

## **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, February 18, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

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<b>AGENDA AND RECOMMENDED MOTIONS</b>
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#### **Land Acknowledgement**

*The Rainbow District School Board would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional and ancestral territory of the Anishnaabek including Atikameksheng Anishnaabeg and Wahnapiitae Nations.*

*We would like to acknowledge that we are situated within the Robinson - Huron Treaty of 1850 and want to recognize the inherent rights of the Anishinaabek that maintained these lands from time immemorial.*

#### **Roll Call**

**A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

\*Chair

Motion:

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of February 18, 2025 be approved.

**B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

\*Chair

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

\*Chair

Lego Robotics Team - Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Capital Projects Update – Adam Guilbault

**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, January 21, 2025 be approved.

**2. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees**

\*Chair

- F. NEW BUSINESS** \*Chair
1. Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee  
  
Motion:  
 That trustees \_\_\_\_\_ be named the members of the Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee.
  2. **2025-2026 School Year Structure** \*Director  
  
Motion:  
 That the Board approve the 2025-2026 School Year Structure for elementary and secondary schools.
  3. **Notice of Absence** \*Chair
  4. **Director's Remarks** \*Director
  5. **Other Items** \*Chair  
 OPSBA Director  
 Student Trustee
  6. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** \*Chair  
*Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.*
  7. **Chairperson's Remarks** \*Chair
- G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** \*Chair
1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**  
 Parent Involvement Committee minutes December 3, 2024 (official)  
 Special Education Advisory Committee minutes January 8, 2025 (official)
  2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
  3. **Non-Staff Communications**
- H. FUTURE MEETINGS** \*Chair
- Environmental Education Committee February 19, 2025 3:30 pm  
 First Nations Advisory Committee February 20, 2025 10:00 am  
 Parent Involvement Committee February 25, 2025 7:00 pm  
 Student Senate Meeting March 3, 2025 5:30 pm  
 Board Meeting March 25, 2025 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, January 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: nil

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

Staff: N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, S. Clarke, T. Hayes, D. Kitching,  
D. Koziar, L. Mantle, M. McKelvey, N. Nicolas-Bayer,  
D. Peristeridis, C. Whitson

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-R36, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of January 21, 2025 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**

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

#### **C. PRESENTATIONS**

##### Board Mental Health Plan

Director Bourget introduced Sarah Clarke, Mental Health Lead, who provided an update on the board's Mental Health Strategic Plan.

Sarah shared the vision for mental health, the guiding principles and the Ministry requirements, along with an overview of the 4 strategic priorities for mental health in our board and highlighted a few initiatives and strategies under each priority.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions and thanked Sarah and her team for all the work they have done to move this forward.

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

No meeting held. No report.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

Motion: 25-R37, D.Dewar/A.McCauley

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, December 10, 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**

Accessibility Planning Committee

Motion: 25-R38, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the Board approve the Multi-year Accessibility Plan 2023-2027, as recommended by the Accessibility Planning Committee.

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**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Revised Estimates 2024-2025**

Superintendent Guilbault reviewed the revised estimate document provided to trustees, highlighting key changes.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

2. **OSTA/AECO – Education Action Conference**

Motion: 25-R39, J.Hunda/L.Debassige

That the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Nootchtai and Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil at the OSTA/AECO Education Action Conference in Ottawa on February 13-16, 2025.

**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**

3. **Notice of Absence** NIL

4. **Director's Remarks**

I know that Chair Farrow will speak to this but I would like to begin by wishing everyone involved in the school bus collision a speedy recovery. Our students and families are in our thoughts.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the board of Trustees for your support and advocacy for our students and staff. We remain focused on the priorities that you have established in Strategic Directions, which provides a purposeful path forward through your leadership.

Speaking of leadership...

Trustees:

This is Superintendent Lesley Fisher's last Board meeting as she retires on January 31st, 2025.

While we are happy that Lesley is beginning a new and exciting chapter in her life, we will miss her as a colleague and a friend.

Lesley has been a member of the Executive Council since September 2021.

As a Superintendent of Schools, she has provided exceptional leadership for the Espanola and Manitoulin Island family of schools.

She has also had a positive impact system-wide in many portfolios, including childcare, early years, parent engagement, health and safety, professional learning, and, most recently, in the important role of Math Lead for the Board.

