

**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, December 8, 2020 at 6:25 p.m.

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

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, K. Kozman, C. McDonald, M. McKelvey, N. Mousseau

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: 21-R17, J.Kosmerly/M.Stringer

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of December 8, 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 NIL**

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

1. Motion: 21-R18, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That the Board ratify the tentative local agreement between the Rainbow District School Board and the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario Rainbow Designated Early Childhood Educators.

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. Motion: 21-R19, D.Morrison/M.Stringer

That the Board ratify the tentative local agreement between the Rainbow District School Board and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 614 (Educational Assistants) and Communicative Disorder Assistants.

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

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 21-R20 J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 17, 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. Tenders/Requests for Proposals

a) Motion: 21-R21 J.Hunda/D.Morrison

That the Board award the contract for Jean Hanson Public School, window replacement and interior renovations-tender #2021-01 to 510308 Ontario Limited o/a Valley Painting and Construction Services for \$155,033.00.

### 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) Motion: 21-R22 B.Clement/D.Morrison

That the Board award the contract for Lansdowne Public School, entrance upgrades and interior renovations-tender #2021-02 to Magnum Constructors Inc. for \$328,000.

### 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

### 3. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

#### Audit Committee

i) Audit Committee Annual Report

Trustee Morrison, Chair of the Audit Committee, provided information from the 2019-2020 Audit Committee Report to the Ministry of Education.

ii) 2019/20 Financial Statements

Superintendent Bazinet introduced Derek D'Angelo, Lead Audit Engagement Partner from KPMG, who presented the consolidated financial statements for the 2019-2020 school year and responded to questions from trustees.

Motion: 21-R23 D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That the 2019/20 Financial Statements 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*

– Carried unanimously

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Superintendent Noble International Program Lead Melanie Bertrand, provided trustees with an update on Rainbow International during the COVID-19 pandemic. Information was shared about the impact on enrolment in the Rainbow International program and the plans for moving forward.

Motion: 21-R24 J.Kosmerly/D.Morrison

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

**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. Director's Annual Report**

Director Blaseg reviewed the 2019-2020 Annual Report. This will be distributed electronically again this year. Once this is AODA compliant it will be posted on the website. Trustees expressed appreciation to Director Blaseg for the content of the report and to Nicole Charette for the presentation of the material. Chair Dewar also thanked all Rainbow Staff for their creativity in making these “good news stories” in the Annual Report possible during this very difficult time of a pandemic.

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

Motion: 21-R25 J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

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:

Trustee Clement

Trustee Debassige

Trustee Gibson

Trustee Kosmerly

Trustee Morrison

Trustee Stringer

Student Trustee Lafrance

## 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 unanimously

## 4. Requests for Leave of Absence NIL

## 5. Director's Remarks

Director Blaseg advised of Karin Kozman's upcoming retirement "Karin, Manager of Finance, has been with RDSB since 2000. After 20 years here at RDSB, Karin will be retiring with a goal to travel the world. We thank her for her years of service and we will miss her greatly. We welcome our new Manager of Finance, Nancy Cecchetto who will be starting on December 14".

Director Blaseg also advised of an upcoming principal change occurring right after the Christmas break. Lisa Piquette will be replacing Gisele Lalonde at Westmount Public School effective January 4, 2021 as Gisele is retiring. Lisa has just ended her secondment to the Ministry of Education. Director Blaseg wished Gisele all the best in her retirement and welcomed back Lisa Piquette.

Director Blaseg spoke about community support of and for Rainbow students. Every year, especially during the festive season, individuals, businesses, local groups, and anonymous contributors come forward and display tremendous acts of kindness, which makes him very proud to be from this area. Rainbow District School Board resides in a very fortunate geography with many acts of giving and thoughtfulness from Manitoulin Island, Espanola and throughout Greater Sudbury. Director Blaseg acknowledged only a few, as the complete the list is exhaustive.

### A story from Greater Sudbury

Last year, one of our community members and parents, Matt Stillwaugh from Matt's Plumbing, donated 40 turkeys to Lively District Secondary School. He told Principal Leslie Mantle that, "No family should be without a turkey for Christmas dinner." This year, Mr. Stillwaugh has partnered up with other contractors around the city and is looking at donating 300 turkeys to families in need.

The list of contractors included:

- Matt's Plumbing: Matt Stillwaugh
- Barbeau & Gainer Construction: Richard Barbeau and Eldon Gainer
- Plumbing Warehouse: Basilio Trapodi and Carman Tripodi
- Total Personnel Solutions: Kevin Pattison
- Emco Supply: Thomas

At Walden PS, two staff members have made donations of \$500 each totalling \$1000.

