

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, January 26, 2021 at 5:02 p.m.

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: S. Ackroyd, N. Cecchetto, T. Hayes, M. McKelvey, N. Mousseau, L. Fisher, D. Gagnon

Chair Dewar advised that the meeting was being live-streamed and archived.

Chair Dewar read a declaration of land acknowledgement aloud.

Director Blaseg completed roll call to establish who was participating in the Google Meet Board meeting.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 21-R27, J.Kosmerly/K.St.Jean

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of January 26, 2021 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

Financial Literacy

Superintendent Noble introduced Lesley Fisher, Principal of Program and Danielle Gagnon, Elementary Mathematics Consultant K-6, who spoke about financial literacy for students in grades 1 to 8. This is a new strand in the new math curriculum that

was introduced by the Ministry in September 2020. Principal Fisher and Consultant Gagnon explained why the curriculum was updated, provided examples of financial literacy and provided support for financial literacy at home.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

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

1. **Motion: 21-R28, D.Morrison/J.Hunda**

That the Board ratify the tentative local agreement between the Rainbow District School Board and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Educational Support Staff Unit of District 3.

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

2. **Motion: 21-R29, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly**

That the Board ratify the tentative local agreement between the Rainbow District School Board and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Occasional Teachers Bargaining Unit, District 3.

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

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Previous Minutes**

a) **Motion: 21-R30 K.St.Jean/J.Kosmerly**

That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 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) Motion: 21-R31 L.Debassige /J.Hunda
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 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**

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 December Board meeting. The presentation included information about several Ministry announcements during the last five weeks, Rainbow's survey to parents regarding the opportunity to pivot, the move to remote learning for all Rainbow students January 4 to 8, 2021, distribution of technology, health and safety protocols, meetings with community partners, weekly teleconferences with the Minister of Education and the Deputy Minister of Education, music programs in Rainbow schools, EQAO, virtual transition evening, virtual information nights for secondary schools and kindergarten, upcoming February 5 Professional Activity Day, as well as recent COVID cases in the city that has affected transportation for Rainbow students.

Trustees expressed appreciation for the informative presentation.

3. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**

- a) Motion: 21-R32 D.Morrison/J.Hunda
That the Board award the contract for Construction Management Services – RFP #2021-05 to Ameresco Canada Inc. and Prosperi Co. Ltd.

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**

- b) **Motion: 21-R33 K.St.Jean/J.Kosmerly**
That the Board award the contract for Central Manitoulin Public School, domestic water piping & heating plant upgrades – tender #2021-03 to Ainsworth Inc. For \$581,908.59

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

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Revised Estimates 2020-2021**

Superintendent Bazinet reviewed the revised estimate document provided to trustees.

2. **Public Education Symposium (PES) 2021**

Motion: 21-R34 J.Kosmerly/K.St.Jean

That the Board approve the attendance of the following trustees at the Virtual 2021 Public Education Symposium to be held via Zoom on Thursday, January 28, 2021.

Chair Dewar
Trustee Debassige
Trustee Gibson
Trustee Hunda
Trustee Kosmerly
Trustee Morrison
Trustee St. Jean
Trustee Stringer

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. **Ontario Student Trustee Association - Board Council Conference**

Motion: 21-R35 J.Hunda/K.St.Jean

That the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Lafrance at the Virtual OSTA-AECO Board Council Conference February 18 to 21, 2021.

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. **Requests for Leave of Absence** NIL

5. **Director's Remarks** refer to previous **E. OLD BUSINESS**
item #2 **2020-2021 School Year Update**

Itinerary

December 9	Agenda Setting Future Leaders (Eligibility Process) meeting
December 10	Deputy Minister teleconference School Year Calendar (four boards teleconference) OPSEU meeting
December 11	Public Health Sudbury & District (4 boards & PHSD teleconference)
December 14	Minister of Education teleconference
December 15	Exec Council Labour Relations Committee Organizational Meeting Sagamok First Nations Education teleconference
December 21	Ministry of Education teleconference
December 28	Exec Council
January 4	Exec Council
January 5	Exec Council
January 6	ETFO – meeting
January 7	Deputy Minister teleconference