She has worked with the Program team to prioritize professional learning in math, implement strategies, interventions and lighthouse classrooms, and develop scope and sequence charts, as well as diagnostics to improve student learning.

This is all part of the Board's Math Achievement Plan which has had a positive impact on our EQAO results.

A classroom teacher since 1993, Lesley Fisher taught a variety of grades in both the French Immersion and English programs prior to becoming a school administrator. She joined Rainbow District School Board in 2004 after five years as a Vice-Principal with the Algoma District School Board.

Lesley Fisher was Principal of Princess Anne Public School and Jessie Hamilton Public School before becoming the first Principal of the new Walden Public School in Lively. She also served as Principal of two French Immersion schools in New Sudbury, Carl A. Nesbitt Public School and Ernie Checkeris Public School.

Prior to becoming a Superintendent, Lesley Fisher shared her expertise as Principal of Program. She led the implementation of the Renewed Math Strategy and the revitalization of literacy assessment strategies resulting in improved outcomes for students.

In addition to leadership roles supporting curriculum implementation and teaching practices, Lesley Fisher has served as Chair of the Elementary Principals' Association and the Rainbow District Principals' Council.

She is a long-time instructor and coordinator for the Principals' Qualification Program, preparing educators to assume leadership roles.

She has also served on a variety of committees for the Board, including the Joint Health and Safety Committee, Leadership Steering Committee and French as a Second Language Steering Committee.

She has been a valued member of the Board's negotiating team.

In the spring of 2021, Lesley Fisher received the Difference Maker Award from the Ontario Principals' Council. The award recognizes administrators for their work supporting learning and teaching. Recipients are nominated by their peers, which certainly speaks volumes for the respect she has earned as an educator.

Lesley Fisher is a proud graduate of the Lasalle Secondary School French Immersion Program.

She has an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a minor in French from Laurentian University.

She completed Bachelor of Education and Master's degrees at the Faculty of Education at Nipissing University, specializing in supervision and curriculum.

We are grateful for the legacy of excellence that Lesley Fisher leaves this board.

She has been an exemplary teacher, administrator, leader, role model and mentor. Not only will we miss her energy and expertise, we will miss her wonderful sense of humour. You always know when Lesley is near because you can often hear laughter.

We wish Superintendent Fisher the very best in her retirement. Thank you Lesley and congratulations on your outstanding career.

I would like to share some appointments with you:

Effective February 3, 2025, Arynn Frantz will be permanent as Principal of Westmount Public School.

Effective February 3, 2025, Elisa McNeil will be permanent as Principal of Lansdowne Public School.

Effective February 3, 2025, Laurie Ann Leikalns will be permanent as Principal of Barrydowne College.

Effective February 3, 2025 Dan Koziar will be appointed as Superintendent of Schools.

Effective February 3, 2025 Leslie Mantle will be appointed as Superintendent of Schools.

Effective February 3, 2025 Cori Pitre will join the Principal Student Achievement Team.

Effective February 3, 2025 Kate MacKenzie will join the Principal Student Achievement Team.

Effective February 3, 2025, Rachel Booker will be Acting Principal of Queen Elizabeth Public School.

Effective February 3, 2025, Lisa Puddester will be Acting Principal of Markstay Public School.

Effective February 3, 2025, Stephanie Theriault will be Acting Vice-Principal of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School.

Effective February 3, 2025, Jen Ferguson will be Acting Vice-Principal of Northeastern Elementary School.

In closing, I would like to wish all of our students writing exams success as a result of their hard work and preparation and thank all of our staff for their dedication.

5. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Director** – Trustee Kosmerly reminded fellow trustees of the upcoming PES conference taking place later this week with regional meetings scheduled on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the conference. The next OPSBA Board of Directors meeting will be on February 24, 2025 in Toronto and the Advocacy Day that was scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

**Student Trustee** – Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil shared that the Student Senate have booked Collège Boréal for the upcoming conference and are now working on the budget, conference t-shirts and senate presentation. She also thanked the board for approving their attendance at the upcoming OSTA conference.

Student Trustee Nootchtai shared that Turtle Concepts will be the keynote presentation for the upcoming conference on April 24<sup>th</sup> and invited all trustees to attend. Student Senate will also be publishing a “Meet the Senate” post that will be shared on social media. Student Trustee Nootchtai has also been invited to sit on the PPM128 Task Force panel as part of her role as Chair for the Indigenous Student Trustees Council and is looking forward to bringing the voice of indigenous students across Ontario.

6. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Corbiere-Addison attended the January 8<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting and shared that the Preschool Transition meetings will be taking place soon to plan for Junior Kindergarten students with special education needs as they transition to school in September. As well the Board has switched from the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) to the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) for students in Grades 4 and 7, which measures students learned reasoning abilities.

Trustee Kosmerly attended a Think Trades evening at Confederation Secondary School, which is to interest girls in trades. There was a dinner and speakers, and the group then got to

work in the Auto Shop, Wood Shop and see a 3D printer demonstration. She thanked Principal Bertrim and Jody Jakubo for a wonderful event.

Trustee Clement recently visited Espanola High School and sat in on a Visual Arts class where Confederation graduate Rob Cast was demonstrating his replica R2D2 and students were testing out mini Astromechs. He encouraged trustees to visit schools as there is always so much to see.

## 7. **Chairperson's Remarks**

I would like to begin my remarks this evening by acknowledging the school bus collision that occurred on Highway 69 South yesterday morning. Our thoughts are with the bus driver, the students who were on the bus, and their families. At times like this, we come together to support our students, families, and schools, and to support each other. For those who sustained injuries, we extend our wishes for a full recovery. We will continue to offer support through our administrators, mental health team, our teachers, our staff, and the entire school community.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Superintendent Lesley Fisher for her years of service to the Rainbow District School Board. I first met Lesley when she was appointed Principal of Princess Anne Public School in 2004.

Your service to the students and staff of the Rainbow District School Board has been second to none.

I want to personally wish you a very happy retirement.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the many families who visited Rainbow elementary schools for our **Kindergarten Information Nights** last week. If you were unable to attend and have a child starting school, you can still register by contacting your area Rainbow school.

This past weekend, a group of elementary students from Chelmsford Valley District Composite School's first ever robotics team competed at the **FIRST LEGO League Provincial Championships** at Durham College. For their efforts, students were awarded the Rising All-Star Award. They earned their spot at the provincials by competing at the qualifying tournament in North Bay in December. Of the 21 teams at the qualifier, they were selected as one of six to advance to the championships and garnered an Engineering Excellence Award. Huge congratulations to students and coaches. The Rising All-Star Award celebrates a team that the judges notice and expect great things from in the future.

**Secondary School Information Nights** continue in the coming weeks...

Information Nights will take place on Wednesday, February 12th at **Manitoulin Secondary School** at 6:30 pm and Thursday, February 13th at **Espanola High School** at 6 pm. For those Information Nights that have already taken place, there is still time to register.

The next **Parent Involvement Committee Meeting** will take place on Tuesday, January 28th at 7 pm at the Centre for Education. There will be a presentation on safe schools. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

The **Environmental Education Committee** has challenged Rainbow Schools to kick off the new year with a green gathering - which is a shared meal where there is just enough food for everyone with no food waste and minimal garbage. This challenge is part of the Environmental



Committee's ongoing efforts to encourage sustainable practices in schools and communities. Next month, all schools will be challenged to reduce their electricity consumption.

Parents/guardians of students with special needs in Rainbow District School Board are invited to provide **input for the 2025-2026 Special Education Plan**. The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, March 7th. The survey link is currently available on the board website.

A friendly reminder that **secondary exams** will take place from Friday, January 24th to Thursday, January 30th.

There will be no school for students on Friday, January 31st for our fifth **Professional Activity Day** of the 2024-2025 school year. Information about the PA Day is on the board website.

There will also be no school for students and staff on Monday, February 17th for **Family Day**.

And that concludes my remarks for this evening. Thank you.

