

**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, April 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

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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 April 20, 2021 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
- a) Motion:  
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 be approved.
- b) Motion:  
That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 be approved.
2. **2020-2021 School Year Update** \*Director
3. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals** \*SBO
- a) Motion:  
That the Board award the contract for Manitoulin Secondary School, HVAC upgrades and emergency power generator-tender #2021-11 to \_\_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00.
- b) Motion:  
That the Board award the contract for R.L. Beattie Public School, ventilation and electrical upgrades-tender #2021-09 to \_\_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00

4. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees** \*Chair
- F. **NEW BUSINESS** \*Chair
1. **Requests for Leave of Absence** \*Chair
- Motion:  
That \_\_\_\_\_ be granted a leave of absence from the April 20, 2021 Board meeting.
2. **Director's Remarks** \*Director
3. **Other Items** \*Chair  
OPSBA Director  
Student Trustee
4. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** \*Chair  
***Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.***
5. **Chairperson's Remarks** \*Chair
- G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** \*Chair
1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**  
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes March 3, 2021 (official)
2. **Non-Staff Communications**
- H. **FUTURE MEETINGS** \*Chair  
Student Senate *Stand Up for Equity* conference (virtual) Apr. 29, 2021 8:30 am – 2:30 pm  
Student Senate Committee Meeting May 3, 2021 5:30 pm  
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting May 4, 2021 5:00 pm Boardroom  
Special Education Advisory Committee May 5, 2021 12:00 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  
Board Meeting May 18, 2021 5:00 pm Boardroom  
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** \*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, 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.**

**RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

held electronically via Google Meet  
in the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom  
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive  
on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 6:00 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  
Absent: Student Trustee A. 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  
Others: N. Cecchetto, T. Hayes, N. Mousseau, L. Holm, E. Laberge, M. McKelvey

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

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-R50, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Special Board meeting of March 30, 2020 be approved as amended, the amendment being the addition of guest speakers Eric Laberge, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Association (OSSTF) and Liana Holm, president of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO).

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. PROVINCE'S PROPOSED PLAN FOR REMOTE LEARNING**

Chair Dewar said that the Ministry of Education has developed a draft plan for the delivery of education in the province of Ontario post pandemic and that the plan is based on remote and on-line learning with implications that could change the delivery of education forever. She said that the purpose of today's meeting is to share information about the proposed plan in an effort to understand the impact those changes will have on our students and staff

Chair Dewar introduced the two guest speakers.

Eric Laberge, president of Rainbow OSSTF, spoke about the time, care and expertise of Rainbow staff in the delivery of education to students in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin. He referenced the *Sick Kids* report dated January 21, 2021 that emphasizes that daily in-person is the best model for teaching students.

Liana Holm, president of Rainbow ETFO, spoke about the world-renowned education system that is in place and the fact that the move to remote learning was put in place as an emergency solution during a world pandemic; stressing that this is not a permanent solution. She voiced her concerns about the negative impact on student learning, the social/emotional well-being of students and staff, the importance of social interactions, the caring adults in schools and the need for a speedy roll out of vaccines.

The federation leaders were thanked for their presentations with acknowledgement that school is so much more than academics.

Chair Dewar called on Director Blaseg.

Director Blaseg referred to the document *Expanding Student Access to Online and Remote Learning – Initiatives Committee – March 22, 2021* which is a confidential, draft document that was leaked to the media. This document had not been released by the Ministry of Education. This document was attached to a CBC news article and provided a plan for remote learning starting in September 2021.

Director Blaseg advised that the Ministry has consistently said the next year will be funded like a normal year; therefore, we have anticipated that next year would be a regular school year. Director Blaseg reminded trustees that it was not until August of 2020 that the Ministry advised that remote learning would be a mode of learning in Ontario for September 2020.

Director Blaseg stated that education in schools is the great equalizer. For the vast majority of the population, it is the single most common shared experience. If this experience is to be overhauled, there is a need to ensure it is done with a clear understanding that all possibilities and ramifications have been considered.

Superintendent Bourget remarked that no on-line teaching can replicate face-to-face learning for students. Superintendent Bourget advised that boards have requested guidance from the Ministry of Education about what schools will look like in September. Unfortunately, the Ministry has not provided any clarification to date. More unfortunate, is the fact that schools must be staffing now for September and this whole process will unravel if/when the Ministry makes a decision about on-line learning.

Superintendent Wachnuk suggested that there has not been time to gather data yet and that the Ministry may be making a decision without data to support their decision. Superintendent Wachnuk provided a list of advantages and disadvantages of on-line learning that her special education staff and mental health staff have observed during the last year.

Superintendent Noble spoke about the Rainbow Elementary Virtual School (REVS). She voiced her concern over the number of CAS referrals that have crossed her desk, as students are not attending, not participating and just being lost in on-line learning. She suggested that hobbies and talents that students usually have the opportunity to explore through their electives (tech, music, athletics, food, etc) have been lost and that these are the reasons that students love school.

Superintendent Noble reported that student senators had been asked at a recent Student Senate Meeting about their experience with on-line learning. These students suggested that screen time is overwhelming (often causing headaches), that it is difficult to learn calculus on-line, that they are observers and not participants and that they miss the interaction with peers.

Superintendent Noble spoke briefly about the e-learning opportunity for students, advising that these courses are mostly for senior students, who have the ability to self-regulate to be successful.

Trustees were appreciative of the wholesome conversation.

