

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

to be held in person and electronically via Google Meet
in the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive
on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

AGENDA AND RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

Land Acknowledgement

The Rainbow District School Board would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional and ancestral territory of the Anishnaabek including Atikameksheng Anishnaabeg and Wahnapiatae Nations.

We would like to acknowledge that we are situated within the Robinson - Huron Treaty of 1850 and want to recognize the inherent rights of the Anishinaabek that maintained these lands from time immemorial.

Roll Call

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Chair

Motion:

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of August 29, 2023 be approved.

STUDENT TRUSTEE

Motion:

That Sawyer Greene (Sudbury Secondary School) and Sonya Jacko-Cywink (Manitoulin Secondary School) be appointed Student Trustees for the school year 2023-2024.

Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance.

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

*Chair

C. PRESENTATIONS NIL

*Chair

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

*Director

E. OLD BUSINESS

*Chair

1. Previous Minutes

*Chair

a) Motion:

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 be approved.

- b) Motion:
That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 be approved.
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals** NIL *SBO
3. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees** *Chair
- Strategic Planning** (Governance By-Laws) *Chair
- Motion:
 That the recommended changes to the Governance By-Laws, as amended, be approved.
4. **September School Reopening Update** *Director
- F. **NEW BUSINESS** *Chair
1. **2023-2024 Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians** *Director
2. **2023-2024 Executive Council Portfolios and Family of Schools** *Director
3. **Current Expenditures Borrowing Resolution** *SBO
- Motion:
 That the Current Expenditures Borrowing Resolution as attached be deemed to have been read three times and approved.
4. **OPSBA Fees** *Chair
- Motion:
 That the 2023-2024 membership fees in the Ontario Public Schools Boards' Association be approved.
5. **Requests for Leave of Absence** *Chair
- Motion:
 That _____ be granted a leave of absence from the August 29, 2023 Board meeting.
6. **Director's Remarks** *Director
7. **Other Items** *Chair
 OPSBA Director
 Student Trustee
8. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** *Chair
 Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.
9. **Chairperson's Remarks** *Chair
- G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** *Chair
1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

*Chair

Student Senate meeting September 11, 2023 5:30 pm
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting September 12, 2023 5:00 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee September 13, 2023 11:30 am
Equity & Inclusion Committee September 14, 2023 4:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee Meeting September 20, 2023 3:30 pm
First Nation Advisory Committee September 21, 2023 10:00 am
Board Meeting September 26, 2023 5:00 pm
Parent Involvement Committee AGM October 17, 2023 6:00 pm

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair

Motion:

That we do now adjourn at p.m.

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

held 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.

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 Leilkalns 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 8th 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 24th. 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**

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL 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, July 11, 2023 at 11:45 a.m.

Present: Trustees: B. Clement (Chair), L. Corbiere-Addison, D. Dewar, D. Farrow,
J. Hunda (via Google Meet), J. Kosmerly

Absent: L. Debassige, A. Gibson, D. Morrison

Officials: B. Bourget – Director and Secretary of the Board
A. Guilbault – Superintendent of Business
L. Fisher, M. McNamara - Superintendents

Staff: N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes, D. Kitching, 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-R94, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Special Board meeting of July 11, 2023 be approved.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

NIL

C. Tenders/Requests for Proposals

Motion: 23-R95, J.Kosmerly /J.Hunda

That the Board award the contract for Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, Site Work Tender #2023-12 to Interpaving Limited for \$767,241.32.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour

Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: Absent
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: Absent

- Carried

D. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

Strategic Planning (Governance By-Laws)

Notice of Motion 23-R96, L.Corbiere-Addison:

That the recommended changes to the Governance By-Laws, as amended, be approved.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

E. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 23-R97, J.Kosmerly

That we do now adjourn at 11:51 a.m. **- Carried**

GOVERNANCE BY-LAWS

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1. Governance By-Law 1: General

The Bylaw shall be subject to the provisions of the Education Act, Statutes and Regulations of The Province of Ontario and in the event of any conflict, the statutory provisions shall prevail.

The name of the Board shall be: Rainbow District School Board

The Head Office of Rainbow District School Board shall be at the premises designated as Municipal Number 408 Wembley Drive in Sudbury, Ontario P3E 1P2.

- 1.1. In all cases not provided for by these By-Laws, the rules and practice of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern as far as applicable.
- 1.2. The Officers of the Board shall be the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Director of Education and the Superintendent of Business.
- 1.3. **Definitions:**
 - 1.3.1. "Act" means the Education Act RSO 1990
 - 1.3.2. "Board" means Rainbow District School Board.
 - 1.3.3. "Chair" means Chair of the Board unless delineated as Committee Chair
 - 1.3.4. "Vice-Chair" Means Vice-Chair of the Board unless delineated as Vice-Chair of a Committee.
 - 1.3.5. "Trustee" means an elected member of the Rainbow District School Board.
 - 1.3.6. "First Nations Trustee" is an appointed member of the Board who has been chosen by First Nations to represent First Nations within the region of Rainbow District School Board.
 - 1.3.7. "Student Trustee" means a Trustee who is selected to represent the students of the Rainbow District School Board.
 - 1.3.8. "Director/Secretary" means the Director of Education and Secretary of Rainbow District School Board.
 - 1.3.9. "Inaugural/Annual Organizational Meeting" means the first meeting of the new Board in an election year or the regular November meeting of the Board in a non-election year.
 - 1.3.10. "Committee" means all Committees of the Board:
Standing Committees- A Standing Committee shall be a committee of Trustees that is appointed by the Board to consider, on a regular basis, a specific, fixed area of the Board's operation.

- 1.3.11. Statutory Committees- Such committees are established under the Act or Regulations and have mandates and terms of reference as required by the regulations.
- 1.3.12. Advisory Committees- Advisory Committees are created by the Board based upon recognized needs and priorities.
- 1.3.13. Ad Hoc Committees- Ad Hoc Committees are created on an as needed basis through Board motion outlining the scope and timelines for the work to be completed by the Committee.

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2. Governance By-Law 2: Role of Trustee

2.1. Role of Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees shall exercise their power to govern only as trustees of the corporate body, not as individuals.

2.1.1. The Board of Trustees shall:

- a) promote student achievement and well-being;
- b) promote and support the Board's Truth and Reconciliation Plan;
- c) promote a positive school climate that is inclusive and accepting of all pupils, including pupils of any race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status or disability;
- d) promote the prevention of bullying;
- e) ensure effective stewardship of the board's resources;
- f) deliver effective and appropriate education programs to its pupils;
- g) develop and maintain policies and organizational structures that, promote the goals referred to in clauses (a) to (c);
- h) encourage pupils to pursue their educational goals;
- i) monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of policies developed by the board in achieving the board's goals and the efficiency of the implementation of those policies;
- j) develop a multi-year plan aimed at achieving the goals;
- k) annually review the plan with the board's director of education or the supervisory officer acting as the board's director of education;
- l) monitor and evaluate the performance of the board's director of education, or the supervisory officer acting as the board's director of education, in meeting.

