

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

to be held in person and electronically via Google Meet
in the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive
on Tuesday, November 19, 2024
at the conclusion of the Organizational Board Meeting

AGENDA AND RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

Roll Call

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Chair

Motion:

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of November 19, 2024 be approved.

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

*Chair

C. PRESENTATIONS

*Chair

Math Action Plan – Superintendent Fisher

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

*Director

E. OLD BUSINESS

*Chair

1. Previous Minutes

*Chair

Motion:

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 be approved.

2. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

*Chair

Strategic Planning Committee (By-Law Review)

i.) Notice of Motion:

That the changes to By-Law 3, as attached, be approved.

ii.) Notice of Motion:

That the changes to By-Law 6, as attached, be approved.

iii.) Notice of Motion:

Notice of Motion:
That the changes to the Governance By-Law Committee Information page, as attached, be approved.

- F. NEW BUSINESS** *Chair
1. **Public Education Symposium (PES) 2024-2025** *Chair
- Motion:
That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2025 Public Education Symposium in Toronto on January 24-25, 2025.
2. **Notice of Absence** *Chair
3. **Director's Remarks** *Director
4. **Other Items** *Chair
OPSBA Director
Student Trustee
5. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** *Chair
Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.
6. **Chairperson's Remarks** *Chair
- G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** *Chair
1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes October 2, 2024 (official)
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**
- H. FUTURE MEETINGS** *Chair
- First Nations Advisory Committee November 21, 2024 10:00 am
Accessibility Committee November 25, 2024 10:00 am
Audit Committee December 2, 2024 3:00 pm
Student Senate Meeting December 2, 2024 5:30 pm
Parent Involvement Committee December 3, 2024 7:00 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee December 4, 2024 12:00 pm
Board Meeting December 10, 2024 5:00 pm
- I. ADJOURNMENT** *Chair
- Motion:
That we do now adjourn at p.m.

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**

3. Governance By-Law 3: Inaugural and Annual Organizational Meeting

3.1. Inaugural Meeting

- 3.1.1. The Inaugural Meeting of a newly elected Board shall be held as per the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and the Education Act.
- 3.1.2. The meeting location shall be the Head Office of the Board.
- 3.1.3. At such meeting at the appointed time the Director/Secretary shall call the meeting to order.
- 3.1.4. The Director/Secretary shall proceed to read the returns of the election to the Board as certified to the Secretary by the Municipal clerks. These Clerks act as Returning Officers for the election of Trustees of Rainbow District School Board.
- 3.1.5. The Director/Secretary shall certify that the Trustees have met all procedural requirements and are eligible to take office.
- 3.1.6. Prior to taking office, members will make a declaration as referred to in the Education Act and make an Affirmation of Allegiance as referred to in the Education Act.
- 3.2. The First Nations' representative shall be appointed as a member of the Board by recorded motion and make a Declaration and Affirmation of Allegiance as referred to in the Education Act.

3.3. The Annual Organizational Meeting

- 3.3.1. The Annual Organizational Meetings of the Board for the second, third and fourth years of a Board's term of office shall be held at the first meeting on or after the anniversary of the date of the Inaugural Meeting of the Board. The meeting(s) shall be held at the Board office.

3.4. Election of Chair:

- 3.4.1. With the Director/Secretary presiding, or if absent, a temporary Chair chosen by open vote of the Board, the Board shall proceed to elect a Chair by secret ballot for the ensuing year.
- 3.4.2. The Director/Secretary or temporary Chair shall name the scrutineers.
- 3.4.3. The Director/Secretary or temporary Chair shall call for nominations and seconders for the position of Chair.
- 3.4.4. Of those nominated and agreeing to allow their names to stand for election, the member receiving a clear majority of the votes cast by all members present shall be declared elected.

The count shall not be declared. If no member receives a clear majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, the scrutineers will announce the result. The name receiving the fewest votes will be dropped and balloting will continue until a majority of votes are in favour of one person. If the final two candidates receive an equal number of votes, the drawing of lots will fill the position.

3.4.5. The person declared Chair shall take the Chair at once and preside over the meeting.

3.5. The Board shall elect a Vice-Chair and the procedure will be as for the election of the Chair.

3.6. **Committee Selection**

3.6.1. Prior to the Inaugural/Annual Organizational Meeting, trustees will be asked to identify their committee assignment preferences.

