

**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, August 31, 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 August 31, 2021 be approved.

**STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Motion:

That Michael Yao (Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School) be appointed Student Trustee for the school year 2021-2022.

Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance.

**B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

\*Chair

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

\*Chair

Director Blaseg

**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, June 29, 2021 be approved.

b) Motion:

That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 be approved.

c) Motion:

That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 be approved.

2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals** \*SBO
- a) Motion:  
That the Board award the contract for Mechanical and Electrical Consulting Services - RFP 2021-12 to \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) Motion:  
That the Board award the contract for Architectural Consulting Services - RFP 2021-13 to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) Motion:  
That the Board award the contract for Supply of Furnace Oil - RFP 2021-14 to \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) Motion:  
That the Board award the contract for Supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas - RFP 2021-15 to \_\_\_\_\_.
- e) Motion:  
That the Board award the contract for Inspections of Asbestos Containing Material RFP 2021-16 in various school buildings to \_\_\_\_\_.
- f) Motion:  
That the Board award the contract for Workplace Environmental Consulting Services RFP 2021-17 to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. **Continuation of Livestreaming Strategic Planning Committee Meetings** \*SBO
- Motion:  
That the Strategic Planning Committee meetings held in the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom be live streamed and that this be reviewed in one year.
4. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees** NIL \*Chair
5. **September School Reopening Update** \*Director
- F. **NEW BUSINESS** \*Chair
1. **2021-2022 Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians** \*Director
2. **2021-2022 Executive Council Portfolios and Family of Schools** \*Director
3. **OPSBA Fees** \*Chair
- Motion:  
That the 2021/22 membership fees in the Ontario Public School Boards' Association be approved.

4. **Requests for Leave of Absence** \*Chair
- Motion:  
That \_\_\_\_\_ be granted a leave of absence from the August 31, 2021 Board meeting.
5. **Director's Remarks** \*Director
6. **Other Items** \*Chair  
OPSBA Director  
Student Trustee
7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** \*Chair  
*Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.*
8. **Chairperson's Remarks** \*Chair
- G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** \*Chair
1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**  
First Nations Advisory Committee (FNAC) minutes February 18, 2021 (official)
2. **Non-Staff Communications**
- H. **FUTURE MEETINGS** \*Chair  
Student Senate Meeting September 13, 2021 5:30 pm  
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Sept 14, 2021 5:00 pm  
Special Education Advisory Committee September 15, 2021 12:00 pm  
Environmental Education Committee Meeting September 15, 2021 3:30 pm  
First Nation Advisory Committee Sept 16, 2021 10:00 am  
Equity & Inclusion Ed Committee Sept 16, 2021 4:00 pm  
Board Meeting September 28, 2021 5:00 pm  
Parent Involvement Committee AGM October 19, 2021 7:00 pm To be determined
- 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, June 29, 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, 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<br>ASW/Principals PD<br>Superintendent Meeting     |
| May 20 | Child & Youth Death Review Table (CYDRT)                        |
| May 21 | Greater Sudbury Police Services (community of practice consult) |
| May 25 | Exec Council<br>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.**

unofficial

**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, August 3, 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  
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, D. Kitching, N. Mousseau

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-R80, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Special Board meeting of August 3, 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. REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL IN-CAMERA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD**

Motion: 21-R81, D.Morrison/B.Clement

That Rainbow District School Board appoint Bruce Bourget as the Director of Education effective September 1, 2021.

Amendment: A21-R01, A.Gibson/D.Morrison

That the motion be amended by the addition of the words “to August 31, 2026”.

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**

Motion: 21-R81, D.Morrison/B.Clement

That Rainbow District School Board appoint Bruce Bourget as the Director of Education effective September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2026.

