

## 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, December 5, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: L. Debassige

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, N. Mousseau, D. Peristeridis, S. Tastula, C. Whitson

Guests: D. D'Angelo

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

Chair Farrow 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: 24-R23, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of December 5, 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: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Alex McCauley: In-favour*

**- Carried**

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

NIL

#### **C. PRESENTATIONS**

Lasalle Volleyball - OFSAA

Director Bourget welcomed Dale Beausoleil, coach of the Lasalle Secondary School's Senior Boys' Volleyball team, who was joined by team members, to acknowledge them as OFSAA AA back-to-back champions. Director Bourget congratulated Coach Beausoleil and team on an extremely successful season.

Coach Beausoleil thanked the board for the invitation and shared some thoughts on the team's wonderful season and expressed his pride in the team both on and off the court.

Team member, Ashton Eadie-Chartrand, thanked Coach Beausoleil for his commitment and dedication to the team. He shared that Mr. B was an incredible coach and a huge role model to them all.

Trustees Congratulated Dale and the team on a fantastic season.

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

No meeting held. No report.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

**a) Motion: 24-R24, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar**

That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held on Tuesday, November 21, 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: In-favour  
Judy Hunda: In-favour  
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour  
Alex McCauley: In-favour*

**- Carried**

**b) Motion: 24-R25, J.Hunda/A.McCauley**

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, November 21, 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: In-favour  
Judy Hunda: In-favour  
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour  
Alex McCauley: In-favour*

**- Carried**

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

**a) Audit Committee**

**i) Audit Committee Annual Report**

Trustee Hunda, Chair of the Audit Committee, provided information from the 2022-2023 Audit Committee report.

ii) 2022/2023 Financial Statements

Superintendent Guilbault introduced Derek D'Angelo, Lead Audit Engagement Partner from KPMG, who presented the consolidated financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2023.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Motion: 24-R26, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly

That the 2022/2023 Financial Statements 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: Opposed*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Director's Annual Report**

Director Bourget provided a page-by-page review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report, that will be posted on the Board's website in the coming weeks.

Trustees were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

2. **Insurance Renewal**

Motion: 24-R27, A.McCauley/D.Dewar

That the 2024 Renewal of Insurance for liability, property, crime and fleet automobile with the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange for \$353,411.96 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: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

3. **Budget Development Process**

Motion: 24-R28, J.Hunda/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the 2024-25 Budget Development Process 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: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Alex McCauley: In-favour*

**- Carried**

4. **Notice of Absence**

Chair Farrow stated, "Trustee Debassige sends her regrets".

5. **Director's Remarks**

I would like to thank Superintendent Guilbault and Manager Nancy Cecchetto and the Finance Department team for the excellent work in preparing for the audit. The Clean Audit Report is the highest level of assurance and is a testament to the good practices and work that is being done.

Also would like to thank Principal Brenda Carr for assembling a team of Rainbow staff and thank the staff who came out to volunteer at the Sudbury Lions/MCTV Christmas Telethon. We currently have a Food Drive also underway lead by Vice-Principals Brad Smith of Lockerby and Andrew Kendall of Espanola and held a Coats for Kids campaign lead by Principal James Norrie. Rainbow District School Board cares about our communities and I am grateful to all staff, students and volunteers for their efforts to provide support and show kindness over the holiday season.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Trustees, Executive Council, our School Administrators, our teachers and all support staff for the incredible work you do each and every day in support of students and student learning.

There are many events in the upcoming weeks for students and staff to enjoy. A very well earned break is just around the corner. As this is the last regular board meeting of 2023 I wish everyone a restful, safe, fun-filled holiday season! We look forward to continuing our good work on behalf of students in the new year.

6. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Director** - Trustee Kosmerly attended the Board of Directors meeting in Toronto on November 26<sup>th</sup> followed by OPSBA's Day of Advocacy on November 27<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting, OPSBA approved specialized training for Board Chairs that will take place the day after the PES conference. There is still no update from the Ministry on electronic meetings or about consultation on the Trustee code of conduct. There are 2 online surveys that OPSBA is encouraging trustees to complete, with direct links found in the November 24<sup>th</sup> provincial update email. Nominations open in December for 6 OPSBA awards and 2 leadership scholarships for students. The Board of Directors approved a new "Legal Action Fund" policy and are seeking feedback from trustees on a new draft policy on restricted reserves. Trustee Kosmerly will share the draft with trustees to provide feedback directly to OPSBA. The Canadian School Board Association recently completed a research project on student success in provinces where there are no elected trustees. The report is currently being reviewed by OPSBA, but an early read shows the need for locally elected school board trustees. On the November 27<sup>th</sup> Advocacy Day, Trustee Kosmerly attended a question period and met with 2 local MPPs, where discussion included concerns around Special Education funding and Indigenous funding, the proposed accelerated apprenticeship program and student transportation.

