

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

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

Absent: L. Debassige, A. McCauley, Student Trustee Nootchtai

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

Staff: S. Ackroyd, E. Bacon, M. Bertrand, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette,
L. Davidson, P. Hopkin, S. James, D. Kitching, D. Peristeridis,
C. Richter, S. Theriault, C. Whitson

Other: The CVDCS Robotic Flyers and parents/guardians, H. Ulrichson

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: 25-R41, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of February 18, 2025 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: Absent
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: Absent*

- Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

Lego Robotics Team - Chelmsford Valley District Composite School

Superintendent Mantle welcomed the Chelmsford Valley District Composite School's first ever robotics team, "The Robotics Flyers 68973" and their coaches Cassidy Richter and Lynsey Davidson.

Coach Richter, Coach Davidson and members of the team shared a presentation of their journey to the FIRST Lego League Provincial Championships.

The First Robotics program has many curriculum connections such as math, literacy, science and art. Competitions engage students in the field of STEM and inspire youth to experiment and grow their critical thinking, coding and design skills. Students were tasked to design and build autonomous Lego robots to complete tasks by manipulating objects, activating mechanisms or moving items on a competition table.

At the regional qualifier, The Robotics Flyers took home the Engineering Excellence Award and were selected as one of six teams to advance to the provincial championships. There, they garnered the Rising All-Star award, which celebrates a team that the judges notice and expect great things from in the future. Congratulations Flyers!

Team members invited Trustees to join in an interactive demonstration of the robots in action. Trustees were very impressed by the students professionalism and knowledge and appreciated the experience.

Capital Projects Update

Superintendent of Business, Adam Guilbault, provided an update on the planned capital projects for the current school year and extending through this summer. There are 39 planned and scheduled projects across 34 of our facilities, in addition to the daily maintenance and repair work undertaken by our facilities and maintenance staff throughout the year.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions and expressed their gratitude for keeping our facilities maintained.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 25-R42, J.Hunda/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 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: Absent*

- Carried

2. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

NIL

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee

Motion: 25-R43, J.Hunda/A.Gibson

That trustees (McCauley, Farrow, Hunda, Clement, Gibson and Kosmerly) be named the members of the Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee.

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: Absent*

- Carried

2. 2025-2026 School Year Structure

Motion: 25-R44, B.Clement/J.Kosmerly

That the Board approve the 2025-2026 School Year Structure for elementary and secondary schools.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: technical difficulties (no response)
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: Absent*

- Carried

3. Notice of Absence

Chair Farrow shared that Trustee McCauley, Trustee Debassige and Student Trustee Nootchtai were absent.

4. Director's Remarks

I hope that all students and staff had a wonderful Family Day long weekend.

As you know, Rainbow District School Board experienced a cyber incident on Friday, February 7, 2025.

We have provided regular updates to staff, parents, guardians and members of the media as information becomes available.

We will continue to provide updates when we have more information to share. Updates will be posted on rainbowschools.ca.

With that being said, for the media who are with us this evening, I will be addressing the cyber incident in my remarks momentarily.

I will not be taking individual questions after the meeting. I will share what I can with everyone here tonight, including viewers who may be watching remotely.

As we have more information to share, based on established facts, we will continue to provide written updates in a timely manner.

When the work day began on Friday, February 7, 2025, technical difficulties emerged. Our Information Services staff took immediate measures to protect the Board's network while they investigated.

In an abundance of caution, we advised our staff, students and parents/guardians that we would be turning off Internet access to all schools and the board office by mid-morning. Our first line of defence in the event of a possible cyber incident - containment - was achieved by shutting down the network.

We advised that all schools would remain open, classes and programs would continue, and updates would be posted on rainbowschools.ca.

By mid-afternoon, we established and confirmed publicly that we were dealing with a cyber incident.

We also engaged the services of cyber security experts to assist us. To this day, our network continues to be monitored for unauthorized access 24/7.

Over the weekend of February 8th, staff worked diligently to get school phone lines back up and running so parents could call in absences and schools could call home as part of our Safe Arrival program.

Again, we posted an update on rainbowschools.ca and shared the message with the media so parents/guardians would know what to expect on Monday morning.

Following phones, our Information Services staff developed a plan to safely restore Internet access as soon as possible.

They brought one school online, ran a successful security test, and were able to bring all schools online by mid-afternoon on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. We resumed electronic attendance on Thursday morning. Attendance done on paper was subsequently entered into our student information system.

With staff complete, we focused on Internet access for students. Students have been back online since Friday morning. As you know, some of our students require assistive technology for learning.

We are very grateful for the hard work and determination of Superintendent Adam Guilbault and our Information Services staff who got us all back up and running within a week.

As you can appreciate, our network of schools and offices is complex, our computer network, therefore, is equally as complex. It's not as simple as turning the lights on. Restoring services is thoughtful, methodical, intricate work. Our technical team was solutions oriented and conducted security checks and balances as they moved forward.

I would like to thank our students, parents/guardians, and staff for their patience and understanding. Our staff have proven, once again, that they have the ability to adapt when

required to do so. Our educators had to adjust their lessons while we worked to restore connectivity and we thank them for their adaptability and patience.

