

**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, March 23, 2021 at 5:00 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 - Superintendents  
N. Charette, H. Thirkill, C. Whitson  
Others: 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-R43, J.Kosmerly/K.St.Jean

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of March 23, 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 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-R44 D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly**

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 16, 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 numerous events since the February Board meeting. The presentation included information about Ministry announcements made during the last five weeks, a chronology of daily pandemic news in Rainbow Schools, weekly community COVID-19 data provided by Public Health, revisions to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar, asymptomatic testing in schools, school screening tool updates as well as how transportation is a massive part of this process when classes or schools are closed and when daily bus routes are cancelled.

Director Blaseg thanked all staff involved, expressing that *teamwork makes the dream work*.

Director Blaseg reminded that “We are in the Grey Lockdown Zone. It is not business as usual”.

Trustees expressed appreciation for the informative presentation.

3. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**

a) **Motion: 21-R45 J.Hunda/K.St.Jean**

That the Board award the contract for Sudbury Secondary School, auditorium HVAC upgrades-tender #2021-07 to Metal-Air Mechanical Systems Ltd. for \$275,749.

**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-R46 K.St.Jean/D.Morrison

That the Board award the contract for Assiginack Public School, brick repairs, domestic water piping upgrades and sitework-tender #2021-08 to Nu-Style Construction Co. (1988) Limited for \$209,000.

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**

c) Motion: 21-R47 D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That the Board award the contract for Northeastern Elementary School, standpipe and electrical services upgrades-tender #2021-10 to Metal-Air Mechanical Systems Ltd. for \$494,520.

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. Ontario Public School Board Association Annual General Meeting

Motion: 21-R48 L.Debassige/D.Morrison

That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2021 OPSBA Annual General Meeting to be held via Zoom on June 12, 2021:

Trustee Clement

Trustee Gibson

Trustee Hunda

Trustee Kosmerly

Trustee Morrison

## 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**

Director Blaseg announced the following:

Brenda Carr, acting principal at Alexander PS will become permanent effective March 23, 2021.

David Bertrim will become acting principal at Sudbury SS in Principal Heather Downey's absence.

Retired principal Randy Wallingford will temporarily fill the vice-principal position at Sudbury SS.

Director Blaseg advised for September 2021, grade 2 students at Westmount Public School will remain at Westmount PS for grade 3. There are 22 students. This will reduce the number of transitions for this cohort. Normally, these students would move to Carl Nesbitt PS for grade 3. We expect all Westmount PS, Ernie Checkaris PS and Carl Nesbitt PS students to transfer to the new French Immersion school in September 2022.

### Itinerary

February 17	Agenda Setting RDPC Meeting
February 18	Deputy Minister teleconference FNAC meeting Exec Council
February 19	PHSD teleconference Ministry of Education teleconference Re: Testing
February 22	PCODE Safe Schools Meeting
February 23	Exec Council
February 26	PHSD teleconference OSSTF meeting

	H.R. meeting
March 1	Ministry of Education teleconference
March 2	Exec Council Strategic Planning Committee meeting
March 3	Agenda setting
March 4	Deputy Minister teleconference Four Boards Teleconference (RE: School Year Calendar)
March 5	PHSD teleconference
March 8	Minister of Education teleconference Principal teleconference
March 9	Exec Council PHSD teleconference (4 Boards)
March 11	PHSD teleconference (4 Boards)
March 15	Ministry of Education teleconference Re: Testing Minister of Education teleconference
March 16	Exec Council
March 18	Deputy Minister of Education teleconference Exec Council
March 19	P.A. Day PHSD teleconference (4 Boards)
March 22	Minister of Education teleconference OPSBA – Human Rights Program
March 23	Exec Council CODE advisory (Mental Health) Board Meeting

#### 4. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Clement advised that Trustee Kosmerly recently attended a meeting in his absence. Trustee Kosmerly reported that she attended the OPSBA Northern Region meeting on March 4. She reported that the Northern Region is actively advocating on behalf of its 4 identified priorities. They are: Indigenous education; mental health and well being; services and supports for students, special education resources and supports, and experiential learning; and support for multiple program pathways.

Trustee Kosmerly made an in-depth comprehensive report and invited other trustees to contact her for additional information.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Lafrance reported that Student Senators continue to work on the *Stand Up for Equity* conference scheduled for April 29, 2021. This will be a virtual and interactive conference, with guest speakers and breakout sessions. Invitations were sent out today and it is expected that approximately 100 students will participate in this full-day event. Trustees were invited to attend the conference.

5. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Chair Dewar congratulated Trustee Linda Debassige on her recent appointment as a Canadian member of the International Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee or GLAM. The Committee is comprised of nine members from the United States and nine members from Canada working towards resolution of issues and decision-making in the best interests of both countries.

Trustee Morrison thanked Principal Ron Hodgkinson for scheduling a google meet to review some of the new developments at Northeastern Elementary School. Trustee Morrison was impressed with a database of student information created which will allow for more informed discussions with staff around student achievement and learning gaps.

Trustee Morrison congratulated Markstay PS's Grade 3/4 teacher, Jennifer Leblanc, this year's recipient of the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury Outstanding Educator Award for Rainbow DSB.

Trustee Morrison also asked about the future of Cecil Facer School, as there has been media attention regarding the consolidation and closures throughout the province. Director advised that Cecil Facer was not effected by the provincial closures.

6. **Chairperson's Remarks**

A year ago, on March 11, 2020, Public Health Sudbury & Districts confirmed the first positive Covid-19 case in the Sudbury and Manitoulin districts.

As of March 21, 2021, Public Health Sudbury & Districts confirmed 265 active cases in the Sudbury and Manitoulin districts. All schools are closed in the Sudbury Manitoulin districts and all students are in remote learning mode.

The past year has been a rough ride. But we have shown how resilient we can be.

So, I looked to our schools and I discovered that Chelmsford Valley District Composite School is having spirit week including PJ Day and Dress like your teacher Day.

I looked to our schools and I discovered Confederation Secondary School is preparing for the 2021 Charger Graduate photos to be taken.

I discovered that that Espanola High School, in spite of a Pandemic, has made a forever memory by completing their 2020-21 school yearbook. Also, I found budding Picassos among the Espanola Spartans.

I discovered that LaSalle Secondary School Lancer family took the time to remember Mr. McCabe; a wonderful hockey coach, Reach for the Top coach and teacher.

I looked at the amazing reviews of Lively High School's Virtual Open House as the Hawks welcomed the community to explore the school and the programs being offered.

I discovered that Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School students are having Spirit week including today's challenge "Tacky Tourist Tuesday" even though they're not in school. Go Knights!

Lockerby Composite Secondary School continues to publish an amazing weekly newsletter recognizing previous alumni, innovative teaching, sporting achievements and outstanding Lockerby Viking accomplishments.

I discovered that Manitoulin Secondary School has its Student Spotlight that highlights a Mustang that has a positive attitude toward sports and teammates and the MSS Facebook pages contain a "tip of the day".

Sudbury Secondary School North Stars, acknowledged that yesterday, March 22, was World Water Day; that a food class made delicious cheese biscuits from home during virtual learning and that a fitness class is doing a virtual walk this week. The North Stars reminded me that "Artists never die" as their art is immortalized. Such is the case of Charlie Rapsky, SSS grad and internationally renowned artist who returned to his alma mater not too long ago, to paint a mural with the visual art students and who will continue to be appreciate for generations.

I discovered that many Virtual Open House Links are alive and well and able to present a plethora of information.

.....and these are just some of the many discoveries in our Secondary Schools.

The innovations in our Elementary school are prolific and inspiringly awesome.

I looked to our Rainbow schools and discovered that in each one – Secondary and Elementary full remote learning is happening; progress reports and parent teacher interviews are happening and plans for graduations are happening. Staff – entire staff, continue to improvise to overcome the challenges of remote learning. They provide the academic knowledge with the stimulation and genuine care for student well-being.

The thought for the month comes from educator and author John W. Gardener who said, "Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well".

Thank you to all our staff who provide excellence in education - extraordinarily well.

**G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

First Nation Advisory Committee minutes September 24, 2020 (official)

Equity and Inclusive Education Committee Minutes November 5, 2020 (official)

Special Education Advisory Committee minutes February 3, 2021 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

**H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Student Senate Committee Meeting March 29, 2021 5:30 pm

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting April 6, 2021 5:00 pm Boardroom

Special Education Advisory Committee April 7, 2021 12:00 pm

Board Meeting April 20, 2021 5:00 pm Boardroom

Student Senate *Stand Up for Equity* conference (virtual) Apr. 29, 2021 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Environmental Education Committee Meeting May 5, 2021 3:30 pm

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting May 11, 2021 7:00 pm

Equity & Inclusion Education Committee May 13, 2021 4:00 pm

First Nation Advisory Committee May 20, 2021 10:00 am

Parent Involvement Committee Special Presentation guest speaker Kevin Cameron June 2, 2021 6:30 pm

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 21-R49, D.Morrison/B.Clement

That we now adjourn at 7:08 p.m. – **Carried.**