2.2. Role of Individual Trustee

Individual members of the Board shall be referred to as trustee.

2.2.1. Individual trustees shall:

- a) carry out his or her responsibilities in a manner that assists the board in fulfilling its duties under this Act, the regulations and the guidelines issued under this Act;
- b) attend and participate in meetings of the board, including meetings of board committees of which he or she is a member;
- c) consult with parents, students and supporters of the board on the board's multi-year plan;
- d) bring concerns of parents, students and supporters of the board to the attention of the board;
- e) uphold the implementation of any board resolution after it is passed by the board;
- f) entrust the day-to-day management of the board to its staff through the board's director of education;
- g) maintain focus on student achievement and well-being;
- h) comply with the board's code of conduct; and
- i) promote and support Board initiatives with community stakeholders.

3. Governance By-Law 3: Inaugural and Annual Organizational Meeting

3.1. Inaugural Meeting

- 3.1.1. The Inaugural Meeting of a newly elected Board shall be held as per the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and the Education Act.
- 3.1.2. The meeting location shall be the Head Office of the Board.
- 3.1.3. At such meeting at the appointed time the Director/Secretary shall call the meeting to order.
- 3.1.4. The Director/Secretary shall proceed to read the returns of the election to the Board as certified to the Secretary by the Municipal clerks. These Clerks act as Returning Officers for the election of Trustees of Rainbow District School Board.
- 3.1.5. The Director/Secretary shall certify that the Trustees have met all procedural requirements and are eligible to take office.
- 3.1.6. Prior to taking office, members will make a declaration as referred to in the Education Act and make an Affirmation of Allegiance as referred to in the Education Act.
- 3.2. The First Nations' representative shall be appointed as a member of the Board by recorded motion and make a Declaration and Affirmation of Allegiance as referred to in the Education Act.

3.3. The Annual Organizational Meeting

- 3.3.1. The Annual Organizational Meetings of the Board for the second, third and fourth years of a Board's term of office shall be held at the first meeting on or after the anniversary of the date of the Inaugural Meeting of the Board. The meeting(s) shall be held at the Board office.

3.4. Election of Chair:

- 3.4.1. With the Director/Secretary presiding, or if absent, a temporary Chair chosen by open vote of the Board, the Board shall proceed to elect a Chair by secret ballot for the ensuing year.
- 3.4.2. The Director/Secretary or temporary Chair shall name the scrutineers.
- 3.4.3. The Director/Secretary or temporary Chair shall call for nominations and seconders for the position of Chair.
- 3.4.4. Of those nominated and agreeing to allow their names to stand for election, the member receiving a clear majority of the votes cast by all members present shall be declared elected.

The count shall not be declared. If no member receives a clear majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, the scrutineers will announce the result. The name receiving the fewest votes will be dropped and balloting will continue until a majority of votes are in favour of one person. If the final two candidates receive an equal number of votes, the drawing of lots will fill the position.

3.4.5. The person declared Chair shall take the Chair at once and preside over the meeting.

3.5. The Board shall elect a Vice-Chair and the procedure will be as for the election of the Chair.

3.6. **Committee Selection**

3.6.1. Prior to the Inaugural/Annual Organizational Meeting, trustees will be asked to identify their committee assignment preferences.

3.6.2. Membership on the various Board Committees shall be determined immediately following the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair. If required, members shall be chosen by secret ballot.

3.6.3. Board Committees shall be defined as per Appendix A.

3.7. The Board shall elect its representative (and alternate) to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA).

3.8. The Chair shall direct the scrutineers to destroy any and all ballots used during the elections by recorded motion.

4. Governance By-Law 4: Regular and Special Meetings of the Board

- 4.1. There will be one Regular meeting of the Board per month during the school year and one Regular meeting of the Board in August.
- 4.2. The Chair and the Director/Secretary will be responsible for developing an annual schedule of Board meeting dates for the following school year. Meeting dates shall be presented to the Board at or before the June meeting each year.
- 4.3. The Director/Secretary will ensure that notice of all meetings of the Board will be sent to each member by electronic means at least seventy-two (72) hours before the time of the meeting.
- 4.3.1. Until a member of the Board shall notify the Director/Secretary of their official address, all notices or communications delivered or mailed to the member at their address, as set out in their nomination paper, shall be deemed to have been received by the member.
- 4.4. Whenever possible, copies of reports to be presented at any meeting of the Board shall be included with the notice of such meeting.
- 4.5. Copies of reports to be presented at any meeting of the Board, which are sent subsequent to the sending of the notice of such meeting, may be deferred until a future meeting of the Board by recorded motion.
- 4.6. At all meetings of the Board, a QUORUM consisting of a majority of all the elected members shall be necessary in order for any business to be legally transacted.
- 4.6.1. Should there be no quorum present within thirty (30) minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the Director/Secretary shall record the names of those members present and the Board shall forthwith stand adjourned until the next regular or special meeting.
- 4.6.2. Should a quorum no longer exist during a meeting of the Board, no business can be legally transacted. It shall then be the responsibility of the presiding Chair and the Director/Secretary to note the lack of a quorum and have the fact recorded in the minutes.
- 4.6.3. Where any member declares a conflict of interest pursuant to the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, the presence of the majority of those entitled to vote shall then constitute a quorum.
- 4.7. Any meeting of the Board shall not remain in session later than 8:00 P.M. unless so determined by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.
- 4.8. Meetings of the Board shall be open to the public, and no person shall be excluded from a meeting that is open to the public except for improper conduct.

- 4.9. A meeting of a committee of the Board, including a Committee of the Whole Board may be closed to the public subject to the Act and Regulations.
- 4.10. SPECIAL MEETINGS of the Board may be held at the call of the Chair, or on the written request of five members of the Board, made to the Chair, or when absent, the Vice-Chair, or, when absent, the Director/Secretary or when absent the Treasurer.
- 4.10.1. The notice of SPECIAL MEETINGS shall be sent at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting.
- 4.10.2. The agenda of every SPECIAL MEETING of the Board shall state all business to be transacted or considered. No other business shall be considered unless all the members of the Board are present and agree unanimously by recorded motion.
- 4.10.3. The requirement for 48 hours' notice may be dispensed with if the Special Board meeting is scheduled at a Board meeting and within a period of time less than 48 hours, subject to approval by a majority of the members of the Board.
- 4.11. Attendance of members at Board meetings shall be recorded. Trustees who are absent from individual meetings of the Board should have their "regrets" recorded.
- 4.12. To meet the provisions of *The Education Act* when applying for leave of absence for three or more consecutive regular meetings of the Board, members shall make such request directly to the Board convened in regular session and such approval must be by recorded motion (exception – Trustee Pregnancy and parental Leave).
- 4.13. A member of a Board shall be physically present in the meeting room of the Board for at least three regular meetings of the Board in each 12-month period following an Organizational Meeting.

