

## **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  
on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 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, A. Gibson (via Google Meet), J. Hunda (via Google Meet), J. Kosmerly (via Google Meet), A. McCauley, Student Trustee Greene

Absent: L. Debassige, Student Trustee Jacko-Cywink

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

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

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-R34, A.McCauley/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of January 23, 2024 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**

Intermediate Student Success Strategies

Superintendent Wachnuk introduced Principal of Student Success, Melanie Bertrand, Principal of Program, Dan Koziar, Principal of Special Education Programs and Services, Danielle Williamson, Principal of Indigenous Education, Nicole Nicolas, and Mental Health Lead, Sarah Clarke, who provided a presentation on the transition process from grade 8 to grade 9.

They provided details on the various information sessions for students and families like “Next Stop: Grade 9”, Secondary School Information Nights, Shadow a Student Day and Grade 9 Welcome Day.

They also highlighted the various steps and planning taken by staff to gather information to share with receiving schools to ensure a successful transition. Structured meetings between both the elementary and secondary school take place to ensure the receiving school has as much information as possible about the incoming students. Grade 8 teachers complete transition forms for each student with data including report cards marks, assessments, attendance as well as social emotional needs, interests and areas of strength, support services that have been effective, and timetable recommendations.

They provided three fictional student profiles to illustrate the many ways we support students, based on their specific strengths and needs and how the transition team may plan for more specialized supports for those who require them.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

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

No meeting held. No report.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

**a) Motion: 24-R35, J.Hunda/D.Dewar**

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, 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) Motion: 24-R36, D.Dewar/J.Kosmerly**

That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Monday, December 11, 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**

Accessibility Planning Committee

Motion: 24-R37, J.Kosmerly/B.Clement

That the Board approve the Multi-year Accessibility Plan 2023-2027, as recommended by the Accessibility Planning Committee.

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. **Motion**

Motion: 24-R38, J.Kosmerly/A.McCauley

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

A recorded vote was requested.

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. **Revised Estimates 2023-2024**

Superintendent Guilbault reviewed the revised estimate document provided to trustees.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

2. **OSTA/AECO – Education Action Conference**

Motion: 24-R39, D.Dewar/J.Hunda

That the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Greene and Student Trustee Jacko-Cywink at the OSTA/AECO Education Action Conference in Ottawa on February 8-11, 2024.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: Absent*  
*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. **Notice of Absence**

Chair Farrow stated that Trustee Debassige was absent.

4. **Director's Remarks**

I would like to join in wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

In 2024, we are excited to move forward with our talented staff, dedicated administrators and all of our students as we approach the 100th day of school and get ready for the second semester in our secondary schools.

As you know, we have structured our work to have an Executive Council in schools each Wednesday and Thursday. We are very grateful for the great work that occurs each and every day on behalf of students.

We are working diligently to support staff in our collective efforts to grow student achievement in Literacy and Numeracy.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the board of Trustees for your support and advocacy for our students and staff.

We remain focused on the priorities that you have established in Strategic Directions, which provides a purposeful path forward through your leadership.

I want to thank everyone for being kind, caring and patient as this goes a very long way in supporting each other. It is a simple, yet powerful way to make a difference every day.

I would like to share an appointment with you:

In December, Julie Balen was appointed as acting Vice-Principal at Little Current Public School.

You will recall that Robyn Best has taken on the leadership role at Charles C. McLean Public School.

We are also pleased to welcome Kristin Pichette as Principal at Lasalle Elementary School, and Nicole Nicolas Bayer is now leading Indigenous Education on behalf of the Board.

5. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Director** – Trustee Kosmerly shared that she attended a Ministry of Education consultation regarding Trustee Code of Conduct, specifically on the establishment of a roster of Integrity Commissioners. At this meeting they were also asked for feedback on Director of Education qualifications and PD for both Directors and Trustees. The Ministry will be posting a survey on Trustee Code of Conduct on the regulation registry shortly and

encouraged all to complete. She also reminded Trustees of the upcoming PES conference in Toronto on Thursday and Friday. Trustee Kosmerly also mentioned that the province is continuing their Pre-budget consultations and will be hosting a session in Sudbury on January 30<sup>th</sup>. All consultations are being livestreamed.

**Student Trustee** – Student Trustee Greene shared that the “High School 101” slide show is in its final stages and looks forward to sharing it with the Board. They shared that a couple of senators have taken an interest in the possibility of being the next student trustee and have been shadowing the current trustees to gain a more in-depth understanding of the role. Both trustees have been consulting in their working groups for the upcoming OSTA conference in February. “Believing in Yourself” is the theme for the upcoming Stand Up Speak Out conference, chosen for student mental health. Breakout sessions are currently being planned, and any input or suggestions are welcome.

6. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions** NIL

7. **Chairperson’s Remarks**

As this is our first regular Board meeting of 2024, I would like to wish trustees, staff, students and families a healthy and happy new year.

I also extend a sincere thanks to all parents/guardians and children who attended our Kindergarten Information Nights last week. If you were unable to attend, there is still time to register. Contact your area Rainbow school today.

Secondary school Information Nights continue in the coming weeks...

On Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> we have Espanola High School at 6 pm and also Manitoulin Secondary School at 6:30 pm, and Lasalle Secondary School on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm. For the Information Nights that have already taken place, there is still time to register.

The next Parent Involvement Committee Meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Centre for Education. A presentation on social media and cyber security will take place - a very important and timely topic for families.

The Environmental Education Committee invites Rainbow Schools to turn down the heat and wear a sweater for National Sweater Day on Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. This initiative is part of the Committee’s ongoing efforts to increase awareness about climate change and encourage sustainable practices.

Parents/guardians of students with special needs in Rainbow District School Board are invited to provide input for the 2024-2025 Special Education Plan. The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. The survey link is currently available on the board website.

A reminder that secondary exams are set to take place between Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

A Professional Activity Day will take place on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be no school for students. As well, next month we have Family Day on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be no school for students and staff.

And that concludes my remarks for this evening.  
Thank you.

**G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Accessibility Committee minutes December 8, 2022 (official)  
Parent Involvement Committee minutes April 11, 2023 (official)  
Parent Involvement Committee minutes May 9, 2023 (official)  
Audit Committee minutes September 25, 2023 (official)  
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes October 4, 2023 (official)  
Parent Involvement Committee minutes October 17, 2023 (official)  
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes December 6, 2023 (official)

2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**

Redwood Acres Public School

3. **Non-Staff Communications**

**H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Parent Involvement Committee January 30, 2024 7:00 pm  
Student Senate Meeting February 5, 2024 5:30 pm  
Strategic Planning Committee February 6, 2024 5:00 pm  
Special Education Advisory Committee February 7, 2024 12:00 pm  
First Nations Advisory Committee February 15, 2024 10:00 am  
Equity & Inclusion Committee February 15, 2024 4:00 pm  
Board Meeting February 20, 2024 5:00 pm

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 24-R40, A.McCauley/D.Dewar  
That we do now adjourn at 6:56 p.m.