

## **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, April 16, 2024 at 5:06 p.m.

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Present: Trustees: D. Farrow (Chair), B. Clement, L. Corbiere-Addison, L. Debassige,  
D. Dewar, A. Gibson (via Google Meet), J. Hunda (via Google Meet),  
J. Kosmerly, A. McCauley, 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 – Superintendent

Staff: S. Ackroyd, A. Barry, M. Bertrand, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette,  
K. Farrell-Menard, T. Hayes, N. Mousseau, L. Mantle,  
M. McKelvey, D. Peristeridis, 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-R54, A.McCauley/D.Dewar

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of April 16, 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: In-favour*

**- Carried**

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

NIL

#### **C. PRESENTATIONS**

##### **Literacy & Thinking Classrooms**

Superintendent McNamara introduced Principal of Student Success, Melanie Bertrand who provided a presentation on Literacy initiatives and Thinking Classrooms. Principal Bertrand welcomed two members of the Program team that joined the presentation, Amanda Barry and Kara Ferrell-Menard.

The presentation discussed the connections between literacy and student success and outlined how the Program department sets directions for professional learning, reviewed information about the OSSLT and illustrated some best practices with a focus on building Thinking Classrooms.

The team shared how literacy is tied to student success from the early years where first students learn to read, then they read to learn. As students' progress through the grades, literacy skills are required to achieve success in all content areas including the Ontario Secondary Schools Literacy Test requirement in Grade 10.

There have been many professional learning opportunities for staff including in school supports, which include individual teacher and school team learning, Subject Council Meetings, Bite-Sized PD, a professional activity day dedicated to literacy and a Book Study on "The Writing Revolution".

The Thinking Classroom has become a more widely used approach in support of literacy and is a very effective way to teach literacy and language skills that can be applied to a variety of subjects. It is a group effort with students that encourages collaboration, engagement, sharing of ideas and teacher feedback to help develop their ideas, creating more confident readers and writers.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

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

No motions arose from the Closed meeting, nothing to report.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

Motion: 24-R55, L.Debassige/D.Dewar

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 19, 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: In-favour*

**- Carried**

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

NIL

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

Director Bourget provided an update of events taking place across Rainbow Schools, such as the recent Sudbury Regional Science Fair which had seven projects from Lo-Ellen Park selected to move on to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Ottawa in May as well as upcoming

events like the Free to Be Me symposium on April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Math, Science and Tech Olympics on April 24<sup>th</sup> at Science North and Destination Readiness which will take place on April 30<sup>th</sup>. He shared that Rainbow Schools will celebrate Education Week from May 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> with the spotlight on Literacy and Numeracy and that the Board is sending a proud contingent of 26 students to the Provincial Tech Skills Competition on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at the Toronto Congress Centre.

Rainbow launched the Family Portal today for two pilot schools, Larchwood Public School and Lively District Secondary School. The portal gives parents and guardians access to data about their children including attendance, report cards and unofficial transcripts.

Truth and Reconciliation was the focus of the Professional Activity Day on April 8<sup>th</sup>, where we welcomed 2 speakers Jo Chrona and Kevin Lamoureux as part of the System-wide presentation.

Director Bourget reminded that Kindergarten Orientation sessions will take place in all Rainbow Schools in May.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

## **F. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Ontario Public School Board Association Annual General Meeting**

Motion: 24-R56, J.Kosmerly/A.McCauley

That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2024 Canadian School Boards Association Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education in Toronto on July 3-5, 2024.

(Trustee Clement, Trustee Corbiere-Addison, Trustee Debassige, Trustee Farrow, Trustee Gibson, Trustee Hunda, Trustee Kosmerly)

#### **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. Ontario Student Trustee Association – Annual General Meeting**

Motion: 24-R57, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly

That the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Greene, Student Trustee Jacko-Cywick and the 2 incoming Student Trustees at the 2024 OSTA-AECO Annual General Meeting May 23-26, 2024 in Toronto.

#### **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 the Student Trustee Jacko-Cywink was absent.

4. **Director's Remarks**

**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.

**Retirement Dinner**

The Board's Retirement Dinner will take place on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at the Caruso Club. We look forward to the opportunity to celebrate our retirees.

**Budget**

We have not yet received the Grants for Student Needs and budget information from the Ministry of Education. In the days and weeks ahead we will unpack the information and continue with our planning for the 2024-25 school year. More information to come in future meetings.

**Graduations**

Graduations are not far away. Please check your calendars for availability and let us know which graduations you can attend.

**Administrative Transfers and Appointments**

At an upcoming meeting I will provide details on administrative transfers and appointments for the 2024-2025 school year.

Staffing for next year has started. Principals are working to create schedules and staff their schools for the fall.

Happy Birthday to both Cindy Whitson and Adam.

5. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Director** – Trustee Kosmerly attended the Northern Region Council meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> and reminded trustees that registration is open for the upcoming AGM and it is an election year for all positions on the Executive and Committees. The deadline for nominations is June 4<sup>th</sup>. In follow up to the policy resolution that was shared with all trustees, she asked for any feedback or comments in advance of the AGM in case a vote is required. Rainy River District School Board recently sent a letter to the Ministry of Education citing the serious concerns northern boards are experiencing as a result of teacher shortages. The Northern Council Chair plans to write a similar letter and have all northern boards sign and sent to the Minister. The next Board of Director's meeting will be on April 26/27, 2024 in Toronto.

**Student Trustee** – Student Trustee Greene shared that the Student Senate are completing the final details for the upcoming Stand Up Speak Out Conference which will be held on May

9<sup>th</sup> at College Boreal from 9am to 2pm, all trustees are invited to attend. They are expecting approximately 100 students to attend from secondary schools across the board.

6. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Kosmerly attended the April 4<sup>th</sup> Tech Day at Confederation Secondary School and shared the clock she made at the event.

Trustee Debassige participated in the April 8<sup>th</sup> PA Day which focused on Indigenous Education board-wide. She expressed her gratitude to Nicole Nicolas-Bayer, Principal of Indigenous Education for all of her efforts in such a wonderful, inspiring event. All trustees will be receiving a copy of the book Wahi Wah by Jo Chrona.

Trustee McCauley shared he is honoured to sit at the board table with Trustee Debassige and Trustee Corbiere-Addison who serve our Indigenous students well and is proud to be a part of it.

7. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Chair Farrow thanked Trustees for accommodating the change to the June Board meeting from June 25<sup>th</sup> to June 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:30, allowing for better Trustee attendance at graduation ceremonies. He also reminded Trustees of the upcoming webinars for the Director Performance Appraisal training. Any Trustees interested in serving on the Performance Appraisal committee are to advise the Chair.

The Director talked about staffing for the new school year. Knowing how many students to expect helps with the planning process. That's why I like to remind parents/guardians that registrations are ongoing in Rainbow elementary and secondary schools. To register, please contact your area Rainbow school. If you have already registered, thank you. We look forward to welcoming your child into Rainbow Schools this fall.

As we heard earlier this evening, seven students from Rainbow Schools will move on to the **Canada-Wide Science Fair** in Ottawa next month. Huge congratulations to all participants for their hard work in developing their projects. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend well wishes to students as they compete against the best young scientists from across the country. And I congratulate Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School. I know they share our pride in their young scientists.

Schools will honour our planet for **Earth Day** on April 22nd. This year's theme is "Planet vs. Plastics" which aims to: highlight the ongoing health risk of plastics, expedite the phasing out of single use plastics, and strengthen our efforts to create a worldwide treaty for the prevention of plastic pollution.

Rainbow District School Board will host **Destination Readiness: Pathways for Students with Special Needs** on April 30th from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Local 6500 Hospitality, Conference & Education Centre (formerly the United Steelworkers Hall). The free, annual event aims to help students with needs and exceptionalities plan for their future.

Throughout the month of May, Rainbow elementary schools will offer **Kindergarten Orientation** for students starting school this fall as well as their parents/guardians. Families will have an opportunity to connect with Kindergarten teachers, early childhood educators

and school personnel. They will also meet other children starting school. A list of dates and times will be available on the board website.

**Compost Awareness Week** will take place from May 5th to May 11th. This international movement is the largest and most comprehensive educational initiative of the organics recycling industry - which recognizes the importance of composting organics and using compost to create healthier soil.

**Education Week** is on the horizon. Between May 6th and May 10th, schools will have a variety of activities focusing on the theme "Spotlight on Literacy and Numeracy." Education Week also coincides with **Music Monday**, which takes place on Monday, May 6th.

The next **Parent Involvement Committee** meeting is set for Tuesday, May 7th at 7 pm. Committee members will be planning the topics of meetings for the 2024-2025 school year.

This is **Volunteer Appreciation Week** and I would like to thank parents/guardians and community members who contribute to our schools in so many ways. Our volunteers bring positive energy to our schools and we are truly grateful.

And just a reminder Trustees... to let the Director's Office know which graduations you will be attending. We look forward to joining our school communities to celebrate student success.

And that concludes my remarks for this evening.

Thank you.

#### **G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**  
Parent Involvement Committee minutes January 30, 2024 (official)  
Parent Involvement Committee minutes February 27, 2024 (official)  
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes March 6, 2024 (official)
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**  
Graduation Ceremony Dates – Elementary, Secondary & Stepping Up

#### **H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Equity & Inclusion Committee April 18, 2024 4:00 pm  
Strategic Planning Committee April 30, 2024 5:00 pm  
Special Education Advisory Committee May 1, 2024 12:00 pm  
Student Senate Meeting May 6, 2024 5:30 pm  
Parent Involvement Committee May 7, 2024 7:00 pm  
Board Meeting May 14, 2024 5:00 pm (@ Sudbury Secondary School – Library)  
Board Awards May 14, 2024 6:30 pm (@ Sheridan Auditorium)

#### **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 24-R58, B.Clement/J.Hunda  
That we do now adjourn at 6:40 p.m. – **Carried**