

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
on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Trustees: B. Clement (Chair), D. Dewar, A. Gibson, J. Hunda,
J. Kosmerly, D. Morrison, K. St. Jean, M. Stringer
Absent: L. Debassige, Student Trustee Yao
Officials: B. Bourget – Director and Secretary of the Board
D. Bazinet - Superintendent of Business
J. Noble, 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.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 22-R56, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of April 19, 2022 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 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

a) Motion: 22-R57, D.Morrison/D.Dewar

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 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. Masking Motion – Update – Notice of Motion

Motion: 22-R58, D.Morrison/D.Dewar

That “*Motion: 20-R86, M.Stringer/J.Hunda – With reasonable exceptions, be it resolved that in Rainbow Schools all students grades 1-12 wear masks, and all Kindergarten students wear masks and/or face shields.*” be rescinded.

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. 2021-2022 School Year Update

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

Director Bourget shared COVID-19 data and Public Health Sudbury and Districts messaging, letters and fact sheets that have also been shared on the board’s facebook page and website.

Community use of schools resumed today and the Lancer Dome has been well utilized since re-opening.

Director Bourget that EQAO testing will resume for students taking math in second semester.

A draft Strategic Directions report was shared highlighting the key areas of the document currently in production.

With mental health and well-being as one of the board's priorities, there are 2 upcoming presentations available for parents and guardians to attend. Schools and Community Safety with guest speaker Kevin J. Cameron and Parenting for Positive Mental Health presented by Amanda Lamb.

Rainbow Schools will celebrate Education Week from May 2 to 6, 2022 and a list of activities will be posted on the board website.

Kindergarten Orientation will be hosted in-person in May in Rainbow Schools.

Director Bourget thanked students, parents and staff for all of the hard work and resilience as we continue to work through the pandemic.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

4. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals** NIL
5. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees** NIL

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Update**

Superintendent Bazinet provided the 2022-23 GSN funding update, which included the per pupil funding, supports for students funds and the continuation of the COVID-19 Learning Recovery fund.

With the conversion to the new student information system we encountered some challenges and experienced a delay in finalizing our enrolment for the official count dates, which affected the August 2021 year end. This delay will effect upcoming Board meeting dates scheduled to review and approve the Board Budgets.

2. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

Motion: 22-R59, D.Dewar/J.Kosmerly

That Trustee Debassige and Student Trustee Yao be granted a leave of absence from the April 19, 2022 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

Director Bourget provided the following information:

As you know, our Rainbow staff is incredible. The amount of work being done in support of our students is so impressive. I will take a moment to share my appreciation for the tremendous efforts of our dedicated, caring and professional staff. This is far from an all inclusive list. Here are some updates and a quick snapshot of some of the things that RDSB staff are hard at work on.

Enrolment

Elementary

October 2021 Predicted 8742

March 2022 actual; 9145 well over predicted 403

October 2022 Predicted; 8886 = +144

We hope the positive trend continues

Secondary

October 2021 Predicted 4575

October 2021 Actual 4565

March 2022 actual; 4385 - January Grads

October 2022 Predicted; 4694

We are projecting an increase of 309 secondary students this fall

Elementary and Secondary staffing and redundancy line

For the first time in a very long time, there were no redundant teachers at the elementary or secondary level.

Postings

We are hiring!

Elementary 60+

Secondary 25+

Considerable efforts ahead in filling the postings.

Secondary Timetabling

Underway next week. Our secondary administrators and school timetabling teams will be working hard to create timetables for staff and students for the upcoming school year.

Staffing

Student Success Leader

Following 30 years of dedicated service with the board, Principal Heather Gaffney is retiring at the end of this school year. I would like to thank Heather for her outstanding work. Heather is a tireless worker in support of our students, staff and administration and she will be greatly missed. I am pleased to announce that

Maureen McNamara, Principal of Lasalle Secondary School, will be stepping into this system-wide role effective August 31, 2022.

Mental Health Lead

We also extend our thanks to Mary Jago who is retiring soon. Mary has demonstrated great leadership and done an incredible job building her amazing team that supports our students every day. We wish Mary all the best in her retirement!