#### **G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**  
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes November 6, 2024 (official)
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**

#### **H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Parent Involvement Committee January 28, 2025 7:00 pm  
Student Senate Meeting February 3, 2025 5:30 pm  
Strategic Planning Committee February 4, 2025 5:00 pm  
Special Education Advisory Committee February 5, 2025 12:00 pm  
Equity & Inclusion Committee February 13, 2025 3:30 pm  
Board Meeting February 18, 2025 5:00 pm

#### **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 25-R40, B.Clement/D.Dewar  
That we do now adjourn at 6:36 p.m. – **Carried**

## **Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 7 pm  
In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

### **Attendance**

Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Rebecca Coughlin, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School; Ashley Vickman, Parent, Walden Public School; Jessica Montgomery, Parent, Walden Public School; Sandra Bond, Parent, Manitoulin Secondary School; Deanna Hardy, Parent, Charles C. McLean Public School; Kelly Rodriguez, OSSTF representative; Julie Cuss, Parent, R.H. Murray Public School; Kylee MacCormack, Parent, C.R. Judd Public School; Susan Cousineau, Principal, C.R. Judd Public School; Trustee Alex McCauley; Coleen Eberlein, Elementary Principal representative/Principal of Jean Hanson Public School; Rachel Booker, Vice-Principal of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Ashleigh Conley, Principal of Adamsdale Public School; Leslie Mantle, Senior Administrator of School Support Services; Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

Call to Order: 7 pm

### **1. Welcome**

Senior Administrator Leslie Mantle welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Self-Introductions**

Online and in person participants introduced themselves.

### **3. Presentations: Parents Reaching Out Grants - School Success Stories**

#### **Adamsdale Public School**

Principal Ashleigh Conley provided an overview of the Amazing Race Math Night. The school created an awareness of the math curriculum, provided examples on how to practise math at home, and made math fun while increasing parent involvement.

#### **Jean Hanson Public School**

Principal Coleen Eberlein said Jean Hanson Public School held monthly family nights to build relationships between school and parents, and parents with parents. Events

included a games night and a parent social and student dance party. Principal Eberlein also shared a video of the warm welcome her students receive each and every day.

### **C.R. Judd Public School**

School Council Chair Kylee MacCormack highlighted C.R. Judd's Spring into Reading event with Indigenous storytelling, local authors, activity stations, family resources, and an evening book fair.

### **Chelmsford Valley District Composite School**

Vice-Principal Rachel Booker said Chelmsford Valley District Composite School held a Family Math Night for Kindergarten to Grade 8. Families received resources to continue the learning at home.

### **4. Discussion based on presentation**

Parents/guardians were invited to ask questions at the end of each presentation. They appreciated the sharing of ideas for future PRO grant applications.

### **5. Approval of Agenda**

*"That the agenda for the meeting on December 3, 2024 be approved."*

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Rebecca Coughlin, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

### **6. Approval of Minutes**

*"That the minutes of the meeting held on May 7, 2024 be approved."*

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Steffany Bourque, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Carried

*"That the minutes of the AGM held on October 15, 2024 be approved."*

Moved by: Rebecca Coughlin, Lansdowne Public School

Seconded by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Carried

### **Business Arising from the Minutes of May 7, 2024**

The following motion was presented and approved  
under item # 5 Planning for PIC meetings 2024-2025

*“That all parents present vote on the topics proposed for the next school year.”*

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Seconded by: Jennifer Dalton, Adamsdale Public School

Carried

According to the Education Act Reg. 612/00 s.42

*“When a parent involvement committee votes on a matter, only parent members and community representative members are entitled to vote.”*

According to s.34(1):

Parent members shall be appointed or elected to a parent involvement committee under section 33, in accordance with the by-laws of the committee.

According to s.33:

Composition of the parent involvement committee

The number of parent members specified in the by-laws of the committee

As stated in the Terms of Reference, the membership of the Parent Involvement Committee reflects the diversity of the Rainbow District School Board and its community.

Ten Parent/Guardian members are elected from the School Council representatives.

The composition of the membership includes:

Parent Members:

Espanola, 1 representative

Manitoulin, 1 representative

Sudbury, 8 representatives

And 1 School Council Community Member

The following **motion to rescind the above motion** was subsequently presented:

*“According to Section 42 of the Education Act Regulation 612/00, which states that ‘only parent members and community representative members are entitled to vote’ when a parent involvement committee votes on a matter, that the motion ‘That all parents present vote on the topics proposed for the next school year,’ moved and seconded on May 7, 2024, be rescinded.”*

Moved by: Rebecca Coughlin, Lansdowne Public School

Seconded by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary School

Carried

Senior Administrator Leslie Mantle indicated that the PIC Terms of Reference for Rainbow District School Board will be reviewed with the duly elected Chair.

