

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, February 16, 2021 at 5:00 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

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-R38, J.Kosmerly/D.Morrison

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of February 16, 2021 be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition of the words “*and window*” to the motion under #3 **Tenders/Requests for Proposals.**

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

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 21-R39 B.Clement /J.Hunda

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 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

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 January Board meeting. The presentation included information about several Ministry announcements during the last three weeks, planning for virtual graduation ceremonies to honour the Class of 2021, secondary school information nights, Rainbow's partnership with Public Health Sudbury and District as well as the City of Greater Sudbury, cancellation of OFSAA spring championships, the expiration of the state-of-emergency on February 9th at midnight, the expiration of the stay-at-home order and provincial shutdown on February 15th at midnight, the added confirmation of self-screening daily at secondary schools, the Ministry announcement to move the March Break to April 12 to 16, 2021 and the new COVID-19 Variant of Concern.

Trustees expressed appreciation for the informative presentation.

3. Tenders/Requests for Proposals

Motion: 21-R40 J.Kosmerly /J.Hunda

That the Board award the contract for Confederation Secondary School, ventilation and window upgrades - tender #2021-06 to Nu-Style Construction Co. (1988) for \$1,539,000.

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

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

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **2021-2022 School Year Structure**

Motion: 21-R41 D.Morrison/A.Gibson

That the Board approve the 2021-2022 School Year Structure for elementary and secondary 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. **Requests for Leave of Absence** NIL

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

Itinerary

January 27 System Lead First Nations Portfolio meeting

January 28 CODE/Business teleconference

January 29 Public Health Sudbury District & 4 Boards teleconference
SSC Annual General Meeting
OSSTF/PSSP meeting

February 1 OSSTF meeting

February 2 Exec Council meeting
Strategic Planning Committee meeting

February 3 Agenda Setting

February 4 School Year Calendar Meeting – 4 local school boards

February 5 Public Health Sudbury District & 4 Boards teleconference

February 8 Ministry of Education Chair/Director teleconference

- February 9 Exec Council Meeting
- February 11 Deputy Minister teleconference
Ministry of Education teleconference
Mental Health PD (Zoom)
- February 12 Public Health Sudbury District & 4 Boards teleconference
Waste Water Surveillance Zoom teleconference
- February 16 Exec Council
Ministry of Education teleconference
Board Meeting

4. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Clement advised that he and Trustee Kosmerly recently attended a virtual subcommittee meeting. Trustee Clement will attend a virtual OPSBA meeting later this week.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Lafrance reported that Student Senators continue to work on the *Stand Up for Equity* conference scheduled for the end of April.

5. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Morrison noted that OPSBA has indicated support of the Ministry decision to move the March Break into April and asked Trustee Clement whether he was consulted, as the OPSBA Director, about the change to the March Break. Trustee Clement responded that he was not consulted.

Trustee Stringer spoke about her work with the Manitoulin Covid-19 Leadership Coordination Committee. She advised that the committee voiced some concerns at their last meeting, however things are changing very quickly based on advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Trustee Stringer affirmed her pride in Rainbow's staff and students as they cope with ongoing changes due to Covid.

Trustee Clement commented on the excellent photographs that are posted from S. Geiger Public School, capturing the students so well and *melting the heart*.

6. **Chairperson's Remarks**

I want to begin tonight's remarks with a thank you to the Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) for hosting the 2021 Public Education Symposium on January 28. By providing a number of guest speakers and panel discussions on timely issues, trustees had the opportunity to expand their knowledge during what is continuing to be an almost surrealistic historical event.

As informative as PES was, a virtual symposium will never replace the face-to-face experiences of a non-pandemic gathering.

The Minister's Teleconference continues on a weekly basis. Minister Lecce provides summations of what steps have been taken to try to ensure the safe delivery of education. He has stressed that most of the decisions are being driven by advice from Public Health Units across the province.

I was privileged to attend several RDSB Standing Committee meetings this past month including the Special Education Advisory Committee on February 3rd, the Student Senate Committee on February 8th and the Equity and Inclusion Committee on February 11th. Thank you to the wonderful staff, students, parents and community members involved in these and other standing committees who give of their time and talents.

The thought for the month comes from an unknown but very clever individual. Quote: "A DREAM written down with a date becomes a GOAL. A GOAL broken down into steps becomes a PLAN. A PLAN backed by ACTION becomes REALITY". End quote.

Thank you to all who work to make dreams a reality.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes January 6, 2021 (official)
2. **Non-Staff Communications**
Board and Strategic Planning Schedule of Meetings 2021-2022 (draft)
Letter to Fred Yackman dated February 3, 2021

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

First Nation Advisory Committee February 18, 2021 10:00 am
Parent Involvement Committee Meeting February 23, 2021 7:00 pm
Student Senate Committee Meeting March 1, 2021 5:30 pm
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting March 2, 2021 5:00 pm Boardroom
Special Education Advisory Committee March 3, 2021 12:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee Meeting March 3, 2021 3:30 pm
Board Meeting March 23, 2021 5:00 pm Boardroom
Equity & Inclusion Education Committee May 13, 2021 4:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 21-R42, D.Morrison/B.Clement
That we now adjourn at 6:07 p.m. – **Carried.**