Sarah Jokinen will be the new Mental Health Lead for Rainbow District School Board effective May 16, 2022. Sarah is currently a MSW with the Board and has worked in previous Social Worker positions with HSN's Mental Health and Addictions Programs, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Program and NEO kids.

Acting Vice Principals to Permanent Vice Principals

A number of Acting Vice Principals are now permanent.

They include....

Heather Dubeau

Lindsay Bennett

Lisa Puddester

Jamie Bouchard

Kyle Gutscher

Dawn Noble McCann

Chelsey Ouimet

Katrina Nadeau

Eligibility Process Interviews and New Leaders Professional Learning

We continue to work on succession planning and the support of new administrative candidates. Recently 7 teachers were added to the pool for potential Vice Principal vacancies and 4 current Vice Principals were added to the pool for consideration of potential Principal vacancies.

Board Action Plan - draft, to be presented to FNAC

Board Improvement and Equity Plan

The Ministry has delayed implementation. We are continuing our work on our Strategic Directions which align with the last draft.

Accommodation Report

We will not be bringing an Accommodation Report forward because we are not recommending any accommodation reviews at this time. As you know, a tremendous amount of work has been done on the revitalization of Rainbow Schools and we continue to move our capital projects forward. Our focus in the coming year will be the opening of the new K to Grade 6 French Immersion school on the Lasalle Secondary School campus. This is an exciting project that will allow us to consolidate some of our older schools in the New Sudbury area into a bright, modern facility for teaching and learning.

Data

We have created a data team made up of program staff and information services staff to look at how we gather data, what data we want readily available to schools to support student success, and where there may be gaps. We have looked at a number of platforms and spoken with other boards to determine what might work best with Aspen, our new student information system.

Transportation Cancellations

We had a number of transportation cancellations this year due to inclement weather. I met with the Board of Directors of the Sudbury Student Services Consortium. Their process was shared to make decisions on inclement weather days and we had a discussion on reducing the number of days next year.

Retirement Dinner

The Board Retirement Dinner will take place on Tuesday, May 31, 2022. We welcome an opportunity to celebrate our long-serving retirees from the past three years. We will be hosting this event in a larger venue to allow for physical distancing. We respect personal choice to attend or not to attend. It is completely understood that people will make the decision that is best for their own personal circumstances.

Terry Fox Run 2021

I was pleased to receive a letter from the Terry Fox Foundation recently. They advised me that “We are proud to announce that your family of schools raised \$26,721.57 for cancer research this past year. In 2021, our message to schools was to “Try Like Terry” and your family of schools did just that!” I would like to congratulate all Rainbow Schools for trying like Terry. Well done.

I would also like to acknowledge A.B. Ellis Public School for leading the way. A.B. Ellis has held 39 Terry Fox Runs (out of a possible 41 runs since the Foundation began) and has raised a total of \$423,324 for cancer research. The Terry Fox Foundation said they are “grateful for the leadership of your board to continue encouraging philanthropy.” Rainbow Schools have donated a total of \$962,927 to the Terry Fox Foundation over the years. We are nearing the million dollar mark.

Tutors

The Ministry of Education has provided funding to school boards for tutors. Tutoring supports focus on students at risk who have been impacted by learning disruptions caused by the pandemic.

We are providing weekly data reports to the ministry regarding the status of the tutoring program. Every Monday by noon we need to report on the number of students that received tutoring services that week, the delivery model, and the area of focus – literacy or numeracy or both.

We are focussing our efforts on students who are at risk and reaching out directly to schools where the data is showing students require gap closing. The initial focus is also students in grades seven and eight in order to close those gaps prior

to them starting high school especially with the new destreamed curriculum. Schools are providing us with the initial data and we are securing tutors to work at those locations. Many of our tutors are university students. We will be tracking student results.

Summer Learning

We are focussing all of our efforts on the organization of summer learning programs for elementary and secondary students, the final push for kindergarten registrations, and the organization of kindergarten camp. All of these initiatives require posting, interviewing, and training of candidates to ensure successful programs. Tutors will be part of this programming.

