

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, August 31, 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 M. Yao

Officials: N. Blaseg – Director and Secretary of the Board
B. Bourget – Incoming Director and Secretary of the Board
D. Bazinet - Superintendent of Business
J. Noble, K. Wachnuk – Superintendents
L. Fisher – Incoming Superintendent
N. Charette, H. Thirkill, C. Whitson

Others: S. Ackroyd, N. Cecchetto, T. Hayes, C. McDonald, 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-R85, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of August 31, 2021 be approved

Poll vote

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

– Carried

STUDENT TRUSTEE

Motion: 21-R86, J.Hunda/D.Morrison

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

Poll vote

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

– **Carried**

Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance.

Director Blaseg administered the Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance to Student Trustee Michael Yao and welcomed him to the board table.

Chair Dewar said: *On behalf of the trustees of the Board, I would like to welcome you Michael as the student Trustee for the RDSB. We look forward to having you bring student insight to the Board table for the school year 2021-2022. Without a doubt I know I speak for all trustees and staff when I say that we really look forward to the day when we can meet you in person.*
Thank you Student Trustee Yao.

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

Director Blaseg spoke about his journey in education over the last 35+ years, and shared many highlights in his career as he begins retirement tomorrow.

Trustees thanked Director Blaseg for his many years of commitment to education, staff, students and families and wished him a happy, healthy retirement.

Director formally requested that incoming Director Bourget assume the role of the Director.

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

a) Motion: 21-R87, B.Clement/D.Morrison

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

– Carried Unanimously

- b) **Motion: 21-R88, J.Kosmerly/M.Stringer**
That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 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 Unanimously

- c) **Motion: 21-R89, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly**
That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 10, 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 Unanimously

2. Tenders/Requests for Proposals

- a) **Motion: 21-R90, D.Morrison/B.Clement**
That the Board award the contract for Mechanical and Electrical Consulting Services - RFP 2021-12 to Piotrowski Consultants Ltd. and SNC-Lavalin Inc.

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

b) Motion: 21-R91, B.Clement/J.Kosmerly

That the Board award the contract for Architectural Consulting Services - RFP 2021-13 to Luciw Boudreau Architecture, 3rd Line Studio Inc. and Yallowega Bélanger Salach Architecture.

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

c) Motion: 21-R92, M.Stringer/J.Kosmerly

That the Board award the contract for Supply of Furnace Oil - RFP 2021-14 to Co-opérative Régionale de Nipissing-Sudbury Ltd.

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) Motion: 21-R93, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly

That the Board award the contract for Supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas - RFP 2021-15 to Superior Propane Inc.

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) Motion 21-R94, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly
That the Board award the contract for Inspections of Asbestos Containing Material RFP 2021-16 in various school buildings to to Englobe Corporation.

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**

- f) Motion: 21-R95, D.Morrison/M.Stringer
That the Board award the contract for Workplace Environmental Consulting Services RFP 2021-17 to Englobe Corporation.

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**

3. **Continuation of Livestreaming Strategic Planning Committee Meetings**

Motion: 21-R96, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That the Strategic Planning Committee meetings held in the Ernie Checkers Boardroom be live streamed and that this be reviewed in one year.

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**

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

5. **September School Reopening Update**

Incoming Director of Education Bruce Bourget provided a detailed update on the 2021-2022 school year.

Incoming Director Bourget spoke about the Reopening Guide for Rainbow Schools, stressing once again that the health and safety of students and staff is the first and foremost priority. He shared information about face-to-face learning and remote learning and the work that has been done to get remote learners set up in a remote classroom with a dedicated remote teacher, at both the elementary and secondary levels.

He shared COVID-19 information and data from Public Health Sudbury and District. He spoke about the focus on well-being as we reopen schools, reconnecting with students and families, the changes to sport, health and physical activity and changes to the screening tool and ventilation.

Incoming Director Bourget also spoke about the success of the kindergarten camp, which provided 432 students from 28 schools with an opportunity to explore. He shared information about the face-to-face Summer Institute sessions, the Leadership Conference and the new employee orientation as well as the upcoming professional learning for staff on the September 1 and 2 Professional Activity days.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **2021-2022 Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians**

Incoming Director Bourget provided details about the publication as well as the School Calendar Card.

Incoming Director Bourget thanked Nicole Charette, Jennifer Battach and executive council for all the work they have done on these documents and reminded that these documents will be available on the board website tomorrow.

