

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, May 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), B. Clement, L. Debassige (late arrival), 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: N. Cecchetto, T. Hayes, C. McDonald, M. McKelvey

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-R62, J.Kosmerly/D.Morrison

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of May 18, 2021 be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition of: AD HOC SELECTION COMMITTEE as item 5 under OLD BUSINESS.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
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

2020 and 2021 Board Award Recipients

In lieu of in-person hosting of Rainbow District School Board's annual Awards Event, Director Blaseg honoured the dedicated employees and valued community partners who make Rainbow Schools great places to be for both 2020 and 2021.

Director Blaseg recognized those employees with 25 and 35 years of service, awards for outstanding contribution to the co-curricular program, community partnership awards, Go Green Globe awards, Awards for Excellence, the Barbara Konarek Memorial Award and the William N. Roman Teacher of the Year Award.

Each of the Award winners for each year will be acknowledged in a commemorative booklet.

Director Blaseg thanked all for their contribution to Rainbow Schools.

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-R63, B.Clement/M.Stringer

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

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 April Board meeting. The presentation included weekly community COVID-19 data provided by Public Health, letter sent to Premier Ford and Minister Lecce, letter sent to families encouraging on-line vaccination booking, the recognition of Education Week, information on assessment and evaluation for second semester, planning for the 2021-2022 school year, school board electronic meetings, surveillance testing and many other initiatives throughout our jurisdiction.

Director Blaseg invited trustees to attend a virtual presentation with Kevin J. Cameron on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, hosted by the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Steering Committee. Kevin Camerson will speak about schools and community safety.

Trustees expressed appreciation for the Director's informative presentation.

3. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals** NIL

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

Special Education Plan 2021-2022

Motion: 21-R64, J.Kosmerly/A.Gibson

That the Special Education Plan 2021-2022 as recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) 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

5. **Ad Hoc Selection Committee**

Motion: 21-R65, D.Morrison/M.Stringer

That the Board establish an ad hoc selection committee composed of all trustees, (except the student trustee) chaired by the chair of the Board, to exist until the process of choosing a Director of Education is complete.

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

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. **TD Canada Trust Resolution**

Motion: 21-R66, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That the TD Canada Trust Resolution as attached be deemed to have been read three times and 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. **Short Term Borrowing Bylaw**

Motion: 21-R67, J.Hunda/M.Stringer

That the short term borrowing bylaw 2021-01 as attached be deemed to have been read three times and 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

3. **Ontario Student Trustee Association - Annual General Meeting**

Motion: 21-R68, J.Hunda/B.Clement

That the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Lafrance and the incoming Student Trustee at the virtual 2021 OSTA Annual General Meeting May 27 to 30, 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 E. **OLD BUSINESS**, item #2 **2020-2021 School Year Update**)

Director Blaseg spoke about the Terry Fox Milestone Award that was received in recognition of outstanding effort fundraising for cancer research. As of 2020, Rainbow District School Board students and staff have raised \$900,000.

Director Blaseg recognized World Education Support Personnel Day that was celebrated on May 16. This was the first worldwide Education Support Personnel Day, initiated by Educational International. Director Blaseg said, "This is an opportune time to acknowledge our support staff and teachers who make Rainbow Schools great places to learn".

A "thank you" was sent to all subscribers last Friday.

Thank you for your dedication, commitment, care and resilience.

Thank you for being exceptional role models for student success.

Please take a moment to reflect on your contribution and celebrate each other.

We have much to be grateful for.

Director Blaseg advised of principal transfers effective August 23, 2021:

Jamie Mohammed transferred to C.C. McLean Public School

Tracey Chapman transferred to Assiginack Public School

Heather Pennie transferred to Little Current Public School

Christy Case transferred to Manitoulin Secondary School

Itinerary

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| April 21 | Agenda Setting |
| April 22 | First Nations (ASW meeting) |
| April 26 | Eligibility Process - Interviews – Teacher to Vice Principal |
| April 27 | Eligibility Process - Interviews – Vice Principal to Principal |
| April 28 | Safe Schools Meeting
Science North Meeting – Review of summer programming |
| April 29 | Deputy Minister of Education teleconference |
| April 30 | PHSD Teleconference
OSSTF meeting
KINA meeting |
| May 3 | ASW google meet
Minister of Education teleconference |
| May 4 | Exec Council
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting |

