

## **RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

held in person and electronically via Google Meet  
and livestreamed from the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom  
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury  
on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

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Present: Trustees: B. Clement (Chair) (via Google Meet), L. Corbiere-Addison,  
L. Debassige (via Google Meet), D. Dewar (via Google Meet),  
D. Farrow, A. Gibson (via Google Meet), J. Hunda (via Google Meet),  
J. Kosmerly  
Absent: D. Morrison, Student Trustee Kuntsi, Student Trustee Trudeau  
Officials: B. Bourget – Director and Secretary of the Board  
A. Guilbault – Superintendent of Business  
L. Fisher, J. Noble, K. Wachnuk - Superintendents  
Staff: N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes, D. Kitching, N. Mousseau,  
P. Potvin, S. Tastula, C. Ward, C. Whitson

Chair Clement advised that the meeting was being livestreamed 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: 23-R55, A.Gibson/ J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of March 21, 2023 be approved, as amended, with the amendment being the removal of item E.2.a.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*Doreen Dewar: In-favour*  
*David Farrow: In-favour*  
*Anita Gibson: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Dena Morrison: Absent*

**- Carried**

#### **B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL**

#### **C. PRESENTATIONS**

Lo Ellen Park - Cross Country Skiing - OFSAA

Principal Pam Potvin introduced Lo Ellen Park Secondary School's Cross Country Ski team coach Colin Ward and members of the team. Coach Ward spoke about the wonderful season the team had and their amazing experience at OFSAA. He expressed his appreciation to administrators, community partners, the school board and Dave Makela for their support in making this such a successful season.

Student members from both the Junior and Senior teams shared their thoughts and experiences from throughout the season.

Trustees congratulated both team members and coaches on the fantastic season.

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

Motion: 23-R56, J.Hunda/D.Dewar

That motion #23-W18 RE: Cyril Varney Public School property matter, be approved.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*Doreen Dewar: In-favour*  
*David Farrow: In-favour*  
*Anita Gibson: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Dena Morrison: Absent*

**- Carried**

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

Motion: 23-R57, L.Debassige/A.Gibson

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 be approved.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*Doreen Dewar: In-favour*  
*David Farrow: In-favour*  
*Anita Gibson: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Dena Morrison: Absent*

**- Carried**

**2. Tenders/Requests for Proposals**

Motion: 23-R58, D.Dewar/A.Gibson

That the Board award the contract for Northeastern Elementary School, interior renovations – tender #2023-06 to MTR Construction o/b 1211384 Ontario Inc. for \$384,400.00.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*Doreen Dewar: In-favour*  
*David Farrow: In-favour*  
*Anita Gibson: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Dena Morrison: Absent*

**- Carried**

3. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees**

**Strategic Planning Committee**

**Board Governance By-Laws**

**Motion: 23-R59, A.Gibson/L.Corbriere-Addison**

That the recommended changes as outlined in Governance By-Law 14: Electronic Meetings, as amended be approved.

**Poll vote**

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*Doreen Dewar: Opposed*  
*David Farrow: Opposed*  
*Anita Gibson: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: Opposed*  
*Judy Kosmerly: Opposed*  
*Dena Morrison: Absent*

**- Defeated**

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **TD Canada Trust Resolution**

**Motion: 23-R60, J.Hunda/A.Gibson**

That the TD Canada Trust Resolution as attached be deemed to have been read three times and be approved.

**Poll vote**

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*Doreen Dewar: In-favour*  
*David Farrow: In-favour*  
*Anita Gibson: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Dena Morrison: Absent*

**- Carried**

2. **Royal Bank of Canada Resolution**

**Motion: 23-R61, D.Dewar/J.Kosmerly**

That the Royal Bank of Canada Resolution as attached be deemed to have been read three times and be approved.

**Poll vote**

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*Doreen Dewar: In-favour*  
*David Farrow: In-favour*  
*Anita Gibson: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Dena Morrison: Absent*

**- Carried**

3. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

Motion: 23-R62, L.Debassige/J.Hunda

That Trustee Morrison, Student Trustee Kuntsi and Student Trustee Trudeau be granted a leave of absence from the March 21, 2023 Board meeting.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*Doreen Dewar: In-favour*  
*David Farrow: In-favour*  
*Anita Gibson: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Dena Morrison: Absent*

**- Carried**

4. **Director's Remarks**

I hope that all students and staff enjoyed a well deserved March Break.

