

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, March 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Present:	Trustees:	D. Farrow (Chair), B. Clement, L. Corbiere-Addison, L. Debassige (via Google Meet), D. Dewar, A. Gibson (via Google Meet), J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly, A. McCauley, Student Trustee Nootchtai, Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil
	Absent:	NIL
	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, M. Bertrand, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes, D. Kitching, K. MacKenzie, D. Peristeridis, C. Whitson
	Other:	The Lockerby Junior Boys Cross Country Ski Team, Principal R. Lafraniere, Coach K. Abols

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-R46, D.Dewar/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of March 25, 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: Absent
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

1. Lockerby Composite School – OFSAA – Cross Country Skiing

Ryan Lafraniere, Principal of Lockerby Composite School introduced Coach Abols and 4 members of the Junior Boys Cross Country Ski Team that took home the banner at this year's OFSAA meet, which was held in Sudbury at Kivi Park in February.

Team members Gord Farrell (1st), Ewan Duncan (2nd), Cameron Young (3rd) and Eden Abols (16th) had impressive results at the event in the Junior Boys individuals as well as a silver medal in the team relay.

Coach Abols was also the convenor for the event and expressed how proud he was of his team for their dedication and hard work.

Trustees congratulated the members on successful season.

2. Math Achievement Action Plan – Superintendent Koziar

Superintendent Dan Koziar and Principal of Program Kate MacKenzie provided an update on the progress of the Board's Math Achievement Action Plan for 2024-2025, as part of the April 2023 Ministry announcement.

As previously shared, the Ministry of Education identified priority schools based on EQAO data from 2021-2022. In our board, we have 23 priority schools. While all of our schools receive math support, priority schools receive additional direct coach and consultant supports.

Based on what we learned in our first year of planning, we made changes to our Math Achievement Action Plan. Specifically we introduced math demonstration classrooms, where our math coaches are the demonstration teachers. Teachers can attend these classes to observe their teaching in the morning followed by teacher collaboration in the afternoon.

In addition to diagnostics and EQAO results, students, educators and parents/guardians are asked to complete surveys that better assist the central math team in allocating support and resources where they are needed most.

Trustees had the opportunity ask questions.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 25-R47, A.McCauley/L.DeBassige

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 18, 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

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

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Ontario Public School Board Association Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium 2025**

Motion: 25-R48, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar

That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2025 Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium in Toronto on May 1-2, 2025.

(Trustee McCauley, Trustee Hunda and Trustee Farrow)

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. **Notice of Absence** NIL

3. **Director's Remarks**

I hope that all students and staff enjoyed a well deserved March Break.

I appreciate the opportunity to share some information with you.

Elementary predicted enrolment at this time last year was 9361 for the current school year. This year, we are predicting 9363 elementary students for this coming fall which is consistent with what we predicted last year.

Secondary predicted enrolment was 5020 last year and this year, we are predicting 5025 secondary students for this fall.

Elementary and secondary staffing is underway for the 2025-2026 school year. These predictions, as you know, inform our staffing levels.

We remind parents/guardians that there is still time to register. Registering now helps up plan for the fall.

We continue to work on succession planning and the support of new administrative candidates. We will be running an eligibility process for teachers interested in administrative roles this spring/

I would like to thank our Human Resources department and our hiring teams for their tremendous efforts in recruiting employees for teaching positions and support roles.

We will host another Career Fair on Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 9 am to 3 pm at Lockerby Composite School. If you are interested in working for Rainbow District School Board as a teacher or support staff, please visit rainbowschools.ca to learn more about our Career Fair.

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.

Board Office staff will spend a half day shadowing a Principal this spring. We held this activity two years ago and received great feedback. There are many benefits to building connections between board office staff and school administrators. It will be an opportunity for staff here to see first-hand the amazing work being done in our schools in the service of students. And it will give our administrators and staff in schools an opportunity to get to know staff at the Centre for Education. This experience is a powerful day of sharing and learning.

The Board's Retirement Dinner will take place on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at the Caruso Club. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate our retirees.

Preparations continue for the upcoming EQAO and OSSLT assessments. Our staff and students are hard at work preparing for both. As you know, successful completion of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (or course) is a requirement for graduation.

Our winter sport season has concluded, with tremendous successes, and our dedicated coaches and athletes are looking forward to spring sports. We would like to extend our congratulations to all participants and thank our dedicated coaches and supervisors who go above and beyond for our student athletes. Your efforts lay a foundation for future success.

Recent examples of this include but are not limited to:

Congratulations to Sylva Swords, former LoEllen and RL Beattie student who completed a very successful season at the University of Michigan. Sylva was named to the Big 10 conference all Freshman Team and played very well in the NCAA March Madness Tournament.