3.6.2. Membership on the various Board Committees shall be determined immediately following the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair. If required, members shall be chosen by secret ballot.

3.6.3. Board Committees shall be defined as per Appendix A.

~~3.7. The Board shall elect its representative (and alternate) to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA).~~

~~3.8. 3.7~~ The Chair shall direct the scrutineers to destroy any and all ballots used during the elections by recorded motion.

3.8 **Representation: Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA)**

3.8.1 Each April, at its Regular Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees will elect or appoint one trustee to serve as its representative (Director) on the OPSBA Board of Directors, and will provide that person's name to OPSBA one month prior to the association's Annual Meeting. The OPSBA Director's one year term of office will commence immediately following the Annual Meeting. The OPSBA Director is expected to attend all scheduled Board of Directors meetings either in person or by electronic means.

In the event that the Director vacates the position prior to the end of the term, the Board of Trustees will elect or appoint a new Director to assume the position prior to the election or appointment of a new Director in April.

3.8.2 The Board of Trustees may choose to send a trustee as a non-voting observer to Board of Director meetings, however the trustee must leave the meeting during in camera discussions. OPSBA Board of Directors meetings are not open to the public except by invitation.

- 3.8.3 Each April, at its Regular Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees will elect or appoint one trustee as its Delegate to vote on its behalf at regional OPSBA meetings and at the Annual Meeting. The board's Director and Delegate may be the same person.

The Board of Trustees will also elect or appoint one trustee to act as Alternate Delegate to vote on its behalf at regional OPSBA meetings and/or the Annual Meeting in the absence of the Delegate.

6. Governance By-Law 6: Duties of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 6.1. The Chair of the Board is the official spokesperson for the Board, on matters which reflect the will of the Board through resolution.
- 6.2. The Chair of the Board, or when absent, the Vice-Chair, shall preside at all meetings of the Board. The Chair will call the meeting to order at the hour appointed and shall preserve order and decorum and decide upon all questions of order. The Chair shall cause the names of all members present and absent to be recorded.
- 6.3. In the event of the position of Chair or Vice-Chair becoming permanently vacant, a new Chair or Vice-Chair shall be elected at the next Regular Board meeting in the same manner as before provided. (See By-Law 3)
- 6.4. In case of the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair for ten minutes after the hour of the commencement of any meeting, as soon as a quorum shall be present, the Board under the direction of the Director/Secretary, shall choose a temporary Chair.
- 6.5. The temporary Chair shall preside only until the Chair or Vice-Chair arrives and the immediate business at hand is completed.
- 6.6. The Chair shall declare the result of each vote.
- 6.7. ~~The Chair shall be an ex-officio member of all Board committees with the exception of the audit committee. The Chair has the same voting rights as other committee members, is not counted in calculating the number necessary for a quorum, but does count at a committee meeting to provide that quorum.~~

The Chair shall be ex-officio of all Board committees. An ex-officio member is not a regular member but has the same rights and privileges as any other members of the committee, except those committees where membership is established by legislation, regulation or collective agreement.
- 6.8. The Chair shall not take part in any discussion regarding a motion unless they first vacate the Chair and appoint the Vice-Chair (or alternate) to preside until the motion is decided. Once the motion has been decided, the Chair shall assume the chair and proceed with the subsequent business of the Board.
- 6.9. The Chair shall vote with other members of the Board.
- 6.10. The Chair shall sign all minutes approved by the Board.
- 6.11. The Chair shall decide when a question is to be put to a vote.

Committee Information

NAME OF COMMITTEE: **Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee**
(Ad Hoc)

MEMBERSHIP:

All Trustees and Director of Education

MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE:

~~The By-Law Review Committee shall revise the current By-Laws to align with current legislation and to ensure procedures and practice align with current best practice in governance within the Ontario K12 Education sector.~~

The Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee shall regularly review and recommend revisions to Governance Policies and By-Laws to maintain relevant, efficient and effective implementation and to ensure policies comply with the Education Act, Regulations, and other relevant legislation. This committee will function as a subcommittee under the Strategic Planning Committee, reporting directly to it.

WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS:

At the call of the Chair. ~~Estimated~~ Minimum number of meetings - ~~three (3)~~ Four (4)

REPORT TO THE ~~BOARD~~ STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR DESIGNATE

~~Upon completion of the review the By-Laws will proceed utilizing the approved Board practice for amending By-Laws.~~

As needed.

Public Education Symposium

Public Education Symposium (PES) 2025 January 24 and January 25 at the Sheraton Centre, Toronto

Registration and Program Now Available

Registration for PES 2025 is now open. The Symposium begins on Friday morning, with two full days of programming, and will conclude with a gala dinner on Saturday evening. Program details can be found on the PES 2025 Event Site.

OPSBA Member Registration: \$945 +hst

OPSBA Student Trustee Registration: \$565 +hst

Click Here to Register Now(<https://cvent.me/MmZd8w?rt=1-JI5BtMA021QK6h3hAUeg>)(<https://cvent.me/MmZd8w?rt=1-JI5BtMA021QK6h3hAUeg>).

Room Block

A discounted group rate for **OPSBA Public Education Symposium (PES)** is available while rooms last until **December 23, 2024**. Attendees can begin making their reservations using the weblink below:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50828460>(<https://book.passkey.com/e/50828460>)

Alternately, you can call 1-888-627-7175 and ask for the **OPSBA Ontario Public Education Symposium (PES)** to secure the group rate.

For more information, please contact the [PD Events Team](mailto:pdevents@opsba.org)(<mailto:pdevents@opsba.org>)



Registration Fees	
OPSBA Member Registration	\$945
OPSBA Student Trustee Registration	\$565

Included in your registration:

- Access to all plenary sessions, including keynote speakers, and your choice of professional learning sessions and workshops
- Scheduled food and beverage functions, including:
 - Friday breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks, and networking reception
 - Saturday, breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks, and gala dinner

Registration fees are subject to 13% HST.

Only current Ontario student trustees are eligible to register under Student Trustee registration rate.

Registration Cancellation Policy

Refunds for cancellations will be issued (less a \$100 cancellation fee) until **December 20, 2024**. No refunds will be issued after December 20, 2024. Please contact pdevents@opsba.org to request a refund.

Alternatively, if you can no longer attend, attendee substitutions within the same board may be made at no additional charge by contacting pdevents@opsba.org.

Hotel Accommodations

OPSBA has secured a special rate at the **Sheraton Centre Toronto**. Rooms at the discounted group rate will be available for booking until **December 23, 2024**, or until inventory runs out.

To book your discounted group rate for OPSBA Ontario Public Education Symposium (PES), please use the below weblink:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50828460>

Alternately you can call 1-888-627-7175 and ask for the OPSBA Ontario Public Education Symposium (PES) block to secure the group rate.

A valid credit card is required to secure a group rate. Cancellations received within 72 hours of your arrival date will incur 1 night's room and taxes as penalty fee.

If your room charges will be paid using a 3rd party credit card, you must complete a 3rd party payment authorization form prior to your arrival. All individuals will still require their own credit card to check-in with. Please ask for a 3rd party payment authorization form from the hotel reservations department, or contact pdevents@opsba.org with the name of reservation, confirmation number, and email address of the card holder.



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**MINUTES OF THE RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Time: 12:00 PM

Meeting held via Google Meet

Present:

SEAC Members:

Chantal Cardinal

Julie Contini

Lisa Corbiere-Addison

Doreen Dewar

Sara Kitlar-Pothier

Alex McCauley

Stephanie Roussy

Robert Silvestri (Vice-Chair)

Jennifer Way

March of Dimes

Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury

Trustee

Trustee

Ontario Autism Coalition

Trustee

Children's Community Network

NOARC (Acting Chair)

March of Dimes

Staff:

David Squarzolo

Danielle Williamson

Kathy Wachnuk

Vice-Principal of Special Education

Principal of Special Education Programs and Services

Superintendent of Schools

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Superintendent Wachnuk welcomed everyone and shared that the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury has closed and Wendy Larouche has resigned from the SEAC. A call for new members will go out in November.

R. Silvestri assumed chair for the meeting.

2.0 Establish Quorum of Voting Members

Quorum was established.

3.0 SEAC Mission Statement

R. Silvestri read aloud the mission statement.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion 1:

Moved by: Trustee McCauley

Seconded by: Trustee Corbiere-Addison

That the agenda for the SEAC meeting of October 2, 2024 be approved.