## **7. Slate of Officers and Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary**

The following parents/guardians were acclaimed to the Parent Involvement Committee at the Annual General Meeting held on October 15, 2024 and constitute the voting members for the 2024-2025 school year.

Melissa Gladu	Northeastern Elementary School
Ashley Hurley	Alexander Public School
Ashley Vickman	Walden Public School
Natasha Delaney	Jean Hanson Public School
Stacy Paajanen	Lively District Secondary School
Kylee MacCormack	C.R. Judd Public School
Rebecca Coughlin	Lansdowne Public School
Steffany Bourque	Chelmsford Valley District Composite School
Deanna Hardy	Charles C. McLean Public School (Manitoulin Representative)
	(Espanola Representative)

There was no parent/guardian present from Espanola.  
The position remains vacant.

## **Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary**

Prior to the meeting, Senior Administrator Leslie Mantle invited the PIC members to indicate their interest in serving in a leadership role.

Senior Administrator Leslie Mantle indicated that Melissa Gladu had expressed an interest in continuing to serve as Chair.

After calling for any other nominations for Chair, the following motion was presented:

*“That Melissa Gladu be acclaimed Chair of PIC for 2024-2025.”*

Moved by: Steffany Bourque, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Seconded by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Carried

After calling for nominations for Vice-Chair, the following motion was presented:

*“That Steffany Bourque be acclaimed Vice-Chair of PIC for 2024-2025.”*

Moved by: Kylee MacCormick, C.R. Judd Public School

Seconded by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Carried

After calling for nominations for Secretary, the following motion was presented:

*“That Nicole Charette continues as Secretary of PIC for 2024-2025.”*

Moved by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Rebecca Coughlin, Lansdowne Public School

Carried

**At this point, Melissa Gladu chaired the meeting.**

## **8. Review of School Council PRO Grant applications**

A total of 18 Parents Reaching Out Grant applications were received and reviewed for the 2024-2025 school year. These grants enable schools to work with School Councils on projects that engage families in their children’s learning. The goal is to increase parent engagement. Twelve projects met the PRO Grant criteria aligned to Board priorities. The total budget is \$22,500.

PIC Chair Melissa Gladu reviewed the applications that met the criteria and highlighted the Board priorities being addressed by the proposed projects.

Motion:

*“That PRO Grant Applications for 2024-2025, in the total amount of \$22,500, be approved for the following schools:*

*Larchwood Public School  
Queen Elizabeth II Public School  
Markstay Public School  
R.H. Murray Public School  
Chelmsford Valley District Composite School  
Assiginack Public School  
Little Current Public School  
Jean Hanson Public School  
Central Manitoulin Public School  
C.R. Judd Public School  
S. Geiger Public School  
Walden Public School”*

Moved by: Rebecca Coughlin, Lansdowne Public School

Seconded by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Carried

## **9. Communications Report**

Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor of Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning, delivered the following communications report:

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to Information Nights at all Rainbow secondary schools from now until February. Upcoming Information Nights include:

- Confederation Secondary School on Thursday, December 5th at 6 pm
- Lasalle Secondary School on Thursday, December 5th at 6:30 pm
- Sudbury Secondary School on Wednesday, December 11th at 6 pm

A full list of schools, dates and times is available on the board website. French Immersion students can continue in the French Immersion Program at the secondary level.

This month, Rainbow District School Board invites staff and students to bring litterless lunches to school. Students are being challenged to decrease waste and divert textiles from landfills using the five R's - reduce, reuse, repurpose, repair and recycle.

Secondary students from Rainbow Schools will test their business acumen at an Accounting Case Study Competition on Thursday, December 5, 2024. The event, hosted by Freelandt

Caldwell Reilly LLP, will take place from 9 am to 1:30 pm at the Northbury Hotel and Conference Centre. For the competition, some 36 business-savvy students in Grades 10 to 12 from Rainbow Schools and Sudbury Catholic Schools will compete in teams of four. Students will be given a judging rubric and case study, and will have 90 minutes to develop a solution.

Rainbow District School Board is once again participating in the Edgar Burton Food Drive. Staff and students will work together to collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations to assist area food banks.

This is the time of the year when schools host festive events. Sudbury Secondary School's young musicians and vocalists will spread holiday cheer at Merry Melodies, a magical evening of music on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 7 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium. Admission is by donation, with all proceeds going towards the Joan Mantle Music Trust.