- May 5 Agenda Setting
Ministry Call – review of LD pilot project

- May 6 Lasalle Secondary School site visit
Safe Schools Meeting

- May 7 Exec Council – Awards Committee Meeting
OSSTF Meeting
Ministry of Education Conference call RE: GSN'S
- May 10 ASW's – Consultation - Q&A
Ministry of Education Teleconference

- May 11 Exec Council

- May 12 Principal PD – Role & Support of ASW's
FNAC staffing meeting
Plant/Facilities consult re: MSS/M'Chigeeng

- May 13 Deputy Minister of Education teleconference
Mental Health meeting
Deputy Ministry of Health teleconference RE: Vaccine announcement

- May 14 PHSD google meet re: Vaccine strategy
Mental Health & Safe Schools review
Knowledgehook participation (online dialogue with North American
Educators)
Safe Schools

- May 17 PHSD (Four Boards - Vaccine Strategy consultation)
Minister of Education and Borad Chairs teleconference
Ministry of Health RE: Vaccine strategy

- May 18 Exec Council
Staffing review
Board Meeting

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Clement advised that he attended a Northern Region meeting on Thursday, April 22 and a Director's meeting on Saturday, April 24, 2021. A letter was sent from OPSBA to the Minister of Education regarding remote learning for students.

Trustee Clement commented on the OPSBA Speaker Series as well as a the CBC survey of teachers that was getting much media attention this week.

Trustee Kosmerly advised that she attended a virtual meeting last week as part of the Northern Boards Project Compass Steering Committee. The group discussed

survey results and next steps. She advised that OPSBA will be presenting survey results to all trustees in the fall 2021.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Lafrance advised that a new Student Trustee was elected at the recent Student Senate Meeting. Michael Yaw, a grade 12 student from Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, will be the Student Trustee for the 2021-2022 school year. Applications are out for new student senators and these will be reviewed at the upcoming Student Senate meeting scheduled for Monday, June 7, 2021

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Hunda spoke about Student Senate. Trustee Hunda also suggested that trustees check school facebook pages to see the innovative things that are occurring in Rainbow schools during the pandemic.

Trustee Stringer voiced her appreciation for the *food drop* for Manitoulin Island families supported by Better Beginnings Better Futures and the Gore Bay Foodbank. She thanked community partners and staff for helping to make this happen.

Trustee Stringer ~~also~~ spoke about the annual Little Current Fish and Game Club (LCFGC) fishing conservation educational program. This program provides each grade 4 student on the island with a fishing rod and reel. Trustee Stringer also advised that Bill Strain will be stepping down from his role as president of LCFGC.

Trustee Morrison also thanked staff and external agencies who have organized food drops for Rainbow DSB families.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

People, young and old and everyone in between, are tired of the restrictions and the worries of Covid 19 times. But I must admit that I continue to be amazed when I hear about things that are happening in Rainbow education.

It was wonderful to recognized our many award winners tonight. Their contributions, along with so many others, are the most meaningful investments in our future.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge some of the other partners in education - our parents/guardians and caregivers – the many grandmas and grandpas, the uncles and aunts, older brothers and sisters, neighbours and friends for all they have done and continue to do. Each one deserves a medal for their dedication to our young people.

As most people know, Rainbow District School Board's Director of Education, Norm Blaseg, is retiring.

As a result, we are recruiting our next Director. The Board, through its Promeus search consultants, Marilyn Gouthro and Jordene Lyttle, is developing a Candidate Profile for the Director of Education.

As part of the consultation process, we welcome all partners in education throughout Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island to share their input.

For more information, please visit our website at www.rainbowschools.ca.

The thought for the month comes from Henry Ford who said, *“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success”*.

Thank you.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes April 7, 2021 (official)
2. **Non-Staff Communications**
Elementary and Secondary Graduation dates
Letter to Premier Ford and Minister Lecce dated April 26, 2021

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Special Education Advisory Committee June 2, 2021 12:00 pm
Parent Involvement Committee Special Presentation guest speaker Kevin Cameron June 2, 2021 6:30 pm
Student Senate Committee Meeting June 7, 2021 5:30 pm
Board Meeting (Budget) June 8, 2021 5:00 pm Boardroom

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 21-R69, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly
That we now adjourn at 6:52 p.m. – **Carried.**