

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Minutes of the
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

held electronically via Google Meet
from the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury
on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Present: Trustees: D. Morrison (Chair), B. Clement, D. Dewar, A. Gibson, J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly, K. St. Jean, M. Stringer, Student Trustee Lafrance
Absent: L. Debassige
Officials: N. Blaseg – Director and Secretary of the Board
D. Bazinet – Superintendent of Business
B. Bourget, J. Noble, K. Wachnuk – Superintendents
Staff: N. Charette, H. Thirkill, C. Whitson, M. McKelvey, S. Ackroyd, N. Cecchetto, H. Gaffney, P. Hopkin, M. Jago, J. Jakubo, B. Managhan, N. Mousseau, C. McDonald, P. Potvin, P. Ross and three Lo-Ellen Park SS students

Chair Morrison advised that the meeting was being live-streamed.

Director Blaseg completed roll call to establish who was participating in the Google Meet Strategic Planning Committee meeting.

A. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: J.Hunda/A.Gibson

That the agenda for the Strategic Planning Committee meeting for May 4, 2021 be approved. - **Carried**

B. **PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST** NIL

C. **PRESENTATIONS**

1. Sudbury Regional Science Fair Winners

Pam Potvin, Principal of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, introduced three 2021 Sudbury Regional Science Fair winners. All three students will be attending the Canada-Wide Science Fair (virtually) from May 17 -21, 2021.

Annika Matush, a grade 10 student, spoke about her project *Cleaning up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch: A Novel Solution*.

Edward Xiong, a grade 10 student, spoke about his project *Autonomous Prevention of Bus Overcrowding and Mask Detection*.

Kerry Yang, a grade 12 student, spoke about her project *Reversal of Bacteria-driven Colorectal Cancer Cell Grown by Dandelion Root Extracts*.

Trustees congratulated the three award recipients and wished them luck at the Canada-Wide Science Fair.

2. Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

Superintendent Noble provided information about the SHSM program and the many benefits for students in planning their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university or workplace. Superintendent Noble advised that the number of SHSM offerings to students has doubled in the last ten years, that there will be five new programs for the 2021-22 school year which makes a total of 31 SHSM programs available for students in September 2021.

Superintendent Noble introduced Heather Gaffney (Principal of Student Success) and Jody Jakubo (SHSM and Co-op Coordinator). They spoke to trustees about the requirements for SHSM students to receive the red seal, funding and participation data, provincial SHSH numbers, SHSM sectors available in Rainbow Schools, the benefits of SHSM programs, what is required for completion of the program, co-operative education credits, dual credits at Cambrian College, the courses required, mandatory and optional certifications, experiential learning, reach ahead experiences, how SHSM is recognized, and how SHSM connects with student success.

Trustees had the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

3. Westmount

Director Blaseg reminded trustees that Westmount PS will be surplus to Rainbow DSB as of September 2022 when the new French Immersion school on the Lasalle Secondary School site is complete and ready for students and staff. Director Blaseg spoke about the number of programs and services that Rainbow offers for which there is no school site. Director Blaseg also noted that there are many gaps in community supports for students and their families.

Superintendent Wachnuk provided additional information about the gaps in services, adding that some students have to travel to southern Ontario to get the

help they require, forcing students to leave their families, their homes and their communities. The vision is to consolidate current programs into one location. Community agencies would continue to support students at this one location.

Mary Jago (Mental Health Lead) spoke about the challenges of mental health. She stressed the importance of meeting the needs of our very complex students. She spoke about current service challenges, how these will be address and how new programs will work to fill the gaps.

Brien Managhan (Manager of ABA) spoke about the Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Program and stressed that collaboration with stakeholders is imperative. Brien explained the current program, spoke about the program staff attached to the ABA program and how students transition out of the program.

Brien Managhan also provided trustees with background of the Northern Support Initiative (NSI) program and how Rainbow students benefit from this program.

Patrick Hopkin, Principal of Jean Hanson PS, spoke about the Alternative Intervention Program (ALTA), the type of students who benefit from this program, the focuses of the program and the staff attached to this program.

Patrick Hopkin also provided trustees with information about Jean Hanson PS's Intensive Support Program (ISP) and the supports available to students who are enrolled, with the end goal always being the student's return to the home school.

Dr. Patricia Ross, Chief Psychologist, provided information about what services the psychology team can offer to students as they transition in and out of the program, as well as support during their involvement in the program.

Patrick Hopkin spoke about the Functional Skills and Behavioural Support Program (FSBSP) available to students who meet specific criteria.

Sandi Ackroyd, Manager of Capital Projects, displayed a conceptual design of the Westmount building.

Trustees had the opportunity to comment and ask questions about the vision for Westmount PS.

D. **OLD BUSINESS**

Minutes

Motion: J.Hunda/D.Dewar

That the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on March 2, 2021 be approved. - **Carried**

E. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Update

Superintendent Bazinet spoke briefly about the Ministry of Education GSN announcement earlier this afternoon, providing very general comments about portfolios.

2. Summer Projects

Superintendent Bazinet provided trustees with a report outlining work to be done at Rainbow Schools in the coming months, advising that there is over \$30 million in projects scheduled between now and fall 2021.

Trustees had an opportunity to ask questions and comment

F. **FUTURE ITEMS**

Athletics

Poverty

Policy Review

- Policy No. GOV-05: Code of Conduct: Board Members

- Policy No. GOV-15: Student Accommodation

School Bus Seatbelt Pilot Project

Student Senate

G. **TRUSTEES' REMARKS**

Trustees congratulated Student Trustee Lafrance and Superintendent Noble for the excellent Student Senate Conference held last week. Trustees recognized how difficult this year has been for students and staff hosting all events virtually. Overall, the conference was a huge success.

Student Trustee Lafrance thanked everyone for the positive feedback and thanked all who attended the conference. She also thanked all staff who helped to make this virtual conference a success.

Trustee Gibson asked about the timeline for the Board's Strategic Plan.

Trustee Morrison suggested that Chair Dewar send a letter to Premier Ford and the Minister of Education thanking them for their response to timely vaccination for education workers.

H. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

June 8, 2021

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: J.Hunda/D.Dewar

That the meeting be adjourned (6:53 pm). - **Carried**