

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, September 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: L. Debassige, D. Dewar

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

Staff: S. Ackroyd, M. Bertrand, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes,
D. Koziar, L. Mantle, N. Mousseau, M. McKelvey, D. Peristeridis,
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-R96, J.Kosmerly/B.Clement

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of September 24, 2024 be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
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

Welcome Centre for Newcomers

Superintendent McNamara introduced presenters Melanie Bertrand, Principal of Student Success and Dan Koziar, Principal of Program who highlighted the initiative and efforts to support newcomers, including the newly opened Rainbow District School Board Welcome Centre.

They shared how demographics have impacted registrations system wide, by school, by grade and by first language spoken. With the influx of multilingual learners over the past number of years, a primary goal when registering students whose first language is not English is to complete assessments quickly to ensure we can provide appropriate supports. The data collected is used to determine a plan of support for each student and aid in the transition to their new school.

New this year, in response to the needs of our newcomers and in keeping with our values and priorities, is the Rainbow District School Board Welcome Centre, located within Sudbury Secondary School. The centre provides families assistance with the registration process, the transition to school and facilitates the connection to YMCA Settlement Services and additional resources, where needed.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions and expressed sincere gratitude for the informative presentation.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

a) Motion: 24-R97, A.McCauley/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Monday, August 26, 2024 be approved.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

b) Motion: 24-R98, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 be approved.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

- c) Motion: 24-R99, A.McCauley/B.Clement
That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Monday, September 10, 2024 be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
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

Audit Committee (AC)

Motion: 24-R100, J.Hunda/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the 2023/2024 External Audit Plan be approved as recommended by the Audit Committee.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2024-2025 School Year Update

Director Bourget began his presentation by thanking Principals, Vice-Principals, Teachers and support staff for creating warm and welcoming environments for our students to start the new school year.

He shared that new registrations are always welcome in Rainbow Schools including the Adult Day School, N'Swakamok Alternative School and at Barrydowne College.

The start of a new school year, means the start of new Environmental challenges which kicked off with Bike, Walk and Roll to School which combines sustainability with physical education. He also shared that Rainbow District School Board was one of only five school boards in Canada to have all of its schools Eco Schools certified in the 2023-2024 school year.

Other highlights included Stand Up Against Bullying Day, Lockerby Composite School's first Integration Day and Wellness Wednesdays at Barrydowne College. Lasalle Secondary School hosted its 7th annual SISU Family walk which has raised more than \$150,00 over the

years and the upcoming Terry Fox Runs throughout September and October which Rainbow Schools have raised over \$1,000,000 to date. Project Search HSN had a recent ceremony to present Certificates of Internship to the third group of students in their final year of high school to help develop essential skills for employment.

Director Bourget shared that flags will fly at half-mast on Monday, September 30, 2024 to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and a Sunrise Ceremony will be held at Manitoulin Secondary School that morning. The Annual General Meeting of the Parent Involvement Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 16, 2024 at Sudbury Secondary School.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

2. **OPSBA Fees**

Motion: 24-R101, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the 2024-2025 membership fees in the Ontario Public Schools Boards' Association be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

3. **Levying Education Taxes Bylaw**

Motion: 24-R102, A.McCauley/J.Hunda

That the Levying Education Taxes for 2024 bylaw 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: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

4. **Various Capital Projects Update**

Adam Guilbault, Superintendent of Business, provided an update on the capital projects which a large number of were completed towards the end of the school year and throughout the summer. He thanked the facilities staff for their tremendous efforts in coordinating the projects and ensuring all critical work was completed before students returned in September.

Trustees were thankful for the updates and expressed their gratitude to all Facilities staff for the hard work put in over the summer.

5. **OPSBA Northern Regional Meeting**

Motion: 24-R103, L.Corbiere-Addison/A.Gibson

That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2024 OPSBA Northern Regional Meeting in Thunder Bay on October 26-27, 2024.
(Trustee Farrow, Trustee Gibson, Trustee Hunda, Trustee Kosmerly)

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

6. **Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) Fall General Meeting**

Motion: 24-R104, B.Clement/J.Hunda

That the board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Nootchtai and Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil at the OSTA Fall General Meeting on November 7 to 10, 2024 in Toronto.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

7. **Notice of Absence**

Chair Farrow shared that Trustee Debassige and Trustee Dewar sent their regrets.

8. **Director's Remarks**

I would like to begin by sharing my gratitude to our outstanding administrators, teachers and educational support staff for their great work to get our school year off to a great start. I would like to share our appreciation for our students on a successful return to school and thank our parents and guardians for their ongoing support. I would also like to thank Superintendent Guilbault and our Facilities department for the incredible work over the summer as you saw in the various capital project updates this evening.

Enrolment Update...

Secondary:

Predicted: 5020

Current: 4937- we are still registering; we have reached last year's total already.
Total last year: 4937

Elementary:

Predicted: 9363

Current: 9448 - up by 85 over predicted for this year.

Total last year: 9322 up 126 from actual last year.

Additional staffing in place in elementary schools starting today.