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-R82, D.Morrison/M.Stringer

That we do now adjourn at 5:13 pm. - **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, August 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

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Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), B. Clement, A. Gibson, J. Kosmerly, D. Morrison, M. Stringer  
Absent: L. Debassige, J. Hunda, 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: S. Ackroyd, N. Cecchetto, T. Hayes, 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-R83, M.Stringer/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Special Board meeting of August 10, 2021 be approved

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: Absent*  
*Doreen Dewar: In-favour*  
*Anita Gibson: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: Absent*  
*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. SEPTEMBER SCHOOL REOPENING**

Director Blaseg provided a detailed plan of the reopening of Rainbow Schools. Questions were asked and answered.

Chair Dewar said: "Before we adjourn tonight's meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to Director Blaseg and the staff members of Rainbow District School Board, many of whom cut their own holidays short to plan and provide directions necessary for a safe start to the 2021-2022 school year. Someone has said *Anything is possible when you have the right people around you to support you*".

Rainbow District School Board has the right people."

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 21-R84, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That we do now adjourn at 6:10 pm. - **Carried**





Leading Education's Advocates

**Ontario Public School Boards' Association**

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Cathy Abraham  
President

W.R. (Rusty) Hick  
Executive Director

June 30, 2021

TO: Doreen Dewar, Board Chair and Norm Blaseg, Director of Education

CC: Dennis Bazinet, Superintendent of Business

RAINBOW DSB

This was truly a school year like no other. English public school boards across Ontario went above and beyond throughout the year, responding to the needs of students, families and communities in a constantly changing learning environment.

It was a year in which the majority of students moved from in-class learning to remote, and back again, several times. Public health became the dominant concern for most Ontarians, and with good reason.

We must acknowledge the tremendous amount of hard work, innovation, creativity, and compassion that has been exhibited by trustees, directors of education, superintendents, principals, teachers, education workers, and our school communities across the province throughout the entire school year. Across the province, OPSBA and our member boards continued working primarily remotely, holding virtual board and staff meetings via platforms like Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams. Our Association shifted our way of operating to adapt to the pandemic, and continued to advocate effectively on behalf of the best interests and needs of the public school system in Ontario, amidst a heavier workload with many virtual meetings, constant email communications and new initiatives for both OPSBA and member boards.

As we head into the 2021-22 school year, we will continue our strong advocacy with the current government and the wider public in support of the important cause of ensuring Ontario's public education system remains strong in an uncertain time.

This September, it will be of utmost importance to ensure our students and schools are properly supported for the return to school. To quote our new discussion paper, [\*Transitioning from the COVID-19 School Experience\*](#), we will need "to challenge our collective selves to reimagine what schools could become to ensure that each and every student in our care thrives in school and in life."

Our shared history, and the moral imperative of being member school boards responsible for the education of Ontario's children and youth, compels us to acknowledge in sadness the discovery of the remains of hundreds of children who attended Canadian residential schools. At this time, searches of additional residential schools are occurring and as a consequence more discoveries will likely transpire. With each discovery, comes the reminder of our shared responsibility in

acknowledging this tragic and sad chapter of the Canadian story. Advancing reconciliation means we need to confront our history and experience in Canada. We recognize that these circumstances are providing yet another traumatizing experience for Indigenous communities, and we are collectively committed to working through our Indigenous Trustees' Council to continue the pursuit of reconciliation in the days ahead.

As well, other racist acts and sentiments continue to be all too pervasive in this country and are receiving increased attention in the media and public discourse. Recent anti-Black, anti-Asian and anti-Muslim events have caused organizations to examine their own practices and policies, and OPSBA is no different. We are currently undergoing an equity, diversity and inclusion audit, and we expect a report later this year. We must confront racism wherever and whenever it occurs, and our Association remains committed to doing this important work.

As a non-partisan organization, we have a 33-year history of building positive and mutually respectful working relationships with politicians and staff from all parties represented in the Ontario Legislature. These relationships allow us to successfully represent the voice of our members on the many issues that affect our students and communities.

Minister of Education Stephen Lecce virtually attended our Public Education Symposium (PES) in January, and numerous senior Ontario Government and Ministry of Education staff met virtually with our Board of Directors and Education Program and Policy Development Work Teams throughout the year. We held virtual Advocacy Day meetings with each party elected to seats at Queen's Park in the winter and spring, to re-introduce OPSBA and its priorities.

