

## **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, August 27, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: NIL

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, T. Hayes, D. London, L. Mantle,  
M. McKelvey, C. Whitson

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-R82, D.Dewar/J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of August 27, 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**

#### **STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Director Bourget administered the Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance to Student Trustees Tia Nootchtai and Alexandra Wilson-Zegil and welcomed them to the board table.

Motion: 24-R83, B.Clement/J.Hunda

That Tia Nootchtai (Lockerby Composite School) and Alexandra Wilson-Zegil (Manitoulin Secondary School) be appointed Student Trustees for the 2024-2025 school year.

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 unanimously**

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

**C. PRESENTATIONS NIL**

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

No meeting held. No report.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

Motion: 24-R84, J.Kosmerly/A.McCauley

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 17, 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**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Update**

Director Bourget provided an overview of the new Administrative Procedure for Personal Mobile Devices that was shared with Trustees, Staff, Parents/Guardians and Students, in response to a directive from the Ministry of Education.

He shared that the administrative procedure would be reviewed with staff at the next PA day and reviewed with all students during the first week back to school.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

**2. 2024-2025 Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians**

Director Bourget provided page by page details about the publication which is available on the board's website.

Director Bourget thanked Nicole Charette and Jennifer Battah-Chartrand for their outstanding efforts to produce the guide which is an excellent resource for students, parents/guardians and staff.

Trustees expressed appreciation for the outstanding and informative publication.

3. **2024-2025 Executive Council Portfolios and Family of Schools**

Director Bourget reviewed the 2024-2025 Executive Council's distribution of schools and portfolios, which was shared with Trustees.

4. **Current Expenditures Borrowing Resolution**

Motion: 24-R85, L.Corbriere-Addison/D.Dewar

That the Current Expenditures Borrowing Resolution as attached be deemed to have been read three times and 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**

5. **Notice of Absence** NIL

6. **Director's Remarks**

Chair Farrow, Trustees:

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer.

I look forward to working with you, Superintendents, administrators, staff, students, families, First Nations Chiefs and communities and all of our partners as we continue our journey together.

To begin, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Tia Nootchtai and Alexandra Wilson-Zegil, and tell you a bit more about our Student Trustees.

Tia Nootchtai of Lockerby Composite School and Alexandra Wilson-Zegil of Manitoulin Secondary School will Co-Chair the Student Senate which includes representatives from the Board's secondary schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island.

Tia Nootchtai will also serve as Chair of the Indigenous Student Trustees' Council in Ontario. Made up of Indigenous Student Trustees from across Ontario, the Council seeks to support Indigenous Student Trustees while incorporating Indigenous voices into the work of the organization. As well, it aims to educate Student Trustees surrounding the topics of Indigenous lived experiences, ways of knowing, and education.

Tia Nootchtai, who lives on the traditional territory of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, is enrolled in the Science Technology Education program (STEP) at Lockerby Composite school. When she enters Grade 12 this fall, she will continue to contribute to the Student Council (which she Co-Chaired last year), the Athletic Association, and the Planning Committee. She will also remain a prominent ally with the school's Gay Straight Alliance.

Tia has been involved in a number of sports, including cross-country running, track and field, badminton and volleyball. She served on the Rainbow District School Board Student Senate last year as Lockerby's Indigenous Student Senator. A former Miss Teen Greater Sudbury and Miss Ontario Regional Canada, she has hosted multiple confidence and leadership building workshops for girls across Ontario.

Alexandra Wilson-Zegil will also play a provincial role this year. She has been selected as the Northern Schools Regional Representative for the Ontario Student Trustees' Association. This role includes being a liaison between students in the North as well as planning a conference.

A proud Haweater, Alexandra has been involved in many extra-curricular activities at Manitoulin Secondary School. She is captain of the robotics team, has taken on leadership roles in the Student Council and SHARE/Go Green, and writes a weekly column about school events in the local newspaper.

Enrolled in the school's Specialist High Skills Major in Arts and Culture, she also authored a children's book, Robofriends and the Mowzone, that promotes robotics and environmental sustainability. A second book is in the works.

This summer, she attended the prestigious SHAD Canada program.