Each trustee voiced his/her opinion about the province's plans to continue post pandemic remote and on-line learning, emphasizing that we need to remind the province to do what is in the best interest of the wellbeing of children and young people.

Motion: 21-R51 D.Morrison/K.St.Jean

That the Rainbow District School Board write a letter expressing its grave concerns about the Provincial government's proposed plan for on-line and remote learning.

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**

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 21-R52, K.St.Jean/D.Morrison

That we do now adjourn at 7:25 pm. - **Carried**

Unofficial

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

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021**

**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
Judy Kosmerly	Trustee
Shelly Laronde	N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre
Wendy Larouche (Chair)	Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury
Julia Ritchie	CCR Parent Advisory/ Ontario Autism Coalition
Cereena Rows	FASD
Robert Silvestri	NOARC
Margaret Stringer	Alternate Trustee

**Staff:**

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

**Regrets:**

Kerrie St. Jean	Trustee
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**Other:**

Doreen Dewar	Chair
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**Absent:**

**1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

W.Larouche welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting. Members introduced themselves.

**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: Trustee Kosmerly

That the agenda for the SEAC meeting of March 3, 2021 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: R.Silvestri

That the minutes of the SEAC meeting of February 3, 2021 be approved.

Motion carried.

**7.0 Business Arising**

No business arising

**8.0 New Business**

8.1 Negotiation Update:

Mediation with members of OPSEU (Ontario Public Service Employees Union) was not successful.

Negotiations with members of PSSP (Professional Student Services Personnel) are incomplete.



## 9.0 Requests for Leaves of Absence

### **Motion 3:**

Moved by: N.Delaney

Seconded by: Trustee Kosmerly

That the SEAC approve the absence of Trustee St. Jean from the March 3, 2021 SEAC meeting.

Motion carried.

## 10.0 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wachnuk provided information regarding the current classes and school closures due to COVID-19. She reminded SEAC that updates are readily available on the Board website. Voluntary testing for COVID-19 is now offered in Rainbow Schools to in-person learners, their households and staff. The Testing Schedule is also available on our website.

Superintendent Wachnuk and Principal McDonald will begin to review the special education staffing allotments required for the 2021-2022 school year.

The next Professional Activity day is scheduled for March 19, 2021. Staff will receive training on Autism, Mental Health, and ASPEN (new information system).

Superintendent Wachnuk provided information regarding the changes and allocation increases for Integrated Services for Northern Children (ISNC). Dorothy Olfert continues to provide assessments to children and youth in these northern rural and remote areas.

SEAC members were invited to share comments and/or questions pertaining to a recent CBC news item involving Rainbow District School Board.

## 11.0 Special Education Staff Report

Principal McDonald shared that the second round of Intake has been completed. Psychological and Speech Language assessments are now being completed.

Special Education Consultants have scheduled over 3 weeks of Preschool Transition Meetings. Highschool Transition Meetings will also be scheduled.

## 12.0 Board Report

Trustee Kosmerly reminded SEAC that there are excellent Mental Health resources and COVID-19 information on the Board website.

The next opportunity to transfer from in-person learning to online learning or from online learning to in-person learning will be on April 20, 2021. The March break has been postponed. Virtual graduations are being planned.

### 13.0 Chairperson's Remarks

SEAC members are invited to bring forward any updates or changes they would like considered to the Special Education Plan.

### 14.0 Association Reports

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

Julia highlighted some of the anticipated changes to the New Autism Program. A Google search will provide additional information pertaining to a pilot project and the funding model based on age and need that will be determined by care-coordinators. Many private service providers may not have a centre to work from. This may result in increased requests to school access to offer services to children during the school day. Julie also shared the link for educational funding for Autism training:  
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59909/ontario-provides-funding-for-autism-training>

#### Julie Contini: Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury

March 21 is Down Syndrome Day. Information will be sent to schools. The DSAO is advocating for early vaccination for people with Down Syndrome as they are 10 times more likely to pass from COVID-19 than the general population.

#### Natasha Delaney: Autism Ontario – Sudbury Chapter

Raise the Flag and World Autism Day will be celebrated on April 6<sup>th</sup> this year. More information can be found at <https://raisetheflagforautism.com>

#### Shelly Laronde: N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre

Healing and Wellness Programs with Elders are occurring every Tuesday and Wednesday until June. An Ojibway Language class begins today at 4:30pm. Up-coming events include a Winter Carnival and a food-pick-up event. A new FASD worker has started.

#### Wendy Larouche: Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury

The virtual Awards Dinner is tomorrow evening. Teacher Jennifer Leblanc and Dr. Robert Silvestri are among those who will be receiving awards. There will also be a silent auction. Currently, there are 84 students involved in the Coaching Program. Virtual meetings continue to take place to support students and their families.

#### Cereena Rows: FASD

On the February Professional Development day, Cereena led a virtual FASD presentation and a Mindfulness workshop to our Educational Assistants. Both workshops were well attended and the information was appreciated.

#### Robert Silvestri: NOARC

The College is financially healthy. Some of the current research involves: How valid are virtual assessments? What assistive technology works best for struggling students? What works for students with Mental Health issues? Which screeners are reliable for ADHD, ASD, LD for secondary aged students?

**15.0 Correspondence Addressed to SEAC**

No correspondence was received.

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

- Update on negotiations
- Reading Intervention (Lexia, Empower, LLI)

**17.0 Next Meeting Date**

The next SEAC meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday April 7, 2021 at noon.

**18.0 Adjournment**

W. Larouche adjourned the meeting at 1:09 PM.

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