5. Governance By-Law 5: Delegations to the Board

- 5.1. Any persons or delegations wishing to appear before or present a brief to the Board or a Committee shall apply in writing to the Director/Secretary at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the meeting at which the presentation is to be made.
 - 5.1.1. The application shall state:
 - a) the matter on which the submission is to be made;
 - b) the name of the individual(s) (maximum 2) or the organization or interested parties to be represented;
 - c) the authority of the spokesperson.
 - 5.1.2. A copy of the brief must be provided to the Director/Secretary no later than 1:00 pm at least eight (8) calendar days prior to the meeting. This rule may be suspended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting at which the person or delegation wishes to be heard.
 - 5.1.3. An individual/delegation may only speak twice per topic regardless of the number of delegations they represent.
 - 5.1.4. Any person or delegation may be denied the right to appear before the Board if the Chair deems the content to be out of order.
 - 5.1.5. The presenter(s) shall be reminded by the Chair that the written brief has been included as back-up material in the agenda for the meeting and therefore, members will have had the opportunity to read the brief. The presenter(s) of the brief may speak for up to a maximum of 10 minutes in order to summarize the pertinent points in the brief and to outline the solution/action which is requested. Presenter(s) should then be prepared to receive questions from the members of the Board.
 - 5.1.6. At no time will trustees or staff engage in discussion with the spokesperson or any member of the delegation except to clarify, through the Chair, a point made in the presentation.
 - 5.1.7. The Board's response, when requested, will be made through the Director/Secretary in writing at a later date, after the trustees have had the opportunity to discuss the matter and arrive at a decision.

6. Governance By-Law 6: Duties of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 6.1. The Chair of the Board is the official spokesperson for the Board, on matters which reflect the will of the Board through resolution.
- 6.2. The Chair of the Board, or when absent, the Vice-Chair, shall preside at all meetings of the Board. The Chair will call the meeting to order at the hour appointed and shall preserve order and decorum and decide upon all questions of order. The Chair shall cause the names of all members present and absent to be recorded.
- 6.3. In the event of the position of Chair or Vice-Chair becoming permanently vacant, a new Chair or Vice-Chair shall be elected at the next Regular Board meeting in the same manner as before provided. (See By-Law 3)
- 6.4. In case of the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair for ten minutes after the hour of the commencement of any meeting, as soon as a quorum shall be present, the Board under the direction of the Director/Secretary, shall choose a temporary Chair.
- 6.5. The temporary Chair shall preside only until the Chair or Vice-Chair arrives and the immediate business at hand is completed.
- 6.6. The Chair shall declare the result of each vote.
- 6.7. The Chair shall be an ex-officio member of all Board committees with the exception of the audit committee. The Chair has the same voting rights as other committee members, is not counted in calculating the number necessary for a quorum, but does count at a committee meeting to provide that quorum.
- 6.8. The Chair shall not take part in any discussion regarding a motion unless they first vacate the Chair and appoint the Vice-Chair (or alternate) to preside until the motion is decided. Once the motion has been decided, the Chair shall assume the chair and proceed with the subsequent business of the Board.
- 6.9. The Chair shall vote with other members of the Board.
- 6.10. The Chair shall sign all minutes approved by the Board.
- 6.11. The Chair shall decide when a question is to be put to a vote.

7. Governance By-Law 7: Agenda

- 7.1. The Officers of the Board shall be responsible for reviewing an agenda for each meeting of the Board.
- 7.2. Items which have been referred by the Board to a committee, may only be placed on the Board agenda after consultation with the committee.
- 7.3. The Order of Business will, as far as possible, deal with items requiring action in the first part of the agenda and information items in the latter part of the agenda, as follows:
- a) Land Acknowledgement
 - b) Approval of Agenda
 - c) Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
 - d) Delegations or Educational presentations
 - e) Report from Closed Meeting
 - f) Old Business
 - Previous minutes
 - Committee Reports
 - Other items
 - g) New Business
 - Requests for leave of absence by Board members
 - Trustees' Remarks/Questions
 - Chair's Remarks
 - Director's Remarks
 - Other Items (i.e. OPSBA Delegate, Student Trustees, Request to Attend Conferences)
 - h) Information and Proposals
 - Reports from Officials and Staff
 - Tenders and Requests for Proposal Information
 - Non-Staff Communications
 - i) Future meetings
 - j) Adjournment
- 7.4. The order of business may be changed by any member of the Board by recorded motion.
- 7.5. There shall only be an addendum when an item(s) arise(s) after the closing of deadlines for preparations of agendas, which items the Director/Secretary believes are of an urgent nature and require the immediate consideration of the Board.
- 7.6. A request by a Board member for a report must be in writing by recorded motion.

8. Governance By-Law 8: Order of Procedure

8.1. General Order of Procedure

The Closed Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board, upon conclusion of business, shall on motion duly passed, rise and report to the Board.

Following a short recess, the length of which is to be determined by the Chair, the Board shall first provide an opportunity for members to identify for the record, conflict of pecuniary interest on any items at that meeting.

Any member desiring to speak shall indicate by upraised hand and upon recognition by the Chair, the member may then address the Chair.

When two or more members attempt to speak at the same time, the Chair shall name the member who is to speak.

No member shall speak longer than five minutes on the same question without permission of the Chair.

No members shall, without permission of the Chair, speak more than twice upon any question or motion, except the mover of the motion who shall be permitted to summarize.

When the question under consideration contains two or more distinct propositions, any particular proposition, upon the request of any member, may be voted upon separately.

8.2. Motions

Motions are read by the Chair.

After being recognized by the Chair of the Board, any member can introduce a motion. A motion requires a seconder to be considered.

A member submitting a motion may modify or withdraw it at any time prior to the Chair stating it to the meeting.

After every motion has been read and seconded, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the Board and may only be withdrawn by the mover and seconder with the unanimous consent of members present.

Any member may request the motion under discussion to be re-read for information at any time in the course of the debate, provided that the request is made so as to not interrupt a member speaking to the question.

A member may read a motion and after it is seconded, speak to it.

