

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, October 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), B. Clement, A. Gibson, J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly,
D. Morrison, K. St. Jean, M. Stringer, Student Trustee M. Yao
Absent: L. Debassige
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: N. Cecchetto, T. Hayes, M. McKelvey, N. Mousseau, C. Davey,
H. Fox-Recollet, S. Kett, D. Wiwchar, Student J. Kuntsi

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

Chair Dewar read a declaration of land acknowledgement aloud.

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

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 21-R109, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of October 26, 2021 be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
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

Environmental Education Committee

Superintendent Noble introduced members of the Environmental Education Committee: Principal Susan Kett, Principal David Wiwchar, Teacher Cori Davey, Indigenous Support Worker Hazel Fox-Recollet and Manitoulin Secondary School

student Jocelyn Kuntsi. Superintendent Noble referred to the *Climate Change Action Plan* that was distributed to trustees prior to the meeting.

Committee members spoke about the many initiatives of the Environmental Education Committee. Superintendent Noble spoke of the many board wide improvements that have been completed to support the Climate Change Mandate.

Trustees were appreciative of the informative presentation, expressing their pride in student and staff for their commitment to this important initiative.

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-R110, J.Hunda/D.Morrison

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour

Linda Debassige: Absent

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 NIL

4. 2021-2022 School Year Update

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

Director Bourget shared COVID-19 information and data from Public Health Sudbury and District, spoke about Rapid Antigen Test Kits, sports, a new mental health support *My Circle of Support Pocketbook*, updates to the school screening tool, guidelines that cover food preparation and serving, proof of vaccination of employees and he shared Halloween safety tips from Public Health Sudbury & District.

Director Bourget reminded trustees of the process that is followed by Board Staff once Public Health Sudbury and Districts notifies of a confirmed case, he shared a chronology of confirmed cases in Rainbow School and spoke of the impact on bussing.

Director Bourget shared information about the upcoming Transition Evening, advising that this will be virtual event again this year. Parents/guardians and students in Grades 7 and 8 are invited to a special presentation of “Making the Transition – Finding your way from Grade 8 to Grade 9” on Monday, November 15 at 8:00 PM on Eastlink Community TV Channel 10. This will also be available on Monday, November 22 and Monday November 29 at 8:00 PM.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Motion: 21-R111, D.Morrison/J.Hunda**
That the Levying Education Taxes for 2022 bylaw as attached be deemed to have been read three times and approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
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. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

Motion: 21-R112, D.Morrison/M.Stringer

That Trustee Linda Debassige be granted a leave of absence from the October 26, 2021 Board meeting.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
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

3. **Director's Remarks**

Further to the environmental education presentation, I would like to acknowledge our staff and students for their leadership and hard work in undertaking environmental initiatives that will have a positive effect on climate change. In addition to the team we heard from tonight, there are many environmental champions in Rainbow Schools dedicated to reducing our carbon footprint and being better keepers of the land. This generation is having a tremendous impact on those who will follow in their footsteps and that bodes well for our future.

Last month, I expressed my gratitude for the facilities staff who work tirelessly to make our schools clean, safe and welcoming places to learn. All of our staff do great work each day. This month, I would like to highlight our school office staff. As you know, the Student Information System that we used for many years was bought out and discontinued. As a result, we had to shift to a new system. It's called Aspen.

To say the conversion has been a challenge would be an understatement. Our school office staff have taken on this challenge and continue to work incredibly hard to move forward as the vendor addresses ongoing issues with the programming. Change on this scale takes time and patience. Without the dedication, talent, tenacity and resilience of our school office staff, we would not be operating at our current level. The system will improve as we move forward, but in the meantime, let's take a moment to acknowledge the unsung heroes in our school offices and thank them for the work they do each and every day. They have been exceptional.

As you know, we continue to prioritize safety, mental health, wellness and belonging, which provide a strong foundation for learning. Staff and students continue to express their appreciation for the opportunities to connect and participate safely in activities that are meaningful to them, activities that provide a more fulsome school experience. I am grateful to Chair Dewar and Trustees for your support. We remain focused on student well-being and achievement.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that November 1st to 7th is Treaties Recognition Week. It's an opportune time to engage all students in dynamic learning opportunities about Indigenous Peoples. This work is important as we build our understanding and turn our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation into action. Schools will receive resources to increase awareness of treaties and treaty relationships.

Thank you to our staff for continuing to be difference makers in the lives of our students. They make me proud each day.

4. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Clement advised that he will be attending a virtual OPSBA Regional meeting on Saturday, November 6, 2021.

Trustee Kosmerly, in her role as alternate OPSBA Director and Northern Representative on OPSBA's Project Compass, reminded trustees of an email that

was sent on October 8 with information which included Compass consultation documents regarding OPSBA Governance. She reminded that all trustees are invited to attend the Northern Region, November 6 meeting. She indicated that there will be a second opportunity for trustees to take part at focus group meetings scheduled in December (via Zoom).

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Yao is excited to attend the OSTA Fall General Meeting November 4 to 7, 2021 in Toronto.

Student Trustee Yao spoke about the new Instagram account created by Student Senate. This week, the highlight was Student Senators. He feels this is a great way to keep students informed.

5. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** NIL

6. **Chairperson's Remarks**

I recently read a blurb on the internet – not sure where it came from but it struck me as saying everything I wanted to say in tonight's "Chair's Remarks."

It said:

"We're all tired of hearing about COVID! But It's like brushing our teeth – it doesn't matter how often we brush our teeth. We brushed our teeth yesterday, we brushed our teeth today and yet – guess what, we need to brush our teeth tomorrow.

So, no matter how tired we are; wear a mask and keep your distance. We did it yesterday, we're doing it today and we need to do it tomorrow."

.....And that pretty well says it all!

The quote for the month comes from George Couros, a leading keynote speaker on innovative leadership, teaching, and learning who said: "We need to make the positive so loud that the negative becomes impossible to hear."

Thank you.

G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Audit Committee minutes December 7, 2020 (official)

Special Education Advisory Committee minutes Sept 15, 2021 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

OPSBA 2021-2022 Central Bargaining Invoice dated September 1, 2021

Oct. 14, 2021 letter to Minister Lecce RE: endorsement of Bill 172, the

Education Statute Law Amendment Act (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder)

Oct. 14, 2021 letter to Minister Lecce and Minister Elliott RE: amending the Immunization of School Pupils Act to include Covid-19 as a “designated disease”.

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Student Senate Meeting November 1, 2021 5:30 pm
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting November 2, 2021 5:00 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee November 3, 2021 12:00 pm
Equity & Inclusion Ed Committee November 4, 2021 4:00 pm
Board Meeting November 16, 2021 5:00 pm
First Nation Advisory Committee November 18, 2021 10:00 am
Parent Involvement Committee December 14, 2021 7:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee Meeting January 5, 2022 3:30 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 21-R113, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly
That we now adjourn at 6:45 p.m. – **Carried.**

Official