

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, October 22, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: L. Debassige, J. Kosmerly

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

Staff: S. Ackroyd, M. Bertrand, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, D. Koziar,
L. Mantle, M. McKelvey, D. Peristeridis, C. Whitson, D. Williamson

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-R106, A.McCauley/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of October 22, 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: Absent
Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

Student Achievement – EQAO & OSSLT

Superintendent Fisher introduced system principals, Melanie Bertrand (Principal of Student Success), Dan Koziar (Principal of Program), and Danielle Williamson (Principal of Special Education), to share information with trustees about EQAO and OSSLT results over time.

They shared that Rainbow District School Board have the top results in all English Language Boards – Public or Catholic, in Northeastern Ontario in primary and junior reading, writing and math.

Dan, Danielle and Melanie walked trustees through the presentation that compared the most recent 2023-2024 results to past years for all students and students with exceptionalities.

In primary reading, Rainbow students outperformed the province and primary writing has seen improved results every year for the past three years. Results in primary mathematics are the highest in a decade. Similarly, our junior reading results represent our best achievement since 2014, exceeding the provincial average. In junior mathematics, we have seen an increase in the number of students at provincial standard every year in the past three years.

Our Grade 9 results are 2nd in the Northeast for Mathematics and the highest in the past three years and our grade 10 OSSLT result is the highest in the past 20 years.

The team thanked our classroom teachers, program team and our school administrators. Their hard work created the conditions for gains in student achievement.

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

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

Motion: 24-R107, J.Hunda/B.Clement

That motion #24-W28 RE: Labour Relations, 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: Absent
Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 24-R108, J.Hunda/A.McCauley

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: In-favour
David Farrow: In-favour

Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: Absent
Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

3. **Other Items**

Motion: 24-109, B.Clement/J.Hunda

To amend Motion: 24-R68, "That Trustee Clement, Trustee Corbiere-Addison, Trustee Debassige, Trustee Dewar, Trustee Farrow, Trustee Gibson, Trustee Hunda and Trustee Kosmerly establish the ad hoc committee responsible to review the Rainbow District School Board Governance By-Laws and present the recommendations to the Strategic Planning Committee" to include Trustee McCauley.

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: Absent
Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **OSTA-AECO Fees**

Motion: 24-R110, J.Hunda/A.Gibson

That the 2024-2025 Ontario Student Trustees' Association membership fees 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: Absent
Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

2. **OSBIE Refund**

Superintendent Guilbault shared the plan to reinvest the funds in the Board's cyber security program, as we did last year.

3. **Honoraria for Trustees 2024-2025**

Superintendent Guilbault explained the report provided and shared there was a slight increase in the amounts for the upcoming term due to an increase in the enrolment component.

4. **Trustee Expenditures 2023-2024**

Superintendent Guilbault explained the details on the provided Trustee Expenses spreadsheet, which will be posted on the Board's website.

5. **Notice of Absence**

Chair Farrow shared that Trustee Kosmerly and Trustee Debassige were absent.

6. **Director's Remarks**

This month, I would like to express our gratitude to our school office staff. The start of the school year is an extra busy time and we are grateful for their support of students, staff, parents and guardians each day. They are the friendly people who welcome visitors to the school and the friendly voices who greet callers on the phone. They serve an important frontline role in our schools and certainly build connections with our students and families.

A week ago, on Tuesday, October 15th, the Board hosted the Annual General Meeting of the Parent Involvement Committee. I would like to thank members of our School Councils who volunteered for PIC for the current school year.

Following the AGM, we hosted interactive, hands-on sessions for parents/guardians and their children. The evening was a great success. We estimate over 250 people attended at three sites which included Sudbury Secondary School, A.B. Ellis Public School in Espanola and Little Current Public School on Manitoulin Island. There were many sessions for participants to experience including activities in Reading, Writing and Math along with sessions on Mindfulness and Movement. The focus of these activities was to give parents/guardians resources and strategies they can use at home with their children.

I would like to thank Leslie Mantle and Nicole Charette for their leadership, the System Principal Team for their hard work and the many school administrators and curriculum consultants and coordinators as well as members of our mental health team whose combined efforts made the evening fun and informative. We all had a great time and it was wonderful to meet families from across our system of schools.