No motion or amendment shall be debated or put to a vote unless the same is in writing and seconded excepting the following:

Formal motions to adopt reports, to refer, to postpone, to put the previous question, to receive, to go into a Closed Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Board, to rise and report, to adjourn, or such motions as the Chair shall allow, may be made verbally.

A motion directly concerning the privilege of the Board and thereby affecting the rights and immunities of the Board collectively, or the position and conduct of members in their respective capacities, shall take precedence over all other business and may be moved without notice.

When a motion is under debate, the only motion in order shall be:

- 1) to adjourn
- 2) to table
- 3) to put the previous question
- 4) to defer
- 5) to refer
- 6) to amend

The motion shall have precedence in the order above named, and the first, second, and third shall be decided without debate.

A motion to adjourn shall be in order, except when a member is speaking, or a vote is being taken, or when the previous question has been called. A motion to adjourn shall not be open to amendment or debate; but a motion to adjourn to a certain time may be amended and debated.

If a motion to adjourn has failed, no second motion to adjourn shall be made until some business has been transacted.

A motion to table is not debatable; but a motion to table with any other condition is subject to debate and amendment.

When a question has been tabled, it shall not be taken up again at the same meeting, except by a vote in favour thereof by two-thirds of the members present.

The motion for the previous question shall preclude all further amendment or debate, and shall be submitted by the Chairperson in this form: "SHALL THE MAIN QUESTION IN DEBATE BE NOW PUT?" If adopted, the Chair shall at once proceed to put the main question, first putting any amendments pending to the vote of the Board.

A question having been deferred indefinitely shall not be taken up again at the same meeting.

8.3. Notice of Motion

8.3.1 Notice of Motion (Public Notification):

Notices of Motion for Governance are brought to the Strategic Planning Committee for discussion and possible recommendation for inclusion on the Board meeting agenda.

The Board may issue a Notice of Motion related to revisions to Board By-Laws and Policies as outlined in By-Law 12 (By-Laws) and By-Law 8.1 (Order of Procedure).

Amendments, alterations, or additions to the Governance By-Laws/Policies may be made with due notice thereof in writing, setting forth the proposed amendments, alterations, or additions, providing due notice is given at a previous meeting and is confirmed by the majority of all members of the Board.

8.3.2 Individual Trustee Notification of Motion for Board consideration

A Trustee may give the Chair written notification of a motion, along with explanatory rationale, regarding any matter with respect to which the Trustee has a right to vote. The notification of a motion shall be distributed by the Chair or designate to all Trustees. Where possible, Trustees are asked to provide the notification to the Chair two days prior to the meeting.

Notwithstanding the above, a Trustee may bring a motion at a Board meeting without prior notice provided that a two-thirds majority of those present and eligible to vote waive the notice requirements.

8.4. Voting

In all cases where a vote is taken on any question, and there is, with the Chair's vote, a tie, the motion or amendment shall be declared lost.

Any abstention shall be considered as a vote in the negative and counted as such.

All ordinary votes at open meetings shall be taken by a show of hands, and the Chair shall declare the result, but if the declaration is questioned prior to any new business being discussed, the members shall clearly indicate by poll vote, how they voted.

When a RECORDED vote is requested prior to the calling of the vote, the number of members voting in favour of the motion shall be recorded and the number of members opposed shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

When a POLL VOTE is requested prior to the calling of the vote, the Director shall call the members individually by name in alphabetical order and each member shall indicate whether in favour of, or against the motion, and such record of individual votes shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

In a Closed Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board there shall be no recorded or

poll votes taken.

No member of the Board (including the Chair) shall have more than one vote at a Board meeting, Closed meeting or at any Committee meeting.

Student Trustees may participate in debate and non-binding vote. A Student Trustees' vote may be recorded in the Board minutes and designated as non-binding.

8.5. Amendments to Motions

After a motion is made and seconded, a motion to amend may be made, and a motion to amend the amendment; but no further motion to amend shall be made until one or both amendments have been decided.

An amendment modifying the subject of a motion shall be in order but an amendment that is not relevant to the main motion shall not be in order.

All amendments shall be put in the reverse order in which they are moved.

Every amendment shall be in writing (except as in 8.2), beginning with the phrase "that the motion be amended by"

Every motion to amend shall be decided upon or shall be withdrawn before the main question is put to a vote.

If a vote on an amendment(s) is decided in the affirmative, the main question, as amended, shall be put to a vote.

8.6. The decision of the Chair as to whether the question has been finally put, shall be conclusive.

8.7. Motion to Reconsider

A motion to RECONSIDER a failed motion requires a notice of motion in writing at a previous meeting and the consent of two-thirds of the members present.

Once a motion to RECONSIDER is defeated, it shall not again be entertained during the current year or within a period of four months, whichever is the lesser, unless approved by all members of the Board present.

When a member has moved a motion to RECONSIDER any question, no discussion of the main question shall be allowed until the motion to RECONSIDER has been decided.

8.8. Motion to Rescind

A motion to RESCIND a carried motion requires a notice of motion in writing at a previous meeting and the consent of two-thirds of the members present.

Once a motion to RESCIND is defeated it shall not again be entertained during the current school year or within a period of four months, whichever is the lesser, unless approved by all members of the Board present.

When a member has moved to rescind any question which has been decided, no discussion on the main question shall be allowed until the motion to rescind has been decided.

8.9. Challenge to the Chair's Ruling

When the Chair is called upon to decide a point of order or practice, before deciding, the Chair will state the rule applicable to the case and may give reasons for the decision.

If a Trustee appeals the Chair's ruling, the question "Shall the challenge be sustained" shall be put by the Director/Secretary and decided without debate.

The Trustee who appeals the Chair's ruling shall be given five (5) minutes to outline the rationale for the challenge. The Chair shall be given five (5) minutes to state the rationale to support the ruling of the Chair.

To over-rule a decision by the Chair, it shall be necessary that two-thirds of the Trustees present vote in favour of the challenge.

- 8.10. Petitions and communications on any subject within the purview of a committee may be referred by the Chair to the proper Committee without motion.
- 8.11. The Board may, if two-thirds of the members present vote in favour thereof, enter upon the immediate consideration and disposition of a committee item. No discussion of the main question shall be allowed until the motion for immediate consideration has been decided in the affirmative.
- 8.12. Any change in policy must be preceded by notice of motion presented at a Board meeting not less than two weeks prior to the time at which such change is to be considered by the Board. Such notice shall outline the change that is proposed. An amendment to the proposed wording may be made without further notice providing the major intent is not changed.
- 8.13. For the purposes of this Section, a "special motion" is interpreted as a motion duly moved, seconded, and adopted by a two-thirds majority of the entire members present.
- 8.14. For types of motions and requirements, see Appendix B.