	OSSTF – meeting Minister of Education teleconference
January 8	Public Health Sudbury & District (4 boards & PHSD teleconference)
January 11	Exec Council
January 12	Exec Council Strategic Planning Committee- Organizational meeting Strategic Planning Committee meeting
January 13	Ministry of Education/Public Health Teleconference Agenda Setting School Year Calendar Committee Meeting
January 15	Public Health Sudbury & District (4 Bds & PHSD teleconference) S.A.T. Meeting
January 19	Exec Council Labour Relations Committee meeting Mental Health Lead meeting
January 21	Deputy Minister teleconference
January 22	Public Health Sudbury & District (4 boards & PHSD teleconference) OSSTF meeting
January 25	CODE teleconference Agenda Setting Minister of Education teleconference Exec Council
January 26	Exec Council Board Meeting

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Clement advised that he attended a virtual OPSBA Board of Directors meeting on January 21, 2021. Trustee Clement was appreciative of the information provided by Kathy Dokis (Principal, Indigenous Education) that he shared with members about supporting the needs of Indigenous students in Rainbow Schools. Trustee Clement plans to share information and photos of the revitalization of Manitoulin SS with Board members at a future meeting.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Lafrance thanked trustees and board staff for all that they have done to keep students safe in Rainbow Schools. She was thankful to be part of Board and Strategic Planning Committee meetings.

She reported that Student Senators continue to work on the COVID-19 campaign video. The *Stand Up for Equity* survey was recently sent out and there have been over 700 responses to date.

Student Trustee Lafrance thanked Superintendent Noble for all that she has done for Student Senate. She stated that Superintendent Noble's hard work does not go unnoticed.

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Gibson asked about the opportunity to do a Board self assessment and a Director of Education performance review.

Trustee Debassige spoke about the vaccine roll-out plan and supply issues across the province. She advised that long-term care home and retirement home residents would be vaccinated in the coming weeks. She questioned the timeline for essential workers and who specifically are essential workers. Trustee Debassige spoke about Public Health's playbook and the sub-committees that have been established.

Motion: 21-R36 L.Debassige/M.Stringer

That Rainbow DSB request the immediate implementation of asymptomatic surveillance testing within Rainbow Schools.

Poll Vote

Bob Clement: In-favour

Linda Debassige: In-favour

Doreen Dewar: In-favour

Anita Gibson: Abstain

Judy Hunda: In-favour

Judy Kosmerly: In-favour

Dena Morrison: No response due to technical difficulties

Kerrie St Jean: Abstain

Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– Carried

Trustee Stringer advised that she attended a Mental Health and COVID Lead Meeting earlier today and surveillance testing was part of the conversations. Representatives from Public Health were part of this meeting but had no information to share.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

A friend sent me this inspiring quote: *"At the end of the day, what really matters is that your loved ones are well, you've tried your best, and that you're thankful for all you have."* And it is so true.

But we're in a pandemic and I am fed up.

It's been a year. But in covid time, which is my "real time", it's been forever!

Wear a mask, keep your distance, stay home, don't have friends over, and don't even visit your kids and grandkids. But I've done all that.

I'm tired of it. Students are frustrated. Dedicated staff have been pushed to the limit. Parents are exhausted. Our businesses are struggling. Everyone is ... tired of Covid.

However, we have a decision to make. We need to choose whether we're part of the problem or part of the solution.

Where can we find the inspiration we need? We, as trustees of RDSB are so fortunate because we get to work with the most awe-inspiring community on the planet. And that is our educational community.

Every single employee with the Rainbow Board has been Amazing. Remember all that they are doing, they do while many have young children at home to care for and elderly family members who depend on them.

Fortunately, our parents and our community partners have encouraged and supported us and they continue to do so.

Our priority has been and will continue to be, student well-being and achievement.

I'm not sure who the author of the thought for the month is, but it's worth remembering. Quote: *"Laughter is like a windshield wiper; it doesn't stop the rain but it allows us to keep going."*

Try to be someone's "windshield wiper" in the days ahead but above all stay safe.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Parent Involvement Committee minutes December 1, 2020 (official)
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes December 2, 2020 (official)
2. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting February 2, 2021 5:00 pm Boardroom
Special Education Advisory Committee February 3, 2021 12:00 pm
Student Senate Meeting February 8, 2021 5:00 pm
Equity & Inclusion Education Committee February 11, 2021 4:00 pm
Board Meeting February 16, 2021 5:00 pm Boardroom
First Nation Advisory Committee February 18, 2021 10:00 am
Parent Involvement Committee Meeting February 23, 2021 7:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee Meeting March 3, 2021 3:30 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 21-R37, J.Kosmerly/K.St.Jean
That we now adjourn at 7:15 p.m. – **Carried.**