

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, June 17, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: L. Debassige, 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: N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, D. Drouin, T. Hayes, D. Kitching,
L. Mantle, D. Peristeridis

Other: H. Ulrichsen

Chair Farrow called the meeting to order and 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-R70, J.Kosmerly/A.McCauley

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of June 17, 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

Summer Programs

Superintendent Wachnuk provided details on the Early Intervention summer program that will be held at Princess Anne Public School and Chelmsford Valley District Composite School and the Summer Skills Development Program for Autism that will be hosted at Westmount Public School. There are also Special Education supports provided at the Summer Learning Program for grades 1-8 and for Secondary Summer School. The

Education Community Partnership Program (ECP) will be offered through Cecil Facer during July and August for students currently enrolled in an ECP in their board.

Superintendent Fisher provided information about the Kindergarten Summer Camp for incoming year 1 students which currently has 344 registered and will be offered at all Rainbow schools. The Elementary Summer Learning program will be offered at 4 sites for students in grades 1-8 with a current enrolment of approximately 230 students.

Superintendent McNamara spoke about Secondary Summer School that will run at Sudbury Secondary School and Espanola High School and will focus on e-learning, credit recovery and upgrading and Co-operative education. The Indigenous Education Summer program will be held at Sudbury Secondary School with a focus on Civics/Careers and Physical Education courses and Manitoulin Secondary School in partnership with Shesheganing First Nation that will focus on Civics and Careers reach ahead. Barrydowne College will also hold a summer program offering courses in Senior Math, Senior English and the literacy course.

Trustees were given 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

Motion: 24-R71, B.Clement/D.Dewar

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 4, 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

2. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

NIL

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2024-2025 Budget

Motion: 24-R72, A.McCauley/D.Dewar

That the Rainbow District School Board 2024-2025 budget 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. **Short Term Borrowing Bylaw**

Motion: 24-R73, B.Clement/J.Hunda

That the short term borrowing bylaw 2024-01 as attached be deemed to have been read three times and 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. **2024-2025 In-Year Deficit Elimination Plan**

Motion: 24-R74, L.Corbiere-Addison/D.Dewar

That the 2024-2025 In-year deficit elimination plan 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 that Trustee Debassige and Student Trustee Jacko-Cywink were absent.

5. **Director's Remarks**

I would like to thank Trustees for approving the 2024-2025 budget. You have provided the financial framework for staff to continue to implement our Strategic Directions for students.

I would like to thank Superintendent Guilbault, Manager Cecchetto and the Finance department for their hard work to prepare the budget.

Once again, I do want to assure you that although there are funding challenges, we continue to prioritize programs and opportunities for students. We are ready to launch another exciting school year in September.

Our Facilities staff and contractors will be working on many school renewal projects throughout the summer as we maintain quality facilities for quality programs, creating dynamic environments for teaching and learning.

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for your incredible support of our students and staff. It is truly an honour for me to work with you. Your care for our students is always reflected in the work that we do. Thank you for putting students first and foremost and for supporting our staff as they support our students.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our incredible team of Principals and Vice-Principals for their leadership, dedication and commitment. We are so fortunate to have such great people in leadership roles. They are unsung heroes for the work they do each and every day and make us all very proud.

I want to thank our wonderful teachers and educational support staff for providing caring and supportive educational learning environments for our students and guiding and inspiring them to be the best they can be.

I would be remiss not to extend my gratitude to our Executive Council, our System Principals, Nicole Charette and Cindy Whitson. This amazing team works tirelessly to support our schools and they excel in what they do. They are true professionals and I appreciate the opportunity to work with them.

Collectively, our Executive Council, Centre for Education staff, School Administrators and school staff have worked very hard to serve our students and it is inspiring to see their dedication, professionalism and support for our students and for each other.

It is a privilege for all of us to serve the families of Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island as, together, we prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

And last, but by no means least, I would like to thank parents/guardians for their support. When we work together, students thrive and schools flourish.

Let me bring my remarks to a close with a message to all staff and a message to all families....

As you work hard to finish the year strong and then set out to enjoy your well earned summer, remember that the kindness you share each day - however big or small - has a positive impact in the lives of others. Bringing enthusiasm, care and compassion to our places of learning is essential to our continued success and our collective well-being. Thank you all for being difference makers.

To our students and families, have a wonderful end to the school year and an enjoyable, safe and restful summer.

To all.... Have fun! Another wonderful school year is just around the corner and we can't wait to see you back in the fall.

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly shared that OPSBA will hold its AGM in Toronto in just over 2 weeks in conjunction with the Canadian School Boards Association Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education. The final board meeting of the current executive will take place on July 2nd followed by the AGM on July 4th and the Regional elections on July 5th.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Greene shared that Student Senate held its end of the year dinner with the current and incoming student senators which allowed for a meet and greet, brainstorming and time for new senators to ask questions.

