

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, December 7, 2021 at 6:55 p.m.

Present: Trustees: B. Clement (Chair), D. Dewar, A. Gibson, J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly,
D. Morrison, K. St. Jean, M. Stringer, L. Debassige, 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, N. Mousseau, M. McKelvey

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

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 22-R17, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of December 7, 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. PRESENTATIONS NIL

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: 22-R18, M.Stringer/J.Hunda

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, November 16, 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** 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, and included some of Dr. Penny Sutcliff's important messages to slow the spread of the virus. He spoke about bus cancellations, the Ontario Parent Survey results, vaccination attestation, rapid antigen testing, as well as a chronology of events since the last Board Meeting.

Director Bourget shared that Public Health Sudbury and District has streamlined their communication for confirmed cases.

Director Bourget reported that invitations for input have been sent to community partners, staff and committees for feedback on the Strategic Directions document.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

5. **Capital Projects Update – New Sudbury**

Superintendent of Business Dennis Bazinet provided an update on the current projects in the New Sudbury area.

Churchill Public School is progressing well and will be ready for September 2022. They will be hosting Kindergarten registration for the English program only for September 2022.

The new French Immersion school on the Lasalle site has been delayed due to soil issues. We are looking at a March 2023 potential opening. Due to this, Kindergarten French Immersion registrations will be held at Ernie Checkeris and Westmount for September 2022.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Director's Annual Report

Director of Education Bruce Bourget provided a review on the 2020-2021 Annual Report, that will be posted on the board's website next week.

2. Public Education Symposium (PES) 2022

Chair Clement advised that all trustees should have received the registration email for the upcoming event on January 28, 2022.

3. OPSBA Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium 2022

OPSBA Director advised the 2022 Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium is tentatively planned for April 28 – 29, 2022 and they were hoping to host in person, but no information has been provided as to the format.

4. Requests for Leave of Absence - NIL

5. Director's Remarks

I would be remiss to let this meeting slip away without recognizing an individual who has been essential to our Board Meetings for many years now.

As Executive Assistant to the Director of Education, Heather Thirkill plays a critical role behind the scenes, preparing and distributing meeting agendas, recording minutes, archiving resolutions, practices and procedures, supporting the Chair/Vice-Chair and all Trustees, and being the primary point of contact in the Director's Office.

She is an important resource for her colleagues, myself included. She is our resident corporate historian who is well versed on governance and operations.

But we all know that Heather is much more than the whirlwind of energy, efficiency and enthusiasm that she displays in her role each and every day.

Heather is a kind, caring, and compassionate human being. She checks in on others regularly just to make sure everything is OK, offers to lend a helping hand where needed, and puts others before herself. She possesses the qualities that we value and nurture in Rainbow Schools.

This is Heather's last Board Meeting. She is retiring next week after many years of dedicated service.

Before moving to the Board Office, Heather was an Administrative Assistant in various schools, including Churchill Public School, Lasalle Secondary School, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School and Lockerby Composite School.

That experience served her well. She was appointed Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Special Education, and, for more than 10 years, she has worked alongside senior administrators and elected officials.

I am grateful to Heather for staying as I began in this new role. Heather, you have been a pleasure to work with over the years and we will certainly miss your generous spirit, warm smile, kind nature, and wonderful work ethic.

Heather Thirkill received a Rainbow District School Board Award for Excellence this year. It was a most deserving tribute to an employee who has left a lasting legacy on this Board.

Thank you, Heather. We wish you a retirement filled with all the things that make your heart happy. You have certainly earned it. Congratulations!

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Chair Clement advised there is no report since the last meeting.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Yao advised that Student Senate has been busy working on the annual *Stand Up Speak Out* conference.

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustees recognized the hard work of all Rainbow staff and wanted to wish everyone a happy holiday.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Chair Clement said he is honoured to be Chair of the Board.

G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

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

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Parent Involvement Committee December 14, 2021 7:00 pm

Student Senate Meeting January 3, 2022 5:30 pm

Special Education Advisory Committee January 5, 2022 12:00 pm

Environmental Education Committee Meeting January 5, 2022 3:30 pm

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting January 11, 2022 5:00 pm

Board Meeting January 25, 2022 5:00 pm

Equity & Inclusion Ed Committee February 10, 2022 4:00 pm
First Nation Advisory Committee February 17, 2022 10:00 am

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 22-R19, D.Dewar/K.St.Jean

That we now adjourn at 8:17 p.m. – **Carried.**

Official