Lasalle Secondary School is proud to present Student Bonanza One Act Extravaganza! featuring three entirely student written and created one-act shows. Presentations will take place on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 12:30 pm for older adults 60 and over as well as Friday, December 13, 2024 and Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 7 pm at the Lasalle Secondary School Black Box Theatre.

Looking ahead to the new year...

Kindergarten Information Nights will take place in mid-January.

English Program: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 5:30 pm

French Immersion: Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 5:30 pm

Schools offering both English and French Immersion will host one Information Night on Thursday, January 16, 2025.

To enrol, children must be four years of age by the end of the calendar year.

Just a reminder that the Board website features resources for parents/guardians, including information from the Ministry of Education. We also post all news on the board website.

On behalf of the board, we wish all parents/guardians and students a safe and happy holiday. We look forward to working with families in the new year.

## **10. School Announcements**

Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School highlighted sporting events, festive events, and fundraising for the Grade 7 and 8 ski trip. She said the community is very supportive of the school and students. She thanked all donors for their generosity.



Rebecca Coughlin of Lansdowne Public School said the school is moving in the right direction in literacy and numeracy as noted in the EQAO results. She highlighted a number of school initiatives including Dare to Care, fundraising, field trips, hot lunches, festive events and the Sudbury Secondary School feast for Grade 7 and 8 students.

Kylee MacCormick of C.R. Judd Public School said the school is looking for more volunteers for its breakfast program. The school held a successful Selfie with Santa event with proceeds going towards the breakfast program. C.R. Judd participated in volleyball championships. She also spoke about a movie night for families, festive events and fundraisers for the food bank.

Coleen Eberlein, Principal of Jean Hanson Public School, said the school has a fully inclusive play structure for students. The smiles are phenomenal as students enjoy the outdoors. A grand opening is planned for the spring.

Sandra Bond of Manitoulin Secondary School said the school is a very busy place with robotics, plays and sports. She said parents are very grateful to the community for its generous contribution to the annual Awards Night in December which honours student success.

Ashley Vickman of Walden Public School said school playground improvements are ongoing. Fundraising has also been successful, including the Fresh from the Farm initiative and the food drive. Jessica Montgomery said project kindness and the giving tree were an incredible experience.

Julie Cuss of R.H. Murray Public School focused on hands-on learning and outdoor activities. She highlighted an annual tradition - the evening concert outdoors which features music, hot chocolate and lights, creating a warm and welcoming setting. The school hosts its book fair at the same time. She also highlighted a partnership with Spirit North.

Melissa Gladu of Northeastern Elementary School thanked the mental health team for supporting the school during the loss of a much loved member of the staff. She talked about the food drive, chili fest, concerts by divisions, school-wide tournaments, and upcoming fundraisers to support the Grade 7 and 8 trip.

Chair Gladu thanked parents for engaging, sharing and building community. She also said to take time to recharge and take care of yourself during the winter break.

Chair Gladu reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and topics.

January 28, 2025:	Safe Schools
February 25, 2025:	Mental Health (Part 1)
April 15, 2025:	Mental Health (Part 2)
May 13, 2025:	Planning for the 2025-2026 school year

She thanked all parents/guardians and staff for joining us.

**Adjournment at 8:56 pm**

*"That the meeting be adjourned."*

Moved by: Kylee MacCormick, C.R. Judd Public School

Seconded by: Steffany Bourque, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Carried

**Next meeting:**

**Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 7 pm**

**In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet**

**Topic: Safe Schools**

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

**Wednesday, January 8, 2025**

**Time: 12:00 PM**

**Meeting held via Google Meet**

**Present:**

**SEAC Members:**

Chantal Cardinal  
Julie Contini  
Lisa Corbiere-Addison  
Krista Cotie  
Doreen Dewar  
Sara Kitlar-Pothier  
Shelly Laronde  
Alex McCauley  
Stephanie Roussy  
Robert Silvestri (Acting Chair)  
Jennifer Way

March of Dimes (Alternate Member)  
Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury  
Trustee  
Compass  
Trustee (Alternate Member)  
Ontario Autism Coalition  
Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre  
Trustee  
Children's Community Network  
NOARC  
March of Dimes

**Staff:**

David Squarzolo  
Danielle Williamson

Vice-Principal of Special Education  
Principal of Special Education Programs and Services

**Regrets:**

Natasha Delaney

Member at Large

**1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

R. Silvestri chaired 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: J. Way

That the agenda for the SEAC meeting of January 8, 2025 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: Trustee McCauley

Seconded by: J. Contini

That the minutes of the SEAC meeting of November 6, 2024 be approved.