Motion carried.

5.0 Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were noted.

6.0 Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion 2:

Moved by: S. Kitlar-Pothier

Seconded by: Trustee Corbiere-Addison

That the minutes of the SEAC meeting of May 1, 2024 be approved.

Motion carried.

7.0 Business Arising

None

8.0 New Business

Requests for Leaves of Absence

None.

9.0 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wachnuk reported that last Friday was a PA Day. Schools were involved in school improvement planning. Behaviour Management Systems training also took place throughout the Board for all Early Childhood Educators, kindergarten teachers, and special education teachers.

The Board has opened a second Project SEARCH site at Pioneer Manor in partnership with March of Dimes and the City of Greater Sudbury. There are 10 students attending there and the program at Health Sciences North. The signing ceremony took place October 1 at Pioneer Manor and was attended by representatives from the Project SEARCH partners, as well as Trustees Farrow, Clement, Kosmerly, and Board administration. Students that graduated from the Project SEARCH program at HSN have been able to secure employment.

The Board continues to provide programming and reorganize existing resources as necessary in response to late registrations of students with special needs that have moved from out of area. The Board has drafted a procedure to address requests for late registration of students with special needs who attend school in co-terminus boards. SEAC members were asked to provide input to Superintendent Wachnuk about the procedure.

The City of Greater Sudbury is covering the cost of public transit bus passes for students attending Project SEARCH. The passes can be used by the students for other rides, too.

On October 8, a presentation was provided to the Board during a strategic planning meeting about Westmount Avenue PS. Parents have provided positive feedback about having their children attend the school.

Superintendent Wachnuk reported that following a request from the Ministry to school boards, a list of student names was submitted. The Ministry announced plans to modernize Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding. The student names submitted have significant special education needs. It is anticipated this list may drive the amount the Board will receive through a revised funding model.

10.0 Special Education Staff Report

Principal Williamson shared a presentation on the 2024 Summer Special Education Programs that took place. It was another successful summer for students who attended the various classes and kindergarten camps throughout the Board.

11.0 Board Report

No report.

12.0 Chairperson's Report

R. Silvestri asked for input from the Committee members in attendance if the SEAC should continue to meet monthly or switch to a bimonthly schedule. Following discussion and a vote, it was determined that the SEAC would continue to meet monthly.

13.0 Association Reports

Julie Contini (Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury)

DSAS Walk for Awareness will take place on October 6. Information was shared with the SEAC.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdfa34s9>

Sara Kitlar-Pothier (Ontario Autism Coalition)

A survey was created and shared with interested stakeholders about their experiences accessing special education in Ontario. Information about the results will be shared at a future meeting. It is reported that school boards in Ottawa and Toronto are trying to close their Intensive Support Programs.

Superintendent Wachnuk added the Rainbow DSB offers Intensive Support Programs (ISP) for students and has also hired inclusion teachers to support students in regular classes who previously attended an ISP. The Ministry has not provided any direction to boards about placement options.

Chantal Cardinal (March of Dimes)

October is National Disability Employment Awareness month. The Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN) is a province-wide organization that brings together businesses and employment service providers to increase employment opportunities for job seekers who have a disability. October 17 marks the fifth annual Light It Up! For NDEAM event. It is a one-night, special purple lighting event. More information can be found at:

<https://www.odenetwork.com/initiatives/light-it-up-for-ndeam-2024/>

Jennifer Way (March of Dimes)

8. The March of Dimes received a 7-figure donation to support Project SEARCH. The donor requested anonymity. The funding will support skills trainers for the next 5 years at the Project SEARCH sites in Sudbury and Guelph. Program graduates have achieved 100 percent employment. The City of Greater Sudbury Economic Development Corporation received the March of Dimes 2024 Community Changemaker of the Year Award. ODEN offers online learning modules for families to assist with transitions.

14.0 Correspondence Addressed to SEAC

None

15.0 Other Items/ Future Agenda Items/ Information Requests

- Westmount Avenue PS presentation

16.0 Next Meeting Date

November 6, 2024 from 12:00 until 1:30 PM via Google Meet.

17.0 Adjournment

R. Silvestri adjourned the meeting at 1:28 PM.