Alexandra plans to continue her school involvement in Grade 12 as she assumes her second year on the Rainbow District School Board Student Senate. She is also involved in community clean-ups, book drives, dances and hockey. She has been playing hockey for the Gore Bay Bruins since she was four-years-old.

Start Up:

Our amazing administrative teams have been preparing for the launch of the school year. We are looking forward to the start of classes and the return of our students.

Our caring and talented staff will all be back this week for professional learning taking place on Friday, August 30th in preparation for school start up.

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

We look forward to seeing our students and welcome all of our new and returning families to Rainbow Schools.

As always, our schools will be safe and supportive places where students have fun while they learn.

We will continue to prioritize reconnecting, mental health and well-being as our teachers engage with and support students to determine learning needs.

We have a strong team of administrators, educators and support staff who will nurture student success.

As we know, public education prepares students to be active, confident, capable and contributing members of society.

Rainbow Schools play a critical role in the academic, social, emotional and physical development of children and young adults.

When students feel safe, supported, accepted, respected and connected in school and in their school community - when they have a sense of belonging - they are well on their way towards achieving their full potential.

On behalf of all of our staff, I would like to welcome our students and families to the 2024-2025 school year.

We also would like to welcome our newest school administrators and administrators who are new to a school:

**Sarah Blanchard** who will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Lansdowne  
**Sherri Toope** who will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Little Current  
**Tracey Skanes** who will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of MacLeod  
**Caitlyn Angeloff** who will serve as Vice-Principal of Churchill  
**Anastasia Messier** who will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Jean Hanson  
**Lindsey Henderson** who will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of MacLeod  
**Kim Yagnych** who will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Princess Anne  
**Arynn Frantz** who will serve as Vice-Principal of Westmount  
**Daniella Cotesta** who will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Lasalle Elementary  
**Kara Farrell-Menard** who will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Westmount  
**Jake Jouppi** who will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Lively  
**Kyle Gutscher** who will serve as Vice-Principal of Sudbury Secondary School  
**Dave St. Amour** who will serve as Vice-Principal of Lasalle Secondary School

**Julie Balen** who will serve as Acting Principal of Assiginack  
**Tracey Chapman** who will serve as Principal of Little Current  
**Jen Harvey** who will serve as Principal of Churchill  
**Elizabeth Mack** who will serve as Principal of Copper Cliff  
**Elisa MacNeil** who will serve as Acting Principal of Lansdowne  
**Stephen Winckel** who will serve as Principal of R.L. Beattie  
**Carrie Wilson** who will serve as Principal of Valley View  
**Kelly McAuley** who will serve as Principal of Walden  
**Cheryl Vincent** who will serve as Principal of Levack  
**Brenda Carr** who will serve as System Principal of French as a Second Language and the New Teacher Induction Program

Our administrators and our staff are excited to work with students and families in their respective schools and school communities.

We look forward to seeing everyone on September 3rd.

I will close my comments with appreciation to our Board of Trustees. Your incredible support and commitment to our students and staff makes a difference each day. Thank you for all you do!! We all feel excitement for the start of another school year filled with positive energy, promise and possibility as together, we prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

7. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Director** – Trustee Kosmerly attended the OPSBA annual meeting in Toronto on July 2-5, 2024 and shared notes from the event with trustees. There was a new executive elected at the conference (Kathleen Woodcock – President, Kathryn Peirroz – First Vice President, Michelle Aarts - Second Vice-President). She also shared that the position of OPSBA alternate director is eliminated and that directors are expected to attend all Board of Director meetings during the term of July to June. She reminded trustees of the upcoming Northern Regional meeting in Thunder Bay on October 26 and 27, 2024.

**Student Trustee** – Student Trustee Nootchtai thanked the Board and expressed her excitement for the upcoming school year. Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil also shared her excitement and is looking forward to working the Board and Student Senate.

8. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Notice of Motion: 24-R86, A.Gibson

In accordance with by-law 8.8, I hereby give notice that at the next meeting of the Rainbow District School Board, I will move to rescind resolution 24-R64 adopted May 14, 2024 relating to the establishment of an ad-hoc committee responsible for reviewing the Rainbow District School Board governance by-laws.

Notice of Motion: 24-R87, A.Gibson

In accordance with by-law 8.8, I hereby give notice that at the next meeting of the Rainbow District School Board, I will move to rescind resolution 24-R68 adopted June 4, 2024 relating to an ad-hoc committee responsible for reviewing the Rainbow District School Board governance by-laws.

