

**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, February 20, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

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Present: Trustees: D. Farrow (Chair), B. Clement, L. Corbiere-Addison, L. Debassige,  
D. Dewar (via Google Meet), A. Gibson (via Google Meet), J. Hunda,  
J. Kosmerly, A. McCauley (arrived 5:13 pm), Student Trustee Greene  
(via Google Meet)  
Absent: Student Trustee Jacko-Cywink  
Officials: B. Bourget – Director and Secretary of the Board  
A. Guilbault – Superintendent of Business  
L. Fisher, K. Wachnuk – Superintendents  
Staff: N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes, D. London, N. Mousseau,  
L. Mantle, M. McKelvey, C. Whitson

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-R41, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of February 20, 2024 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: Absent*

**- Carried**

**B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

NIL

**C. PRESENTATIONS NIL**

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

**1. Property Matter**

Motion: 24-R42, B.Clement/L.Debassige

That motion #24-W08 RE: 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*  
*Alex McCauley: Absent*

**- Carried**

2. **Labour Relations**

**Motion: 24-R43, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly**

That motion #24-W09 RE: Labour Relations, 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: Absent*

**- Carried**

E. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Previous Minutes**

**Motion: 24-R44, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar**

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 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: Absent*

**- Carried**

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

NIL

3. **2023-2024 School Year Update**

Director Bourget shared a presentation of photos and stories of events taking place in Rainbow Schools with the hard work of our administrators, teachers, support staff and especially the support our schools receive from the community.

Events like the Manitoulin Secondary School Awards Night where more than \$60,000 in bursaries and scholarships are presented to graduates thanks to the generosity of the local community and the School Supply Drive Campaign with Kiwanis Club of North Eastern

Ontario and Staples in Sudbury where close to \$2,000 was raised through donations to supply a total of 95 Rainbow students with a new backpack and lunch bag or pencil case.

Long standing partnerships with community members and organizations strengthen educational opportunities such as the Memorandum of Understanding between N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre and Rainbow District School Board as well as the annual Kids Helping Kids Food Drive, which raised \$68,622.75 in monetary donations for area food banks.

Photos were shared of events in schools like well-being days, Valentine's day and celebrations to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> day of learning and Chinese/Lunar New Year.

Director Bourget spoke about curriculum revisions for the 2024-2025 school year, the upcoming career fair on April 6, 2024 and shared a reminder that the April PA day will now be on Monday, April 8, 2024.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2024-2025 School Year Structure**

Motion: 24-R45, J.Kosmerly/B.Clement

That the Board approve the 2024-2025 School Year Structure for elementary and secondary schools.

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. Notice of Absence**

Chair Farrow stated that Student Trustee Jacko-Cywink was absent.

**3. Director's Remarks**

I hope that all students and staff enjoyed a wonderful Family Day long weekend.

Elementary school enrolment predictions are due the week before the March Break. Secondary school predictions are due the week after the March break. These predictions, as you know, inform our staffing levels for the next school year.

More information regarding enrolment predictions and staffing will come later this spring.

**Eligibility Process Expressions of Interest and New Leaders Professional Learning**

We continue to work on succession planning, which includes supporting new administrative candidates.

I would like to thank our Human Resources department and our hiring teams for their tremendous efforts in recruiting employees for teaching positions and support roles.

### **Career Fair**

Rainbow District School Board is hosting a Career Fair on Saturday, April 6th, 2024. The event will take place at Lockerby Composite School from 9 am to 3 pm.

Here are the positions currently available and the qualifications required for each position:

**Administrative Assistants** - Ontario Secondary School Diploma (Grade 12) or equivalent and some post-secondary courses in an administrative field or equivalent experience

**Cleaners** - Ontario Secondary School Diploma (Grade 12) or equivalent

**Designated Early Childhood Educators** - Early Childhood Educator Diploma and Registration with the Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators

**Educational Assistants** - Post-secondary diploma or degree in a child or youth related program

**Occasional Teachers (English, French as a Second Language and Ojibwe)** - Ontario College of Teachers Certificate or Transitional Ontario College of Teachers Certificate

All job postings are available online at [rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca).

Please note that some openings are for the Rainbow District School Board's casual pools to fill vacancies at various locations throughout the school year. Employees in casual pools can bid on permanent positions as they become available. Permanent positions come with a full benefits package, including a pension.

### **Board Awards**

Rainbow District School Board will pay tribute to its dedicated employees and community partners with the presentation of Board Awards on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. The ceremony will begin at 6:30 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium at Sudbury Secondary school.

Awards for Outstanding Contribution to the Co-Curricular Program, Community Partnership Awards, the Go Green Globe Awards, Awards for Excellence, the Barbara Konarek Memorial Award and the William N. Roman Teacher of the Year Award will be presented. Employees with 25 and 35 years of service will also be recognized.

