wellness.

COVID-19 features the letters to parents/guardians from the Director of Education, Minister of Education, Sudbury & District Medical Officer of Health and Ontario Medical Officer of Health. It also has links to Public Health Sudbury & District and the Ministry of Health where students and families can access the most current information on COVID-19, the status of cases locally and provincially, and public health guidance from physical distancing to hand washing.

#### **10. School Announcements**

PIC members shared announcements on mental health resources, fundraising, virtual talent shows and other school events, innovative ways schools are engaging students and connecting with families, school Facebook pages, and graduation photos.

#### **11. Adjournment**

*"That the meeting be adjourned."*

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School  
Carried

**Next meeting:**

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Topic: Education in an Era of COVID-19**

**Parent Involvement Committee Annual General Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 6 pm  
Centre for Education  
Ernie Checkeris Boardroom  
(With option to Google Meet)**

**Attendance**

**Sudbury site:**

Judy Noble, Superintendent of Schools; Norm Blaseg, Director of Education; Kathy Wachnuk, Superintendent of Schools; Emily Caruso Parnell, Principal Elementary Remote Learning; Mary Jago, Mental Health Lead; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Lesley Fisher, Principal of Program; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Laura Thomas, parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Christine Garrett, Parent, Ernie Checkeris Public School; Stacy Paajanen, Parent, Walden Public School; Alicia Marshall, Parent, R.L. Beattie Public School/Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Karen Adamic, parent, R.L. Beattie Public School; Nicole Boyle, parent, Lasalle Secondary School; Michèle Smethurst, Executive Assistant; Cindy Whitson, Executive Assistant; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; Michael McKelvey, Information Services; David Kitching Information Services.

**Google Meet:**

Doreen Dewar, Chair, Rainbow District School Board; Margaret Stringer, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Melanie Bertrand, Vice-Principal, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Kristina Rivard Gobbo, Principal, Espanola High School; Jamie Mohamed, Principal, Manitoulin Secondary School; Daniel Koziar, Principal, Princess Anne Public School; Parents/Guardians and members of the school communities.

**Call to order 6 pm**

**1. Welcome from Superintendent of Schools Judy Noble**

Superintendent Judy Noble welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting.

She stated that over eighty parents had registered to join us, mostly online. A few parents who were physically distancing attended in person. Given the number of parents joining online, she asked everyone to mute their microphone throughout the AGM and the presentation that would follow.

Superintendent Noble reviewed the agenda for the evening and introduced members of the 2019-2020 PIC Executive. Superintendent Noble also introduced administrators, teachers and Trustees who participated in PIC. She acknowledged all the parents who attended PIC meetings and thanked them for their interest and support.

The purpose of the Parent Involvement Committee is to give School Councils an opportunity to network, to share ideas, to provide input and to learn from Board and community guest speakers.

**2. Greetings from Board Chair Doreen Dewar**

Board Chair Doreen Dewar extended a warm welcome to parents, guardians, and staff who were joining the meeting in person and online. She delivered greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Chair Dewar thanked all PIC members for their contribution and commended Allison Andlar, Chair, and Angelina Kasunich, Vice-Chair, for their leadership. Chair Dewar extended a sincere thank you to parents/guardians involved in School Councils as well as the Parent Involvement Committee. She also acknowledged parents/guardians who have expressed an interest in PIC going forward and thanked them for answering the call to serve.

Chair Dewar said that parents and guardians can rest assured that we remain focused on our priorities; namely, student well-being and student achievement – with health and safety first and foremost while we resume teaching and learning against the backdrop of a global pandemic.

She told a story, citing why, scientifically, geese fly in a “V” formation. She explained that the flock adds 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. Supportive parents, caring educators and active community members, mirror this. When they all work together, students benefit and schools flourish. Chair Dewar concluded her remarks by thanking everyone for being part of Rainbow District School Board’s “V”.

### 3. Greetings from Director of Education Norm Blaseg

Director Blaseg welcomed everyone to the first Parent Involvement Committee meeting of the 2020-2021 school year. He began by acknowledging parents and guardians for their support in a school year unlike any other.

Director Blaseg stated that we were excited to reopen our schools and welcome students back to class, whether the students learn in person or online. Getting students into a routine is essential for their mental health, well-being, development and overall education and we have adapted to this new way of living and learning and we are making the most of the situation.

Director Blaseg thanked parents for screening their children daily before sending them to school, keeping them home when they are sick, reinforcing public health practices at home, and supporting our protocols. He added that he is proud of how students, families and staff have responded to the challenges of the pandemic and demonstrated a tremendous amount of resilience.

