

## **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, June 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

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Present: Trustees: B. Clement (Chair), L. Corbiere-Addison, L. Debassige (via Google Meet), D. Dewar, D. Farrow, A. Gibson (via Google Meet), J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly, Student Trustee Kuntsi, Student Trustee Trudeau

Absent: D. Morrison

Officials: B. Bourget – Director and Secretary of the Board  
A. Guilbault – Superintendent of Business  
L. Fisher, J. Noble, K. Wachnuk - Superintendents

Staff: J. Battah-Chartrand, N. Cecchetto, T. Hayes, D. Kitching, M. McNamara, D. Peristeridis, S. Tastula, C. Whitson

Chair Clement called the meeting to order.

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-R83, J.Kosmerly/D.Farrow

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of June 13, 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**

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

NIL

#### **C. PRESENTATIONS**

##### **1. Capital Projects Update**

Adam Guilbault, Superintendent of Business, provided an update on the capital projects taking place across Rainbow Schools. He shared details and photos of the new Lasalle Elementary School as well as work that will take place over the summer at various schools such as improvements to the program-related Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) classrooms, AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) work, Ventilation and Roofing projects.

2. **Summer Programs**

Superintendent Fisher provided trustees with information about the kindergarten summer camp for incoming year 1 students with 320 currently registered. The CODE summer learning program for grades 1-6 will be held at 4 locations for 160 students.

Superintendent Noble spoke about secondary summer school remedial and upgrading courses, summer co-op opportunities and the summer literacy course through e-learning.

Superintendent Wachnuk provided details on the Early Intervention summer program that will be held at Adamsdale Public School and the Summer Skills Development Program for Autism which will be hosted at Ruth MacMillan Centre and Northeastern Elementary School. There are also Special education supports that will be provided at the CODE summer learning program for grades 1-8 and secondary summer school.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

3. **Outgoing Student Trustees (Jocelyn Kuntsi and Darcy Trudeau)**

Chair Clement... Trustees... Executive Council, Staff and Guests:

It gives me great pleasure this evening to recognize our Student Trustees for 2022-2023 as they attend their final Board meeting of the school year. Jocelyn Kuntsi of Manitoulin Secondary School and Darcy Trudeau of Espanola High School have been strong voices for their peers. They Co-Chaired the Student Senate which includes representatives from the Board's secondary schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island. The Student Senate hosted the Leadership Through Action Conference in early May for students in Grades 9 and 10. Participants gained skills and self-confidence to be leaders in their own school communities. As Student Trustees, Jocelyn and Darcy have had an opportunity to experience and participate in the decision-making process and learn more about public education locally and provincially.

**Student Trustee Jocelyn Kuntsi**

Jocelyn Kuntsi chairs the Ontario Student Trustees Association Working Group on Environmental Sustainability. She is also the Northern Regional Representative for the Ontario Public Board Cabinet. Jocelyn is enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major in Agriculture at Manitoulin Secondary School. Last summer, she attended the prestigious Shad Canada program, where she received the Hank Williams Memorial Award. This year, she received a Youth Achievement Award by Ontario Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell. As a Co-Captain of her school's Robotics team, Jocelyn was among the students from MSS who travelled to Houston, Texas in April to compete in the World Robotics Championships. Manitoulin Secondary School qualified for the international event by winning the highest overall award at the provincial competition - the Impact Award. The team placed in the top six in the world during the Championships in Texas.

The award acknowledges the team's impact on the school, community, STEM, and FIRST Robotics. The Manitoulin Metal Robotics Team leads by example in the green movement within the FIRST® Robotics community. Also this spring, we learned that Student Trustee Kuntsi was Rainbow District School Board's newest Loran Scholar. She was among 36 students from across Canada to earn a 2023 Loran Award, the largest undergraduate merit scholarship in Canada. She also won and has accepted the Schulich Leaders Scholarship from McMaster University. After graduating from Manitoulin Secondary School this month, Jocelyn plans to pursue studies in the Engineering 1 co-op program at McMaster University. She has her sights set on a career where she can give back to her community. Jocelyn excels academically and participates in many extra-curricular activities, often in a leadership capacity. She believes the key to success is giving students a reason to want to be at school, whether it's through the curriculum, friends, sports, the arts or other extra-curricular activities, including leadership opportunities.

