

## **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 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

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Present: Trustees: B. Clement (Chair), L. Debassige, D. Dewar, A. Gibson,  
J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly, D. Morrison, K. St. Jean, M. Stringer,  
Student Trustee Kuntsi, Student Trustee Trudeau  
Officials: B. Bourget – Director and Secretary of the Board  
D. Bazinet - Superintendent of Business  
L. Fisher, J. Noble - Superintendents  
D. Peristeridis, C. Whitson  
Others: N. Cecchetto, T. Hayes, D. Kitching, J. Vallier

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.

#### **A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: 22-R107, K.St.Jean/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of October 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 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-R108, D.Morrison/A.Gibson

That the minutes of the Board Meeting held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 be approved, as amended, with the amendment being, item 8, Trustee remarks  
*Trustee Gibson presented the following notice of motions.*

**Poll vote**

*Bob Clement: In-favour  
Linda Debassige: In-favour  
Doreen Dewar: Opposed  
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**

**a) Governance Policy Updates**

**i. Motion: 22-R109, J.Kosmerly/L.Debassige**

That the changes as outlined in *Policy No. GOV-01: Vision, Mission, and Values* as amended be approved.

**Poll vote**

*Bob Clement: In-favour  
Linda Debassige: In-favour  
Doreen Dewar: In-favour  
Anita Gibson: Technical difficulties  
Judy Hunda: In-favour  
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour  
Dena Morrison: In-favour  
Kerrie St Jean: In-favour  
Margaret Stringer: In-favour*

**– Carried**

**ii. Motion: 22-R110, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar**

That the changes as outlined in *Policy No. GOV-03: Role of the Board of Trustees* as amended 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) **Governance By-Laws Update**

Motion: 22-R111, J.Kosmerly/A.Gibson

That the changes as outlined in Governance By-Law 3: Organizational Meeting, point 3.1 as amended be approved.

Amendment A22-R01, A.Gibson/L.Debassige

To amend Governance By-Law 3: Organizational Meeting, point 3.1 to read: In a municipal election year the Board shall hold its inaugural organizational meeting not later than seven days after the day on which the term of office of the board commences.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: Abstain*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*Doreen Dewar: Opposed*  
*Anita Gibson: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: Abstain*  
*Judy Kosmerly: Opposed*  
*Dena Morrison: Opposed*  
*Kerrie St Jean: In-favour*  
*Margaret Stringer: Opposed*

– Defeated

Amendment A22-R02, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar

To amend Governance By-Law 3: Organizational Meeting, point 3.1 to read: *The annual organizational meeting of the Board in a municipal election year will be held as per the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 with the addition of “and the Education Act.”*

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: Abstain*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*Doreen Dewar: In-favour*  
*Anita Gibson: Opposed*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Dena Morrison: In-favour*  
*Kerrie St Jean: Abstain*  
*Margaret Stringer: In-favour*

– Carried

Motion: 22-R111, J.Kosmerly/A.Gibson

That the changes as outlined in Governance By-Law 3: Organizational Meeting, point 3.1 as amended be approved as: *The annual organizational meeting of the Board in a municipal election year will be held as per the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and the Education Act.*

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: Abstain*

*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: Abstain*

*Margaret Stringer: In-favour*

– **Carried**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2022-2023 School Year Update**

Director Bourget shared an update for the 2022-2023 school year and the implementation of the board's Strategic Directions, through our priorities and values.

We launched the school year with the focus on Community and many examples of how our schools demonstrated what community meant to them were shared, including the Lasalle-Finlandia SISU walk, Terry Fox Runs and Winter Clothing Drive. The focus this month is on resilience and how our mental, emotional and physical health contribute.

The Director shared various student events that have occurred and will occur in the coming weeks like the For Girls, By Girls conference, Jill of All Trades event, Level Up career fair and the upcoming Transition Evening.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

**2. OSBIE Refund**

Superintendent Bazinet shared the premium refund statement and the recommendation from OSBIE to reinvest the funds in key areas of the boards cyber security program.

**3. 2021-2022 Financial Statements (re: OSBIE)**

Superintendent Bazinet advised that the office of the Auditor General recommended to the Ministry of Education that OSBIE's financials should be reflected on the provincial financial books. Since the Ministry does not have a

direct working/reporting relationship with OSBIE, the Ministry has instructed school boards to reflect a portion of the OSBIE's financials into our own financial statements. However, OPSBA and a number of individual Boards are holding discussions about the Ministry directive. While there are still ongoing discussions, our Board can continue to complete the 2021-22 financials and will comply with the final decision that is made.

4. **Finance**

**Honorarium for Trustees**

Under the Education Act, the current Board of trustees is required to pass a motion approving the Honorarium for Trustees for the 2022-2026 term of office.

**Motion: 22-R112, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly**

That BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROCEDURE – TRUSTEE HONORARIA, be approved for the 2022-2026 term of office.

**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**

5. **Trustee Expenditures 2021/2022**

Superintendent Bazinet explained the details on the Trustee Expenses spreadsheet. The report will be posted on the Board's website.

6. **Requests for Leave of Absence**                      NIL

7. **Director's Remarks**

This month, I would like to express our gratitude to 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 called Aspen.

Our school office staff have taken on this challenge and continue to work incredibly hard. 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. We recently completed a round of OnSIS reporting that was required. It is fitting today to take a moment to acknowledge the heroes in our school offices and thank them for the work they do each and every day.