Trustee Kosmerly provided the Chair the following motion which was shared with trustees: That the following trustees: [names] be named as members of the Ad Hoc Committee which was struck on August 26, 2024 to review and recommend revisions to the Trustees Code of Conduct to meet the new Minister's regulations.

Motion: 24-R88, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar

To waive the notice of motion requirements.

**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**

Motion: 24-R89, J.Kosmerly/A.McCauley

That the following trustees: Trustee McCauley, Trustee Dewar, Trustee Kosmerly, Trustee Hunda, Trustee Clement, Trustee Gibson, Trustee Debassige, Trustee Farrow and Trustee Corbiere-Addison be named as members of the Ad Hoc Committee which was struck on August 26, 2024 to review and recommend revisions to the Trustees Code of Conduct to meet the new Minister's regulations.

**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**

Trustee Hunda congratulated Student Trustee Nootchtai and Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil and shared her excitement on working with them this school year. She extended a warm welcome to all staff, students and families for another school year and thanked the Director for all of his work over the summer.

**9. Chairperson's Remarks**

Chair Farrow recognized Vice-Chair Linda Debassige on being elected the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief and expressed sincere congratulations on behalf of the Board.

This evening, I would like to begin my remarks on a high note.

On behalf of Trustees, I extend sincere congratulations to basketball star Sylva Swords who recently competed at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

In being selected for the Senior Women's National Basketball Team, the former Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School student made history. At 18 years old, Sylva was the youngest-ever female basketball player to represent Canada at the Olympics.

I would also like to send best wishes to Lockerby Composite School alumni Lance Cryderman as he competes in boccia at the upcoming Paris 2024 Summer Paralympic Games. Lance got interested in the sport in high school. The Games are the culmination of a six-year journey marked by determination and dedication to the rigorous demands of training and competition.

What an accomplishment for both athletes - something to be proud of. Huge congratulations to Sylva Swords and Lance Cryderman!

As we head into the 2024-2025 school year, I extend a warm welcome to all students and families.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to take an active interest in their child's education.

Ensuring your child attends school regularly is a good place to start.  
When parents and guardians value education, students value education.

There is a strong correlation between attendance and achievement.

We also invite community partners to help us mentor and nurture their future workforce.

When the home, the school and the community work together, we maximize learning opportunities for students and help them achieve their full potential.

Our youngest learners kicked off the school year yesterday with Kindergarten Camp. The four-day program is running for three hours per day at a number of Rainbow elementary schools. Welcome to the class of 2038!

For those who have not already done so, there is still time to register. Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their area Rainbow school as soon as possible given that classes begin next week.

I also extend a special welcome back to our teachers and support staff who make Rainbow Schools great places for teaching and learning.

Through their work, they bring our vision, mission, and values to life each and every day. We appreciate all that they do on behalf of students.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

A friendly reminder that the first Professional Activity Day of the 2024-2025 school year is this Friday, August 30th.

Labour Day takes place this Monday, September 2nd.

And, the first day of school is Tuesday, September 3rd.

Staff and students in Rainbow Schools will wear pink on Thursday, September 12th, as Rainbow District School Board marks its 17th annual "Stand Up Against Bullying Day". We invite everyone in the community to join us and wear pink on September 12th.

Wishing everyone a wonderful school year.

## **G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**  
Tender 2024-17 Princess Anne Public School
3. **Non-Staff Communications**  
June 19, 2024 letter from OPSBA re: Trustee Debassige elected as the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief

## **H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Student Senate Meeting September 9, 2024 5:30 pm  
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting September 10, 2024 5:00 pm



Special Education Advisory Committee September 11, 2024 12:00 am  
Environmental Education Committee Meeting September 18, 2024 3:30 pm  
First Nation Advisory Committee September 19, 2024 10:00 am  
Equity & Inclusion Committee September 19, 2024 3:30 pm  
Board Meeting September 24, 2024 5:00 pm  
Parent Involvement Committee AGM October 15, 2024 6:00 pm

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 24-R90, D.Dewar

That we do now adjourn at 6:19 p.m. - **Carried**

OFFICIAL