

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, September 26, 2023 at 5:02 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 (via Google Meet), J. Kosmerly, Student Trustee Greene

Absent: Student Trustee Jacko-Cywink

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

Staff: M. Bertrand, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, R. Duffy, T. Hayes, S. Jokinen, D. Koziar, K. MacKenzie, B. Managhan, M. McKelvey, N. Mousseau, N. Nicolas-Bayer, D. Peristeridis, D. St. Amour, C. Whitson, D. Williamson, C. Wilson

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-R111, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of September 26, 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

- Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

Summer Programs for Students

A detailed presentation was provided to trustees highlighting events from the eight different summer programs that were offered to students during July and August. There were three special education programs as well as a Mental Health Support session, Kindergarten Camp, CODE Summer Learning program for grades 1-6, Intermediate Summer Learning Program for grades 7-8, an Indigenous Summer Learning Partnership and Secondary Summer School.

Presenters included:

- Danielle Williamson, Principal of Special Education Programs and Services
- Brien Managhan, Manager of Applied Behaviour Analysis Services
- Sarah Jokinen, RDSB Mental Health Lead
- Kate MacKenzie, Principal of Kindergarten Camp
- Carrie Wilson, Principal of the CODE Summer Learning Program
- Richard Duffy, Site Lead of the Intermediate CODE Summer Learning Program
- Nicole Nicolas-Bayer, Program for Indigenous Learners
- David St. Amour, Principal of the Secondary Summer Learning Program

Presenters acknowledged the dedicated staff who made these summer programs such a success for students, while being enjoyable and educational.

Trustees shared their appreciation for the informative presentation and had the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 23-R112, J.Hunda/L.Corbriere-Addison

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 be approved.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbriere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: In-favour
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
David Farrow: Absent from room
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*

- Carried

2. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

Audit Committee (AC)

Motion: 23-R113, D.Dewar/J.Hunda

That the 2022/2023 External Audit Plan be approved as recommended by the Audit Committee.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbriere-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*

- Carried

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Trustee Vacancy

Option A

Motion: 23-R114, J.Hunda/A.Gibson

That the trustee vacancy position be filled by a by-election.

Poll vote

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

- Defeated

Option B

Motion: 23-R115, D.Farrow/J.Kosmerly

That the trustee vacancy position be filled as per Section 221 (a) of the *Education Act*, "if the office of a member of a board becomes vacant before the end of the member's term, the remaining elected members shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy within 90 days after the office becomes vacant, if a majority of the elected members remain in office".

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

- Carried

Motion: 23-R116, D.Dewar/L.Corbiere-Addison

That after calling for and considering applications by qualified persons, the vacancy of trustee be filled by appointment following a majority vote of the remaining elected members of the Board.

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

- Carried

Motion: 23-R117, D.Farrow/J.Hunda

That the Trustee Appointment Process 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

- Carried

2. **2023-2024 School Year Update**

Director Bourget provided a brief update that focused on our board priority – Truth and Reconciliation.

He shared that all Rainbow Schools will observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Thursday, September 28, 2023 with schools flying their flags at half-mast and secondary schools flying the Survivor's Flag from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation on their second flag pole. Our 3rd Annual Sunrise Ceremony will also take place on Thursday at the Centre for Education beginning at 6:45am and everyone is welcome.

3. **Levying Education Taxes Bylaw**

Motion: 23-R118, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the Levying Education Taxes for 2024 bylaw 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

- Carried

4. **Various Capital Projects Update**

Nathalie Mousseau, Manager of Facility Services, presented a slideshow of photos with updates on the various completed and ongoing construction projects at Adamsdale PS, Alexander PS, CR Judd PS, Confederation SS, A.B. Ellis PS/Espanola HS, Jean Hanson PS, Lasalle Elementary, Lively DSS, Lo Ellen Park, Northeastern Elementary, Queen Elizabeth PS and RH Murray PS.

Work at the various sites ranged from roofing, parking upgrades, field work, ventilation and classroom upgrades.

She shared the total costs of the sitework was \$11 M excluding the new build of Lasalle Elementary.

5. **OPSBA Northern Regional Meeting**

Motion: 23-R119, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2023 OPSBA Northern Regional Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie on October 13-14, 2023.

(Trustee Corbiere-Addison, Trustee Kosmerly, Trustee Debassige, Trustee Clement, Trustee Hunda)

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

- Carried

6. **OSTA-AECO Fees**

Motion: 23-R120, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the 2023-2024 Ontario Student Trustees' Association membership fees 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

- Carried

7. **Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) Fall General Meeting**

Motion: 23-R121, D.Farrow/D.Dewar

That the board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Greene and Student Trustee Jacko-Cywink at the OSTA Fall General Meeting October 19 to 22, 2023 in Toronto.

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

- Carried

8. **Notice of Absence**

Chair Clement stated, "Sonya Jacko-Cywink is excused".

9. **Director's Remarks**

Let me begin by sharing my sincere appreciation of our incredible administrators, teachers and educational support staff for their outstanding work to get our school year off to a great start. I would like to commend our students on a successful return to school and thank our parents and guardians for their ongoing support. I would also like to thank our Facilities department for the incredible work over the summer. Just to name a few projects, Lasalle Elementary school and the new robotics room at Confederation are beautiful.

Enrolment Update...

Secondary: Current – 4780 Predicted - 4782.5 predicted - 2 under - still registering

Elementary: Current – 9249 Predicted - 9133 predicted - up 116

Additional staffing in place in elementary schools starting tomorrow.