Gratitude is also extended to our System Principals, Coordinators, Consultants and Math coaches for the tremendous support provided to our schools. As demonstrated in the EQAO presentation this evening, we have shown growth in our results over time. Their outstanding efforts in combination with our dedicated administrators and talented teachers are the reason for the positive trends. We will all continue to work hard to support student success and achievement.

I would also like to thank the board of Trustees for your ongoing positivity and support. We are making progress with our priorities thanks to your leadership. Your energy, teamwork, focus on students, and commitment to student achievement is paramount to our success and so greatly appreciated.

I will conclude by saying thank you to all of our staff for continuing to be difference makers in the lives of our students!

7. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Chair Farrow reminded trustees of the email shared from Trustee Kosmerly with the most recent details.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil thanked the board for the support with OSTA fees and sending them to the OSTA conferences. She provided an update on the last student senate meeting and that discussions are ongoing for the upcoming senate conference themes.

Student Trustee Nootchtai also expressed her gratitude to be able to attend the OSTA conferences and shared that the Student Senate are also working on social media campaigns to be more visible.

8. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee McCauley attended the recent PIC meeting and expressed his gratitude to Leslie Mantle for all of the hard work for a wonderful event. He was impressed with the number of staff, teachers and superintendents that also joined, and congratulated all involved.

Student Trustee Nootchtai had the opportunity to meet with Jill Dunlop, Minister of Education as a member of the OSTA leadership team in Toronto and is working with the OSTA president to work with the student trustees across Ontario to have an Indigenous Trustee on every school board so Indigenous students across the province are represented.

Trustee Dewar congratulated students and staff across the board for the efforts made in fundraising various causes. A special congratulations to Lockerby Composite School on their Kids Caring for Kids Cancer Drive in its 29th year of raising money for local paediatric cancer care.

Trustee Clement shared the "Stuff the Bus" campaign in Espanola was a success with 824 items donated to the Espanola Helping Hands Food Bank.

9. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Earlier today, some 45 students from Rainbow Schools in Grades 9 to 12 participated in the **HEADSTRONG Summit** at Cambrian College. Students learned how to recognize the signs of mental health and reduce stigma. Students were also inspired to become leaders to foster wellness in their own school communities.

This Thursday, October 24th, 90 female students from Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, Confederation Secondary School and Lively District Secondary School will attend **Jill of All Trades** - also at Cambrian College. Students will enjoy a day of activities designed to excite their imaginations, ignite new passions, and encourage them to consider a rewarding career in the skilled trades.

There will be no school for students on Friday, November 1st for the third **Professional Activity Day** of the 2024-2025 school year. We remind parents and guardians that information about professional learning is posted on the board website.

Staff and students in Rainbow Schools will continue to learn about treaties and relationships during **Treaties Recognition Week** from November 3 to 9, 2024. Educational activities and lessons are part of Rainbow District School Board's continued focus on truth and reconciliation.

Grade 9 students in Rainbow Schools will spend the day at work shadowing a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host on Wednesday, November 6th as part of **Take Our Kids to Work**. Now in its 30th year, the national program gives students the opportunity to experience the world of work as they explore possible career paths.

All Rainbow Schools will observe **Remembrance Day** on Monday, November 11th. Flags will fly at half-mast in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island from Friday, November 8th to mark Indigenous Veterans Day throughout the weekend.

Parents/guardians and students in Grades 7 and 8 are invited to mark their calendars for **Next Stop: Grade 9** on Tuesday, November 12th. The information session will focus on the changes and choices students face while entering high school. This is an evening presentation in the Student Centre at Cambrian College. Everyone is welcome, regardless of which elementary school students currently attend.

Sudbury Secondary School will present "**Beauty and the Beast Jr.**" for the public on November 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd at 6:30 pm, as well as a matinee on November 17th at 1 pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for youth 12 and under, and can be purchased at the door or in advance through School Cash Online.

Thank you.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes May 1, 2024 (official)
Audit Committee minutes May 8, 2024 (official)
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Student Senate meeting November 4, 2024 5:30 pm
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting November 5, 2024 5:00 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee November 6, 2024 12:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee Meeting November 13, 2024 3:30 pm
Equity & Inclusion Committee November 14, 2024 3:30 pm
Board Meeting November 19, 2024 5:00 pm
First Nations Advisory Committee November 21, 2024 10:00 am

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 24-R111, J.Hunda
That we do now adjourn at 5:50 p.m. – **Carried**