"When students are part of shaping the school culture, they can create events and clubs that make them feel invested in their school and, therefore, in their own education," she says.

A beekeeper and lead astronomer at an eco-park, she still manages to find time for music and theatre. Jocelyn is most proud to have worked with the Student Senate to present a successful leadership conference, expand their social media outreach and make connections with high schools across the board. She is also proud to have worked with OSTA-AECO as an environmental sustainability co-chair to support environmental leaders across the province as well as the Northern Regional Representative for public boards in advocating for northern issues with education partners.

She is grateful for the opportunity to learn from so many strong leaders in the Student Senate, OSTA-AECO, and within the Rainbow Board.

### **Student Trustee Darcy Trudeau**

Darcy Trudeau has the distinction of being the Rainbow District School Board's first Indigenous Student Trustee. A Grade 12 student at Espanola High School, she is Anishnabe/Ojibwe from Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation. Engaged in school life, Darcy Trudeau values the importance of student participation, noting that extra-curricular activities enrich the school experience. She helped to organize the water walk that took place at Espanola High School. She was the goalie for the Espanola High School girls' hockey team and played for the girls'/co-ed softball teams.

Darcy shares her Anishnabe and Ojibwe culture with her school and community. She has organized cultural events at Espanola High School, including a very successful Pow Wow. As Indigenous Student Trustee, Darcy advocated for students, encouraged more Indigenous students to be involved in school and community life, fostered more Indigenous representation, and organized Board-wide events.

“Involvement in school and school life is important to me because I believe that it shows that you are determined to make a difference in your school and it shows that you are a good role model and student,” she says. “Being involved in the school will encourage more students to engage throughout the school year.”

Next year, Darcy plans to return to Espanola High School for an additional semester to take courses required for the Paramedics program at Cambrian College or the Ontario Police College. Darcy may also finish the year in Espanola or enlist in the Canadian Armed Forces in February as she focuses on creating life experiences and growing personally. She hopes time spent in the military can also bring greater focus on her future. As Student Trustee, Darcy is proud to be the face of inclusivity and represent Indigenous students as a positive role model in her community of Sagamok Anishnawbek and beyond.

Darcy hopes that throughout her term, she helped inspire other Indigenous youth to know they too can become leaders.

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

Motion: 23-R84, D.Dewar/L.Debassige  
That motion #23-W30, 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: Opposed*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Dena Morrison: Absent*

**- Carried**

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

Motion: 23-R85, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda  
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, May 16, 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**

a) **Motion: 23-R86, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly**

That the Board award the contract for Inspection and Testing of Life Safety Systems – Various locations – tender # 2023-09 to Troy Life & Fire Safety for \$154,800.00.

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**

b) **Motion: 23-R87, J.Hunda/D.Dewar**

That the Board award the contract for Adamsdale Public School, play area upgrades - tender #2023-11 to Schutt Restoration (Thunder Bay) Ltd. for \$257,000.00.

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**

**2023/2024 Budget**

**Motion: 23-R88, J.Kosmerly/D.Farrow**

That the Rainbow District School Board 2023/2024 budget 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: Abstain*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Dena Morrison: Absent*

**- Carried**

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Short Term Borrowing Bylaw**

**Motion: 23-R89, J.Hunda/L.Corbiere-Addison**

That the short term borrowing bylaw 2023-01 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. **Indigenous Education Funding**

**Motion: 23-R90, L.Corbiere-Addison/L.Debassige**

That the Rainbow District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education outlining their concerns to the changes in the funding formula for the Indigenous education.

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. **2023-2024 In-Year Deficit Elimination Plan**

**Motion: 23-R91, D.Dewar/J.Hunda**

That the 2023-2024 In-year deficit elimination plan 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**

4. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

**Motion: 23-R92, D.Dewar/J.Kosmerly**

That Trustee Morrison be granted a leave of absence from the June 13, 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*

5. **Director's Remarks**

Director Bourget thanked Trustees for approving the 2023-24 budget, as well as the Finance team and Superintendent Guilbault for all the hard work in preparing the budget. He also thanked Senior Administrator Tiffany Hayes and the Human Resources department for their great work with staffing, which is a large part of the budget process.

Director Bourget shared the following administrative transfers and appointments for next year:

System Principal Maureen McNamara appointed as Superintendent of Schools effective August 21, 2023.