I would also like to thank the board of Trustees for your ongoing support and leadership over the past four years. It is essential for our continued efforts to support our students and staff. We are moving forward with our priorities thanks to your leadership and stewardship. Your positive energy, teamwork, focus on students and commitment to student achievement is vital to our success and so greatly appreciated.

I will conclude by saying thank you to all of our staff for continuing to be difference makers in the lives of our students. We are very grateful for the incredible work our staff does each day!!

8. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Director** – Trustee Kosmerly attended the OPSBA Board of Directors meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>/October 1<sup>st</sup> and details from the meeting were shared with Trustees in the October 18<sup>th</sup> OPSBA connects email. The PES conference will be held in January and Trustees should be receiving registration information in November. She shared the next Board of Directors meeting will be on November 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Trustee Kosmerly shared an OPSBA survey received regarding the 2023-24 GSNs with Director Bourget for feedback.

**Student Trustee** – Student Trustee Kuntsi shared schools are hosting Halloween for Hunger food drives this month and at the next Student Senate meeting they will begin planning for the Stand Up Speak Out conference. She also provided an update on the OSTA-AECO FGM that they attended in October. Student Trustee Trudeau shared a new initiative that senate will be working on around mental health awareness posts, to raise awareness on available resources for students to access.

9. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Kosmerly shared of an upcoming conference hosted by Ontario Council for Exceptional Children in December.

Trustee Morrison shared her appreciation to staff for all the schools continual social media posts as they provide updates on events and information. She also shared her appreciation to PIC on the excellent presentation. She thanked all who ran in the election and for the integral part they will play on behalf of our students. She expressed her gratitude to the outgoing trustees for their work over the past 4 years and congratulated Trustee Debassige on her re-appointment as First Nations Trustee.

Trustee Dewar acknowledged the work and support of the Rainbow Board on the Lancer Dome that allows kids to continue to play sports over the fall, winter and spring as announced on CBC radio.

Trustee Stringer shared it has been an honour to work with her fellow trustees over the past 4 years and wished Lisa Corbiere-Addison all the best.

Trustee Debassige expressed her honour of working with outgoing trustees Stringer and St.Jean. She thanked trustees for their work both on the board but also the committees to the benefit of the students. She also expressed her gratitude to the First Nation Advisory Committee and the Board for their work on the Education Service Agreements with the First Nations.

10. **Chairperson's Remarks**

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

The municipal election was held yesterday - Monday, October 24th. I would like to thank all trustees for your contribution to the Rainbow District School Board over the past four years. Many of you will continue in your respective roles - either through acclamation or election. We will also be welcoming some new trustees to the Board. Our swearing in ceremony will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 with Madam Justice Patricia Hennessy administering the Oath of Office. I would like to thank Margaret Stringer and Kerrie St. Jean for their dedication over the past 4 years. There was never a doubt that your dedication was always for the children.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**

I would like to thank our Director of Education, Bruce Bourget, for demonstrating to us and to the communities that we serve how our vision, mission, values and priorities are being implemented. It is gratifying to see that progress is being made in all priority areas and I want to thank staff for their hard work on behalf of students. It is also interesting to see the various components of our strategic directions coming together towards a common goal - preparing students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society. Let's continue to build on the momentum.

**TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY**

Back this year is Take Our Kids to Work Day - in person. Grade 9 students in Rainbow Schools will spend the day at work shadowing a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host on Wednesday, November 2, 2022. Now in its 28th year, the Take Our Kids to Work program provides students in Grade 9 with the opportunity to experience and learn about the world of work as they begin to explore possible career paths.

**TREATY RECOGNITION WEEK**

Staff and students in Rainbow Schools will continue to learn about treaty rights and relationships during Treaties Recognition Week from November 6 to 12, 2022. Rainbow District School Board has partnered with the Robinson Huron Treaty Organization for a day of education on Wednesday, November 9th.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Rainbow Schools will mark Remembrance Day on November 11th.

A list of school-based activities will be posted on the board website.

### **MAKING THE TRANSITION FROM GRADE 8 TO GRADE 9**

A friendly reminder that **Making the Transition: Finding Your Way from 8 to 9** will take place on Tuesday, November 15th at 7 pm at Cambrian College. All students are welcome to participate along with their parents and guardians, regardless of which elementary school they currently attend.

### **SECONDARY INFORMATION NIGHTS**

Secondary schools will begin hosting in-person Information Nights through to February. The first is Lively District Secondary School on November 30th at 6 pm. Check [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca) for a complete list of schools, dates and times.

### **DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Rainbow District School Board continues to highlight and celebrate days of significance and events on its Facebook page.

And, my quote this month focuses on happiness. It's another Chinese proverb:

"If you want happiness for an hour — take a nap. If you want happiness for a day — go fishing. If you want happiness for a year — inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime — help someone else." — Chinese proverb

## **G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**  
Audit Committee minutes June 20, 2022 (official)  
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes September 14, 2022 (official)
2. **Non-Staff Communications**  
OPSBA 2022-2023 Central Bargaining Invoice dated September 1, 2022

## **H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Accessibility Committee Meeting November 3, 2022 10:30 am  
Student Senate Meeting November 7, 2022 5:30 pm  
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting November 8, 2022 5:00 pm  
Equity & Inclusion Committee November 10, 2022 4:00 pm  
First Nation Advisory Committee November 17, 2022 10:00 am  
Board Meeting November 15, 2022 5:00 pm  
Parent Involvement Committee December 13, 2022 7:00 pm

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 22-R113, D.Morrison/K.St.Jean  
That we do now adjourn at 7:05 p.m.