Our Superintendents were in schools throughout the week, and we had regular contact with our administrators, and I can tell you the level of engagement, interaction and dialogue was high. That's also a credit to our students who have shown that they too can be flexible and adaptable when required to do so. These are all good skills to have.

All of this work was occurring as we held many conversations with third party cyber security experts to assess the impact. Assessing the impact includes determining whether any sensitive data may have been compromised. This analysis takes time, but it is progressing well and we will certainly share more information with our staff, students, parents/guardians, the media and the community in the coming days.

Organizations becoming victims of cyber incidents have become more prevalent. I am grateful that we have been able to resume operations as quickly as possible.

We will continue to provide updates when we have more information to share. Updates will be shared with staff, students, parents/guardians, the media and posted on rainbowschools.ca.

This is the information that we can share with the media at this time and, with great respect, for this reason, I will not be answering individual media questions after the meeting.

As we have more information to share, based on established facts, we will continue to provide written updates in a timely manner to all of our stakeholders, including the media.

Again, we thank everyone for their ongoing patience and their understanding.

Predicted Enrolment

Elementary school enrolment predictions are due the week before the March break. Secondary school predictions are due the week after the March break. These predictions, as you know, inform our staffing levels for the next school year.

More information regarding enrolment predictions and staffing will come later this spring.

Board Awards

Rainbow District School Board will pay tribute to its dedicated employees and community partners with the presentation of Board Awards on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. The ceremony will begin at 6:30 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium at Sudbury Secondary School.

Awards for Outstanding Contribution to the Co-Curricular Program, Community Partnership Awards, the Go Green Globe Awards, Awards for Excellence, the Barbara Konarek Memorial Award and the William N. Roman Teacher of the Year Award will be presented. Employees with 25 and 35 years of service will also be recognized.

Retirement Dinner

The Board's Retirement Dinner will take place on Tuesday, June 3, 2025. Please mark your calendars. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate our retirees.

I am going to end with a quote I shared last year that came from a sign that greeted visitors to Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School.... The signage at the entrance read:

“If you can be anything, be kind.”

Kindness, as you know, is at the heart of Dare to Care.

We continue to see wonderful examples of empathy and kindness and compassion and caring in all Rainbow Schools.

Thank you.

5. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly provided an update of OPSBA’s Public Education Symposium which was a great event that included an Awards Gala to honour this year’s OPSBA award winners, one of which was Trustee Clement. The next OPSBA event is the Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium on May 1st and 2nd in Toronto, followed by the Annual General Meeting on June 12th in Niagara-On-The-Lake. The Canadian School Board Association Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on July 3rd to 5th and the next Board of Directors meeting is on February 22nd and 23rd.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil shared that Student Senate continue the preparations for the Stand Up Speak Out conference that will be held in April. She also provided an update on the OSTA Education Action Conference that took place in Ottawa on February 13th to 15th that Trustee Nootchtaï and herself attended. She shared it was an incredible experience with wonderful workshops.

6. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions** NIL

7. **Chairperson’s Remarks**

Hello everyone: I hope you all had an enjoyable Family Day yesterday.

On behalf of Trustees, I would like to begin by extending a sincere thank you to Director Bourget, Superintendent Guilbault, and our entire tech team for restoring Internet access to schools and the board office as quickly as possible. Through their collective efforts, staff and students were able to resume use of technology for teaching and learning last week. I know you have all been working very hard to respond to the cyber incident and we appreciate your efforts.

Elementary student Aivah St. Amour of A.B. Ellis Public School will host the **“Hopping for Hunger” Food Drive** alongside the Espanola and Area Family Health Team. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the Family Health Team office now through March 31st. Aivah can also arrange for pick-up. We thank Aivah for leading this initiative, as well as the community for their generosity.

The **Parent Involvement Committee** will meet next Tuesday, February 25th at 7 pm. The topic will be **Mental Health Part I**. Parents/guardians can join in person or online via Google Meet. The link is on the agenda which will be available on the board website this week.

On February 26th, some 150 Rainbow Schools students from Grades 9 to 12 will test their skills in the skilled trades during the board’s 18th annual **Technological Skills Competition**. This

year's elementary competition has doubled in size, with over 350 students set to compete in seven categories. Competitions will take place at Cambrian College and the Carpenter's Union training hall in Azilda. Best of luck to all.

The board's **Elementary Science Fair** will take place on Tuesday, March 4th. Some 55 projects from students in Grades 7 to 12 will be on display in the Lockerby Composite School gym. The public is welcome to view the projects from 12 pm to 1 pm. An awards ceremony will follow. Good luck to all participants.

A reminder that Friday, March 7th is the deadline for parents/guardians of students with exceptionalities to provide input into the **2025-2026 Special Education Plan**. The survey link is available on the board's website.

This month, staff and students were challenged **to use less electricity**. Next month, schools will explore **fisheries, conservation and water awareness**.

A friendly reminder that the **Mid-Winter Break** begins on Friday, March 7th. There will be no school for students from March 7th to and including March 14th.

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

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

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

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

Motion: 25-R45, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly
That we do now adjourn at 6:19 p.m. – **Carried**