

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, August 29, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: D. Morrison

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

Staff: S. Ackroyd, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes, L. Mantle, M. McKelvey, D. Peristeridis, S. Tastula, C. Whitson

Chair Clement called the meeting to order and advised that the meeting was being livestreamed.

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-R98, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of August 29, 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

STUDENT TRUSTEE

Director Bourget administered the Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance to Student Trustees Sawyer Greene and Sonya Jacko-Cywink and welcomed them to the board table.

Motion: 23-R99, D.Dewar/D.Farrow

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

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 NIL

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

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

a) Motion: 23-R100, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 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) Motion: 23-R101, D.Dewar/J.Hunda

That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, July 11, 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 NIL

3. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

Strategic Planning (Governance By-Laws)

Motion: 23-R102, J.Kosmerly/D.Farrow

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: 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. **September School Reopening Update**

Director Bourget provided a detailed update on the 2023-2024 school year.

Director Bourget shared that we were entering year two of our five year plan of the Board's Strategic Directions, which guides our vision, mission, values and priorities.

He shared information about the Summer Institute which was held last week for approximately 70 educators and the New Employee Orientation day that was held at Sudbury Secondary School for over 135 participants.

Director Bourget provided details of the professional development staff will receive on the upcoming P.A. days which will be posted to the board website as information for parents.

He shared our projected enrolment of 13,996 students for the upcoming year, 9,133 for elementary and 4,863 in secondary. The Dare to Care program that was piloted in 12 elementary schools last year will be expanded to all elementary schools for students in Kindergarten to grade 8. Project Search will welcome its second group of students who will engage in internships in various departments at Health Sciences North with support from March of Dimes Canada.

This year all schools have been invited to participate in fall fairs to culminate in the board's first Traditional Harvest celebration on October 13, 2023, which is a joint initiative of our Indigenous Education Department and our Environmental Education Committee.

Director Bourget discussed the Guide for Parents/Guardians which will be shared with parents/guardian the first week of school and is also available on the board website. The card calendar will be distributed in hard copy to all families.

He also provided an update on kindergarten camp which is taking place the week of August 28th and the lighthouse classes will continue this year with 2 in the primary division and 2 in the junior division. He also shared the Ministry's initiative to strengthen core skills in mathematics from Kindergarten to grade 12, which Superintendent Lesley Fisher will be leading.

Trustees were given the opportunity ask questions and provide comments.

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **2023-2024 Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians**

Director Bourget provided page by page details about the publication which is available on the board's website.

Director Bourget thanked Nicole Charette and Jennifer Battah-Chartrand for their outstanding efforts to produce the guide and reminded that these documents are available on the board

website and will be distributed electronically through school communication channels the first week of school.

Trustees expressed appreciation for the outstanding informative publication.

2. **2023-2024 Executive Council Portfolios and Family of Schools**

Director Bourget reviewed the 2023-2024 Executive Council's distribution of schools and portfolios.

3. **Current Expenditures Borrowing Resolution**

Motion: 23-R103, J.Hunda/D.Dewar

That the Current Expenditures Borrowing Resolution as attached be deemed to have been read three times and 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. **OPPSBA Fees**

Motion: 23-R104, D.Farrow/J.Kosmerly

That the 2023-2024 membership fees in the Ontario Public Schools Boards' Association 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

5. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

Motion: 23-R105, D.Farrow/J.Kosmerly

That Trustee Morrison be granted a leave of absence from the August 29, 2023 Board meeting.

Poll vote

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

6. **Director's Remarks**

Chair Clement, Trustees:

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer.

I look forward to working with you, Superintendents, administrators, staff, students, families, First Nations Chiefs and communities and all of our partners as we continue our journey together.

To begin, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Sawyer Greene and Sonya Jacko-Cywink, and tell you a bit more about our Student Trustees.

A Grade 12 drama student in the French Immersion Program, Sawyer Greene is enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major in Arts and Culture at Sudbury Secondary School. Sawyer has appeared in a number of plays and musicals as well as stage-managed and co-hosted performances and concerts. Sawyer's extra-curricular involvement in school extends beyond the arts. Sawyer was on the Reach for the Top team that was invited to participate at the provincial level for the first time in decades. Being on Student Parliament gave Sawyer an opportunity to work on many projects, including the Cancer Gala and Dress Drive. This year, Sawyer will join Sudbury Secondary School's musical "The Little Mermaid". They will also continue contributing to the Student Council. Sawyer plans to take a director's course and assist the drama teacher with the Junior class. They will direct "Dramatically Yours", Sudbury Secondary School's annual junior drama performance. In addition to the arts, Sawyer is passionate about cooking and baking, which they say requires patience and practice, ingredients for resilience. Sawyer says: "Involvement in school is important because young minds are able to bring fresh ideas to the table. Students see new ways that events could be changed for the better." They add that student voice can bring a new perspective, inform decision-making, and affect change.

Sonya Jacko-Cywink, from Wikwemikong, is returning to Manitoulin Secondary School. She will continue to be involved in various sports, including volleyball, basketball, badminton and softball. She is a past member of the Student Council and The Three Fires Council, which she will join again this year. The Council helps to plan the school Pow Wow in which Sonya is the head dancer. "Students know students best," she says. "Involvement in school and school life is important because it gives students a chance to have their voice heard." Sonya says joining committees, teams and clubs, enables students to gain skills that will benefit them in the future, such as time-management. She adds: "Being involved in extracurricular activities gives students a chance to meet new students and connect with their peers on a deeper level." Sonya enjoys cooking. Cooking tells a story and connects people. She loves listening to music, travelling, and trying out foods from different cultures. She also enjoys learning about people's stories.

