

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, September 28, 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: B. Bourget – Director and Secretary of the Board
D. Bazinet - Superintendent of Business
L. Fisher, J. Noble, K. Wachnuk – Superintendents
N. Charette, H. Thirkill, C. Whitson

Others: S. Ackroyd, N. Cecchetto, T. Hayes, M. McKelvey,
N. Mousseau

Presenters: F. Yackman, A. Roy

Chair Dewar advised that the meeting was being live-streamed and archived.

Chair Dewar read a declaration of land acknowledgement aloud.

Chair Dewar continued:

Thursday, September 30, 2021 marks the very first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The day honours the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families and communities.

As Canadians, we continue to learn about this dark chapter in Canadian history and its devastating impact on generations of Indigenous people.

Let us join together in a quiet and respectful moment of silence as we acknowledge the unmarked graves in British Columbia and the unmarked graves that continue to be discovered across Canada.

As we reflect, let us reaffirm our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation through unity and new beginnings as our path forward for a brighter future.

(MOMENT OF SILENCE)

We now have an honour/drum song from Bryden Gwiss Kiwenzie who is from the Indigenous "Anishinaabe" community in Sudbury.

He will be singing the Unity Song with the Grandmother Hand Drum.

Bryden was nominated for the Best Hand Drum Album of the year at the 2017 Indigenous Music Awards and he has been performing with traditional drum circles since childhood.

Miigwetch to Hazel Fox-Recollet for arranging this recording for us.

(HONOUR/DRUM SONG)

We extend our thanks to Bryden Gwiss Kiwenzie. Miigwetch Bryden.

On Thursday, September 30th, staff and students in Rainbow Schools will observe a moment of silence to mark the very first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Together, we will reaffirm our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation through unity and new beginnings as our path forward for a brighter future.

Miigwech. Merci. Thank you.

Director Bourget completed roll call to establish who was participating in the Google Meet Board meeting.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 21-R99, K.St.Jean/L.Debassige

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of September 28, 2021 be approved as amended, the amendment being the addition of 3 c) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) under OLD BUSINESS.

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

Fred Yackman (Co-chair of Save A.B. Ellis Committee and Director of Rainbow Community District Non-Profit Corporation) and Angela Roy provided trustees with an update on their vision for the future of the former A.B. Ellis PS building.

Trustees were provided with backup documents and had the opportunity to ask clarifying questions of the ten-minute presentation.

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-R100, B.Clement/J.Hunda

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 31, 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. Tenders/Requests for Proposals NIL

3. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

a) Audit Committee (AC)

Motion: 21-R101, D.Morrison/M.Stringer

That the 2020/2021 External Audit Plan be approved as recommended by the Audit Committee.

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

Motion: 21-R102, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That the 2021/2022 Internal Audit Plan and the Multi-Year Internal Audit Plan be approved as recommended by the Audit Committee.

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) **Strategic Planning Committee**

Motion: 21-R103, M.Stringer/D.Morrison

That the Board write a letter asking the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health to consider amending the Immunization of School Pupils Act to include Covid-19 as a “designated disease”.

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: Opposed

Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– **Carried**

c) **Special Education Advisory Committee**

Motion: 21-R104, J.Kosmerly/D.Morrison

That the Special Education Advisory Committee recommends that Rainbow District School Board send a letter to the Minister of Education endorsing Bill 172, the Education Statute Law Amendment Act (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder).

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. **2021-2022 School Year Update**

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

Director Bourget spoke about the positive start to the 2021-2022 school year, annual Wear Pink Day, COVID-19 information and data from Public Health Sudbury and District, Ontario’s vaccination passport, staff attestations, educational video provided by the Ministry of Education, vaccination attestation data, the school screening tool used daily by students, updates to the Reopening Guide for Rainbow Schools, messaging to staff, messaging parents/guardians, Rapid Antigen Testing and recent COVID cases in Rainbow Schools. Director Bourget shared the process that is

followed by Board Staff once Public Health Sudbury and Districts notifies of a confirmed case.

Director Bourget shared information about the Parent Involvement Committee featured speaker Dr. Michael Ungar, a leading authority on resilience. Dr. Ungar will be speaking at the October 19, 2021 PIC meeting.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Various Capital Projects Update

Superintendent Bazinet introduced Nathalie Mousseau, Manager of Facilities, who provided details and photos of numerous projects that have been completed in the last fiscal year, noting that over \$16 million has been spent on Rainbow Schools (this does not include work done at the new FI Elementary School in New Sudbury or the revitalization of Churchill PS).

Trustees were appreciative of the informative presentation.

2. OSTA-AECO Fees

Motion: 21-R105, J.Hunda/B.Clement

That the 2021/22 membership fees in the Ontario Student Trustees' 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: Absent

Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– Carried

3. Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA) Fall General Meeting

Motion: 21-R106, J.Hunda/M.Stringer

That the board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Yao at the OSTA Fall General Meeting November 4 to 7, 2021 in Toronto.