Exec Council School Visits - Visiting schools to connect with staff and students. As part of our restructuring and plans for this year, the Executive Council is in schools each Wednesday and Thursday. Visits have been very well received and it is certainly amazing to see all of the great things happening in Rainbow Schools.

Fall Athletics are underway. Schools clubs and activities are happening and our students are benefiting from the activities and experiences.

As mentioned, one more reminder that this Thursday, at the Board office we will host our third annual Sunrise Ceremony at 6:45 a.m. I would like to thank Hazel Fox-Recollet and Nicole Nicholas for their leadership in making this possible.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our board of Trustees and all staff for their dedication and commitment to student learning and well-being. Each day, our staff makes a difference in the lives of our students. It is a privilege to serve the board of Trustees and our staff. You exemplify what reaching minds and touching hearts is all about. Thank you!!

10. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly attended the OPSBA Board of Director's meeting over the weekend. The meeting began with an acknowledgment on the passing of 2 trustees over the summer, one being Trustee Morrison and they expressed their heartfelt condolences on behalf of Ontario school boards.

Trustee Kosmerly shared that a mass tort litigation is being launched against social media companies (Snapchat and Meta) for knowingly promoting dangerous and controversial content to children. OPSBA understands there is no fee for school boards to join the lawsuit. There will be a town hall session with the law firm, school board directors and board chairs on October 10th (tentatively) to provide information and answer questions.

The Ministry will begin consultations under Bill 98, one being a session for director performance appraisals that Trustee Kosmerly will be attending. Information was shared with all trustees on the consultations that are open to all.

Financial support was offered to boards for Indigenous Student Trustees to attend the OPSBA conference in Sault Ste Marie.

The next PES conference will be a 2 day conference on January 25-26, 2024, and the next Board of Directors meeting will be on November 26, 2023 in Toronto.

The first of 3 speakers series webinars was held September 20th and the remaining 2 sessions will take place on October 18th and November 22nd. There is no cost to trustees to join.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Greene provided an update from the first student senate meeting and shared that senate is working on a survival guide for high schools that includes a slideshow with QR codes that will link to videos and information for students. Senate is also creating a social media post for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

11. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Farrow had a wonderful time visiting Jean Hanson Public School and was given a tour of the facility. He shared that it is an incredible school.

Trustee Kosmerly gave a shout out to Valley View Public School where students taped Principal Carr to the wall as part of a challenge to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation, in which they raised over \$5,464.

Trustee Hunda shared her appreciation for the presentation on the school board facilities and seeing all the developments of the projects, including getting Lasalle completed for the start of the school year.

Trustee Corbiere-Addison visited some schools on Manitoulin Island and shared her appreciation on seeing the work on the Fall Fairs and the Terry Fox run. She expressed her appreciation to all the volunteers who help with events such as these.

Student Trustee Greene shared that Sudbury Secondary School hosted the school's first Multi-cultural Fair, which was a great success.

12. Chairperson's Remarks

Rainbow Schools will mark the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** on Thursday, September 28th. It is a time to acknowledge the Survivors of residential schools who had the courage to share their stories. It is also a time to remember the children who never made it home. Staff and students will come together and wear orange as a symbol of truth on our path towards reconciliation.

There will be no school for students this Friday, September 29th for a **Professional Activity Day**. We remind parents/guardians that information about professional learning is posted on rainbowschools.ca.

Ontario universities will host an information session to help secondary students plan their post-secondary journey. The **Ontario Universities' Fair** will be at Laurentian University on Thursday, October 5th from 6 pm to 8 pm. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend.

As a reminder, all schools will be closed for **Thanksgiving** on Monday, October 9th.

This month, schools have been busy preparing for the **Traditional Harvest Celebration** at Lockerby Composite School on Friday, October 13th. Outstanding articles and entries from School Fall Fairs will be showcased at the event, where community harvesters, agriculturalists, botanists and environmental advocates will share their skills and knowledge about the benefits of traditional harvesting and local farming.

Parents/guardians are invited to learn about relationships, belonging and connection with renowned specialist in child psychiatry Dr. Jean Clinton as part of the **Parent Involvement Committee's Annual General Meeting** on Tuesday, October 17th. The election of PIC members will begin at 6 pm followed by the keynote address at 7 pm. The live presentation will be held in person at Sudbury Secondary School's Sheridan Auditorium. Parents/guardians in Espanola and Manitoulin are invited to gather at Espanola High School and Manitoulin Secondary School to participate.

Students will take part in the **HEADSTRONG Summit** on Tuesday, October 23rd from 8:30 am to 3 pm at Cambrian College. The goal is to teach students how to recognize the signs of mental health and reduce stigma. Students will be inspired to become leaders to foster wellness in their schools.

And now, I will leave you with a quote from Malala Yousafzai, who said:

"Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world."

Thank you.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Reports from Officials and Staff

Special Education Advisory Committee minutes June 7, 2023 (official)

2. Tenders/Requests for Proposals

3. Non-Staff Communications

June 8, 2023 letter to Minister Stephen Lecce RE: Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Funding

August 31, 2023 letter to Minister Stephen Lecce RE: Funding for Indigenous Education

September 11, 2023 letter of sympathy from Ottawa Catholic School Board

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Student Senate meeting October 2, 2023 5:30 pm

Special Education Advisory Committee October 4, 2023 11:30 am

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting October 10, 2023 5:00 pm

Environmental Education Committee Meeting October 11, 2023 3:30 pm

Equity & Inclusion Committee October 12, 2023 4:00 pm

Parent Involvement Committee AGM October 17, 2023 6:00 pm

Board Meeting October 24, 2023 5:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 23-R122, D.Farrow

That we do now adjourn at 7:43 p.m. – **Carried**