

Rainbow District School Board

**MINUTES OF THE
ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING**

Held electronically via Google Meet
from the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom
in the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury
on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Trustees: B. Clement, L. Debassige, D. Dewar, 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, M. McKelvey,
S. Ackroyd, N. Cecchetto, T. Hayes, N. Mousseau

Director Bourget advised that the meeting was being live-streamed and archived.

Director Bourget read a declaration of land acknowledgement aloud.

1. **Call to Order**

Director Bourget called the meeting to order.

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

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion: 22-R01, D.Dewar/D.Morrison

That the agenda for the Organizational meeting of the Board 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

Director Bourget reviewed the process for the upcoming elections and committee placements.

3. **Election of Chair**

Director Bourget called for nominations for the position of Chair of Rainbow District School Board.

Bob Clement self-nominated, seconded by Judy Kosmerly.
Doreen Dewar nominated Dena Morrison, seconded by Judy Hunda.

- a) **Motion: 22-R02, J.Kosmerly/B.Clement**
That nominations be closed.

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

Dena Morrison declined the nomination with sincere appreciation.

- b) **Motion: 22-R03, D.Morrison/D.Dewar**
That Bob Clement be acclaimed Chair of Rainbow District School Board.

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. **In-Coming Chair's Remarks**

Chair Clement stated that he is honoured to be Chair of Rainbow District School Board and acknowledged that he follows many great people in the role of Chair. He thanked trustees for their support.

5. **Presentation to Outgoing Chair**

Director Bourget shared a few words as follows:

Doreen Dewar has served as Chair with distinction multiple times, including the past 10 consecutive years, which is a remarkable contribution.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to thank you ... Trustee Dewar... for your tremendous leadership, over and over again. You answered the call to serve, and we are truly grateful.

As staff, we are proud to work with a Board of Trustees that values students and families.

You all recognize that public education has the power to change lives and, in your respective roles, you are helping students unwrap the greatest gift of all.

With Chair Dewar's leadership, and the support of all trustees, Rainbow District School Board enjoys good governance, which has a positive impact on the daily operation of our schools.

Together, we have moved many projects and programs forward, which have benefited teaching and learning. With good governance, we get things done.

Our Board is held in high regard across the province and Trustee Dewar has been a big part of building this strong reputation. In fact, her leadership has been recognized provincially with awards on more than one occasion.

As the longest serving Trustee on the Board - with over 33 years of experience, including nine years on the former Sudbury Board of Education - Doreen Dewar has cultivated a leadership style that is respectful and inclusive, allowing voices to be heard and collective decisions to stand.

She has been an articulate spokesperson for the Board, a Trustee whose political acuity and astuteness have grown sharper with time.

Doreen Dewar makes chairing a meeting look easy, but I, for one, know that is not the case.

A lot of preparation goes into each and every agenda. And there is a great deal of work to do between meetings, including committees, correspondence and conversations.

As Chair, Trustee Dewar has poured her heart and soul into this board. She has been generous with her time and knowledge... and supportive of staff and students. Trustee Dewar, you are a true champion for children, and we know you will continue to make a difference.

As you end your tenure as Chair, please know that we will miss your monthly words of wisdom, which gave us pause to reflect and often made us smile.

Trustee Dewar once said: "I consider serving as Chair of the Rainbow Board an honour and a privilege".

So tonight, as a decade in the Chair comes to a close, I turn the tables on our behalf and say to you, Trustee Dewar: "It has been an honour and a privilege to have you as our Chair." Thank you.

6. **Past Chair's Remarks**

Trustee Dewar stated:

Congratulations Chair Clement.

Albert Einstein when asked to explain "relativity", said, "Put your hand on a hot stove for a minute, and it seems like an hour. Sit with someone you like (or love) for an hour, and it seems like a minute. That's relativity."

Over the past years, one or the other of these situations applies to my tenure as Chair of the Rainbow District School Board. If I have had any degree of success, it has been thanks to the constant support and dedicated efforts of Rainbow District School Board staff and colleagues.

I look forward to making many more hours into minutes as a trustee.

Thank you.

Director Bourget handed the meeting over to Trustee/Chair Clement.

7. **Election of Vice-Chair**

Doreen Dewar nominated Dena Morrison for the position of Vice-Chair, seconded by Judy Hunda.

Judy Kosmerly nominated Linda Debassige for the position of Vice-Chair, seconded by Margaret Stringer.

- a) **Motion: 22-R04, D.Morrison/M.Stringer**
That nominations be closed.

