

## 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, November 21, 2023  
at the conclusion of the Organizational Board Meeting (6:15 p.m.)

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Present: Trustees: D. Farrow (Chair), B. Clement, L. Corbiere-Addison, L. Debassige  
(via Google Meet), D. Dewar (via Google Meet), A. Gibson, J. Hunda,  
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: S. Ackroyd, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, L. Mantle, M. McKelvey,  
D. Peristeridis, C. Whitson

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

Director Bourget completed roll call to establish who was participating in the Google Meet.

#### **A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: 24-R17, D.Dewar/A.McCauley

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of November 21, 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*  
*Alex McCauley: In-favour*

**- Carried**

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

#### **C. PRESENTATIONS**

##### Enrolment

Director Bourget provided an enrolment update for 2023-2024 school year, based on data from the October 31<sup>st</sup> enrolment count date.

The board saw an increase in enrolment in both the elementary and secondary panels and a reduction in the number of remote learners and those who are homeschooled.

Trustees had an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Motion: 24-R18, A.Gibson/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the board of trustees receive an electronic copy of board presentations/slidedecks made at board meetings.

Poll vote

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

**- Carried**

**D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD**

No meeting held. No report.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

**a) Motion: 24-R19, J.Kosmerly/L.Debassige**

That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, October 17, 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*  
*Alex McCauley: In-favour*

**- Carried**

**b) Motion: 24-R20, B.Clement/J.Hunda**

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, October 24, 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*  
*Alex McCauley: In-favour*

**- Carried**

**2. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees**

NIL

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2023-2024 School Year Update**

Director Bourget provided an update on teachable moments, new initiatives and school celebrations taking place at Rainbow Schools.

Director Bourget welcomed Trustee Alex McCauley who was sworn in on November 13<sup>th</sup> by Madame Justice Patricia Hennessy.

With Literacy and Numeracy the focus of the November 10<sup>th</sup> P.A. Day, schools reviewed their progress in these areas focussing on the implementation of high-yield teaching strategies. He shared examples of how schools are honing their math skills. Also on the P.A. day, Grade 7/8 teachers were provided training on the Ministry-mandated Mental Health literacy modules that will be delivered to grade 7 and 9 students to further support student well-being.

Treaties Recognition Week was held from November 5 to 11, 2023 with staff and students continuing their learning about treaties and the importance of the treaty relationship. Schools also observed Remembrance Day on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and flags flew at half-mast in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island from November 8<sup>th</sup> throughout the weekend, to mark Indigenous Veterans Day.

A new “Think Trades” trailer has started touring elementary school to introduce the trades to intermediate students, allowing them to participate in activities related to the skilled trades, OYAP and SHSMs.

Director Bourget shared his pleasure of participating in a presentation on November 9<sup>th</sup> as Lockerby Composite School was recognized for its annual cancer drive which has raised over one million dollars for pediatric cancer research and care programs in partnership with the Northern Cancer Foundation.

Director Bourget also spoke about the “Next Stop: Grade 9” event that took place on November 14<sup>th</sup> at Cambrian College, where grade 7 and 8 students and families could speak with school administrators on site to obtain information about our schools and programs.

He also shared an update on the Dare to Care program that was piloted in 12 elementary schools last year has been implemented in all K to 8 schools for the current school year.

Director Bourget also shared that Lively District Secondary School was the recipient of a \$10,000 donation from Major Drilling to go towards the purchase and installation of a new scoreboard and shot clocks for the gym.

Lastly, Kindergarten Information Nights for students starting school in September 2024 will take place on January 17, 2024 for the English Program and January 18, 2024 for French Immersion. Schools offering both English and French Immersion will host one Information Night on January 18, 2024. All parents/guardians and their children are welcome.

Trustee were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

## 2. **Public Education Symposium (PES) 2023-2024**

Motion: 24-R21, J.Hunda/A.Gibson

That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2024 Public Education Symposium in Toronto on January 25-26, 2024.

*(Trustee Clement, Trustee Corbiere-Addison, Trustee Debassige, Trustee Farrow, Trustee Gibson, Trustee Hunda, Trustee Kosmerly, Trustee McCauley, Student Trustee Greene, Student Trustee Jacko-Cywink)*

### 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*  
*Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

### 3 **Notice of Absence**

Chair Farrow stated, "Student Trustee Jacko-Cywink sends her regrets"

### 4. **Director's Remarks**

Tonight I would like to take a moment to thank our school and community coaches, leaders and volunteers.

As we conclude the fall sport season I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all staff and community members who volunteer their time to create opportunities for our students to experience extracurricular activities. Whether it be Band, Art, Robotics, school clubs, Mock Trial, Reach for the Top or sports our students appreciate your time and expertise. Parents and guardians appreciate the tremendously positive impact their child's participation has on their physical and mental well-being.