Professional Learning

We are heading into a significant planning period for next year. Focussing on improving achievement for our students who are currently not achieving equity of outcomes. Designing professional learning for staff about students with learning disabilities, and focussing on equity and inclusion so that they better understand how to support student achievement.

Student Census

The work continues to prepare for the fall student census. Consultations are being completed and an electronic platform for the census has been reviewed and selected.

Environmental Education

Our monthly challenges continue. Our dedicated committee continues to provide valuable support to schools.

Student Senate

Our student senate continues to work in preparation for the student conference.

EQAO and OSSLT

Preparations continue for the upcoming EQAO and OSSLT tests. Our staff and students are hard at work.

Athletics

Our winter sport season has successfully concluded and our dedicated coaches and athletes are looking forward to spring sports.

Dale Beausoleil

Dale Beausoleil is an amazing teacher and coach at Northeastern. Dale also coaches Lasalle and at Cambrian College.

Under the guidance of coach Beausoleil Lasalle Secondary School's volleyball team is a perennial OFSSA contender and this year's bronze medalist.

For the first time ever as a college coach, Dale has won the Male and Female coach of the year.

4. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly had nothing to report and deferred to Trustee Gibson who had attended the OPSBA northern region meeting on April 9th. Discussions included a new policy resolution around continuing virtual meetings, reports on how trustees report back to their boards and that the current OPSBA Northern Regional Council Chair is stepping down and the position will be open for election at the AGM meeting in June.

Student Trustee – No report

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

6. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Here are a few ways our vision, mission, values and priorities are coming to life in Rainbow Schools.

On April 1st, students from Queen Elizabeth II Public School wore blue in support of World Autism Awareness Day.

Kindergarten students from R.L. Beattie Public School spent a fun-filled day at Maple Hill Farms learning how to make maple syrup.

Grade 4 students from Cyril Varney Public School mastered the art of coding and hosted a Video Arcade to share their skills with the entire school.

Students in Grade 7/8 at S. Geiger Public School learned the ins and outs of using a microscope.

Students in the Chelmsford Valley District Composite School Specialist High Skills Major in Arts and Culture began their work on a mural for the school entrance.

Members of The Sudbury Five basketball team played a game of hoops with Grade 7/8 students from Markstay Public School.

The Manitoulin Metal Robotics team competed at the York University Regional qualifier in Toronto as well as the Provincial Championships in Mississauga.

Joining MSS at the FIRST Robotics Championships was the Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School Robotics Team. Congratulations to all.

Transition students from Sudbury Secondary School have become authors/illustrators and published their own books.

And Confederation Secondary School's senior girls volleyball team won the Division 1 City Championships last month - with an undefeated season. Outstanding!

Director Bourget mentioned a few upcoming speakers.

Here is another one taking place this week....
As part of the A.B. Ellis Public School Speaker Series
The A.B. Ellis School Council will present “Growing Up Autistic and Being Okay”
with local author Blake Priddle on Thursday, April 21st at 7 pm. This online
presentation is the first of three in a Speaker Series being presented by the
school with a Parents Reaching Out Grant. The link to register is available on the
A.B. Ellis website. Everyone is welcome.

Quote for autism month:

“Why fit in when you were born to stand out” – Dr. Seuss

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Parent Involvement Committee minutes Feb 8, 2022 (official)

Special Education Advisory Committee minutes March 2, 2022 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Equity & Inclusion Education Committee April 27, 2022 4:00 pm

Student Senate Committee Meeting May 2, 2022 5:30 pm

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting May 3, 2022 5:00 pm Boardroom

Special Education Advisory Committee May 4, 2022 12:00 pm

Environmental Education Committee Meeting May 4, 2022 3:30 pm

Student Senate *Stand Up Speak Out* conference (Cambrian) May 5, 2022 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting May 10, 2022 7:00 pm

Board Meeting May 17, 2022 5:00 pm Boardroom

First Nation Advisory Committee May 19, 2022 10:00 am

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 22-R60, J.Hunda/D.Dewar

That we do now adjourn at 6:26p.m. – **Carried**