Last year, our experienced Labour Relations team successfully concluded and ratified central agreements with all education bargaining units. We are fortunate to have strong staff with outstanding expertise and credibility working to ensure student achievement and well-being are at the forefront of all discussions, decisions and implementation.

While much of the advocacy work can be seen in our public submissions and meetings with key stakeholders, there is a great amount of day-to-day work that is done behind the scenes. OPSBA staff have direct and constant access to both the bureaucracy and political staff in the government, as well as in the opposition parties. These relationships allow for conversations and the sharing of information to further support our common priorities.

OPSBA continues to be represented on key government working tables and our work has resulted in a number of successful outcomes. For more, please see our [2020-21 Annual Report](#) and [our advocacy work](#) related to the provincial government's legislative and regulatory agenda.

All of this work will be supported by our newly launched advocacy campaign called [Above and Beyond](#). Our campaign will highlight the strengths of our public education system, dispelling misconceptions, and raising awareness about the important role local governance plays in our system, through traditional and social media. Outreach was done to all OPSBA member boards to gather real-life hero stories during the pandemic.

**Our programs and services are highly cost effective.** The financial benefits of membership far exceed not only the membership fee itself, but the outcomes that could be achieved by boards acting individually. Our collective voice is a strong one. Working with our partners at the [OESC](#), our interventions on copyright tariffs, natural gas rates and electricity rates have continued to create significant savings for all school boards and cover membership fees many times over.

When this is combined with the other benefits created through our coordination and advocacy, the real value of membership is clear.

Examples of 2020-21 savings realized for:  
RAINBOW DSB

**Savings in Copyright Fees: \$30,550**

**Savings in Energy Costs: \$ 80,300**

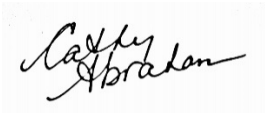
*Please note:* For the fourth year in a row, the OPSBA Board of Directors has approved a 0% increase for total membership fees. We have therefore kept the total membership fee (31 school boards and 10 school authorities combined) the same for five consecutive years. There may however be a slight change, up or down, to your individual board membership fee based on the fee model which is composed of a base amount and a percentage of your Board Administration and Governance Grant.

The 2021-2022 OPSBA membership fee for your board is \$ 39,260.

OPSBA represents more than 1.3 million students, or nearly 70% of the entire K-12 student population, including all 31 English public school boards, as well as 10 school authorities. Collectively, this makes our organization the number one stakeholder voice for education in Ontario. Your school board is clearly a very big part of who we are and what we do. We advocate for public education every day, and the government knows that we have the weight of all of our members behind us.

Thank you for your continued support as a member of OPSBA and for your dedication to public education. You can learn more about the valuable services OPSBA offers your board by visiting [www.opsba.org](http://www.opsba.org).

Sincerely,



Cathy Abraham  
President



W.R. (Rusty) Hick  
Executive Director

*Attachment: Invoice for the 2021-22 OPSBA membership fee*



**ONTARIO PUBLIC  
SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION**

**Leading Education's Advocates**

**Ontario Public School Boards' Association**

439 University Avenue, 18th Floor

Toronto, ON M5G 1Y8

Tel: (416) 340-2540

Fax: (416) 340-7571

[webmaster@opsba.org](mailto:webmaster@opsba.org)

[www.opsba.org](http://www.opsba.org)

Invoice to:	<b>Rainbow District School Board</b> <b>408 Wembley Drive</b> <b>Sudbury, ON P3E 1P2</b>		
Invoice# 030-21/22	Date: September 01, 2021	HST #10780 0344 RT 0001	
QTY	DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT
	<b>2021-2022 Membership Fee</b> <b>September 01, 2021 to August 31, 2022</b>  * Final Billing		\$39,260.00
	<b>EFT Payment:</b> Beneficiary Name: Ontario Public School Boards' Association Bank Name: TD Canada Trust Bank Address: 180 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON, M5G 1Z8 Bank Number: 004 Bank Transit: 18322 Bank Account: 0601 0302869 Send EFT Advice to: <a href="mailto:vtrinh@opsba.org">vtrinh@opsba.org</a>		
	Please make cheque payable to:		
	<b>Ontario Public School Boards' Association</b>		
	Terms of Payment : Due upon receipt		
		Subtotal	\$39,260.00
		HST @ 13%	\$5,103.80
		Total	\$44,363.80