9. Governance By-Law 9: Conduct of Members at Meetings

- 9.1. After the Chair has put a question to a vote, there shall be no further debate and no member shall walk across or out of the room or make any noises or disturbances.
- 9.2. No member shall use offensive or discourteous words against the Board or any member thereof.
- 9.3. In the course of a meeting no member shall reflect upon any vote of the Board except for the purpose of moving that such vote be rescinded or reconsidered.
- 9.4. Every member shall confine himself/herself to the question in debate.
- 9.5. No member shall be interrupted while speaking except to be called to order by another member or by the Chair for transgression of the rules of the Board. The interrupted member shall remain silent until the point of order has been decided by the Chair. A member so interrupting shall speak to the point of order or in explanation only.
- 9.6. When a member is speaking no other member shall pass between him/her and the Chair.
- 9.7. Every member present at a meeting of the Board or a committee when a question is put, (including the Chair) shall vote thereon unless prevented by statute or excused by the Board.

10. Governance By-Law 10: Closed Meetings

- 10.1. A meeting of a committee of the Board, including a Committee of the Whole Board meeting may be closed to the public (in-camera) when the subject matter under consideration involves:
- the security of the property of the board;
 - the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;
 - the acquisition or disposal of a school site;
 - decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board;
 - litigation affecting the board;
 - subject-matter under consideration involving an ongoing investigation under the Ombudsman Act respecting the board.
- 10.2. With the exception of the Recording Secretary or designate, any and all recording and/or notetaking of Closed meetings is expressly prohibited.
- 10.3. All rules of the Board shall be observed in all Closed meetings so far as reasonable except that:
- a) no motion for the previous question or for adjournment shall be allowed (excepting under the rule establishing a time limit for meetings);
 - b) the yeas and nays shall not be recorded; and
 - c) the number of times of speaking on any question shall not be limited.
- 10.4. In a Closed meeting, a member may move that the Committee rise and report progress to a meeting of the Board, and this question shall be decided without debate.

11. Governance By-Law 11: Committees

- 11.1. Members of the Board may be asked to serve on any committee.
- 11.2. A committee appointed to report upon any subject will report to the Board a statement of facts, and also its opinion thereon, in writing, and the Chair of the committee or designate will present the report.
- 11.3. A meeting of certain committees of the Board including a Committee of the Whole meeting, may be closed to the public as referenced in By-Law 10, when the subject matter under consideration involves:
- the security of the property of the board;
 - the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;
 - the acquisition or disposal of a school site;
 - decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board;
 - litigation affecting the board;
 - subject-matter under consideration involving an ongoing investigation under the Ombudsman Act respecting the board.
- 11.4. A minority of any committee may have a Minority Report presented by the Chair of the committee in the same manner as the Majority Report is presented.
- 11.5. While verbal updates from any committee are allowed, no verbal report from any committee shall be received or discussed except with the consent of the Board by recorded motion.
- 11.6. The rules of the Board shall be observed in all meetings of Committees, so far as reasonable, subject to:
- a) the exceptions allowed for in the Closed meeting;
 - b) the ayes and nays shall not be recorded unless a poll vote is requested; and
 - c) the number of times speaking shall not be limited.
- 11.7. Meetings of any committee shall be called by the Chair thereof whenever he/she shall consider it necessary to do so; or whenever a request is made in writing to do so by a majority of the members thereof, or by the Chair of the Board.
- 11.8. Board members shall be notified of committee meetings at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

- 11.8.1. A meeting of any committee may also be held upon any notice given by the Chair thereof publicly at any meeting of the Board.
- 11.9. A majority of the members of the committee will constitute a quorum.
- 11.10. The Chair of a committee shall preside at every meeting thereof, and shall vote on all questions submitted, but shall have no second casting vote and in the case of an equal division, the question shall be decided in the negative.
- 11.11. All referrals to committees must be processed in writing through the Board, or the Officers of the Board.
- 11.12. All referrals sponsored by an individual trustee through this process require the attendance of the trustee to speak to the matter at the designated committee meeting.
- 11.13. Board Committees shall be structured as per Appendix A.

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12. Governance By-Law 12: By-Laws

- 12.1. Every By-Law of the Board, except Governance By-Laws, shall receive three readings.
- 12.2. Every By-Law of the Board, except Governance By-Laws, upon approval, shall be signed by the Chair and countersigned by the Director, and the seal of the Board then attached thereto.
- 12.3. Amendments, alterations, or additions to the Governance By-Laws may be made with due notice thereof in writing, setting forth the proposed amendments, alterations, or additions, providing due notice is given at a previous meeting and is confirmed by the majority of all members of the Board.

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13. Governance By-Law 13: Conflict of Interest

- 13.1. a) All clauses related to By-Law 13 are subject to the provisions of *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, and any amendments thereto.
- b) The Act applies to all members of local councils, committees, and boards, including school boards, either elected or appointed and to members of advisory committees and other committees established under the Education Act.
- c) Student trustees are subject to the 2007 Ministry of Education Guideline respecting conflict of interest.
- 13.2. Conflict-of-interest legislation is concerned only with pecuniary, or financial interests.
- 13.3. When a situation of conflict of interest exists, the Board member when present at any meeting, including committee, *closed* or any other meeting of the Board must:
- a) publicly declare the conflict of interest before any discussion of the matter begins, state the general nature of the interest, and have the declaration recorded in the minutes;
- b) file a written statement of the member's interest and its general nature, with the secretary of the committee or board;
- c) not take part in the consideration or discussion of the contract, proposed contract or other matter;
- d) not vote on any question with respect to the contract, proposed contract or other matter; and
- e) not attempt in any way, whether before, during or after, to influence the voting on any such question.
- 13.4. When a committee of the board, including a committee of the whole board, is in closed session, the Board member must leave the room for as long as the matter is under consideration and have the fact that he or she left the room recorded in the minutes. At the next meeting that is open to the public, the declaration of interest shall be recorded in the minutes but not the general nature* of that interest.
- 13.5. Where the interest of the member of the Board has not been disclosed by reason of their absence from the meeting at which the matter was considered or voted upon:
- a) They must disclose their interest at the first meeting of the Board attended by them after the meeting at which the matter was considered; and otherwise refrain from discussing, influencing, or voting on the matter. If there are any doubts about a possible conflict of interest, trustees should seek legal advice.

13.6. Gifts and Favours:

- a) No member of the Board or officer or employee, whether paid or unpaid, shall accept any gift of value, whether in the form of service, loan, thing or promise, or any other form of gift of value from any person, firm or corporation which, to their knowledge is interested indirectly or directly, in any manner whatsoever, in business dealings with the Board and its schools.
- b) No member of the Board or officer or employee shall accept any gift, favour or thing of value that may tend to influence them in the performance of their duties, or grant any improper favour, service or thing of value in the discharge of their duties.