Elementary predicted enrolment was 8886 last year.  
This year, we are predicting 9133 elementary students for this fall.

Secondary school predictions are due this week.  
These predictions, as you know, inform our staffing levels.  
Elementary and secondary staffing is underway for the 2023-2024 school year.

In preparation for staffing, I would like to announce the following administrative appointments.

Coleen Eberlein  
Melissa Brandon  
Ashleigh Conley-Cayer  
Shelley Tamura  
David Bertrim  
Amanda Norquay-Burke

More information will come with this regard later this spring.

**Eligibility Process Interviews and New Leaders Professional Learning**

We continue to work on succession planning and the support of new administrative candidates.

I would like to thank our Human Resources department and our hiring teams for their tremendous efforts in recruiting employees for teaching positions and support roles.

**Career Fair**

Rainbow District School Board is hosting its first ever Career Fair on Saturday, April 1st, 2023. The event will take place at Lockerby Composite School from 9 am to 1 pm.

We invite prospective candidates to join us to learn about the many career opportunities in Rainbow Schools.

We are hiring for a variety of positions in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island and look forward to meeting everyone who is interested in possibly working with us.

Rainbow Schools offer rewarding careers working directly with students in the classroom or serving in a support role in the main office or overall school.

Human Resources staff and hiring Principals/Managers will be at the Career Fair to conduct interviews as well as share information, answer questions, and accept applications. If candidates meet the required qualifications for positions of interest, they may be offered an interview on the spot.

Candidates can also pre-book an interview by submitting their application to [hr@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:hr@rainbowschools.ca) by this Friday, March 24, 2023. Candidates are asked to submit a cover letter specifying the position they are applying for as well as a copy of their résumé.

Résumés must outline education and experience, including documentation supporting educational qualifications (for example, a copy of the diploma or degree) as well as three professional references, including the current or most recent supervisor. Consent will be requested prior to checking references.

**Here are the positions currently available and the qualifications required for each position:**

**Administrative Assistants**

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (Grade 12) or equivalent and some post-secondary courses in an administrative field or equivalent experience

**Cleaners**

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (Grade 12) or equivalent

**Designated Early Childhood Educators**

Early Childhood Educator Diploma and Registration with the Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators

**Educational Assistants**

Post-secondary diploma or degree in a child or youth related program

**Occasional Teachers (English and French as a Second Language)**

Ontario College of Teachers Certificate or Temporary Ontario College of Teachers Certificate

All job postings are available online at [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca).

Some openings are for the Rainbow District School Board's casual pools to fill vacancies at various locations throughout the school year. Employees in casual pools can bid on permanent positions as they become available. Permanent positions come with a full benefits package, including a pension.

**The Trades**

The Ministry of Education made significant announcements related to the trades recently.

The Ministry is working to recognize up to 30 credits required to earn the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) for individuals with a Certificate of Apprenticeship or equivalent.

Students in grade 11 will be able to transition to a full-time, skilled trades apprenticeship program. Upon receiving their Certificate of Apprenticeship, these young workers can apply for their Ontario Secondary School Diploma as mature students.

The government will begin consultations in fall 2023 with employers, unions, education stakeholders, trainers, parents, and others about ways to make it even easier for young people to enter a career in the trades. This includes the potential of lowering entry requirements for some of the 106 skilled trades that currently require a grade 12-level education.

Two days after this announcement, the Ministry announced that it is introducing a new Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) graduation requirement for students to earn a Grade 9 or 10 Technological Education credit, starting with the cohort of students entering Grade 9 in September 2024.

Students will be required to earn at least one credit from the Grade 9 or 10 courses in the Technological Education curriculum, which covers a broad range of sectors, including construction, transportation, manufacturing, computer technology, and communication.

A compulsory credit in Technological Education is intended to give students hands-on experience and early exposure to skilled trades and build on the learning in the recently revised elementary Science and Technology curriculum.