You are difference makers! You build lifelong memories, character, skills, fitness, resilience and success. You bring joy to those involved as students look forward to opportunities to be part of a team and learn how to work together to achieve a common goal. The value of extracurricular activities is very significant and I thank our volunteers, staff, administrators and Trustees for your support of extracurricular activities for our students.

I would conclude my comments by sharing my gratitude to the board of Trustees for your leadership and support of our staff, students and families. Thank you for all you do. We appreciate you!

### 5. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Director** – Trustee Kosmerly shared that a tentative agreement for ETFO teachers has been reached and more information will be shared in the coming weeks. The 3<sup>rd</sup> of three OPSBA "Good Governance" workshops will be held online tomorrow. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, OPSBA submitted feedback regarding the 2024-25 GSNs, and advised the document is available for viewing on the OPSBA website. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, OPSBA submitted a response to the Ministry proposal regarding the introduction of an Accelerated Apprentice Pathways. Trustee Kosmerly will share if interested to read the proposal and response. The deadline to submit feedback to the Skills Development and Apprenticeship branch is November 24<sup>th</sup>. The next Regional Council meeting is April 6, 2024, the upcoming PES conference is January 25-26, 2024 and she suggested to register and book hotel early. The next Board of Directors meeting is on November 26<sup>th</sup> in Toronto followed by Advocacy Day at Queen's Park on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Student Trustee** – Student Trustee Greene shared that Student Senate has started discussions on this year's year-end conference. They read a Remembrance Day Instagram post from one of our senators and thanked the board for treating Remembrance Day with

such care. With November being Diabetes Awareness Month, many schools are interested in bringing awareness with different initiatives and senate is looking to raise funds to donate to Diabetes Canada.

#### 6. Trustees' Remarks/Questions

Trustee Kosmerly shared many schools have events planned for Bullying Awareness and Prevention week as well as the many resources available online and encouraged trustees to take a look. The Children's Telethon is coming up on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and Rainbow Schools will be manning the phones from 9-10pm.

Trustee Hunda expressed her gratitude to all the coaches who work so hard and give their time for the kids. She recommended all should attend "The Little Mermaid Jr" this Friday or Saturday at Sudbury Secondary. She also reminded Trustees to show their support and take part in Christmas events and festivities at your schools.

Trustee Corbiere-Addison also thanked coaches who have taken time to run teams. She shared "Rock Your Mocs" took place in schools with lots of participation, but felt maybe a tree of moccasins at the front of schools to help students who couldn't otherwise participate might be an idea. Manitoulin Secondary School recently held a craft sale for the holidays.

Trustee McCauley shared that R.L. Beattie will be hosting a Christmas sale this weekend.

#### 7. Chairperson's Remarks

Chair Farrow thanked fellow trustees for their vote of confidence in him as Chair, it is an honour. He also welcomed Trustee McCauley and thanked him for stepping up and serving.

I would like to extend sincere congratulations to Lockerby Composite School for reaching the one million dollar milestone for their "**Kids Caring for Kids Cancer Drive**" in memory of Laura Cotesta. The drive supports pediatric cancer research and care programs in the north. What an impact this initiative has had on our community - yesterday, today and for years to come. Well done!

As the festive season approaches, Rainbow District School Board will once again take part in the **Edgar Burton Kids Helping Kids Food Drive**. Schools will work together to collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations to assist area food banks.

Rainbow Schools will mark **Youth Climate Action Day** on Tuesday, December 5th. This is a day of intention, where learning is focused on the consequences of the textile industry for people and nature, water scarcity, recycling, corporate responsibility, food security and sovereignty. Students will learn about actions they can take in their respective schools for the betterment of Mother Earth - Shkagamikwe.

There are two more public performances of Sudbury Secondary School's "**The Little Mermaid Jr.**" on November 24th and 25th at 6:30 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium. An additional performance has been added - Saturday, November 25th at 1 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. Don't miss it!

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to **Information Nights** at all Rainbow secondary schools. Information nights take place between November and February. This month, Lively District Secondary School will host an Open House on

Thursday, November 30th at 6 pm. A full list of schools, dates and times is available on the board website.

Thank you.

**G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**

**H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Student Senate Meeting December 4, 2023 5:30 pm  
Board Meeting December 5, 2023 5:00 pm  
Special Education Advisory Committee December 6, 2023 12:00 am  
Parent Involvement Committee December 12, 2023 7:00 pm  
Equity & Inclusion Committee December 14, 2023 4:00 pm

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 24-R22, J.Hunda/A.McCauley  
That we do now adjourn at 7:22 p.m. – **Carried**

OFFICIAL