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Kosmerly attended the Challenge Meet last week and thanked everyone involved in making the day so special for students and their families. She shared that June is National Indigenous History Month as well as Pride Month and these Canada wide celebrations, though different, afford opportunities for all to learn and celebrate culture, history, diversity and resilience.

Trustee Kosmerly proposed the following motion:
That the board write a letter to the Ministry of Education expressing our concerns with having to draw from our reserves to provide a balanced budget for 2024-2025.

Motion: 24-R75, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar
To waive the notice of motion requirements.

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

Motion: 24-R76, J.Kosmerly/B.Clement
That the board write a letter to the Ministry of Education expressing our concerns with having to draw from our reserves to provide a balanced budget for 2024-2025.

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

Trustee Corbiere-Addison shared that CC McLean Public School had a special visit from the Canadian Armed Forces Helicopter squadron in honour of retiring teacher Heather Jefkins who received one of 100 medals in recognition of the centennial year of the squadron, for her letter writing campaign. She also wished her fellow trustees all the best with their upcoming graduations and school events and reminded them to take part in June 21st Indigenous Peoples day to show their support.

Trustee McCauley attended the Churchill powwow and expressed his gratitude to Principal Mack and staff for an excellent event.

Trustee Clement attended the Espanola High School co-op luncheon and was amazed by the sponsors who joined and supported our students. He also shared how pleased he was to see 92 graduates at the Espanola graduation.

Trustee Hunda wished everyone a wonderful summer of rest and relaxation.

Student Trustee Greene thanked the board for an amazing year and also thanked the teachers, principals, vice principals, trustees and administration for all of their support.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Good afternoon.

This is the last board meeting of the school year.

It is a wonderful time in schools - where students finalize assignments and exams, and celebrate their accomplishments with year-end trips, stepping up ceremonies, and graduations.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our administrators, teachers and support staff who make the school experience meaningful and memorable for students. Thank you for all that you do to enable students to reach their full potential and build their confidence.

I would also like to acknowledge our students for their hard work, as well as parents/guardians - our partners in education - for their continued support. We share your pride.

And finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to all students in the Class of 2024. We wish you the very best as you pursue your chosen pathway be it work, independent living, apprenticeship, college or university. You have demonstrated that you are well prepared for this next chapter of your life.

Now... to celebrate one of our own. Bob Clement has been the Trustee for Espanola and surrounding areas for 25 years. He was a Trustee on the North Shore District School Board for nine years and the Espanola Board of Education for three years before joining Rainbow District School Board. Trustee Clement has served on many committees, including Policy and Finance/Strategic Planning Committee, Negotiating/Labour Relations, and the Special Education Advisory Committee, and, more recently, served as Chair of the Board. He was also Rainbow District School Board's representative at the Ontario Public School Boards' Association for many years. Congratulations Chair Clement on reaching this milestone - 25 years of dedicated service. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to public education.

Last week, 70 students from Rainbow Schools and the Near North District School Board

competed for the Hennessy Cup at the 20th annual Sudbury Regional Mock Trial. On behalf of Trustees, I extend a sincere thank you to the Ontario Justice Education Network, Ontario Bar Association and volunteer coaches from the Sudbury Crown Attorney's Office and the Sudbury and District Law Association for supporting this learning experience for students in collaboration with our Grade 12 Law teachers. I would also like to acknowledge Madam Justice Patricia C. Hennessy for being the driving force behind the Mock Trial since its inception. Thank you Justice Hennessy.

A final reminder to parents and guardians... if you have a child starting school with us this fall, you are invited to register them for Kindergarten Camp. The deadline is June 24th. Sufficient registration is required to ensure the viability of each program, so please register early if you have not already done so. Visit rainbowschools.ca for more information. If you have a child starting school and you have yet to register them for Kindergarten, please do so as soon as possible. Students must be registered in a Rainbow School to participate in Kindergarten Camp.

IMPORTANT DATES

Secondary School exams will take place from Monday, June 24 to Friday, June 28, 2024.

Schools will close on Friday, July 5th and will reopen on Monday, August 19th. Register now for the fall, if you have not done so already.

While schools are closed, parents/guardians are invited to email info@rainbowschools.ca for assistance.

In closing, I am looking ahead to a new school year with excitement and enthusiasm.

I wish you all a safe and wonderful summer. We will see you all in August.

Thank you.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
First Nations Advisory Committee minutes February 15, 2024 (official)
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
Tender 2024-15 R.L. Beattie Public School
3. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Board Meeting August 27, 2024 5:00 pm
Strategic Planning Committee September 10, 2024 5:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 24-R77, A.McCauley/B.Clement
That we do now adjourn at 4:35 p.m.