* *General nature* would include stating what kind of pecuniary interest is involved (direct, indirect or deemed) and the type of relationship (parent, child, or spouse) connected to the trustee

DRAFT

14. Governance By-Law 14: Electronic Meetings

- 14.1. The Board may provide for the use of electronic means for the holding of meetings of the Board and/or meetings of committees of the Board, including Closed meetings.
- 14.2. At every electronic meeting of the Board and/or meetings of committees of the Board, the following persons must be physically present in the meeting room:
 - a) the Chair of the Board and/or designate and/or the chair of committees of the Board and/or designate;
 - b) at least one additional member of the Board and/or committees of the Board; and the Director of Education or designate.
- 14.3. At the request of any Board member or student representative, the Board may provide the member or representative with electronic means of participating in one or more meetings of the Board and/or of a committee of the Board, including *Closed* meetings, except where to do so would not comply with section 14.2.
- 14.3.1. The electronic means shall permit the Board member or student representative to hear and be heard by all other participants in the meeting.
- 14.4. A member of the Board or student representative of the Board who participates in a meeting through electronic means shall be deemed to be present at the meeting.
- 14.5. The rules governing conflict of interest of members shall apply to electronic meetings.
- 14.6. The Board may provide, at one or more locations within its jurisdiction, electronic means to permit participating in meetings by members of the public excluding Closed meetings.
- 14.7. For the purpose of complete disclosure, at every electronic meeting of the Board, members participating through electronic means shall be made aware of the Board members physically present in the room, the Board members participating electronically and whether or not the public and/or media are present.

Board members who participate in Closed meetings by electronic means, must participate from a room which is closed to any other person so that no other person can hear that member or other members of the Board. Board members must maintain rules of confidentiality and are subject to Board Policy No. GOV-05 Code of Conduct: Board Members.

Appendix A - Committee Structure

Standing Committees-

- Labour Relations Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Student Discipline Committee

Statutory Committees-

- Audit Committee
- First Nations Advisory Committee
- Parental Involvement Committee
- Special Education Advisory Committee
- Supervised Alternative Learning Committee
- Accessibility Planning Committee

Advisory Committees-

- Equity and Inclusive Education Committee
- Environmental Education Committee
- School Year Structure Committee
- Student Senate

Ad Hoc Committees-

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **Accessibility Planning Committee**

MEMBERSHIP:

1 Trustee (SEAC representative), Director of Education or designate, Manager of Human Resources, Manager of Information Services, Manager of Facilities, Principal of Special Education, 1 Parent Involvement Committee member, Chair of the Board as ex-officio.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Accessibility Planning Committee will consider matters and make recommendations to the Board pertaining to the annual review and preparation of the accessibility plan in compliance with the “Ontarians with Disabilities Act”. The Accessibility Planning Committee must ensure that consultation with people with disabilities is undertaken, that the initiatives in the previous year’s plan are reviewed and that new initiatives are identified for the upcoming school year in compliance with legislated requirements.

HOW OFTEN MEETINGS TAKE PLACE:

A minimum of once per year at the call of the Director of Education or designate.

REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

Once per school year, at a minimum.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **Audit Committee**
(Ontario Regulation 361/10)

MEMBERSHIP: (4-year term)

3 Trustees, 2 non-trustee members (appointed by selection committee),
Director of Education or designate, Superintendent of Business

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Audit Committee shall assist the Board in fulfilling its duties related to governance and oversight including: the financial reporting process, the internal control framework, risk management practices, performance and function of the Board's internal and external auditors and the Board's compliance with its obligation under legislation. The Audit Committee shall review and report on all items as listed in "Ontario Regulation 361/10 – Audit Committees".

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

A minimum of three times per year at the call of the Superintendent of Business.

REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

Once per school year, at a minimum.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **By-Law Review Committee (Ad Hoc)**

MEMBERSHIP:

All Trustees and Director of Education

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The By-Law Review Committee shall revise the current By-Laws to align with current legislation and to ensure procedures and practice align with current best practice in governance within the Ontario K12 Education sector.

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

At the call of the Chair. Estimated number of meetings- three (3)

REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

Upon completion of the review the By-Laws will procedure utilizing the approved Board practice for amending By-Laws.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **Environmental Education Committee**

MEMBERSHIP:

1 Trustee, 2 Student Trustees, Director of Education or designate, 1 principal or vice-principal, 1 elementary teacher representative, 1 secondary teacher representative, 1 Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) representative, 1 Facilities Department representative, 1 Finance Department representative, 1 Information Services Department representative, Chair of the Board as ex-officio.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Environmental Education Committee will support the Board's Environmental Education strategic plan to cultivate environmentally literate citizenship in students of Rainbow Schools.

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

At the call of the Director of Education or designate.

REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

Once per school year, at a minimum.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **Equity and Inclusive Education Committee**

MEMBERSHIP:

3 Trustees, Director of Education or designate, 1 Human Resources representative, interested principals or vice-principals, teachers, other staff members and community members, Chair of the Board as ex-officio.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Equity and Inclusive Committee will support the implementation of the Ministry document: "Equity and Inclusive Education in Ontario Schools: Guidelines for Policy Development and Implementation".

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

Four meetings in the school year at the call of the Director of Education or designate.

REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

Once per school year, at a minimum.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **First Nations Advisory Committee (FNAC)**
(per Education Service Agreements)

MEMBERSHIP:

3 trustees (including First Nations Trustee), Director of Education or designate, the Principal, Indigenous Education, 1 representative from each of the First Nations with whom an Education Service Agreement has been established, 1 representative from the urban First Nations, 1 representative from a First Nation education institute, Chair of the Board as ex-officio.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The First Nations Advisory Committee shall consider matters, report and make recommendations to the Board* in respect of matters affecting the establishment, development and delivery of programs and services for First Nations students of the Board.

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

September, November, February and May and at the call of the Director of Education or designate.

* REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

Twice per school year, at a minimum.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **Labour Relations Committee**

MEMBERSHIP:

Five Trustees, Trustee Rep for OPSBA, Director of Education or designate, Superintendent of Business, Manager of Human Resources, Chair of the Board as ex-officio.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Labour Relations Committee will consider matters and make recommendations to the Board pertaining to Collective Agreements and Terms and Conditions of Employment. The Labour Relations Committee will elect members to the: Elementary Joint and District 3 Management Liaison. Approval of the Labour Relations Committee will be required when considering a severance for a staff member employed as a superintendent, principal, manager or vice-principal and where the severance package developed exceeds the legal requirements. The Labour Relations Committee will consider any other matters referred to the Committee by the Board.

