

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, June 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), B. Clement, L. Debassige, A. Gibson, J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly, D. Morrison, M. Stringer, Student Trustee A. Lafrance
Absent: K. St. Jean
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, 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-R72, L.Debassige/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of June 29, 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: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

1. Outgoing Student Trustee Ava Lafrance

Director Blaseg thanked outgoing Student Trustee Ava Lafrance for fulfilling her role as Student Trustee in the midst of a global pandemic and for demonstrating resilience as she continued to lead the Student Senate.

Director Blaseg highlighted her accomplishments during her time as student trustee and wished her well in her future as a university student.

Ava Lafrance was thanked by trustees for her contribution to Rainbow Schools.

2. Summer Programs

Superintendent Wachnuk provided trustees with information about the Special Education Summer programs taking place during the months of July and August. All special education programs will be supervised by David Squarzolo. Programs include the summer intervention program, summer skills development program for students with autism, summer transition program, mental health support and mental health professional development. As well, special education support will be provided at other summer programs. In addition, approximately 30 speech and language assessments will be completed during the summer months.

Superintendent Noble spoke about the CODE summer learning program, secondary summer school, Cecil Facer summer school and Kindergarten camp.

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

Motion: 21-R73, D.Morrison/B.Clement

That the report from the In-Camera Committee of the Whole Board Meeting of June 29, 2021 be received.

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: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– Carried

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

a) Motion: 21-R74, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, May 18, 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: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– **Carried**

- b) Motion: 21-R75, B.Clement/D.Morrison
That the minutes of the Board Meeting - Budget held on Tuesday, June 8, 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: Absent
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 May Board meeting. The presentation included weekly community COVID-19 data provided by Public Health, several letters sent to families, graduation highlights, grade 9 destreamed math, information about vaccination clinics and the roadmap to reopening Ontario. Director Blaseg spoke about the Board Awards booklet and the Retirement Booklet.

Director shared a message that he shared with staff earlier today:

To all employees:

As we welcome summer, and say goodbye to another school year, I would like to thank you for working together to keep everyone safe.

When we re-opened last fall, we didn't quite know how the school year would unfold.

We were, after all, in uncharted waters.

Like any good navigator, we were well prepared.

We followed expert guidance, developed detailed procedures, communicated our plan to families, and set sail.

While we had to retreat to safe harbours along the way, we didn't let any bad weather dampen our spirits.

We stayed the course, and remained steadfast in our determination to reach our destination.

Now we can see the shore on the horizon.

As we look ahead to the 2021-2022 school year, our optimism for a return to some sense of normalcy is greater than ever as vaccine rates go up and case counts come down.

Between now and then, however, it's time for a well-deserved break.

You have been one exceptional crew - flexible, adaptable, patient, kind, caring, compassionate, creative,

courageous, respectful and, above all, resilient - in a school year like no other.

You have been great role models for students.

I am most grateful for your support. Have a safe summer.

Trustees expressed appreciation for the Director's informative presentation.

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

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

2021/2022 Budget

Motion: 21-R76, J.Kosmerly/M.Stringer

That the Rainbow District School Board 2021/2022 budget be approved.

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: Absent

Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– Carried

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

Motion: 21-R77, D.Morrison/A.Gibson

That Trustee K. St. Jean be granted a leave of absence from the June 29, 2021 Board meeting.

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: Absent

Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– Carried

2. **Director's Remarks**

(Refer to E. **OLD BUSINESS**, item #2 **2020-2021 School Year Update**)

Director Blaseg shared the following:

On Thursday, June 24 with the revelation of 751 unmarked graves at the Marieval Indian Residential School (Run by the Roman Catholic Church) all RDSB facilities were instructed to lower all flags immediately and continuously until Monday, July 5 at all RDSB facilities.

It goes without saying that we must travel a long way to rebuild our relationship with our First Nations peoples. It is incumbent upon us to reach out and create the conditions to earn that trust. Every day we must put into action what we print or what we say. Our Truth & Reconciliation: commitment to action must be actioned every day – we owe it to the children in the unmarked graves, we owe it to the moms and dads, sisters and brothers, grandmas and grandpas that were unable to see their sibling, son, daughter, granddaughter/ grandson come home.

Let's ensure that Truth & Reconciliation articles come to fruition, more specifically under Missing and Burial Information, Article's 71 to 83 that specifically addresses residential schools and children buried in unmarked graves.

Let's ensure Rainbow shows the humanity that has been missing for way too long.

We are hopeful that we will have many of our facilities open, pending the stage 2 & 3 thresholds being met. It is critical that we engage our youth with engaged activities wherever possible. Many of our fields will be in use this summer and we hope our Dome will also be accessed starting in August. As it relates to the dome we are really excited as the change rooms are complete and we are ready to facilitate all kinds of programming for students, school sports teams and the community.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank all our staff, both here at the Ed. Centre and at all of our schools. A year like no other, pivot, remote, pandemic, restrictions, physical distancing, mask, etc...all words and phrases I hope are behind us.

What I do want to hear is the laughter of children, the encouragement of staff, the support of parents and of course Admin, Trustees and the Ministry doing whatever it takes to create normal.

