

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, December 10, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: L. Debassige

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

Staff: S. Ackroyd, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes, D. Kitching,
D. London, L. Mantle, M. McKelvey, C. Whitson

Other: D. D'Angelo (KPMG) (via Google Meet)

Chair Farrow called the meeting to order.

Director Bourget completed roll call to establish who was participating in the Google Meet.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 25-R24, J.Kosmerly/A.Gibson

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of December 10, 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 NIL

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

a) Motion: 25-R25, B.Clement/J.Hunda

That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held on Tuesday, November 19, 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) Motion: 25-R26, J.Kosmerly/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, November 19, 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

a) Strategic Planning Committee (By-Law Review)

i.) Motion: 25-R27, J.Kosmerly/A.McCauley

That the changes to *Governance By-Law 3: Inaugural and Annual Organizational Meeting*, as attached, be approved.

Amendment: A25-R01, A.Gibson/J.Kosmerly

To amend *Governance By-Law 3* title to read “*Inaugural & Annual Organizational Meetings and Representation at Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA)*” and amend the representation section to remove “*or appoint*”.

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

Motion: 25-R28, J.Kosmerly/A.McCauley

That the changes to *Governance By-Law 3: Inaugural and Annual Organizational Meeting*, as attached, be approved, as amended.

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

ii.) Motion: 25-R29, J.Hunda/D.Dewar

That the changes to *Governance By-Law 6: Duties of Chair and Vice-Chair*, as attached, 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

iii.) Motion: 25-R30, A.McCauley/A.Gibson

That the changes to the *Governance By-Law Committee Information* page, as attached, be approved.

Amendment: A25-R02, J.Kosmerly/A.Gibson

To amend the membership to “6 Trustees and Director of Education”.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: Absent
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

Motion: 25-R31, A.McCauley/A.Gibson

That the changes to the *Governance By-Law Committee Information* page, as attached, be approved, as amended.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: Absent
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) **Audit Committee**

i) **Audit Committee Annual Report**

Trustee Hunda, Chair of the Audit Committee, provided information from the 2023/2024 Audit Committee report, which was shared with trustees.

ii) **2023/2024 Financial Statements**

Superintendent Guilbault introduced Derek D'Angelo, Lead Audit Engagement Partner from KPMG, who presented the consolidated financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2024.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Motion: 25-R32, J.Hunda/D.Dewar

That the 2023/2024 Financial Statements 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

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Director's Annual Report**

Director Bourget provided a page-by-page review of the 2023-2024 Annual Report, that will be posted on the Board's website in the coming weeks in accessible format.

Trustees were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

2. **Insurance Renewal**

Motion: 25-R33, A.McCauley/D.Dewar

That the 2025 Renewal of Insurance for liability, property, crime and fleet automobile with the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange for \$435,298.08 be approved.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: Absent
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. **Budget Development Process**

Motion: 24-R34, A.Gibson/J.Hunda

That the 2025-26 Budget Development Process be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour

Lisa Corbiere-Addison: Absent

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, "Trustee Debassige has indicated her absence."

5. **Director's Remarks**

I would like to thank Superintendent Guilbault and Manager Nancy Cecchetto and the Finance Department team for the excellent work in preparing for the audit. The Clean Audit Report is the highest level of assurance and is a testament to the good practices and work that is being done.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Principal Brenda Carr for assembling a team of Rainbow staff and thank the staff who came out to volunteer at the Sudbury Lions/MCTV Christmas Telethon. It was an amazing evening and the Telethon raised \$416,000.

And I would like to acknowledge Principal Susan Kett for co-ordinating the distribution of some 400 turkeys to families of students in Rainbow Schools. The turkeys are being donated by Matt's Plumbing and a host of contributing companies. Thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Trustees, Executive Council, our School Administrators, our teachers and all support staff for the incredible work you do each and every day in support of students and student learning.

There are many events in the upcoming days for students and staff to enjoy. A very well earned break is just around the corner. As this is the last regular board meeting of 2024 I wish everyone a restful, safe, fun-filled holiday season! We look forward to continuing our good work on behalf of students in the new year.

