

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, October 24, 2023 at 5:09 p.m.

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

Absent: NIL

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

Staff: S. Ackroyd, M. Bertrand, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes,
D. Koziar, D. London, L. Mantle, M. McKelvey, C. Whitson,
D. Williamson

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-R126, J.Kosmerly/D.Farrow

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of October 24, 2023 be approved, as amended, with the amendment being to move item D to follow item B.

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

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

1) Property Matters

a) Motion: 23-R127, J.Kosmerly/L.Corbiere-Addison

That Motion #23-W41 RE: Carl A. Nesbitt Public School property matter, be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour

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

- Carried

- b) Motion: 23-R128, L.Debassige/D.Farrow
That Motion# 23-W42 RE: Ernie Checkeris Public School property matter, be approved.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

2) Trustee Vacancy

- a) Motion: 23-R129, D.Farrow/D.Dewar
That Alex McCauley be appointed trustee with the Rainbow District School Board for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term.

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

- Carried

- b) Motion: 23-R130, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly
That the ballots for the trustee vacancy be destroyed.

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

C. PRESENTATIONS

Student Achievement – EQAO & OSSLT

Superintendent Fisher introduced system principals, Melanie Bertrand, Dan Koziar and Danielle Williamson, to share information with trustees about EQAO and OSSLT results over time. She shared that we have the top results in all English Language Boards in

Northeastern Ontario in primary reading, writing and math as well as junior reading and math.

Dan Koziar (Principal of Program), Danielle Williamson (Principal of Special Education) and Melanie Bertrand (Principal of Student Success) walked trustees through the presentation that compared the most recent 2022-2023 results to past years.

Trustees thanked everyone for the in-depth presentation and had the opportunity to ask questions.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

a) Motion: 23-R131, J.Hunda/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, September 22, 2023 be approved.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

b) Motion: 23-R132, D.Farrow/J.Kosmerly

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 be approved.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

2. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

NIL

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2023-2024 School Year Update

Director Bourget shared a presentation of photos that highlighted ways staff have connected with students, to create positive school cultures, setting the tone for the year. Various events have taken place across the board like Sudbury Secondary School's first ever Multicultural Fair, Lasalle Secondary School's Fall Carnival, Walden Public School tending to the Lively Community Garden and an Earth Rangers presentation at Little Current Public School.

He also shared photos of Project Search students receiving their Certificates of Internship, a donation of artwork to Sudbury Secondary School and photos of Confederation Secondary School's collaboration with Greater Sudbury Police Service to pilot an all-terrain vehicle safety program.

Director Bourget spoke about Lockerby Composite School's annual pep rally to kick off the Kids Caring for Kids Cancer Drive, the tour with OPSBA President Cathy Abraham and Executive Director Stephanie Donaldson, the Board's first Traditional Harvest Celebration and the PIC AGM guest speaker Dr. Jean Clinton and how her messaging was so aligned with our vision, mission, values and priorities. He also discussed the Ministry's Student Achievement Plan and its alignment with the Board's School Improvement Plans.

In conclusion he shared photos of phase 1 of the Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School tennis and basketball court revitalization, the Terry Fox Milestone Award the Board received for having raised \$1 million for cancer research as well as photos from Terry Fox walks/events that took place across Rainbow Schools.

Trustees expressed their appreciation for these updates to see all the events and good news stories across the board.

2. **OSBIE Refund**

Superintendent Guilbault shared the plan to reinvest the funds in the Board's cyber security program, as we did last year.

3. **Honoraria for Trustees 2023-2024**

Superintendent Guilbault explained the report provided and shared there was a slight increase in the amounts for the upcoming term due to an increase in the enrolment component.

4. **Trustee Expenditures 2022-2023**

Superintendent Guilbault explained the details on the Trustee Expenses spreadsheet, which will be posted on the Board's website.

5. **Notice of Absence** NIL

6. **Director's Remarks**

This month, I would like to express our gratitude to our school office staff. The start of the school year is an extra busy time of year and we are grateful for the tireless efforts to support students, staff, parents and guardians to ensure a smooth start up.

I would also like to thank our incredible school administrative teams. They are working tirelessly to make their schools great places to learn.

I would also like to thank the board of Trustees for your ongoing support and leadership. It is essential for our continued efforts to support our students and staff. We are moving forward with our priorities thanks to your leadership and stewardship. Your positive energy, teamwork, focus on students and commitment to student achievement is vital to our success and so greatly appreciated.

I will conclude by saying thank you to all of our staff for continuing to be difference makers in the lives of our students. We are very grateful for the incredible work our staff does each day!!

7. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly shared that a new central agreement has been ratified by all parties in regards to the ETFO Education workers. She also mentioned the visit with the OPSBA President and Executive Director who toured several of our schools and expressed how impressed they were with the school sites they saw. She shared the Northern OPSBA Conference was held on October 13th and 14th in Sault Ste Marie, and it was a great opportunity to meet other trustees across the north. Several items were discussed at the Northern Directors meeting which OPSBA plans to bring to the Province such as transportation funding, as all boards are struggling, as well as Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding as many boards expressed concerns over the new funding model. She shared that OPSBA believes the government will be releasing a consultation shortly for trustee code of conduct, and the next Board of Directors meeting will be held in Toronto on November 26th, followed by Advocacy Day at Queens Park on the 27th.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Greene shared an initiative that Student Senate passed to host a “Halloween for Hunger campaign”, a food drive to raise funds and collect canned goods to donate to food banks across the city. The senate has created a High School 101 slide show presentation to help incoming students with topics like how to use email, time management, volunteer opportunities and school specific topics like course options, school map, bell times and extra-curricular activities. Student Trustee Jacko-Cywink provided details of the OSTA-AECO conference they attended and shared what a great opportunity it was to network with other trustees. At the conference they were introduced to AIG’s (Advocacy Interest Groups) which Trustee Jacko-Cywink joined the Truth and Reconciliation group and Trustee Greene joined the Equity Diversity and Inclusion group.

8. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Kosmerly thanked the seven candidates who put their names forward for the position of Trustee.

Trustee Farrow shared it was an honour for him to serve at the fall harvest feast at Jean Hanson Public School and thanked Chair Clement and Trustee Kosmerly for the invitation to join the lunch with the OPSBA President and Executive Director.

Trustee Debassige extended an acknowledgement to our families for their work and support on the EQAO assessments. She shared at-home learning is critical to development.

9. **Chairperson’s Remarks**

I had the pleasure last week of meeting some of the newest members of the Parent Involvement Committee. The Annual General Meeting was followed by the presentation on Belonging and Connecting with Dr. Jean Clinton. I would like to thank all parents/guardians who were there in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin. Parental involvement improves student achievement.

Earlier today, some 75 students from Rainbow Schools in Grades 9 to 12 participated in the **HEADSTRONG Summit** at Cambrian College. Students learned how to recognize the signs of mental health and reduce stigma. Students were also inspired to become leaders to foster wellness in their own schools.

Grade 9 students in Rainbow Schools will spend the day at work shadowing a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host on Wednesday, November 1st as part of **Take Our Kids to Work**. Now in its 29th year, the national program gives students the opportunity to experience the world of work as they begin to explore possible career paths.

Staff and students in Rainbow Schools will continue to learn about treaties and relationships during **Treaties Recognition Week** from November 5 to 11, 2023. Educational activities and lessons are part of Rainbow District School Board's continued focus on Truth and Reconciliation.

Rainbow District School Board invites students and staff to go paperless in support of **World Paper Free Day** on Monday, November 6th. For the challenge, schools will create 21st century paperless classrooms by avoiding the use of printers, photocopiers, hard copy reading materials, and paper-based assignments for the day.

All Rainbow Schools will observe **Remembrance Day** the week of Monday, November 6th. We also encourage students and staff to engage in community events on Saturday, November 11th. Flags will fly at half-mast in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island from Wednesday, November 8th to mark Indigenous Veterans Day throughout the weekend.

There will be no school for students on Friday, November 10th for a **Professional Activity Day**. We remind parents/guardians that information about professional learning is posted on rainbowschools.ca.

Parents/guardians and students in Grades 7 and 8 are invited to mark their calendars for **Next Stop: Grade 9** on November 14th. The information session will focus on the changes and choices students face while entering high school. This is an evening presentation in the Student Centre at Cambrian College.

Sudbury Secondary School will present "**The Little Mermaid Jr.**" for the public on November 19th at 1 pm and November 24th and 25th at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth 12 and under, and can be purchased at the door or in advance through showpass.com.

And now, I will leave you with a quote from Vince Lombardi, who said:

"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary."

Thank you.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Audit Committee minutes December 5, 2022 (official)
First Nations Advisory Committee minutes May 18, 2023 (official)
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes September 13, 2023 (official)
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**
September 12, 2023 Letter of sympathy from OPSBA

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Special Education Advisory Committee November 1, 2023 11:30 am
Student Senate meeting November 6, 2023 5:30 pm
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting November 7, 2023 5:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee Meeting November 8, 2023 3:30 pm
Equity & Inclusion Committee November 9, 2023 4:00 pm
First Nations Advisory Committee November 16, 2023 10:00 am
Board Meeting November 21, 2023 5:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 23-R133, J.Kosmerly
That we do now adjourn at 6:35 p.m. - **Carried**

OFFICIAL