**Student Trustee** – Student Trustee Greene shared many secondary schools participated in Diabetes Awareness Month initiatives and thanked senators for spreading awareness and information within their schools. Student Senate received a presentation from Senator Alexandra Wilson-Zegil on “Women in Stem Fields” who also created posters and worked with elementary teachers on Manitoulin Island to create assignments and lesson plans to encourage female learners to join and feel confident in STEM spaces. Student Senate continues to work on the year-end conference with more details to come. Student Trustee Greene shared they are proud of senators as it takes a lot of courage to come into the Boardroom as grade 10, 11 and 12 students and they are doing an incredible job.

7. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Kosmerly shared as per Governance by-law 8.3.2 and 8.8 and further to written notification provided to Chair Farrow on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, the following will be presented at the January board meeting:

Notice of Motion: 24-R29, J.Kosmerly

That motion 24-R18, “That the board of trustees receive an electronic copy of board presentations/slidedecks made at board meetings.”, be rescinded.

Trustee Kosmerly also wished her fellow trustees and all Rainbow staff a joyous, happy holiday season.

Student Trustee Greene thanked trustees for being so welcoming and thanked Trustee Hunda, Superintendent McNamara and fellow student trustees for making this such a fun experience.

Trustee Hunda wished happy holiday to all staff and thanked them for all they do for our kids. She also encouraged fellow trustees to attend the many holiday and festive events taking place in schools.

Trustee Dewar thanked board staff for their assistance with technology while attending meetings virtually and thanked trustees and staff for their understanding during this time. She also extended her best wishes to staff for the holidays and into the new year.

8. **Chairperson’s Remarks**

As we head into the festive season, one of the most wonderful times of the year in Rainbow Schools, staff and students are spreading cheer and goodwill in many ways. A list of festive events is posted on the board website.

The **Parent Involvement Committee** will meet next Tuesday, December 12th. Some schools will share their Parents Reaching Out projects. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend in person in the boardroom or via Google meet. The meeting begins at 7 pm.

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to **Information Nights** in Rainbow secondary schools which continue this month and into the new year. Confederation Secondary School’s will take place tomorrow - Wednesday, December 6th at 6 pm. Sudbury Secondary School will host an Open House on Monday, December 11th at 6 pm.

In January, we have Lo-Ellen Park on Thursday, January 11th at 7 pm; Chelmsford Valley District Composite School on Wednesday, January 17th at 6 pm; and Lockerby Composite School on Thursday, January 18th at 7 pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

**Manitoulin Secondary School** will host its annual awards night on Thursday, December 21st at 7 pm. Close to \$50,000 in awards will be presented to students. We commend the community of Manitoulin for its continued support.

A friendly reminder that the winter break will soon be upon us. Schools will be closed from December 25th to January 5th. Schools will reopen on Monday, January 8, 2024.

Do you have a child starting school this fall? Elementary schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island will host **Kindergarten Information Nights** for families on Wednesday, January 17th at 5:30 pm for the English program, and Thursday, January 18th at 5:30 pm for schools offering French Immersion and schools offering both English and French Immersion. All parents/guardians and children are welcome.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to wish all staff, students, families and community partners a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

We look forward to working with you in 2024.

Thank you.

**G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

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

**H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Special Education Advisory Committee December 6, 2023 12:00 pm  
Parent Involvement Committee December 12, 2023 7:00 pm  
Equity & Inclusion Committee December 14, 2023 4:00 pm  
Student Senate Meeting January 8, 2024 5:30 pm  
Special Education Advisory Committee January 10, 2024 12:00 pm  
Environmental Education Committee Meeting January 10, 2024 3:30 pm  
Equity & Inclusion Ed Committee January 18, 2024 4:00 pm  
Board Meeting January 23, 2024 5:00 pm

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 24-R30, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That we do now adjourn at 7:00 p.m. – **Carried**