Sawyer and Sonya will co-chair the Student Senate this year which includes representatives from secondary schools across Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin. We look forward to working with you in your roles as Student Trustee.

Our incredible administrative teams have been hard at work preparing for the start of the school year. We are looking forward to the return of our students.

Our dedicated, caring staff will all be back this week for professional learning taking place on September 1st and 5th in preparation for the start of the school year.

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 6, 2023.

We can't wait to see our students and welcome all of our new and returning families to Rainbow Schools.

As always, our schools will be safe and supportive places where students have fun while they learn.

We will continue to prioritize reconnecting, mental health and well-being as our teachers engage with and support students to determine learning needs.

We have an incredible team of administrators, educators and support staff who will nurture student success.

As we know, public education prepares students to be active, confident, capable and contributing members of society.

Rainbow Schools play a critical role in the academic, social, emotional and physical development of children and young adults.

When students feel safe, supported, accepted, respected and connected in school and in their school community - when they have a sense of belonging - they are well on their way towards achieving their full potential.

On behalf of all of our staff, I would like to welcome our students and families to the 2023-2024 school year.

We also would like to welcome our newest school administrators:

Christine Cretien who will serve as Vice-Principal of Adamsdale

Chris Claridge who will serve as Vice-Principal of Algonquin

Andrew Kendall who will serve as Vice-Principal Espanola

Brad Smith who will serve as Vice-Principal of Lockerby

Erin Ferguson who will serve as Vice-Principal of Lo-Ellen Park

Steve Doane who will serve as Vice-Principal of Manitoulin

Rachel Goodfellow will serve as Vice-Principal of Manitoulin

Karen Dumont who will serve as Vice-Principal of Queen Elizabeth

Some of our schools will welcome new Principals:

Andrea Therrien has been appointed Principal of Espanola High School.

Coleen Eberlein is the new Principal of Jean Hanson Public School.

Darren Wilson is the new Principal of Levack Public School.

Elizabeth Mack has been appointed Principal of Churchill Public School.

Jim Wachnuk will serve as Principal of the new Lasalle Elementary School.

Kim Boulanger has been appointed Principal of Larchwood Public School.

Kate Mackenzie has been appointed Principal of Markstay Public School.

Laurie-Ann Lielkalns is the new Principal of Barrydowne College.

Melanie Bertrand becomes Principal of Student Success.

Nadia Berardelli is the new Principal of R.H. Murray Public School.

Ryan Lafraniere is the new Principal of Lockerby Composite School.

Shannon Lafrance has been appointed Principal of Monetville Public School.

Susan Kett is the new Principal of Lively District Secondary School.

Our administrators and our staff are excited to work with students and families in their respective schools and school communities.
We look forward to seeing you on September 6th.

I will close my comments with appreciation to our dedicated Board of Trustees. Your support and commitment to our students and staff is greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you do!! We know you share our excitement for the start of another school year filled with pride, promise and possibility as together, we prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

7. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly shared that the first Board of Directors meeting will be held in Toronto on September 22-23, 2023 and will be on a call with OBSPA Board of Directors regarding collective bargaining on September 13, 2023.

Student Trustee - NIL

8. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Corbiere-Addison attended an OPSBA meeting for Indigenous Trustee Council where the reduction in funding was discussed. The group hopes Minister Lecce will attend the next advocacy day on November 27th.

Trustee Farrow welcomed the new student trustees and wished board and school administrators all the best for a successful start-up.

Trustee Hunda welcomed the new student trustees and expressed her excitement in working with both of them. She thanked staff who dedicate time over the summer to participate in summer programs and wished all staff the best for the coming school year.

9. **Chairperson's Remarks**

On behalf of Trustees, I extend a warm welcome to all students and families as you prepare for a new school year.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to take an active interest in their child's education.

It has been said before this evening, but it is worth repeating...

Ensuring your child attends school regularly is a good place to start.
When parents/guardians value education, students value education.
There is a strong correlation between attendance and achievement.

We also invite community partners to help us mentor and nurture their future workforce. When the home, the school and the community work together, we maximize learning opportunities for students and help them achieve their full potential.

Our youngest learners kicked off the school year yesterday with Kindergarten Camp. The four-day program is running for three hours per day at a number of Rainbow elementary schools. I extend a special welcome to the class of 2037!

For families who have not already done so, there is still time to register. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their area Rainbow school as soon as possible given that classes begin next week.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome back to our teachers and support staff who make Rainbow Schools great places for teaching and learning. Through their work, they bring our vision, mission, and values to life each and every day.
We appreciate all that they do on behalf of students.

IMPORTANT DATES

A friendly reminder that Labour Day is Monday, September 4th.
Tuesday, September 5th is a PA Day for staff.
The first day of school is Wednesday, September 6th.

Staff and students in Rainbow Schools will wear pink on Thursday, September 14th, as Rainbow District School Board marks its 16th annual “Stand Up Against Bullying Day”. We invite everyone in the community to join us and wear pink on September 14th.

As we embark on another exciting year, I will leave you with a quote from Abraham Lincoln. He said:

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.”

Wishing everyone a wonderful school year.

And for students...remember...
You are the authors of your own story.
Make the most of each and every day.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
2. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Motion: 23-R106, S.Greene

That we do now adjourn at 6:37 p.m. - **Carried**