

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

to be held electronically via Google Meet
in the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive
on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

**AGENDA
AND RECOMMENDED MOTIONS**

- A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** *Chair
- Motion:
That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of February 15, 2022 be approved.
- B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST** *Chair
- C. PRESENTATIONS** *Chair
- Strategic Directions Presentation – Director Bourget
- D. REPORT FROM THE IN-CAMERA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD** *Director
- E. OLD BUSINESS** *Director
1. **Previous Minutes** *Chair
- a) Motion:
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday January 25, 2022 be approved.
2. **2021-2022 School Year Update** *Director
3. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals** *SBO
- Motion:
That the Board award the contract for Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, stair replacement–tender #2022-02 to _____ for \$_____.
4. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees** *Chair
- a) **Strategic Planning Committee**
- Motion:
That the Board allocate supplemental capital funding from the Proceeds of Disposition Reserve to complete the construction of the new JK-6 French

Immersion elementary school in New Sudbury as recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee.

b) **Labour Relations Committee**

Motion:

That the Board expand the Labour Relations Committee to include the OPSBA Director as a member for the remainder of the year and to include on the Committee going forward at the December organizational meeting as recommended by the Labour Relations Committee.

F. **NEW BUSINESS** *Chair

1. **2022-2023 School Year Structure** *Director

Motion:

That the Board approve the 2022-2023 School Year Structure for elementary and secondary schools.

2. **Ontario Student Trustee Association – Board Council Conference** *Chair

Motion:

That the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Yao at the Virtual OSTA-AECO Board Council Conference February 18 to 19, 2022.

3. **Requests for Leave of Absence** *Chair

Motion:

That _____ be granted a leave of absence from the February 15, 2022 Board meeting.

4. **Director’s Remarks** *Director

5. **Other Items** *Chair

OPSBA Director
Student Trustee

6. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions** *Chair

Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.

7. **Chairperson’s Remarks** *Chair

G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** *Chair

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Parent Involvement Committee minutes Jan 4, 2022 (official)
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes Jan 5, 2022 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

- H. **FUTURE MEETINGS** *Chair
First Nation Advisory Committee February 17, 2022 10:00 am
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting March 1, 2022 5:00 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee March 2, 2022 12:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee Meeting March 2, 2022 3:30 pm
Student Senate Meeting March 7, 2022 5:30 pm
Board Meeting March 22, 2022 5:00 pm
Parent Involvement Committee April 12, 2022 7:00 pm
Equity & Inclusion Education Committee May 12, 2022 4:00 pm

I. **ADJOURNMENT** *Chair

Motion:

That we do now adjourn at p.m.

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, January 25, 2022 at 5:03 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Chair Clement 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: 22-R20 D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of January 25, 2022 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

1. Enrolment

The Director provided an update of the October 31, 2021 enrolment.

The Director explained predicted and actual enrolment, the actual count dates, and spoke specifically about actual 2021 enrolment compared to actual 2020 enrolment for both the elementary and secondary panels. The Director was happy to report our enrolment exceeded our predicted numbers. Trustees had an opportunity to comment and ask questions. Trustees expressed appreciation for the detailed information provided.

2. Strategic Directions

The Director provided a brief update on the progress and next steps for the document and that a more detailed update would be provided at the February 1, 2022 Strategic Planning Meeting.

D. REPORT FROM THE IN-CAMERA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD

Motion: 22-R21 D.Morrison/M.Stringer

That the motion #22-W04 RE: Labour Relations matter, 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

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

a) Motion: 22-R22 J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 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) Motion: 22-R23 D.Morrison/D.Dewar
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 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

- c) Motion: 22-R24 J.Kosmerly/A.Gibson
That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 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
3. 2021-2022 School Year Update

Director 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. He spoke about Rapid Antigen tests, vaccination status updates and the new guidance on testing and isolation requirements.

Director Bourget advised that Secondary students would be returning to 4 periods a day starting in the second semester.

Director Bourget shared that Parents could access Kindergarten information presentations on individual school websites and virtual Secondary Information nights will be occurring through the month of February.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Revised Estimates 2021-2022**

Superintendent Bazinet reviewed the revised estimate document provided to trustees.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

2. **Property**

Motion 22-R25 J.Kosmerly/M.Stringer

That the property at 1545 Gary Avenue, Sudbury, ON P3A 4G5 (Cyril Varney Public School), be declared surplus to the needs of Rainbow District School Board as of June 30, 2022.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Abstain
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. **Public Education Symposium (PES) 2022**

Motion 22-R26 D.Morrison/D.Dewar

That the Board approve the attendance of the following trustees at the virtual 2022 Public Education Symposium to be held via Zoom on Friday, January 28, 2022 for a total registration fee of \$847.50.