### **Board Awards**

Rainbow District School Board will pay tribute to its dedicated employees and community partners with the presentation of Board Awards on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. The ceremony will begin at 6:30 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium at Sudbury Secondary school.

Awards for Outstanding Contribution to the Co-Curricular Program, Community Partnership Awards, the Go Green Globe Awards, Awards for Excellence, the Barbara Konarek Memorial Award and the William N. Roman Teacher of the Year Award will be presented. Employees with 25 and 35 years of service will also be recognized.

### **Retirement Dinner**

The Board's Retirement Dinner will take place on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at the Caruso Club. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate our retirees.

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. And we will be happy to accommodate trustees, retirees and guests in any way that we can.

### **EQAO and OSSLT**

Preparations continue for the upcoming EQAO and OSSLT assessments. Our staff and students are hard at work preparing for both. As you know, successful completion of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (or course) is a requirement for graduation.

### **Athletics**

Our winter sport season has concluded, with tremendous successes, and our dedicated coaches and athletes are looking forward to spring sports. We would like to extend our congratulations to all participants and thank our dedicated coaches and supervisors who go above and beyond for our student athletes.

### **Student Senate**

Our student senate continues to work hard in preparation for the student conference. Thank Jocelyn and Darcy for their leadership.

### **Graduations**

Plans are already underway for in-person graduation ceremonies. We are compiling a list of dates and will reach out to trustees to confirm their attendance. As always, we want to ensure we have an elected trustee and/or a representative from the senior team at each graduation. This is the most rewarding time of the year as we watch students proudly come forward to accept the diploma they work so hard to achieve.

### **Tutors update**

Ministry funding for tutors ends on March 31, 2023. This tutoring initiative, which began in April 2022, was a key component of the Ministry of Education's COVID-19 recovery plan for students, entitled "Ontario's Plan to Catch Up". The tutoring initiative was slated to end December 31, 2022, but was extended until March 31, 2023 in order to align with the end of the Ministry's fiscal reporting year. We would like to thank the many tutors who joined us for the past year and a half to support our students with reading, writing and math. We would also like to thank Principal of Program Dan Koziar, Principal of Student Success, Maureen McNamara, and the literacy and numeracy consultants and coordinators, who trained and mentored tutors to ensure high-quality supports. Students who required the additional support certainly benefited from this investment, ensuring they mastered foundational skills to continue to grow in their learning.

### **Thank you**

I would like to thank our students, staff, parents and guardians for their hard work, patience and resilience. With only a few short months left in the school year, I encourage our students to work hard to prepare for success in June!!

I am going to borrow a page from the Chair and end my remarks with the message that greets visitors to Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School.... The signage at the entrance reads:

**"If you can be anything, be kind."**

### 5. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Director** – Trustee Kosmerly shared the upcoming Northern Council zoom meeting will be on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am, everyone is welcome to join. The next OPSBA Board of Directors meeting will be on April 28-29, 2023 in Toronto and the AGM will be on June 8-10, 2023 in Collingwood. Highlights of the last Board of Directors meeting were shared with Trustees by OPSBA with additional supplementary notes from Trustee Kosmerly. One item she shared from the most recent meeting was that the Ministry of Education was planning a consultation regarding electronic meetings and the recent legislation around them. No timeline has been provided as of yet.

A link was shared with trustees, regarding a position paper put out by the Ontario Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health as back up to the below motion.

Motion: 23-R63, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar

That the board write to the Premier of Ontario, and the Ministers of Education, Health, and Children, Community and Social Services to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations made by the Ontario Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health in its

position paper, "Let's Put Our Heads Together 2022, Coordinating Our Efforts to Improve Mental Health and Well-Being for Ontario's Children and Youth".

#### Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*Doreen Dewar: In-favour*  
*David Farrow: In-favour*  
*Anita Gibson: Opposed*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Dena Morrison: Absent*

**- Carried**

#### Student Trustee - NIL

#### 6. Trustees' Remarks/Questions

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

Trustee Kosmerly advised that March 21st is International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and shared a quote from Prime Minister Trudeau.

#### 7. Chairperson's Remarks

I hope you all had a wonderful March Break.