At Larchwood PS, one family purchased 30 infrared thermometers to be given to families to support daily checks for student health. 25 families took advantage of this offer.

At Queen Elizabeth PS:

- Sudbury Police Association is donating \$2500 - 10 \$100 grocery gift cards and 10 \$150 Toys R Us gift cards
- Electrical Safety Authority has donated \$50 to go towards a special bagged lunch for each student.
- An anonymous donor has given funds to purchase a pair of Christmas Socks for every student in the school as a Christmas gift.

At Assiginack PS, the Case family of Manitowaning is donating an ice fishing rod to each student (approximately 100) at Assiginack Public School in memory of Ms. Shan Case, whose children are graduates of the school. Shan passed suddenly this fall. Her son Brett Ham, spouse Brad Ham and sister Susan Mackenzie, decided to generously make this donation to share the love of fishing and the outdoors with our students.

Director Blaseg expressed his *thank you* to all.

The Edgar Burton Food drive continues in Rainbow Schools again this year. This year, due to COVID-19, the focus is on monetary donations. Director Blaseg reminded that every dollar donated to the "Kids Helping Kids" campaign (The Edgar Burton canned Food Drive) is the equivalent of \$6 of purchasing power.

The Director advised that he will be hosting a 2021-2022 School Year calendar meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

Director Blaseg reminded that Public Health would be working on a protocol with School Boards to ensure the return to school in January is safe. Director's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 11. Meanwhile he asked that all families and individuals adhere to Public Health advice, especially as it relates to gatherings, remaining at home if feeling ill, wearing masks, physical distancing and washing hands.

#### Itinerary

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|-------------|--|
| November 19 | Deputy Minister Teleconference<br>First Nations Advisory Committee Meeting |
| November 20 | Public Health Teleconference<br>ETFO Meeting                               |
| November 24 | Executive Council<br>Strategic Planning Committee Meeting                  |
| November 25 | Agenda Setting Meeting   |

	DECE Meeting
November 26	Deputy Minister Teleconference OSSTF meeting Minister of Education Teleconference
November 30	CODE – Teleconference Minister of Education Teleconference
December 1	Executive Council
December 3	Individual Superintendent of Education Meetings Deputy Minister Teleconference Labour Relation Committee Meeting
December 4	Public Health Teleconference Superintendent of Education Meetings
December 7	Minister of Education Teleconference Audit Committee Meeting
December 8	Executive Council In-Camera Board Meeting Organizational Board Meeting Board Meeting

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Clement advised that he attended the OPSBA Board of Directors meeting via Zoom on November 28, 2020. Topics of discussion included Regulation 274/12 Hiring Practices, the shortage of French language teachers, EQAO, OSSLT and children and youth mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. OPSBA Northern Boards have put forward a motion regarding the hiring of an external third party to complete an equity/diversity audit.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Lafrance reported that Student Senators continue to work on a survey regarding equity/diversity in Rainbow Schools that is scheduled to be sent out to students in January 2021.

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Morrison wished Happy Holidays to all, recognizing the difficult Christmas season ahead for many as we work through this COVID-19 pandemic.

Trustee Stringer expressed appreciation for the generosity to Rainbow students from many community members including the Little Current Fish and Game Club. Trustee Stringer thanked Karin Kozman (Manager of Finance) for her outstanding services to the Board and wished her well in her upcoming retirement. Trustee Stringer also advised that she attended the Indigenous Trustee Council meeting last week.

Trustee Gibson advised that she attended OPSBA's Indigenous Trustees' Council meeting via Zoom on December 3 and that she looks forward to attending more meetings in the future. She asked about *GOV-04 BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT: GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE* and remote learning in secondary schools.

Trustee Hunda wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season. She commented on Sudbury Secondary School's unique addition to the on-line telethon this year, thanked teachers for their creativity with Christmas concerts during the COVID pandemic, noted resiliency and suggested there have been many successes this year despite COVID.

Trustee Clement shared Christmas wishes and encouraged all to be generous in their giving this year.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

The thought for this month is worth repeating from last year, especially because of the pandemic. I think of the Covid as the Grinch and the quote is from "How The Grinch Stole Christmas", by Dr, Seuss.

Quote: *"It (Christmas) came without ribbons! It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags!... Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas ..... perhaps ..... means a little bit more!"*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to wish all of our staff, our students, our parents/guardians, and our community partners, a happy and healthy holiday season.

G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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**

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**

Motion: 21-R26, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That we now adjourn at 8:32 p.m. – **Carried.**

Official