2. **2021-2022 Executive Council Portfolios and Family of Schools**

Incoming Director Bourget reviewed the 2021-2022 Executive Council distribution of schools and portfolios.

3. **OPSBA Fees**

Motion: 21-R97, B.Clement/J.Kosmerly

That the 2021/22 membership fees in the Ontario Public School Boards' Association 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

4. Requests for Leave of Absence NIL

5. Director's Remarks

Incoming Director Bruce Bourget shared a few words:

Let me begin by saying that it is an absolute privilege to serve the Rainbow District School Board as Director of Education.

I look forward to working with you, Superintendents, administrators, staff, students, families, First Nations Chiefs and communities and all of our partners.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Norm Blaseg for his leadership, support and constant advocacy for students. You will be greatly missed by us all.

Congratulations on your retirement!

We wish you all the best as you begin this exciting new chapter in your life.

Our administrative teams have been hard at work preparing for the start of the school year.

Our incredible staff will all be back this week for professional learning.

According to official predicted enrollment for the start of the 2021-2022 school year, Rainbow District School Board will welcome 13,317 students in Rainbow Schools when classes resume on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

There will be no early dismissal on the first day of school.

We can't wait to see our students and welcome all our families to Rainbow Schools.

96 per cent of our students will be learning in-person.

Those who have opted for remote learning - elementary as well as secondary - will be part of a separate virtual school.

As I mentioned previously, goal number one will be to reconnect.

Our schools will be safe and supportive places where students have fun while they learn.

We recognize that the pandemic has had an impact on students in varying ways.

While we prioritize reconnecting, mental health and well-being, our teachers will engage with and support students to determine learning needs.

We have an incredible team of administrators, educators and support staff who will nurture student success.

In the coming weeks and months, I will connect with the Board of Trustees and all of our school communities and partners to have conversations and gather input to create a new Strategic Plan.

This will set our path forward over the next five years.

I indicated in my update earlier this evening that public education prepares students to be active, confident, capable and contributing members of society.

Rainbow Schools play a critical role in the academic, social, emotional and physical development of children and young adults.

When students feel safe, supported, accepted, respected and connected - when they have a sense of belonging - they are well on their way towards achieving their full potential.

On behalf of all of our staff, I would like to welcome our students and families to the 2021-2022 school year.

We can't wait to see you on September 7th. Thank you.

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Clement reminded trustees that a questionnaire would be distributed later this fall, seeking feedback about OPSBA. Trustee Clement advised that many OPSBA directors 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).

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Yao shared his excitement to be working with trustees at the board table. He is honoured to be the liaison between students and the Board. He also spoke about his involvement with OSTA at the provincial level.

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustees thanked Director Norm Blaseg for his dedication to Rainbow District School Board, congratulated incoming Director Bruce Bourget, welcomed Superintendent Lesley Fisher and welcomed Student Trustee Michael Yao.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a sincere thank you to Norm Blaseg, our Director of Education, for his leadership over the past 11 years.

Norm Blaseg's 35 years in public education took him first to classrooms in Attawapiskat; then, to Southern Ontario, and finally back home to Sudbury and Rainbow District School Board.

Director Blaseg respects good governance, appreciates the role of Trustees, values the voice of our First Nations communities, actively engages with staff, students, families and community partners, and moves priorities forward with the support of an exceptional team.

Above all, Norm Blaseg has the remarkable ability to make us feel like we are making a difference for kids. And that, in turn, makes each of us want to continue to contribute to public education. He has instilled in the Rainbow community the idea that to work in the service of children is a noble goal.

With Norm Blaseg's leadership, RDSB has revitalized existing schools, built new schools, enhanced programs and services, and expanded community partnerships; always with a focus on student achievement and well-being.

Indigenous education, special education, mental health, equity and inclusion, parental involvement, student engagement, professional learning and curriculum development have all flourished under Director Blaseg's tenure.

Teaching and learning have continued amidst a global pandemic where Norm Blaseg's leadership has placed the health and safety of our students, staff and families as the first and foremost priority.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank you Norm for being a champion for children. We wish you a retirement filled with good health and much happiness.

The thought for the day is from John Quincy Adams who said, "*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader*". Director Blaseg – YOU are a leader. Thank you.

G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

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

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Student Senate Meeting September 13, 2021 5:30 pm

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting September 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 September 16, 2021 10:00 am
Equity & Inclusion Ed Committee September 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**

Motion: 21-R98, D.Morrison/J.Hunda
That we now adjourn at 7:13 p.m. – **Carried.**

Official