#### **REGISTER NOW!**

As Director Bourget mentioned, we are in the midst of staffing our schools for September. There is still time to register by contacting your area Rainbow school. We staff based on predicted enrolment, so registering early really helps with planning for the upcoming school year. If you have already registered, thank you. We look forward to welcoming your child into Rainbow Schools this fall.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE**

In February, staff and students were challenged to use less electricity. This month, spring has sprung and all schools have been invited to grow an indoor garden. This initiative is part of the Environmental Committee's ongoing efforts to encourage sustainable practices.

#### **TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS COMPETITION**

Rainbow District School Board held its 16th annual Technological Skills Competition at Cambrian College on March 1st. Over 120 secondary school students tested their skills in a variety of skilled trades - from Coding to Photography to Welding. Students were vying for the opportunity to compete at the North East Qualifier on April 1st in North Bay or the Skills Ontario Competition on May 2nd and 3rd in Toronto. On behalf of the Board, I extend sincere congratulations to all participants, and wish them continued success.

#### **BOARD SCIENCE FAIR**

The Board's Elementary Science Fair took place on March 7th - where 28 projects from students in Grades 7 and 8 were selected to compete at the Sudbury Regional Science Fair at Laurentian University on April 1st and 2nd. Projects from the regional fair will be selected for the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Fredericton this May. Congratulations to all student competitors for letting your curiosity guide you. Best of luck to all participants.

### **FREE TO BE ME**

Rainbow District School Board has been presenting Embrace Diversity: Free to Be Me (formerly known as Dare to Stand Out) since 2009. The educational conference is the ongoing work of the Equity and Inclusive Education Committee which includes community partners. The full-day symposium will offer workshops for students in Grades 7 and 8 on March 30, 2023 and students in Grades 9 to 12 on April 27, 2023.

Free to Be Me is all about listening to and honouring student voice. Staff members reach out to the GSAs from all Rainbow secondary schools to seek input on topics of interest to them.

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Parent Involvement Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 11th at 7 pm. The topic will be Student Census Data.

### **FIGHT AGAINST CANCER GALA**

Sudbury Secondary School will host its third Fight Against Cancer Gala on Friday, April 21, 2023 to raise funds for the Northern Cancer Centre through Angels in Pink. The gala, featuring dinner, entertainment and a silent auction, will be held in the lower hall at the Caruso Club, 385 Haig Street in Sudbury. Doors for the gala will open at 5:30 pm. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm with entertainment presented by Sudbury Secondary School students, alumni and community members. Dinner will be followed by music to dance the night away.

### **COMMUNITY CONCERT**

We are celebrating the return of music in Rainbow Schools on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Local performers will join music students, teachers and graduates of Rainbow Schools to mark the 15th Anniversary of the Joan Mantle Music Trust during a gala Community Concert and Silent Auction. The concert will begin at 7 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium of Sudbury Secondary School. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students with proceeds going to music education in Rainbow Schools. Doors will open at 6:15 pm for a Silent Auction. Tickets are now on sale. Visit rainbowschools.ca for details.

### **DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This month was packed with many days of significance. Stay up-to-date by visiting the Board's Facebook page.

### **EASTER HOLIDAY**

Just a friendly reminder that schools will be closed on April 7 for Good Friday and April 10 for Easter Monday.

This evening's quote builds on what the director said at the end of his remarks.

One of my favourite actors, Morgan Freeman, once said:  
"How do we change the world? One random act of kindness at a time."

Thank you.

## **G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**  
Parent Involvement Committee minutes January 17, 2023 (official)  
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes February 1, 2023 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**  
Elementary and Secondary Graduation dates

**H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Equity & Inclusion Ed Committee March 23, 2023 4:00 pm  
Student Senate Meeting April 3, 2023 5:30 pm  
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting April 4, 2023 5:00 pm  
Special Education Advisory Committee April 5, 2023 12:00 pm  
Parent Involvement Committee April 11, 2023 7:00 pm  
Board Meeting April 18, 2023 5:00 pm

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 23-R64, D.Dewar  
That we do now adjourn at 6:06 p.m. - **Carried**

OFFICIAL