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly attended the Board of Directors meeting on November 29-30, 2024 in Toronto and shared highlights of the meeting with trustees via email. She shared two items of importance from the meeting were that OPSBA will be sending a template to trustees regarding the formal and informal code of conduct enforcement processes for consideration, and that OPSBA is encouraging all trustees to read the Leading Practice

document that was shared on November 1st regarding changes to electronic meetings and meeting attendance. She also shared a resolution that the Near North DSB has requested support for that states that OPSBA work with the Ministry of Education and Ontario Mining Association to promote educational student success programs related to mining, which the Board supported.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil provided an update on the Stand Up Speak Out conference which has been re-scheduled to April 24, 2025, due to some scheduling conflicts. There have been some venue booking issues that Student Senate are working through. Student Trustee Nootchtai shared that Student Senate has come up with some great ideas for breakout room sessions surrounding intelligence and are still searching for a keynote speaker. She also expressed her gratitude for having an Indigenous Student Trustee position in our board. In her role as the Chair of the Indigenous Student Trustees Council, working with student trustees across the province, there have been challenges in trying to get Indigenous Student Trustee positions implemented in their boards. They both wished everyone the best for the holidays.

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee McCauley thanked the Parent Involvement Committee along with Leslie Mantle and team for getting PIC off the ground. It has been great to see parents coming out and taking part in the events with staff. He also wished everyone a peaceful holiday.

Trustee Clement shared that he is looking forward to attending the Espanola High School awards ceremony on Wednesday, and he recently attended a Future North workshop for grade 9 students around 'words matter' as part of the Equity Committee. He also wished everyone a merry and peaceful Christmas.

Trustee Kosmerly encouraged fellow trustees to get out and get involved in the fairs, festivals, and luncheons as it is the most wonderful time of the year. She wished everyone the best over the holidays.

Trustee Hunda wished everyone a very safe, happy holiday; especially to the staff, take some time to rest.

Student Trustee Nootchtai invited all trustees to the next Student Senate meeting on Monday, January 6th.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

As we embark on the festive season, an incredibly joyous time of year in Rainbow Schools, staff and students are spreading excitement and kindness in a variety of ways. A list of **festive events** will be available on the board website.

Rainbow District School Board is once again participating in the **Edgar Burton Kids Helping Kids Food Drive**. Staff and students have been working together to collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations to assist area food banks. I would like to thank Vice-Principals Brad Smith and Andrew Kendall for leading this campaign on behalf of the Rainbow District School Board.

Manitoulin Secondary School will host its annual awards night on Thursday, December 19th at 7 pm. Close to \$70,000 in awards will be presented to students. We commend the community of Manitoulin for its continued generosity and support.

Do you have a child starting school next fall? Elementary schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island will host **Kindergarten Information Nights** for families on Wednesday, January 15th at 5:30 pm for the English program, and Thursday, January 16th at 5:30 pm for schools offering French Immersion and schools offering both English and French Immersion. All parents/guardians and children are welcome.

A friendly reminder to Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians that **Information Nights for secondary schools** will continue into the new year. **Sudbury Secondary School's** will take place tomorrow - Wednesday, December 11th at 6 pm.

In January, we have the following information nights:

Chelmsford Valley District Composite School on Wednesday, January 15th at 6 pm;
Lo-Ellen Park also on Wednesday, January 15th at 6 pm for Grade 6 and 7 pm for Grade 8;
and **Lockerby Composite School** on Thursday, January 16th at 6:45 pm.
Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

A friendly reminder that the **winter break** will soon be upon us.
Schools will be closed from December 23rd to January 3rd.
Schools will reopen on Monday, January 6, 2025.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend well wishes to staff, students, families and community partners.

Have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

We look forward to seeing you and working together in 2025.

Thank you!

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Accessibility Planning Committee minutes December 1, 2023 (official)
Parent Involvement Committee minutes May 7, 2024 (official)
Audit Committee minutes September 23, 2024 (official)
Parent Involvement Committee minutes October 15, 2024 (official)
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Student Senate Meeting January 6, 2025 5:30 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee January 8, 2025 12:00 pm
Board Meeting January 21, 2025 5:00 pm
Parent Involvement Committee January 28, 2025 7:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 25-R35, J.Kosmerly/A.Gibson
That we do now adjourn at 7:04 p.m. – **Carried**