*Trustees attending: B. Clement L. Debassige D. Dewar
A. Gibson J. Hunda J. Kosmerly
D. Morrison M. Stringer*

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

4. **Requests for Leave of Absence - NIL**

5. **Director's Remarks**

I would like to thank all staff for their resilience, dedication and courage. We continue to work together to support our students through the current wave of the pandemic. The work that occurs each and every day on behalf of students is very significant and highly commendable.

As you know, we continue to prioritize safety, mental health, wellness and belonging - which provide a strong foundation for learning. I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for your support and advocacy for our students and staff. In the days and weeks ahead we will continue to face new challenges. Being kind, caring and patient goes a very long way in supporting each other. It is a simple, yet powerful way to continue to make a difference each and every day.

I would like to share some appointments:

Neil Debassige - Vice-Principal at Manitoulin Secondary School.

Pablo Gil-Alfau - Interim System Principal of Indigenous Education

Colleen Eberlein - Acting Principal at Levack P.S.

Laura Pogue - Acting Vice-Principal at Queen Elizabeth P.S.

These recent appointments are from February 7th to the end of June and will enable us to focus on priorities and fill temporary vacancies.

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly advised that Project Compass Steering Committee has developed a draft implementation plan that will be brought forward to the OPSBA Executive Council for a vote and reminded Trustees of the upcoming PES conference on January 28th.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Michael Yao reported that the Student Senate is discussing plans for the Stand Up Speak Out conference and he will provide a detailed update at a later time.

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Stringer thanked administrators and staff during these extraordinary times for all that they do.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

It's Bell Let's Talk Day tomorrow - Wednesday, January 26th. Rainbow District School Board's Mental Health Team has prepared a list of helpful resources, activities and videos for students, staff and families. These resources can be accessed on the Board's website - rainbowschools.ca. In the lead up to Bell Let's Talk Day, resources have also been posted daily on the Board's Facebook page.

A resource guide for parents/guardians is now available online. The guide lists municipal, provincial and federal agencies and programs that support children and families. To access the Guide, visit rainbowschools.ca. Click Parents then Resources for Parents. This guide was produced by Jean Hanson Public School. It was so well received that Superintendent Wachnuk asked that it be shared online for access by all families.

It's been wonderful to see students returning to school in-person. Educators continue to find interesting ways to engage students - sparking creativity and excitement for learning.

Here are a few examples:

Students from S. Geiger Public School used Play-Doh to make models of the watershed.

Students from Redwood Acres Public School worked cooperatively to build a snow tunnel and also enjoyed "Inside Out and Backwards Day".

Grade 2 students from Cyril Varney Public School in Mrs. Marsh's class read a book called "I am" that discusses positive affirmations. Students created a handprint craft where they wrote something positive about themselves.

The "English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices" class at Sudbury Secondary School is participating in a Canada-wide outreach initiative called "Feathers for Our Women." The feathers are to show support and raise awareness for the missing or murdered women, girls, transgender, and two-spirit peoples in Canada.

And, Manitoulin Secondary School's SHARE Go-Green Club has set up an Eco-Hero program to encourage and inspire students to become more eco-conscious. The program helps students discover ways they can reduce their ecological footprint by making little changes that, together, have a big impact - for instance, taking shorter showers, not using plastic, and avoiding single-use gift wrap.

And take note of the following dates:

A friendly reminder to families that there is a Professional Development Day on Friday, February 4th. There will be no school for students on that day.

The next PIC meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 8th at 7 pm. The topic will be School Climate Survey Results / Census Survey Consultation

February is "Black History Month"

My quote: I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality...I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word" - Author Martin Luther King Jr.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Parent Involvement Committee minutes May 11, 2021 (official)
Parent Involvement Committee minutes October 19, 2021 (official)
Parent Involvement Committee minutes December 14, 2021 (official)
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes Nov 3, 2021 (official)
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes Dec 1 2021 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting February 1, 2022 5:00 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee February 2, 2022 12:00 pm
Student Senate Meeting February 7, 2022 5:30 pm
Parent Involvement Committee February 8, 2022 7:00 pm
Equity & Inclusion Ed Committee February 10, 2022 4:00 pm
Board Meeting February 15, 2022 5:00 pm
First Nation Advisory Committee February 17, 2022 10:00 am
Environmental Education Committee Meeting March 2, 2022 3:30 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 22-R28 D.Dewar/J.Hunda
That we do now adjourn at 7:20 p.m. – **Carried**

**Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 7 pm
Via Google Meet**

Attendance

Sudbury site:

Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Bernadette Rémillard, Parent, Sudbury Secondary School; Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Parent, Churchill Public School; Tricia Hatfield, Parent, Cyril Varney Public School; Angelina Kasunich, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Meredith Coulas, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) representative; Danielle Aubry, Parent, Confederation Secondary School; Bridget Erwin, Parent, Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Sean Sennanyana, Parent, Princess Anne Public School; Shannon Ketchabaw, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School; Denis Plouffe, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Judy Kosmerly, Trustee, Rainbow District School Board; Lesley Fisher, Superintendent of Schools; Nadia Berardelli, Principal, Markstay Public School; Sheila James, Vice-Principal, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning; and Mary Jago, Mental Health Lead, Rainbow District School Board.

Call to order 7 pm

1. Welcome from PIC Chair Natasha Delaney

Natasha Delaney welcomed everyone to the PIC Meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year!

2. Self Introduction of PIC Members

PIC members and guests introduced themselves.

3. Presentation: Mental Health Action Plan by Mental Health Lead Mary Jago

Mary Jago shared the results of the mental health survey completed in June 2021. Parents represented more than half of the respondents to the survey. She also presented an overview of the Board Action Plan for Mental Health and offered strategies for parents/guardians. The Mental Health Action Plan outlines four priorities - Build Mental Health Literacy and Capacity; Implement Evidence-Informed Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Intervention Practices and Programming; Support for Specific Populations; and Partner with the Community. Mary Jago talked about programs being implemented in schools to support mental health and foster culturally responsive schools and trauma-informed classrooms.

Strategies for Parents included take care of yourself, so you can be your best to support your children; take time for the basics – choose foods that give you good energy, establish a sleep routine that leaves you feeling refreshed, and enjoy some fresh air and exercise; pay attention to your own stress levels and notice when you are starting to feel overwhelmed; take a few deep, slow breaths when you start to feel anxious or upset; try just listening to your thoughts, and practice noticing them without judging or denying them; be compassionate with yourself, you are doing the best you can. Mary Jago also talked about signs for noticing mental health concerns,

how to talk to children about mental health, what to do if a child is struggling with mental health, and when to reach out for additional help.

4. Discussion based on presentation

PIC members were invited to ask questions throughout the presentation. A parent expressed concern about children with special needs learning remotely and indicated that ISP classrooms should be open during the remote learning period. It was noted that this will be discussed at the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting being held on January 5, 2022. At this time, only students with the most significant needs in the Board are learning in person. Remote learning was mandated by the Province in order to limit contacts given the fast spreading Omicron variant. Another parent renewed a suggestion that schools have an anonymous system for reporting students in distress and the need for wellness checks.

5. Approval of Agenda

“That the agenda for the PIC meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 be approved.”

Moved by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School
Seconded by: Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Churchill Public School
Carried

6. Approval of Minutes

“That the minutes of the PIC meeting held on Tuesday, December 14, 2022 be approved.”

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School
Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School

Carried

7. Review of School Council PRO Grant Applications received to date

Five Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant applications were received, reviewed, and subsequently approved.

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School will focus on diversity, equality and inclusion, building the skill set of those who surround the students and the students to best build a healthier community.

“That the Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School PRO grant project be approved.”

Moved by: Danielle Aubrey, Confederation Secondary School
Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School
Carried

Lockerby Composite School will enhance its virtual presentation / information session / school literature for parents/guardians of incoming Grade 9 students.

“That the Lockerby Composite School PRO grant project be approved.”

Moved by: Meredith Coulas, ETFO representative
Seconded by: Bernadette Rémillard, Sudbury Secondary School
Carried

Little Current Public School will provide home-based stress kits for caregivers and students, with age-appropriate directions developed by Physical and Health Education Canada.

“That the Little Current Public School PRO grant project be approved.”

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School
Seconded by: Sheila James, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School
Carried

Lasalle Secondary School will produce a high quality video highlighting the important partnership between parents/guardians and their children’s school experience.

“That the Lasalle Secondary School PRO grant project be approved.”

Moved by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School
Seconded by: Danielle Aubrey, Confederation Secondary School
Carried

Espanola High School will provide tips, useful tools and coping strategies to foster mental health and well-being.

“That the Espanola High School PRO grant project be approved.”

Moved by: Meredith Coulas, ETFO representative
Seconded by: Angelina Kasunich, Lockerby Composite School
Carried

The Board has received funding for up to nine projects.