### **Retirement Dinner**

The Board's Retirement Dinner will take place on Tuesday, May 28, 2024. Please mark your calendars. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate our retirees.

### **Thank you**

I am going to end with a quote I shared last year that came from a sign that greeted visitors to Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School.... The signage at the entrance read:

***"If you can be anything, be kind."***

Kindness, as you know, is at the heart of Dare to Care.

We see wonderful examples of empathy and kindness and compassion and caring in all Rainbow Schools.

4. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Director** – Trustee Kosmerly shared that three of our Trustees attended the recent PES conference, and there are PowerPoint presentations and YouTube videos available from the conference to view if interested. Trustee Kosmerly will be attending the next Board of Directors meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Toronto.

**Student Trustee** – Student Trustee Greene attended the PES conference and enjoyed the many workshops while connecting with other boards. Student Trustee Greene expressed their appreciation to attend the OSTA conference in Ottawa where there were many conversations around the privatization of public boards. They shared that Senate continues to work on the upcoming conference and updates will be coming soon.

5. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

**Reminder:** *Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.*

Trustee Kosmerly shared a book written by a student senator from Manitoulin Secondary School titled "Robo Friends and the Mow Zone" which is related to the STEM program. Proceeds from sales will go towards the costs to send the Robotics team from Manitoulin to the Texas Robotics competition in April.

Trustee Dewar acknowledged a recent news article for an upcoming soccer tournament at the Lancer Dome in March, and expressed her appreciation for staff and trustees on working together to provide the opportunity for young people to have the ability to play sports year round.

Trustee Clement shared his appreciation on seeing Student Trustees at the recent PES conference and recommended trustees to attend future conferences as they are excellent venues to meet and discuss topics with Trustees from southern boards.

Trustee Corbiere-Addison shared her experiences from the recent PES conference and her work with the Education Program Work Group of OPSBA.

6. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Hello everyone: I hope everyone had a wonderful Family Day yesterday.

This month, staff and students were challenged to use less electricity. This initiative is part of the **Environmental Committee's** ongoing efforts to encourage sustainable practices. Next month, schools will explore Canada Water Week - a national celebration of water that coincides with World Water Day on March 22nd.

Secondary school **Information Nights** will conclude with Lasalle Secondary School this Thursday, February 22nd at 6:30 pm. A reminder to families - there is still time to register. Contact your area Rainbow school.

Two showings of **Manitoulin Secondary School's Beauty and the Beast** will take place this weekend - Friday, February 23rd at 7 pm and Saturday, February 24th at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased online. See the NEWS section of the board website for the link or Manitoulin Secondary School's Facebook Page.

The **Parent Involvement Committee** will meet next Tuesday, February 27th at 7 pm. The topic will be Literacy. This is a hybrid meeting - in person in this boardroom or online. The link is on the agenda which will be available online this week.

On February 28th, approximately 150 students from Grades 9 to 12 in Rainbow Schools will test their skills in a variety of trades during the board's 17th annual **Technological Skills Competition**. New this year is an elementary component that will see 160 students from Grades 7 and 8 competing in five categories. Competitions will take place at Cambrian College and the Carpenter's Union training hall in Azilda. Good luck to all.

A reminder that Friday, March 1st is the deadline for parents/guardians of students with exceptionalities to provide input into the **2024-2025 Special Education Plan**. A link to the survey is available on the board's website.

Sudbury Secondary School will present **Artbeat**, a celebration of visual and performing arts, on Monday, March 4th from 4 pm to 7 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium. Artbeat will bring together students, staff, alumni and local artists for an evening of art exhibitions, interactive activities, live musical and dance performances as well as food and vendors. The event is free/pay what you can at the door. Everyone is welcome.

Students from Grades 7 to 12 will showcase their knowledge of scientific principles during the board's **Science Fair** on Tuesday, March 5th at Lockerby Composite School. Judges will select some 30 projects to compete at the Sudbury Regional Science Fair on April 6th and 7th at Laurentian University. Best of luck to all participants.

The mid-winter break begins on Friday, March 8th. There will be no school for students from March 8th to and including March 15th.

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

## **G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**  
Parent Involvement Committee minutes December 12, 2023 (official)
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**  
Lively District Secondary School
3. **Non-Staff Communications**

## **H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Parent Involvement Committee February 27, 2024 7:00 pm  
Environmental Education Committee Meeting February 28, 2024 3:30 pm  
Student Senate Meeting March 4, 2024 5:30 pm  
Strategic Planning Committee March 5, 2024 5:00 pm  
Special Education Advisory Committee March 6, 2024 12:00 pm  
Board Meeting March 19, 2024 5:00 pm

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 24-R46, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda  
That we do now adjourn at 5:46 p.m. – **Carried**