Director Blaseg thanked parents and guardians for choosing Rainbow Schools and for placing their continued confidence in our educators.

In closing, Director Blaseg acknowledged the important role that parents and guardians play in Rainbow Schools as partners in education and stated their contribution enhances the learning experience for all students in our collective care. Our trustees, school principals, vice-principals, teachers and support staff deeply appreciate their dedication to Rainbow Schools.

### 4. 2020-2021 Election of PIC Membership

Superintendent Judy Noble explained that at the AGM, a slate of up to 10 candidates is approved for the PIC Executive. According to the Terms of Reference for PIC, the membership includes one representative from each of the Espanola and Manitoulin Island areas, and eight representatives from the Sudbury area. This year, ***with no submission to represent Espanola, 7 representatives will be acclaimed from the Sudbury area and 1 from Manitoulin Island.***

Superintendent Noble presented the members of the PIC Executive as follows:

Tricia Hatfield, Cyril Varney Public School  
Bernadette Remillard, Lansdowne Public School  
Allison Andler, R.L. Beattie Public School  
Natasha Delaney, Jean Hanson Public School  
Jennifer Del Papa, C.R. Judd Public School  
Cherie Daniels, Markstay Public School  
Ashley Malley, Redwood Acres Public School  
Denise Sheppard, Manitoulin Secondary School

Superintendent Noble introduced this year's non-parent PIC members:

**Judy Kosmerly and Kerrie St. Jean (Trustees)**  
**Judy Noble (Superintendent of Schools)**  
**Nicole Charette (Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications)**  
**Kristina Rivard Gobbo (Principal)**  
**Dan Koziar (Principal)**  
**Melanie Bertrand (Vice-Principal)**  
**Sara Pidgen (Elementary Teacher)**

#### **5. Meeting dates for 2020-2021**

Superintendent Judy Noble reviewed the schedule of PIC meetings for the remainder of the school year:

**Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 7 pm**

Topic: Recovery & Resilience Following a Pandemic

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7 pm**

Topic: Financial Literacy

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7 pm**

Topic: Specialist High Skills Major - Red Seal

**Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7 pm**

Topic: Safe Schools and Violence Threat Risk Assessment (Lockerby Composite School - Auditorium)

**Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7 pm**

Topic: Planning Meeting for the 2021-2022 school year

Judy Noble thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Meeting. Participants were invited to stay for a presentation on **Education in the ERA of COVID-19** featuring David Groulx, Public Health Sudbury and Districts. The presentation was followed by a discussion moderated by Director of Education Norm Blaseg. The panel included David Groulx, Mary Jago, Mental Health Lead for Rainbow Schools, Emily Caruso Parnell, Principal of Elementary Remote Learning as well as Superintendents Judy Noble and Kathy Wachnuk.

Participants were invited to prepare questions for the panel discussion and submit them via email to [info@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:info@rainbowschools.ca)

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

#### **Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, December 1, 2020 - 7 pm**

Rainbow District School Board Centre for Education

Via Google Meet

**Topic: Recovery & Resilience Following a Pandemic**

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

**Wednesday, November 4, 2020**

**Time: 12:00 PM**

**Virtual meeting via Google Meet Video Conferencing**

**Present:**

**SEAC Members:**

Julie Contini	Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury
Natasha Delaney (Vice-Chair)	Autism Ontario – Sudbury Chapter
Wendy Larouche (Chair)	Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury
Julia Ritchie	CCR Parent Advisory/ Ontario Autism Coalition
Kerrie St. Jean	Trustee
Margaret Stringer	Trustee
Daryl Walker	N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre

**Staff:**

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

**Other:**

Doreen Dewar	Rainbow District School Board Chair
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**Regrets:**

Robert Silvestri	NOARC
Cereena Rows	FASD Consultant

**1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

W.Larouche welcomed everyone to our virtual SEAC meeting.

**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: J.Ritchie

That the agenda for the SEAC meeting of November 4, 2020 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: N.Delaney

Seconded by: J.Contini

That the minutes of the SEAC meeting of October 7, 2020 be approved as amended.

Motion carried.

**7.0 Business Arising**

**8.0 New Business**

**9.0 Requests for Leaves of Absence**

**Motion 3:**

Moved by: N.Delaney

Seconded by: Trustee Stringer

That the SEAC approve the absences of C.Rows and R.Silvestri from the November 4, 2020 SEAC meeting.