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

As required at the call of the Chair of the Labour Relations Committee.

REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

As needed.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)**
(Ontario Regulation 612/00)

MEMBERSHIP:

One Trustee, Director of Education or designate, 1 elementary principal representative, 1 secondary principal representative, 1 elementary teacher representative, 1 secondary teacher representative, School Council representatives as per Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Terms of Reference, Chair of the Board as ex-officio.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Parent Involvement Committee will advise the Board as required by the Ministry or Board, enhance parent engagement and consider matters referred to the Committee by the Board.

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

As indicated in PIC Terms of Reference.

REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

Once per school year, at a minimum.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)**
(Ontario Regulation 374/10)

MEMBERSHIP:

Each Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) meeting shall consist of 1 trustee (who shall act as the chair of the committee), Director of Education or designate, Principal of Student Success, 1 SAL teacher, and 1 community representative.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee will consider matters pertaining to: Regulation 374/10 "Supervised Alternative Learning and Other Excusals from Attendance at School" addressing the needs of students most at risk of disengaging from school.

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

At the call of the Director of Education or designate.

REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

Once per school year, at a minimum.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **School Year Structure Committee**
(Ontario Regulation 304)

MEMBERSHIP:

2 Trustees, 2 Student Trustees, Director of Education or designate, Chair of Parent Involvement Committee, 1 Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) representative, 1 Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) representative, 1 ETFO Occasional representative, 1 Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) representative, 1 OSSTF Occasional representative, 1 Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) representative, 1 elementary Rainbow District Principals' Council (RDPC) representative, and 1 secondary RDPC representative, Chair of the Board as ex-officio.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The School Year Structure Committee will consider matters and make recommendations pertaining to Ontario Regulation 304 under The Education Act. The school year structure is planned in conjunction with the other three area boards (French Public, English Catholic, French Catholic).

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

A minimum of one meeting per year at the call of the Director of Education or designate.

REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

Once per school year, at a minimum.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**
(Ontario Regulation 464/97)

MEMBERSHIP:

2 Trustees, 2 alternate trustees, Director of Education or designate, the Principal of Special Education, 1 Special Education Consultant, parent representatives from local associations and 3 parents appointed at large, Chair of the Board as ex-officio.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Special Education Advisory Committee will consider matters and make recommendations to the Board * pertaining to the establishment, development and delivery of special education programs and services for exceptional pupils of the Board, the annual review of the Special Education Plan, the Board's annual budget process as it relates to special education and other matters referred to the Committee by the Board.

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

Once per month during the school year.

REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

Twice per school year, at a minimum.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **Strategic Planning Committee**

MEMBERSHIP:

All Trustees, Director of Education, Superintendent of Business.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Strategic Planning Committee will consider matters and make recommendations to the Board pertaining to student achievement and wellbeing, capital projects, budget, policies, governance bylaws, and any other matters referred to the Committee by the Board.

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

Seven times per year, at a minimum.

REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

As needed.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **Student Senate Committee**

MEMBERSHIP:

2 Trustees, 2 Student Trustees, Director of Education or designate, maximum of 2 student representatives from each secondary school within the Board, Chair of the Board as ex-officio.

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The mandate is the responsibility of the Student Trustees as directed in the Board of Trustees Procedures: Student Trustee.

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

Once per month during the school year.

REPORT TO THE BOARD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

Once per school year, at a minimum

Appendix B - Rules of Order Guide

Type of Motion	Roberts Rules of Order	
	Seconded	Votes to Carry
Regular Motion	Yes	Majority
To Amend	Yes	Majority
To Adjourn	Yes	Majority
To Proceed to Next Question	Yes	2/3's
To Put the Previous Question	Yes	2/3's
To Defer	Yes	Majority
To Table	Yes	Majority
To Refer	Yes	Majority
To Receive	Yes	Majority
To Rescind	Yes	2/3's
To Reconsider	Yes	2/3's
Withdrawal	n/a	n/a

**RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BORROWING RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BORROWING OF MONEY TO MEET CURRENT
EXPENDITURES OF THE RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (THE "Board")**

- A. In accordance with Subsection 243(1) of the Education Act (R.S.O. 1990) (the "Act"), the Board considers it necessary to borrow the amount of up to Seven Million Dollars (\$7,000,000) to meet, until current revenue is received, the current expenditures of the Board for the period commencing on September 1, 2023 and ending on August 31, 2024 (the "Period").
- B. Pursuant to Subsection 243(3) of the Act, the total amount borrowed pursuant to this Resolution together with the total of any similar borrowings and any accrued interest on those borrowings is not to exceed the unreceived balance of the estimated revenues of the Board for the Period.
- C. The total amount previously borrowed by the Board pursuant to Section 243 that has not been repaid is \$0.
- D. The amount borrowed for current expenditures is within the Board's Debt and Financial Obligation Limit as established by the Ministry of Education from time to time.

RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. The Chair or Vice Chair and the Treasurer are authorized on behalf of the Board to borrow from time to time by way of promissory note, or overdraft, or bankers' acceptance from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce ("CIBC") or from any other approved lender authorized for borrowing purposes in accordance with Section 243 of the Act a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate Seven Million Dollars (\$7,000,000) to meet, until current revenue is collected, the current expenditures of the Board for the Period (including the amounts required for the purposes mentioned in Subsection 243(1) and 243(2) of the Act), and to give to CIBC or to any other approved lender promissory notes or bankers' acceptances, as the case may be, sealed with the corporate seal of the Board and signed by any two of the Chair or Vice Chair and the Treasurer for the sums borrowed plus interest at a rate to be agreed upon from time to time with CIBC or any other approved lender;
- 2. The interest charged on all sums borrowed pursuant to this Resolution plus any related charges, is not to exceed the interest that would be payable at the prime lending rate of the chartered banks listed in Schedule 1 of the Bank Act (Canada) on the date of borrowing;
- 3. The Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer is authorized and directed to apply in payment of all sums borrowed plus interest, all of the moneys collected or received in respect of the current revenues of the Board;
- 4. The Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer is authorized and directed to deliver to CIBC or any other approved lender from time to time upon request a statement showing (a) the total amount of unpaid previous borrowings of the Board for current expenditures together with debt charges, if any, and (b) the uncollected balance of the estimated revenues for the current year or, where the estimates have not been adopted, the estimated revenues of the previous year less any current revenue already collected.

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution of the Board in the Province of Ontario, duly passed at a meeting of the Board and that this Resolution is in force and effect.

DATED this 29th day of August, 2023.