“That the deadline to apply for a Parents Reaching Out Grant for the 2021-2022 school year be extended until February 4, 2022.”

Moved by: Sheila James, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School
Seconded by: Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Churchill Public School
Carried

Applications will be reviewed at the PIC Meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

8. Communications Report

Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor of Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning, delivered the following communications report:

In-person learners move to remote learning

A letter was sent to parents/guardians on Monday, January 3, 2022 following the Premier's announcement that a return to in-person learning will be delayed in light of the surge of COVID-19 due to the fast spreading Omicron variant. In-person learners will move to remote learning effective Wednesday, January 5, 2022 until at least Monday, January 17, 2022, subject to public health trends and operational considerations.

Rainbow Schools reached out to in-person learners to complete a survey to determine who requires technology to learn from home. Instruction will begin on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 for all students. The letter is posted on the board website.

2020-2021 Annual Report

Rainbow District School Board's Annual Report for the 2020-2021 school year is now available online at www.rainbowschools.ca. School Boards are required to produce an Annual Report in accordance with The Education Act. The Annual Report provides an overview of key activities undertaken by Rainbow District School Board to address its strategic priorities during the 2020-2021 school year. It also offers an overview of the current Board budget.

"The stories in this Annual Report provide a snapshot of a school year unlike any other," said Director of Education Bruce Bourget. "Our educators and support staff demonstrated tremendous resilience as did our students and families who were called upon to adjust to changes throughout the school year."

Strategic Directions 2022-2027

Director of Education Bruce Bourget has been meeting with stakeholders over the past few months to gather input for the Board's five-year strategic plan which defines its vision, mission, values and priorities.

The Board's Strategic Planning Committee will receive an update on the consultations on January 11, 2022. A draft of Strategic Directions 2022-2027 will be presented to the Board on January 25, 2022. These meetings are live streamed. Links will be posted on rainbowschools.ca prior to the start of each meeting.

Information Nights

A reminder that secondary school information nights will be virtual and can be accessed from school websites. Visit Rainbow Schools for dates and times.

Kindergarten Information Nights will also be virtual. Schools offering the English program will post a presentation on their school website on Tuesday, January 11th at 5:30 pm. Schools offering French Immersion will post theirs on Thursday, January 13th at 5:30 pm. Schools offering both English and French Immersion will post presentations on Thursday, January 13th. Visit rainbowschools.ca for details.

9. School Announcements

Bernadette Rémillard of Sudbury Secondary School highlighted festive events including the holiday feast. Sudbury Secondary School's virtual Open House will take place on January 13, 2022. Teachers performed a skit during the Christmas Concert which was well received. She also acknowledged a local company for adopting a family.

Sheila James of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School said the school sponsored 48 families for Christmas. They received turkeys and Metro gift cards. She also expressed appreciation to Rainbow District School Board staff for adopting a family of newcomers.

Meredith Coulas, the ETFO representative, said teachers were hard at work preparing for remote learning which begins on January 5, 2022.

Sara Kitlar-Pothier of Cyril Varney Public School highlighted a number of successful festive events including the canned food drive, turkey giveaways and spirit days. She indicated that future Chargers are welcome to register for Kindergarten at Churchill Public School during the Virtual Information Night on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Shannon Ketchabaw of A.B. Ellis Public School said food donations supported the Espanola Food Bank. The school also hosted a PJ Day and each class had an act of kindness tree.

Bridget Erwin of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School highlighted the school's Edgar Burton Food Drive campaign. She also indicated that the Grade 9 French Immersion students were teaming up with the Kindness Ninjas in Kindergarten at R.L. Beattie Public School. She added that International Baccalaureate (IB) students are featured in the Board's Annual Report for their creativity, activity and service projects.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School said the school developed a brochure highlighting agencies, giving families access to information at their fingertips. The brochure is posted on the Jean Hanson Public School website and Facebook page.

Superintendent Lesley Fisher provided an update on total donations to the Edgar Burton Food Drive. Rainbow Schools contributed 245,171 food items to local food banks in December 2021.

10. Adjournment

"That we do now adjourn."