Principal Melanie Bertrand appointed as System Principal of Student Success effective August 23, 2023.

Vice-Principal Andrea Therrien appointed as Principal of Espanola High School effective August 23, 2023.

Principal Leslie Mantle appointed as Senior Administrator of School Support Services effective August 23, 2023.

Principal Susan Kett transferred to Lively District Secondary School effective August 23, 2023.

Vice-Principal Ryan Lafraniere appointed as Principal of Lockerby Composite School effective August 23, 2023.

Vice-Principal Laurie-Ann Leikalns appointed as Principal of Barrydowne College effective August 23, 2023.

Principal Jim Wachnuk transferred to Principal of Lasalle Elementary School effective August 23, 2023.

Principal Elizabeth Mack transferred to Principal of Churchill Public School effective August 23, 2023.

Principal Kim Boulanger transferred to Principal of Larchwood Public School effective August 23, 2023.

Principal Nadia Berardelli transferred to Principal of R.H Murray Public School effective August 23, 2023.

Vice-Principal Darren Wilson appointed Principal of Levack Public School effective August 23, 2023.

Principal Coleen Eberlein transferred to Jean Hanson Public School effective August 23, 2023.

Vice-Principal Shannon Lafrance appointed Principal of Monetville Public School effective August 23, 2023.

Vice-Principal Tim Nadjiwon transferred to Vice-Principal of Confederation Secondary School effective August 23, 2023.

Vice-Principal Cheryl Vincent transferred to Vice-Principal of MacLeod Public School effective August 23, 2023.

Acting Principal Emily Caruso Parnell transferred to Vice-Principal Lansdowne Public School effective August 23, 2023.

Vice-Principal Kristen Pichette transferred to Vice-Principal of Lasalle Elementary School effective August 23, 2023.

Vice-Principal David Squarzolo transferred to Vice-Principal of Special Education effective August 23, 2023.

Vice-Principal Stephen MacKenzie transferred to Vice-Principal Churchill Public School effective August 23, 2023.

Chris Claridge appointed Acting Vice-Principal of Algonquin Road Public School effective September 1, 2023.

Principal Kate MacKenzie appointed permanent Principal of Markstay Public School effective August 23, 2023.

Vice-Principal Rachel Booker appointed permanent Vice-Principal of CVDCS effective August 23, 2023.

Vice-Principal Robyn Best appointed permanent Vice-Principal of Little Current Public School effective August 23, 2023.

Director Bourget thanked the Board of Trustees for their incredible support of Rainbow students and staff. He expressed that it is a privilege to work with all of them. He also shared his gratitude for the incredible leadership of the staff within our schools, Administrators, Board office staff and Executive Council who have all worked so hard this year to serve our students. He stated that it is an honour for us to all work together for our families in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin. In addition, he thanked the parents and guardians for working with us on behalf of our students.

6. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Director** – Trustee Kosmerly shared that amended Bill 98 received royal assent on June 8<sup>th</sup> and will have a major impact on school boards and trustees. Bring your MPP day was a success with Jamie West attending Lasalle Secondary School on May 24<sup>th</sup>. She shared that OPSBA will be sending a capacity survey to trustees by the end of the month with the hopes of 100% completion. The OPSBA AGM was held this past weekend at Blue Mountain where regional elections were held. Trustee Lisa



Corbiere-Addison was acclaimed as the alternate for the Education Program working group and Trustee Judy Kosmerly was acclaimed as the alternate for the Policy Development working group. The event ended with the President's dinner and awards ceremony where Trustee Judy Hunda received the President's award for 25 years of service, Trustee Dena Morrison was recognized for her 25 years of service and Trustee Doreen Dewar was honoured with the Dr. Harry Paikin Award of Merit.

**Student Trustee** – Student Trustee Kuntsi wished all students well with the upcoming exams. Student Trustee Trudeau and Student Trustee Kuntsi expressed the honour and gratitude they felt for the opportunity to be RDSB Student Trustees and co-chairs on Student Senate.

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

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

Trustee Kosmerly acknowledged Redwood Acres Public School on their wonderful Teepee ceremony held today and reminded Trustees of the Challenge Meet tomorrow.

Trustee Corbiere-Addison attended Assignack Public School's Wellness Day, which was a wonderful event that showcased community programs.