Chair

Secretary



Leading Education's Advocates

Ontario Public School Boards' Association
439 University Avenue, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 1Y8
Tel: (416) 340-2540
Fax: (416) 340-7571
inquiry@opsba.org
www.opsba.org

Cathy Abraham
President

Stephanie Donaldson
Executive Director

July 6, 2023

TO: Bob Clement, Board Chair and Bruce Bourget, Director of Education
CC: Adam Guilbault, Superintendent of Business

RAINBOW DSB

Good day,

This school year was one of immense change and transition at OPSBA and throughout our public education system.

It was the first year since 2019-20 in which most students were not moving between in-person and remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We said goodbye to Executive Director Rusty Hick in December after an excellent five-and-a-half years and welcomed Stephanie Donaldson to lead our organization into the future.

OPSBA has seen some additional fresh faces join us this year – as the Association has added new staff members since June 2022 in labour relations and staff support for our Indigenous Trustees' Council (ITC) and Black Trustees Caucus (BTC). Our expert team brings together a unique combination of skills and talent, with many years of deep school board experience, which positions us well for the road ahead.

As we head into the 2023-24 school year, we will continue our strong advocacy with the government, the opposition parties and critics, key stakeholders and the wider public. In everything we do, our priority is ensuring Ontario's English public education system remains strong, while constantly adapting and improving – **no matter what circumstances we face**.

Following a comprehensive consultation process earlier this year, we have refreshed our Multi-Year Strategic Priorities for 2023-2027. They are:

Student Success, Equity, and Well-Being

OPSBA promotes and advances high-quality, equitable, and inclusive learning environments to support student success and well-being.

Local School Board Governance

OPSBA supports the role and leadership of local, democratically elected school boards in Ontario's English public education system.

Truth and Reconciliation

OPSBA develops and strengthens relationships to facilitate access to programs, resources and supports for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students that reflect the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

Effective Relationships and Sustainable Resourcing

OPSBA works with members, partners, the government and Federations/Unions to ensure that fiscal and human resources match school board needs and priorities.

While we look ahead, we must also look back to take stock of our collective successes in 2022-23:

- We coordinated a successful public service campaign to promote and increase awareness for the role of democratic, locally elected school board trustee prior to the 2022 elections.
- We amended our governance structure to ensure that the Chair of our Indigenous Trustees' Council (ITC) is a member of OPSBA's Executive Council.
- Our Black Trustees' Caucus (BTC) was established to bring together publicly elected or appointed trustees who identify as Black, so they can work together to influence systemic change.
- We stood strong in the face of renewed challenges to the autonomy and role of local school boards following the introduction and passing of Bill 98, *the Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act*.
- OPSBA's November [2022 Advocacy Day](#) was a tremendous success, as Association representatives met with more than 50 MPPs. Following this, the inaugural May 2023 [Take Your MPP to School Day](#) saw school visits from approximately 50 MPPs.
- We hosted three successful in-person conferences, with the January 2023 Public Education Symposium setting new records for attendance from member trustees, and returned to hosting in-person regional meetings at member board facilities.
- Our work on accessibility continued with a [comprehensive submission](#) to the government following the fourth review of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and we have [been keenly involved](#) in the federal government's consultation on a National School Food Policy.
- Our program and curriculum team led the production of two discussion papers, and a variety of [French-as-a-Second-Language resources](#):
 - The visionary [Beyond knowledge](#) paper developed in partnership with the Education Partner Discussion Table of K-12 stakeholder groups
 - The Ontario Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health's [Let's Put Our Heads Together](#) paper

With two collective agreements already ratified and settled following the expiry of the previous agreements in August 2022, OPSBA continues its work as the Designated Bargaining Agent on behalf of its member boards. We are fortunate to have an experienced [Labour Relations](#) team working to ensure student achievement and well-being are at forefront of all discussions.

For more, please see our [2022-23 Annual Report](#) and [our advocacy work](#) related to the provincial government's legislative and regulatory agenda.

We have a **35-year non-partisan history** of building positive and mutually respectful working relationships with politicians and staff from all parties represented in the Ontario Legislature. These relationships allow us to successfully represent the voice of our members on the many issues that affect our students and communities.

Our programs and services are highly cost effective. The financial benefits of membership far exceed not only the membership fee itself, but the outcomes that could be achieved by boards acting individually. Our collective voice is a strong one. Working with our partners at [the OESC](#), our interventions on copyright tariffs, natural gas rates and electricity rates have continued to create significant savings for all school boards and cover membership fees many times over. When this is combined with the other benefits created through our coordination and advocacy, the real value of membership is clear.

Examples of 2022-23 savings realized for:

Rainbow DSB

Savings in Copyright Fees: \$32,300

Savings in Energy Costs: \$106,300

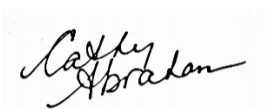
Following six consecutive years with no increase in fees, in April 2023 the OPSBA Board of Directors approved a 2% increase for total membership fees for 2023-24.

This year, the 2023-2024 OPSBA **membership fee** for your board is **\$40,340**.

OPSBA represents more than 1.3 million students, or nearly 70% of the entire K-12 student population, including all 31 English public school boards as well as 10 school authorities. Collectively, this makes our organization the number one stakeholder voice for education in Ontario. Your school board is a very big part of who we are and what we do. We advocate for public education every day, and our voice is stronger and more credible because we have the weight of all of our members behind us.

Thank you for your continued support as a member of OPSBA and for your dedication to public education. You can learn more about the valuable services OPSBA offers your board by visiting www.opsba.org.

Sincerely,



Cathy Abraham
President



Stephanie Donaldson
Executive Director

Attachment: Invoice for the 2023-24 OPSBA membership fee



**ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION**

Leading Education's Advocates

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

439 University Avenue, 18th Floor

Toronto, ON M5G 1Y8

Tel: (416) 340-2540

Fax: (416) 340-7571

webmaster@opsba.org

www.opsba.org

Invoice to:	Rainbow District School Board 408 Wembley Drive Sudbury, ON P3E 1P2		
Invoice# 030-23/24	Date: September 01, 2023	HST #10780 0344 RT 0001	
QTY	DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT
	2023/2024 Membership Fee September 01, 2023 to August 31, 2024		
	* Final Billing		\$40,340.00
	EFT Payment: Beneficiary Name: Ontario Public School Boards' Association Bank Name: TD Canada Trust Bank Address: 180 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON, M5G 1Z8 Bank Number: 004 Bank Transit: 18322 Bank Account: 0601 0302869 Send EFT Advice to: vtrinh@opsba.org		
	Please make cheque payable to:		
	Ontario Public School Boards' Association		
	Terms of Payment : Due upon receipt		
		Subtotal	\$40,340.00
		HST @ 13%	\$5,244.20
		Total	\$45,584.20

Copy 1 - Customer

Copy 2 - Accounting

Copy 3 - File