

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, April 20, 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-R53, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of April 20, 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. PRESENTATIONS NIL

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

1. Motion: 21-R54, D.Morrison/J.Hunda
That the Board ratify the tentative local agreement between the Rainbow District School Board and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), 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 unanimously

2. Motion: 21-R55, D.Morrison/M.Stringer
That the Board ratify the tentative local agreement between the Rainbow District School Board and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Professional Student Services Personnel (PSSP) Bargaining 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

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Previous Minutes**

- a) Motion: 21-R56, K.St.Jean/J.Kosmerly
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 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) Motion: 21-R57, D.Morrison/J.Hunda
That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 30, 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 March Board meeting. The presentation included weekly community COVID-19 data provided by Public Health, a message from our local Medical Officer of Health Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, information about the Province of Ontario activating the “emergency brake” to interrupt the transmission of COVID-19 and contain community spread, a chronology of daily pandemic news in Rainbow Schools, a look ahead at the 2021-2022 school year, several letters sent to families during the last month, and virtual events that have taken place for Rainbow students including a virtual trades talk, Sudbury Regional Science Fair and the annual Kiwanis Music Festival.

Director Blaseg invited trustees to take part in the upcoming *Stand Up for Equity and Inclusion* conference being hosted by RDSB’s Student Senate on April 29 and reminded them of the upcoming virtual event on June 2, 2021 with Kevin Cameron who will speak about *School and Community Safety*.

Director Blaseg stressed how important it is that our school communities stay the course and follow public health measure to limit the spread, stating “we must remain vigilant”.

Once again, Director Blaseg thanked everyone for working together to keep everyone safe.

Trustees expressed appreciation for the informative presentation. Chair Dewar reiterated Director Blaseg’s quote “*teamwork makes the dream work*”.

3. Tenders/Requests for Proposals

- a) Motion: 21-R58, J.Kosmerly/M.Stringer
That the Board award the contract for Manitoulin Secondary School, HVAC upgrades and emergency power generator-tender #2021-11 to Metal-Air Mechanical Systems Ltd. for \$895,595.

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-R59, B.Clement/K.St.Jean

That the Board award the contract for R.L. Beattie Public School, ventilation and electrical upgrades-tender #2021-09 to Nu-Style Construction Co. (1988) Limited for \$969,200.

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. Requests for Leave of Absence NIL

3. Director's Remarks

refer to E. OLD BUSINESS, item #2 2020-2021 School Year Update

Director Blaseg advised of changes made to the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar following the Ministry mandate to add professional activity days prior to the start of the school year. Nicole Charette is preparing a joint news release with the four Sudbury school boards.

Director read a letter, advising of his intent to retire on August 31, 2021 after 35+ years in education.

Itinerary

March 24 Agenda Setting

March 25 Kina – Teleconference

- March 29 First Nations portfolio
Minister of Education and Chairs' teleconference
- March 30 Exec Council
Special Board Meeting
- April 1 Deputy Minister teleconference
Safe Schools teleconference – (ADM)
- April 6 Exec Council
Strategic Planning Committee meeting
- April 7 ADM – Patrick Case teleconference
Agenda Setting
Minister of Education and Chairs' teleconference
- April 8 Deputy Minister teleconference
Ministry Teleconference – Safe Schools
- April 9 OSSTF meeting
- April 11 Sudbury Regional Science Fair
- April 19 Exec Council
Labour Relations Committee meeting
Minister of Education and Chairs' teleconference
- April 20 Exec Council
Board Meeting

3. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Clement advised that he would be attending a Northern Region meeting on Thursday and a Director's meeting on Saturday.

Trustee Kosmerly reported that as of April 1 she has replaced Trustee Clement on the Project Compass Steering Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2021. Trustee Kosmerly is also part of the Policy & Procedure sub-committee with an upcoming meeting scheduled on May 4. This group is in the process of setting the parameters for the review of OPSBA's policies and procedures. Trustee Kosmerly reminded trustees of an email sent out by OPSBA on March 26 requesting feedback and encouraged trustees to reply prior to the April 22, 2021 deadline.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Lafrance reported that Student Senators are finalizing details on the upcoming *Stand Up for Equity* conference scheduled for April 29, 2021. This will be a virtual and interactive conference, with guest speakers and breakout sessions. Trustees will receive an email with the agenda for the day, including links to breakout sessions.

4. Trustees' Remarks/Questions

Trustee Clement advised that the opening for the new school being built by the French Catholic Board in Espanola is not scheduled to open to staff and students in until September 2021.

Trustee Stringer spoke about the urgency for prioritization for vaccination of education sector workers. Trustees discussed.

Motion: 21-R60, M.Stringer/D.Morrison

That Rainbow District School Board write a letter to Premier Ford and the Minister of Education, with copies to Public Health Sudbury & Districts, Federations, OPSBA Member Boards, Minister of Health, and opposition parties, requesting all education sector workers receive a covid vaccine on a priority basis.

Poll Vote

Bob Clement: In-favour

Linda Debassige: In-favour

Doreen Dewar: In-favour

Anita Gibson: Opposed

Judy Hunda: In-favour

Judy Kosmerly: In-favour

Dena Morrison: In-favour

Kerrie St Jean: In-favour

Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– **Carried**

Trustee Morrison thanked Nicole Charette for her work on the excellent letter that was recently sent to Minister Lecce regarding remote learning.

Trustee Kosmerly voiced her sadness over the recent events at Laurentian University. She spoke, as a 1977 graduate, about this unique northern institution, that is and was the university of choice for so many in this community.

Trustees spoke in agreement that Laurentian University is an intragal part of Sudbury's educational community. It was decided that a news release be done stating the Board's support for Laurentian University.

5. Chairperson's Remarks **NIL**

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Reports from Officials and Staff

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

2. Non-Staff Communications

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

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**

Motion: 21-R61, D.Morrison/B.Clement

That we now adjourn at 6:50 p.m. – **Carried.**

Official