Again, thank you to Bruce, Judy, Kathy, Dennis, Nicole, Cindy, Mike and of course Heather for making these Bd. meetings work and for making the Ed. Centre a fabulous place to engage and work with our trustees and to lead our staff and students. I hope all of you have a wonderful summer and with any luck the next time we meet it will be without the aid of masks.

Itinerary

- May 19 PHSD meeting
ASW/Principals PD
Superintendent Meeting
- May 20 Child & Youth Death Review Table (CYDRT)
- May 21 Greater Sudbury Police Services (community of practice consult)
- May 25 Exec Council
Minister of Education teleconference
- May 26 ASW/Principals PD
- May 27 Deputy Minister of Education teleconference
- May 28 H.R. meeting

May 31 PHSD teleconference
Minister of Education teleconference

June 1 Exec Council

June 2 Deputy Minister of Education teleconference
MCTV interview
PIC – Kevin Cameron (google conference)

June 3 Mental Health – draft plan reviewed
First Nation meeting

June 4 Exec Council
ASW meeting

June 7 OSSTF meeting
Minister of Education teleconference

June 8 Executive Council
Board/Budget Meeting

June 9 ASW/Principals PD
Agenda Setting
Mishko-Deh-Wendam visit

June 11 PD day

June 15 Exec Council
Ministry of Education Indigenous Division – Review BAP

June 16 ASW/Principals PD

June 17 First Nation Advisory Committee final meeting for 2020/2021

June 21 Minister of Education teleconference

June 22 Exec Council
Lasalle SS Dome/Change room visit
Science North (Google meet)

June 23 Planning - Trustee Debassige,
Trustee Stringer, Trustee Clement, Trustee Dewar

June 24 ASW/Director PD google meet
OSSTF meeting

3. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Clement attended a virtual meeting on June 11, 2021. He advised that many members from Northern Boards are appreciating the virtual meetings and have requested that this be an option for future meetings (with the exception of the AGM and PES conferences). Trustee Clement noted items on the June 11 OPSBA agenda.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Lafrance advised that student trustees are hoping to get together in August, in person, as a year-end wrap up. She voiced her appreciation for the opportunity to sit at the board table.

Trustees were thankful of Ava's work during the 2020-2021 school year.

4. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Each trustee thanked staff, students and parents/guardians for persevering through a school year like no other. The trustees shared their congratulations to graduating students and their appreciation for the innovative virtual graduation ceremonies. Trustees commented on the excellent work by staff, going above and beyond to make graduates feel special. Trustees commented on the flexibility and resiliency of staff, students and parents/guardians who were forced to pivot many times during the pandemic.

Trustees wished a safe holiday to all.

5. **Chairperson's Remarks**

This is the last board meeting of the school year – a school year unlike any other but a year that has made me truly grateful.

I want to begin my remarks by acknowledging the dedication of all of our staff.

You moved mountains to ensure teaching and learning continued amidst the backdrop of a global pandemic. And you did it with a sense of purpose and passion for your respective professions.

Regardless of the ask or the task, our board and school administrators, teachers, support staff, administration and maintenance staff, and custodians and cleaners kept calm and carried on. Your efforts were nothing short of Herculean and, for that, we are truly grateful.

I would also like to acknowledge our students and families.

You were called upon to adapt to a new reality over an extended period of time – not a few days, not a few weeks, but many, many months. In all of the twists and turns, you demonstrated patience, understanding, flexibility and resiliency and we are truly grateful.

We saw RDSB strength and tenacity throughout the pandemic. Supportive parents and guardians, worked together with caring educators and support staff, to remained focused on the well-being and education of students whether learning at school or at home.

And, I would like to salute our graduates and the innovative graduation celebrations organized by schools to pay tribute to the “Class of 2021”. Congratulations to all of you. Once again, you have made us proud.

In closing, I am looking ahead to the new school year with hope and optimism.

We know more today than we did yesterday and, with vaccination rates climbing, I am confident September will be greeted with a greater sense of normalcy. But we are also stronger today than we were yesterday and so I am confident that we can and will create our own new normalcy.

For now, it’s time to catch our breath and enjoy some rest and relaxation. May our Rainbow community have a healthy and happy summer. It’s time to rejuvenate.

The thought for the day comes from Oprah Winfrey who said, “Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down”. I have learned that in RDSB, we have lots of people who will not only take the bus, but they will work to repair the limo. And for that, I am truly grateful.

Chair Dewar asked trustees to have a look at the attached email correspondence regarding the Laurentian University greenspace.

Motion: 21-R78, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That Rainbow District School Board write a letter in support of the Laurentian University greenspace and trail as per the request from the Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury.

Poll Vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige: In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: Abstain
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: Absent
Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– Carried

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Parent Involvement Committee minutes January 5, 2021 (official)

First Nations Advisory Committee (FNAC) minutes February 18, 2021 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**
Email from Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury regarding Laurentian University greenspace

H. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Board Meeting August 31, 2021 5:00 pm

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting September 14, 2021 5:00 pm

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 21-R79, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That we now adjourn at 7:06 p.m. – **Carried.**

Official