Motion carried.



## 10.0 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wachnuk explained that a "Confirmation of Status" survey was sent to all Rainbow parent(s)/guardian(s). On November 12th, families can opt in or out of remote learning and/or in-school learning. The final numbers are unavailable at this time as not all families have responded to the survey. Principals are contacting families for their decisions.

### Mental Health:

Due to COVID-19, the Ministry of Education has increased its investment in supporting the mental health of students. As a result, Rainbow has hired two Master of Social Workers and a Board-Certified Assistant Behaviour Analyst (BCaBA).

### Standardized assessments:

The Ontario government has cancelled the standardized grade 3 and 6 EQAO assessments for this school year. Details pertaining to the modified format of the grade 9 standardized assessment and the Secondary Literacy Test pilot were provided.

### Graduations:

School planning for the June 2020 grade 8 and grade 12 graduates is underway. An update will be provided at the December SEAC.

### Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding update:

Due to COVID-19 and the Distance Learning option, the Ministry is changing the SIP application process but clear details have not yet been communicated to the Boards. Historically, our Board has done well with SIP applications. File preparation is usually well under way by November. Regardless of the pending changes or potential averaging that the Ministry implements, Rainbow will be at a disadvantage.

Chair Dewar suggests that, once details of the changes are communicated, SEAC consider writing a letter to the Ministry voicing concerns on how less funding hurts kids at Rainbow.

## 11.0 Special Education Staff Report

Principal McDonald provided central staff updates:

Consultants are offering Virtual Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training and re-certification to administrators.

The backlog of Psychological and Speech Language assessments is clearing up. Speech Language Pathologist, Celia Wiley, retired in June. This position will be posted.

The collection of Empower Reading data continues. The possibility of delivering

the Empower Program to struggling readers at the secondary level is being considered for the second semester.

## **12.0 Board Report**

Trustee Stringer attended the October Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meeting. It included a Public Health Presentation entitled “Staying Safe at School with COVID-19”.

Trustee St.Jean shared that she receives a daily report and closely monitors the number of COVID-19 cases in schools across the province.

Chair Dewar appreciates the opportunity to sit and listen during SEAC meetings.

## **13.0 Chairperson’s Report**

W.Larouche continues to support both in-class and remote learners.

## **14.0 Association Reports**

### Natasha Delaney: Autism Ontario – Sudbury Chapter

N.Delaney shared local updates including details of a Halloween party that was held virtually. Association updates are available on the website.

### Julie Contini: Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury

A flyer regarding the Go 21Walk was shared with SEAC members via email. Information will also appear in the local newspaper on Saturday. J.Contini encourages all to walk and think of children with Down Syndrome. Christmas activities are being planned via Zoom.

### Julia Ritchie: CCR Parent Advisory/ Ontario Autism Coalition

A Virtual Town Hall was recently held and great questions were asked.

### Daryl Walker: N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre

A traditional teaching of medicines presentation was held on October 16<sup>th</sup>. There was great participation and positive feedback was received.

A COVID update meeting was held this month.

A Christmas Dinner will be held on December 9th. It is typically well attended and a ‘pick-up’ system will be tried.

### Wendy Larouche: Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury

It’s been a busy month. We continue to support and work closely with families remotely. 87 students will be involved in the virtual coaching program.

### Trustee St.Jean: Blind and Partially Sighted

Trustee St.Jean will attend an EQAO meeting to discuss a pilot launch of assessment accommodations for grade 9 students with low vision. Contact information can be shared upon request.

#### **15.0 Correspondence Addressed to SEAC**

2020 09 28 Letter from Thames Valley District School Board SEAC to Minister Lecce identifying the need for visually accessible PPE for all students and staff in classes that support any students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Also, to support the purchase and use of microphone systems for teachers of our students with special hearing needs.

This correspondence was acknowledged as received.  
Superintendent Wachnuk explained the use of accessible PPE available to support Rainbow students who are deaf or hard of hearing along with the Sound Systems our Board uses.

#### **16.0 Other Items/ Future Agenda Items/ Information Requests**

- Special Incidence Portion (SIP) update
- Graduation update
- Number of identified students by exceptionality
- Processes and supports in place for students with exceptionalities who are transitioning to high school and/or the workplace

#### **17.0 Next Meeting Date**

The next SEAC meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday December 2, 2020 at noon.

#### **18.0 Adjournment**

W. Larouche adjourned the meeting at 1:19 PM.