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: 22-R05, D.Morrison/M.Stringer
That Linda Debassige be elected Vice-Chair of Rainbow District School Board.

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**

8. **Membership on Standing Board Committees**

Motion: 22-R06, D.Morrison/J.Hunda

That the membership on Standing Board Committees be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour

Linda Debassige: In-favour

Doreen Dewar: In-favour

Anita Gibson: Abstain

Judy Hunda: In-favour

Judy Kosmerly: In-favour

Dena Morrison: In-favour

Kerrie St Jean: In-favour

Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– **Carried**

Accessibility Planning Committee

Trustee Judy Kosmerly

Audit Committee

Trustee Judy Hunda

Trustee Dena Morrison

Trustee Margaret Stringer

Environmental Education Committee

Trustee Judy Hunda

Student Trustee Michael Yao

Equity and Inclusive Education Committee

Trustee Bob Clement

Trustee Linda Debassige

Trustee Judy Kosmerly

First Nation Advisory Committee

Trustee Linda Debassige
Trustee Kerrie St. Jean
Trustee Margaret Stringer

Labour Relations Committee

Trustee Bob Clement
Trustee Doreen Dewar
Trustee Judy Hunda
Trustee Dena Morrison
Trustee Margaret Stringer

Parent Involvement Committee

Trustee Judy Kosmerly

School Year Structure Committee

Trustee Dena Morrison
Trustee Kerrie St. Jean
Student Trustee Michael Yao

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Trustee Linda Debassige
Trustee Judy Kosmerly
Trustee Dena Morrison (alternate)
Trustee Margaret Stringer (alternate)

Strategic Planning Committee

Trustee Bob Clement
Trustee Linda Debassige
Trustee Doreen Dewar
Trustee Anita Gibson
Trustee Judy Hunda
Trustee Judy Kosmerly
Trustee Dena Morrison
Trustee Kerrie St. Jean
Trustee Margaret Stringer

Student Senate

Trustee Judy Hunda
Trustee Kerrie St. Jean
Student Trustee Michael Yao

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Representative

Trustee Judy Kosmerly
Trustee Anita Gibson (alternate)

9. **OPSBA (Ontario Public School Boards' Association)**

a) **OPSBA Director**

Anita Gibson self-nominated, seconded by Kerrie St. Jean.
Judy Kosmerly self-nominated, seconded by Doreen Dewar.

1. Motion: 22-R07, D.Morrison/M.Stringer
That nominations be closed.

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. Motion: 22-R08, M.Stringer/D.Dewar
That Judy Kosmerly be declared elected Rainbow District School Board's voting delegate to the Ontario Public School Board's Association.

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) **Alternate Director**

Anita Gibson self-nominated, seconded by Kerrie St. Jean.

1. Motion: 22-R09, J.Kosmerly/L.Debassige
That nominations be closed.

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. Motion: 22-R10, L.Debassige/K.St.Jean
That Anita Gibson be acclaimed Rainbow District School Board's voting alternate to the Ontario School Boards' Association.

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**

10. Board Policy No. GOV-05 Code of Conduct: Board Members
At the Annual Organizational Meeting, two alternate Trustees shall be chosen by the Board to be used when the circumstance warrant that one or both Trustees are needed in place of the Chair and/or Vice-Chair to carry out the duties required under this policy.
- a) Call for nominations.

Doreen Dewar self-nominated, seconded by Judy Kosmerly.
Anita Gibson self-nominated, seconded by Linda Debassige.

Motion: 22-R11, J.Kosmerly/K.St.Jean
That nominations be closed. - **Carried**

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: 22-R12, J.Kosmerly/L.Debassige
That Doreen Dewar be declared elected first alternate as per Board Policy No. GOV-05 Code of Conduct: Board Members.

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) Call for nominations.

Margaret Stringer nominated Dena Morrison, seconded by Judy Hunda.
Anita Gibson self-nominated, seconded by Kerrie St. Jean.

Motion: 22-R13, M.Stringer/K.St.Jean
That nominations be closed.

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: 22-R14, K.St.Jean/D.Dewar

That Dena Morrison be declared elected second alternate as per Board Policy No. GOV-05 Code of Conduct: Board Members.

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**

11. **BALLOTS**

Motion: 22-R15, L.Debassige/J.Kosmerly

That the ballots for all positions be destroyed.

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

12. **Adjournment**

Motion: 22-R16, J.Hunda/M.Stringer

That we now adjourn (6:55 p.m.). - **Carried**

Official