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**MINUTES OF THE  
FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Rainbow District School Board Centre for Education  
Google Hangout/Teleconference  
Thursday, February 18, 2021  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

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<b>Members Present:</b>	Carlene Assinewai, Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation Kelly-Lee Assinewe, N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre Beatrice Debassige, Wahnapiatae First Nation Robert Pitfield, Wahnapiatae First Nation Valerie O'Leary, M'Chigeeng First Nation Margaret Stringer, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board Bob Clement, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board Doreen Dewar, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board Linda Debassige, First Nation Trustee, Rainbow District School Board Kathy Dokis, Principal of Indigenous Education, Rainbow District School Board Nicole Nicolas-Bayer, Vice Principal Manitoulin Secondary School Rainbow District School Board Norm Blaseg, Director of Education, Rainbow District School Board
<b>Absent</b>	Kim Nootchtai, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
<b>With Regrets:</b>	Lois Lambert, Dokis First Nation
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Stephanie Roy, Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute Marilyn Nicholls, Wahnapiatae First Nation Brian McGregor, Sheguindah First Nation Anna-Marie Abitong, Sagamok Anishnawbek Claudette Fournier, Sagamok Anishsawbek Janice Cada, Sheshegwaning First Nation Chief Shinning Turtle, Whitefish River First Nation Danielle Nakoochee, Zhiibaahaasing First Nation
<b>Recording Minutes:</b>	Dawn London, Rainbow District School Board

**1. OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Meeting began at 10:15a.m. Quorum was met. Kelly-Lee Assinewe said a few opening words.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: L. Debassige/V. O’Leary

That the agenda for the regular First Nations Advisory Committee meeting of February 18, 2021 be approved. – **Carried**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: L. Debassige/M. Stringer

That the minutes of the Regular FNAC Meeting held on Thursday, September 24, 2020 be approved. – **Carried**

**4. COVID 19 UPDATES**

Director Blaseg discussed the Ministry of Educations decision to engage in a surveillance testing program. Meaning two of our schools (260 students) will be Covid tested by Public Health each week. A 3<sup>rd</sup> party mobile unit was hired to do the testing.

March Break moved from March 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.

April 19<sup>th</sup> PD day has been moved to March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**5. ONLINE LEARNING UPDATES**

Director Blaseg provided stats on remote learning verse online learning. There have been very slight changes in numbers throughout this school year.

The next pivot point for online/remote learning will be April 20<sup>th</sup>, parents/students will have the option to remain remote, continue with online learning or switch.

**6. TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: A COMMITMENT TO ACTION UPDATES**

Nicole Nicolas-Bayer outlined that the focus for the 2020/2021 school year will be Race Relations Reconciliation and Healing Strategies. A sub committee will be formed to look

at what strategies already exist within the Board and to build a First Nations, Inuit, Metis student survey.

## **7. INDIGENOUS BOARD ACTION PLAN**

Principal Dokis discussed the Ministry's Board Action plan. She informed FNAC members where and how the money is allocated and how it is divided into four categories; Using Data, Supporting Students, Supporting Educators and Engagement and Awareness Building.

**Action Item:** Principal Dokis will send out an invite for members that would like to join a working group meeting for the Board Action Plan.

## **8. ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE**

FNAC members will have until March 5<sup>th</sup> to review the 2019-2020 Annual Report and report any errors or concerns to Principal Dokis.

**Action Item:** Principal Dokis will send out a reminder email to FNAC members regarding the review of the Annual Report.

## **9. COMMUNITY UPDATES**

Kelly-Lee Assinewe reports two graduates at N'Swakamok.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS        NIL**

## **11. CLOSING**

Meeting adjourned at 11:40am