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**

4. **Current Expenditures Borrowing Resolution**

Motion: 21-R107, J.Kosmerly/D.Morrison

That the Current Expenditures Borrowing Resolution as attached be deemed to have been read three times and 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**

5. **Requests for Leave of Absence** NIL

6. **Director's Remarks**

Let me begin by acknowledging our staff and students on a successful return to school and thanking our families for their ongoing support. We prioritized safety, mental health, wellness and belonging - which provide a strong foundation for learning - and are now moving forward with assessments to provide interventions for students who require support. Interventions supplement the good teaching practices that occur in our classrooms daily. Of course, literacy and numeracy remains a priority as these skills are essential for success in all subject areas.

Mental health and well-being will continue to be a focus throughout the school year. Just today, we met with school administrators to review the focus for the professional learning day on October 25th. Staff will receive more resources to support a culture of well-being and wellness as we continue to create a sense of safety, calm, self, connectedness and hope for all students.

As Chair Dewar indicated at the start of the meeting, on Thursday we recognize the very first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. On this day, our staff and students will wear orange, and continue to learn about residential schools and their impact on generations of Indigenous people. Orange shirt day began in 2013 under the vision of Phyllis Webstad who had her orange shirt taken away from her when she entered residential school. It is a recognition that Every Child Matters. When we wear orange, we honour the Residential School survivors and their families and remember the children who did not come home.

I encourage all students and staff to wear an orange shirt to show we care and to acknowledge our past as we work together on Truth and Reconciliation in Rainbow

Schools. Our schools have planned many ways to mark this day with meaning. We will post information on the board website. Here at the Centre for Education, our very own Hazel Fox-Recollet has planned a sunrise ceremony to bring us together to honour the day. Everyone is welcome to join us at 408 Wembley Drive.

I would like to express my gratitude to our facilities staff for their outstanding work in making our schools safe and inviting places to work and learn. We recognize the importance of the essential work you do each day and night to support our schools.

From September 18 to 26, we celebrated National Coaches week in Ontario. Thank you to our staff and volunteers who give their time and expertise to create valuable opportunities for our students to learn and grow through sport. We have heard that the resumption of school athletics have had a tremendously positive impact on the mental and physical well-being of our students. Congratulations to Colin Ward of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School. Colin was recognized with the School Sport Award by the Coaches Association of Ontario.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our school administration and all staff for their dedication and commitment to student learning and well-being. Each day you work with heart, pride and determination to support our students and our communities. You exemplify what reaching minds and touching hearts is all about. Thank you for being difference makers!

7. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Clement advised that he attended a virtual OPSBA Directors meeting on Saturday, September 25. He recommended that trustees read the summary which is available on the OPSBA website.

Trustee Kosmerly, in her role as alternate OPSBA Director and Northern Representative on OPSBA's Project Compass, spoke about a survey that will be shared in October, followed by consultation in November and a focus group meeting in December (via Zoom).

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Yao was thankful for his smooth transition back into the classroom. He shared that he and his friends are very happy to return to face-to-face learning.

Student Trustee Yao spoke about the success of the first Student Senate meeting, which was an in-person meeting. He looks forward to the October Student Senate Meeting.

8. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Kosmerly asked fellow trustees to complete an eight question survey on the OPSBA website prior to November 30, 2021.

Trustee Morrison spoke of the children that she sees that are happy to be back in schools with their friends and thanked staff for reaching out to reconnect.

Trustee Hunda also thanked hardworking staff for their efforts in the re-entry into school for students.

9. **Chairperson's Remarks**

I'm not sure if this is unique to me and my "seasoned" friends but we are having difficulty understanding where the province of Ontario and the Ministry of Education stands with helping us battle Covid 19.

W. Edwards Deming, a statistician, professor, author, and lecturer said "In God we trust, all others bring data".

Well, we collect data – lots and lots of data. School boards collect data as directed by the Ministry so that the Ministry can share the data.

Health units collect data but cannot share all their data with school boards. However, school boards will be sharing their data with Health Units.

Students who are eligible to receive the vaccine are not required to share that they are vaccinated in order to attend school but they do need to prove they are vaccinated if they want to get into a restaurant.

Everyone needs to show proof of vaccination to eat in a restaurant but the employees who cook and/or serve do not need proof of vaccination.

The Ministry requires that school boards collect data in the form of attestations that will lead to school boards collecting more data to track employees who attest that they are not vaccinated.

The Ministry then requires school boards to collect data on the rapid testing that the Ministry required boards to have collected through attestations.

And to think that I still have to look up the data on the who, why, where and how Covid 19 is spread.....

American economist, Gregg Thaler, said "Contact data ages like fish not wine...it gets worse as it gets older, not better."

G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Special Education Advisory Committee minutes May 5, 2021 (official)
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes June 2, 2021 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Student Senate Meeting October 4, 2021 5:30 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee October 6, 2021 12:00 pm
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting October 12, 2021 5:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee Meeting October 13, 2021 3:30 pm
Parent Involvement Committee AGM October 19, 2021 7:00 pm Virtual Event
Board Meeting October 26, 2021 5:00 pm
Equity & Inclusion Ed Committee November 4, 2021 4:00 pm
First Nation Advisory Committee November 18, 2021 10:00 am

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 21-R108, D.Morrison/B.Clement
That we now adjourn at 7:30 p.m. – **Carried.**

Official