Trustee Farrow attended MacLeod Public School's slo-pitch tournament at Terry Fox field and thanked the leadership of staff and administration for hosting such events. He also attended the annual Powwow at R.H. Murray Public School and shared the value of such events.

Trustee Hunda gave a personal thank you to Student Trustee Kuntsi and Student Trustee Trudeau and shared that it has been a pleasure to be a mentor on Student Senate with them this past year. She also thanked the Admin team for all their hard work and all they do for our students.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Hello everyone:

It's hard to believe another school year is coming to an end. It is a vibrant - albeit incredibly busy time in schools - filled with culminating assignments, year-end trips, proms, report cards, final exams, step up ceremonies and graduations.

Here are a few ways staff and students are wrapping up the school year:

Confederation Secondary School students participated in an **ATV Safety Awareness Pilot Project** led by the Greater Sudbury Police Service and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The program builds awareness among young people to encourage safe use and respectful riding, and prevent possible injuries on the trails. Following an in-class lesson, 10 Grade 12 students hit the trails for a 50 km ride, which included conservation and safety demonstrations.

An enriching educational experience awaits three students from Rainbow Schools who have been accepted into the prestigious **Shad Canada** program this summer. Grade 11

student Sydney McLean of Lively District Secondary School and Grade 11 students Markus Rantala and Chloe Gagnon of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School will join secondary students from across the country to explore the world of STEAM. All the best on your adventure!

This afternoon, I had the pleasure of attending a **Co-operative Education Luncheon** at Espanola High School to honour the many community partners who give students an opportunity to roll up their sleeves and apply their classroom knowledge in the workplace. I extend a special thank you to all employers and students who took part in Co-op this year.

R.H. Murray Public School students participated in a **Teaching Pow Wow** today - a joint effort with four local First Nations - Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services, Whitefish River First Nation and Sagamok Anishnawbek. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 engaged in and explored various Indigenous dances, and walked away with a greater understanding of Indigenous traditions.

Also today, 70 students from Rainbow Schools and the Near North District School Board competed for the Hennessy Cup at the **Sudbury Regional Mock Trial Competition**. On behalf of Trustees, I extend thanks to the Ontario Justice Education Network, Ontario Bar Association and volunteer coaches from the Sudbury Crown Attorney's Office and the Sudbury and District Law Association for making this learning experience possible for students.

Tomorrow, June 14th, close to 430 students with exceptionalities from 26 Rainbow Schools will gather for the annual **Challenge Meet** at the Laurentian University Track. Students will compete in track and field events - from races to high jump, and long jump to shot put. Good luck to all!

Also tomorrow at 10 am, members of the **Chelmsford Valley District Composite School Knitting Club** will present 28 handcrafted blankets to representatives from the Cancer Treatment Centre and the Northeast Cancer Centre's blanket donation program. Through the program, new patients receive a handmade blanket or quilt to keep them warm during treatments. Congratulations to all on this heart-felt initiative - a perfect way to close out the school year.

The annual **Aboriginal Student Success Awards** took place on June 1st at the Caruso Club to celebrate the achievements of Indigenous youth and their advancements in the secondary education system. The ceremony brought together students and families including 400 recipients from Rainbow Schools. Award categories include Academics, Arts, Athletics, Attendance, Cultural Recognition, Extra-Curricular Involvement, Leadership, Most Improved and Positive Spirit. Congratulations to all recipients!

It's a magical time of the year for students, whose achievements are celebrated at **graduation** ceremonies across the board. Graduations began last week and will continue through to June 28th. On behalf of the Board, I extend sincere congratulations to all graduates. We are so proud of you for reaching this important milestone in your educational journey.

Speaking of graduations, this brings me to this evening's quote...

Actor Denzel Washington delivered a speech to graduates of Dillard University and the University of Pennsylvania, and left students with these inspiring words of wisdom...

*“Anything you want, you can have. So claim it. Work hard to get it.  
And when you get it, reach back and pull someone else up. Each one - teach one.  
Don’t just aspire to make a living - aspire to make a difference.”*

**G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

First Nations Advisory Committee minutes May 19, 2022 (official)  
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes May 3, 2023 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

**H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Board Meeting August 29, 2023 5:00 pm

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 23-R93, L. Debassige

That we do now adjourn at 6:20 p.m. - **Carried**

OFFICIAL