Motion carried.

**7.0 Business Arising**

Principal Williamson welcomed S. Laronde and K. Cotie as new members of the SEAC.

**8.0 New Business**

Requests for Leaves of Absence

**Motion 3:**

Moved by: J. Contini

Seconded by: Trustee McCauley

That the SEAC approve the absence of N. Delaney from the January 8, 2025 SEAC meeting.

Motion carried.

**9.0 Superintendent's Report**

Deferred until the next meeting.

**10.0 Special Education Staff Report**

Principal Williamson shared the following updates.

Preschool Transition meetings begin the week of January 27<sup>th</sup>. This will help us to plan for Junior Kindergarten students with special education needs as they transition to school in September of 2025. Over the last two years, we have had between 110-120 meetings each year and we anticipate the same number this year based on the meetings that have already been set.

The Board has switched from the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) to the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) this year. We have completed testing with students in Grades 4 and 7 this fall and the scored results are back for almost all schools. This test uses Canadian norms where the OLSAT did not.

The CCAT measures students learned reasoning abilities. These results will be used as a screening measure for students and to guide school planning.

The CCAT has three test batteries: Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. The Verbal Battery assesses a student's ability to reason using language (e.g., understanding relationships between words). The Quantitative Battery assesses a student's ability to reason using numbers and mathematical concepts (e.g., number patterns). The Nonverbal Battery assesses a student's ability to reason using novel spatial and figural content (i.e., independent of language).

**11.0 Board Report**

Trustee McCauley shared that he and other Board staff served food to students, parents, and school staff at Westmount Avenue PS at their holiday feast in December. The Board approved updates to the Code of Conduct. The Board has appointed two new Superintendents who will begin in February.

Trustee Corbiere-Addison reported that the Board's annual report was issued. The Board is engaged in strategic planning and budget development.

## **12.0 Chairperson's Report**

No additional remarks.

## **13.0 Association Reports**

### Sara Kitlar-Pothier (Ontario Autism Coalition)

The Coalition has received the preliminary results of a provincial parent survey and feedback on student exclusions from school. The survey results show that the RDSB has a low rate of exclusions. The Coalition is looking at barriers to education and the plan is to conduct the survey annually. A copy of the results will be shared with the SEAC when they are available.

### Shelly Laronde (Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre)

Information will be shared via email with the SEAC.

### Jennifer Way (March of Dimes)

The interns in the Project SEARCH programs continue to achieve success. Recruitment of new interns for next year is high on the agenda.

### Robert Silvestri (Northern Ontario Assessment and Resource Centre)

It was announced earlier today that a strike by the province's college faculties has been averted.

## **14.0 Correspondence Addressed to SEAC**

### Limestone DSB SEAC Letter to Linda Lacroix, Registrar and CEO, Ontario College of Teachers

The Limestone DSB SEAC letter advocates for more special education training for students attending Ontario Teacher's Colleges to better prepare them to meet the needs of all students attending school across the province. The letter states there is a lack of consistency of instruction between post-secondary programs. The Rainbow DSB requires that teachers have at least Part 1 of the special education Additional Qualification (AQ) course to work as a special education teacher. After some of discussion, it was determined that more information was needed about post-secondary curriculum and teacher training to determine if a response was warranted.

Principal Williamson stated she would contact Laurentian University about their preparation of teacher candidates and curriculum regarding special education.

R. Silvestri stated he would contact the Limestone DSB to find out what data they used to support their position in their letter.

**15.0 Other Items/ Future Agenda Items/ Information Requests**

- Limestone DSB SEAC Letter follow up
- Assessment tools for students following alternative curriculum
- Project SEARCH feedback

**16.0 Next Meeting Date**

February 5, 2025 from 12:00 until 1:30 PM via Google Meet.

**17.0 Adjournment**

R. Silvestri adjourned the meeting at 12:51 PM.