Congratulations to Lockerby and MacLeod graduate Tracy Fleury formerly Tracy Horgan who is a member of the Canadian team that won the Women's World Curling Championship this weekend. She continues to build on an outstanding athletic career!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Chris Verrilli, the new Athletic Administrator for the Sudbury District Secondary School Athletic Association (SDSSAA). Chris brings a wealth of experience in sports administration and event coordination to the position. He will play a vital role in advancing athletic programs throughout the Greater Sudbury area in partnership with school boards, schools, coaches and athletic associations. His leadership skills and passion for sports will contribute to the continued success and growth of athletic programs in the SDSSAA.

Plans are well underway for graduation ceremonies. We are compiling a list of dates and will reach out to trustees to confirm your attendance. As always, we want to ensure we have a trustee and/or a representative from the senior team at each graduation. This is the most rewarding time of the year as we watch students proudly come forward to accept the diploma they worked so hard to achieve.

I would like to thank our students, staff, parents and guardians for their hard work, patience and resilience. With just over three months left in the school year, I encourage our students to work hard to prepare for success in June.

4. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director - Highlights of the last Board of Directors meeting were shared with Trustees from Trustee Kosmerly. The next Board of Directors meeting will be on May 2nd and 3rd in Toronto, following the Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium. On April 5th all trustees are invited to attend the Northern Regional meeting that will be held virtually. OPSBA's Annual General Meeting will take place June 12th to 14th in Niagara-on-the-Lake, hotel room reservations are now being accepted. As a reminder, in accordance with our board governance bylaws, we will elect our OPSBA Delegate and Alternate at our April Board meeting.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil and Student Trustee Nootchtai shared that Student Senate continue the preparations for the Stand Up Speak Out Conference that will take place on April 24th at Collège Boréal, this year's theme is Intelligence. The food, venue and keynote speaker (Ian Tyson) have all been confirmed with the next steps being the breakout room speakers. They welcome any Trustees who would like to attend this upcoming event.

5. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Kosmerly congratulated all the students that participated in the Technological Skills competition that took place at the end of February, the grade 7-12 Board Science Fair and the Baking and Aesthetics Skills Competition also in February, which she was honoured to be a part of. She also thanked all staff and community partners for all of their work and support to host these events. Trustee Kosmerly recently volunteered at Meals on Wheels and wanted to share that they are always in need of volunteers, a good opportunity for students who require volunteer hours.

Trustee Clement shared that he has enjoyed dropping in to visit Espanola High to see what's been happening. They recently held a wellness day for students which was fun to see them all participating. In the welding shop they will be working on fire pits for the community garden.

6. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Hello everyone:

Registrations are ongoing in Rainbow elementary and secondary schools. To register, please contact your area Rainbow school. If you have already registered, thank you. We look forward to welcoming your child into Rainbow Schools this fall.

The Board held its 18th annual Technological Skills Competition on February 26th and 27th. The event brought together 165 secondary and 324 elementary students to test their skills in various trades. Students were vying for the opportunity to compete at the North East Qualifier on April 5, 2025 in North Bay or the Skills Ontario Competition on May 5 and 6, 2025 in Toronto. On behalf of the Board, I extend sincere congratulations to all participants, and wish them continued success.

The Board's Science Fair took place on March 4th, where a total of 42 projects from students in Grades 7 to 12 were selected to compete at the Sudbury Regional Science Fair at Laurentian University on April 5th and 6th. Students will vie for the opportunity to attend the Canada Wide Science Fair in Fredericton in May. Congratulations to all competitors for letting your instinctive curiosity guide you. Best of luck to all.

This month, schools are exploring Fisheries, Conservation and Water Awareness for Canada Water Week - a national celebration of water that coincided with World Water Day on March 22nd. This initiative is part of the Environmental Education Committee's efforts to encourage sustainable practices and increase awareness about water use.

Rainbow District School Board will present Embrace Diversity: Free to Be Me, a symposium with workshops for students in Grades 7 and 8 on March 28th. The educational conference is part of the ongoing work of the Equity and Inclusive Education Committee which includes community partners.

Walden Public School will host a Family Spring Fair on Saturday, April 12th from 9 am to 3 pm. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children. Families can enjoy local crafts, exciting activities for children, a barbecue, penny table and plant sale. To learn more, visit the school's Facebook page.

A Professional Activity Day will take place on March 31st. There will be no school for students.

The Parent Involvement Committee Meeting will meet on Tuesday, April 15th at 7 pm. The topic will be Mental Health Part 2.

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

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Parent Involvement Committee minutes January 28, 2025 (official)
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**
Graduation Ceremony Dates – Elementary, Secondary & Stepping Up

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Special Education Advisory Committee April 2, 2025 12:00 pm
Student Senate Meeting April 7, 2025 5:30 pm
Strategic Planning Committee April 8, 2025 5:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee April 9, 2025 3:30 pm
Equity and Inclusive Education Committee April 10, 2025 3:30 pm
Parent Involvement Committee April 15, 2025 7:00 pm
Board Meeting April 22, 2025 5:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 25-R49, B.Clement/J.Hunda
That we do now adjourn at 6:35 p.m. – **Carried**