Visiting schools to connect with staff and students continues to be a priority for the Executive Council and as such, we are in schools each Wednesday and Thursday. It is wonderful to see all of the great things happening in Rainbow Schools.

Fall Athletics are underway. School clubs and activities are happening and our students are benefiting from the activities and experiences. I took the opportunity to watch some football games last week. I think the parents and guardians enjoyed the games as much as the athletes.

I would like to thank Hazel Fox-Recollet and Nicole Nicholas for their leadership in making the Sunrise Ceremony on Monday at Manitoulin Secondary School possible.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our board of Trustees and all staff for their dedication and commitment to student learning and well-being. It is a privilege to serve the board of Trustees and our staff. Your leadership and support is greatly appreciated. Thank you!!

9. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly shared that she will be attending the OPSBA Board of Directors meeting this weekend in Toronto and that OPSBA continues their discussions with Ministry staff regarding the concerns around electronic meetings and are working with their legal counsel to develop documents to help Boards with the changes. OPSBA's Indigenous Trustees Council shared a number of their priorities at a meeting with Minister Dunlop where she expressed her commitment to working with ITC to support Indigenous learners. There is a Ministry online survey on Life Skills Training for students, which is intended to provide feedback to the government on the modernization of the home economics program, which closes on October 1st.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Nootchtai shared that Student Senate has created a sub-committee to work on a script for all schools to share for National Truth and Reconciliation Day as well as a video that will be posted to the Student Senate social media page. Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil shared highlights from the first meeting of student senate and that planning for the annual Stand Up Speak Out conference will begin at the next Student Senate meeting in October.

10. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Clement thanked the Student Trustees for a fantastic first senate meeting and shared that the senators were all very engaged.

Trustee McCauley attended the Lasalle Secondary School Carnival this past week where everyone was having a great time and congratulated the administration and staff for a wonderful event. He also attended the SISU walk and was amazed at the number of students, staff and volunteers that participated, with keynote speaker, Olympian Robert Esmie as a great opener.

11. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Chair Farrow shared he received a phone call from the newly elected OPSBA President, Kathleen Woodcock, thanking the Board for the congratulatory letter.

We are three weeks into the new school year and already great things are happening in Rainbow Schools.

I want to join with our Director of Education in thanking our Principals, Vice-Principals, teachers and support staff for creating safe and welcoming schools that nurture belonging, foster well-being and build connections, providing optimum environments for teaching and learning.

In this evening's update, Director Bourget touched on all of this Board's priorities through tangible examples.

The third cohort of **Project SEARCH HSN** interns and the launch of **Project SEARCH Pioneer Manor** on October 1st, all made possible through the power of partnerships. The program is growing to offer more opportunities for more students.

Terry Fox Runs keeping the Marathon of Hope alive for cancer research. I extend a special thanks to school staff who work diligently to organize these events each and every year to support a cause that has touched most of our lives.

An opportunity for the community to support Lasalle Elementary School's love of reading through the **Indigo Love of Reading Foundation's** Adopt-a-School initiative. Until October 6th, every dollar donated to Indigo on the Kingsway and online will go towards the purchase of books to further promote reading at school and at home.

Sudbury Secondary School's **Multicultural Fair** on Wednesday, September 25th to celebrate diversity. And the opening of our new Welcome Centre for Newcomers.

The Sunrise Ceremony at Manitoulin Secondary School to mark the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** on Monday, September 30th. This is a time to acknowledge the Survivors of residential schools who had the courage to share their stories. It is also a time to remember the children who never made it home. Staff and students will come together and wear orange as a symbol of truth as we continue to walk together on our path towards reconciliation.

Plans for the **Parent Involvement Committee's Annual General Meeting** on Tuesday, October 15th where participants will engage in carousels to gain hands-on strategies on what they can do at home to support their child's learning.

This is some of many examples that I could have highlighted this evening. And I think we all enjoyed hearing the student voices in the update. Students are the focus of everything that we do.

I am proud of the wonderful work being done in our schools in all of our priorities - student success and achievement, truth and reconciliation, literacy and numeracy, Mental health and well-being, environmental education and sustainability, and equity and inclusive education.

I will end with a reminder to parents/guardians that there are no classes for students this Friday, September 27th as our staff will be working on School Improvement Plans. And schools will be closed on **Thanksgiving** on Monday, October 14th.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**

3. **Non-Staff Communications**

August 28, 2024 Letter to Minister Dunlop re: Trustee Code of Conduct

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Special Education Advisory Committee October 2, 2024 12:00 pm

Student Senate Meeting October 7, 2024 5:30 pm

Strategic Planning Committee Meeting October 8, 2024 5:00 pm

Parent Involvement Committee AGM October 15, 2024 6:00 pm

Environmental Education Committee Meeting October 16, 2024 3:30 pm

Equity & Inclusion Committee October 17, 2024 3:30 pm

Board Meeting October 22, 2024 5:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 24-R105, J.Kosmerly

That we do now adjourn at 7:14 p.m.