Moved by: Sara Kitlar-Pothier, Churchill Public School

Seconded by: Sheila James, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Via Google Meet

Topic: School Climate Survey Results/Census Survey Consultation

**MINUTES OF THE RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Time: 12:00 PM

Virtual meeting via Google Meet Video Conferencing

Present:

SEAC Members:

Linda Debassige	Trustee
Natasha Delaney (Vice-Chair)	Autism Ontario – Sudbury Chapter
Judy Kosmerly	Trustee
Wendy Larouche (Chair)	Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury
Julia Ritchie	Northern Ontario Autism Alliance / Ontario Autism Coalition

Staff:

Colleen McDonald	Principal of Special Education Programs and Services
Joanne Taillon	Special Education Consultant
Kathy Wachnuk	Superintendent

Regrets:

Julie Contini	Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury
Robert Silvestri	NOARC

Other:

Absent:

Shelly Laronde	N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre
Cereena Rows	FASD

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

W. Larouche welcomed Trustee Debassige to the SEAC. All members introduced themselves.

2.0 Establish Quorum of Voting Members

Quorum was established.

3.0 SEAC Mission Statement

N. Delaney read the mission statement aloud.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion 1:

Moved by: N. Delaney

Seconded by: Trustee Kosmerly

That the agenda for the SEAC meeting of January 5, 2022 be approved.

Motion carried.

5.0 Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest

6.0 Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion 2:

Moved by: Trustee Kosmerly

Seconded by: N. Delaney

That the minutes of the SEAC meeting of December 1, 2021 be approved.

Motion carried.

7.0 Business Arising

No business arising

8.0 New Business

No new business

9.0 Requests for Leaves of Absence

Motion 3:

Moved by: N. Delaney

Seconded by: Trustee Kosmerly

That the SEAC approve the leaves of absences of J. Contini and R. Silvestri from the January 5, 2022 SEAC meeting.
Motion carried.

10.0 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wachnuk explained that given the current on-line learning situation, there will not be an exam period for secondary students at the end of semester 1. Instead, instructional days will be maximized and final grades will be based on work completed throughout the entire semester. Also, students from Teacher's College have been hired to work with secondary students that have fallen behind and/or are struggling.

Superintendent Wachnuk explained that a small number of students who cannot learn on-line will be receiving in-person instruction at 3 school sites beginning today and tomorrow. Conversations with Public Health occur on a daily basis. Should in-person learning be delayed beyond January 17th, 2022, next steps will be considered. Further discussion was welcomed and questions were answered.

11.0 Special Education Staff Report

Disabilities Pilot Project Update:

Numerous presentations and information meetings with local agencies and potential business partners have taken place. Principal McDonald will meet with the Ministry next week and will provide SEAC with an update at the February 2022 meeting.

12.0 Board Report

Rainbow District School Board held its annual organizational meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. Trustee Bob Clement will serve as Chair of the Board and Trustee Linda Debassige will serve as Vice-Chair. SEAC representatives are now Trustee Debassige and Trustee Kosmerly. Trustee Morrison and Trustee Stringer will be the SEAC alternates.

Trustee Kosmerly also shared that the revitalization of Churchill Public School is progressing and Churchill will welcome JK to Grade 6 students from Cyril Varney for September 1, 2022.

13.0 Chairperson's Remarks

W. Larouche wished the SEAC a happy new year and thanked members for the great discussion today.

14.0 Association Reports

Natasha Delaney: Autism Ontario – Sudbury Chapter

The following updated contacts were provided:

Special Education Advisory Committee

Regional Program and Volunteer Coordinator (Willow Lem), can be reached via email at willow@autismontario.com or by telephone at 1-800-472-7789 ext. 390.

Service Navigator (Angele Paquette) can be reached via email at angele@autismontario.com.

Service Navigator (Stefanie Molica) can be reached via email at stefanie@autismontario.com or by telephone at 1-800-472-7789 ext. 242.

For services in French, call 1-800-472-7789, ext. 346 or email michelle@autismontario.com

The autismontario.com website has information pertaining to the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) and upcoming events.

Julia Ritchie: Northern Ontario Autism Alliance / Ontario Autism Coalition

There are currently 51,000 children registered in the Ontario Autism Program.

The timeline for core services has been pushed back by 6 months (fall 2022).

Wendy Larouche: Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury

The January LDAS newsletter will be shared with SEAC via email. The next ADHD Parent Education Program with Dr. Silvestri begins in February. A four-week Technology For Life series also begins in February and will cover topics such as: navigating safely, accessible technology, coding, gaming and the emotional side of social media. In April, the LDAS will host their annual awards dinner. Nomination forms are available at www.ldasudbury.ca

15.0 Correspondence Addressed to SEAC

No correspondence

16.0 Other Items/ Future Agenda Items/ Information Requests

No other items

17.0 Next Meeting Date

The next SEAC meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday February 2, 2022 at noon.

18.0 Adjournment

W. Larouche adjourned the meeting at 1:18 PM.