

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, April 22, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: L. Debassige, D. Dewar

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

Staff: N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes, D. Kitching, N. Lachance, L. Lielkalns, N. Mousseau, D. Peristeridis, C. Whitson

Other: Renee Scott (Cambrian College),
Anthoni Somers (BDC graduate) and family

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-R50, L. Corbiere-Addison/A. McCauley

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of April 22, 2025 be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
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

Barrydowne College

Director Bourget, Superintendent McNamara & Principal Lielkalns shared a presentation on the progression of Barrydowne College which opened its doors in the fall of 2011.

In partnership with Cambrian College, the vision to re-engage students who had left school in a new learning environment was created. Since 2011, 1000 students have completed the requirements for graduation from Barrydowne College, proving the success of the school, staff and students.

Principal Lielkalns introduced teacher, Nathalie Lachance, who has been a part of Barrydowne College since the beginning. Natalie shared the changes over the years and how grateful and honoured she feels to work with these young people each and every day.

Barrydowne student, Anthoni Somers, will be graduating in June and shared heartfelt thanks to the staff and students who have helped them achieve their success.

Renee Scott, Director of Marketing, Recruitment and Student Success for Cambrian College, shared how proud they are of the partnership between Rainbow District School Board and Cambrian College. Building bridges between secondary and post-secondary allows students the opportunity to reach their goals. Barrydowne College is more than a school, it is a circle of care for student success.

Chair Farrow thanked Ms. Scott and Cambrian College for the valuable partnership between Rainbow District School Board and Cambrian College, and congratulated Anthoni on graduating the program and wished them all the success in the future.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 25-R51, J.Hunda/B.Clement

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 be approved.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
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

Strategic Planning Committee – Trustee Code of Conduct

Notice of Motion: 25-R52, A.McCauley

That the changes to *Policy No. GOV-05: Code of Conduct: Board Members*, as attached, be approved.

F. NEW BUSINESS

**1. OPSBA (Ontario Public School Board's Association)
- Director and Alternate**

a) OPSBA Director

Chair Farrow called for nominations for the position of OPSBA Director.

Trustee Hunda nominated Trustee Kosmerly.

- i) Motion: 25-R53, B.Clement/L.Corbiere-Addison
That nominations be closed.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

Trustee Kosmerly confirmed her willingness to stand for this position.

- ii) Motion: 25-R54, A.McCauley/J.Hunda
That Trustee Kosmerly be declared acclaimed Rainbow District School Board's voting Director to the Ontario Public School Board's Association.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

b) OPSBA Alternate

Chair Farrow called for nominations for the position of OPSBA Alternate.

Trustee Kosmerly nominated Trustee Corbiere-Addison.

- i) Motion: 25-R55, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly
That nominations be closed.

Poll vote

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

Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

Trustee Corbiere-Addison confirmed her willingness to stand for this position.

ii) Motion: 25-R56, A.McCauley/J.Hunda

That Trustee Corbiere-Addison be declared acclaimed Rainbow District School Board's voting alternate to the Ontario Public School Board's Association.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

2. **Ballots** Not Applicable. No ballots required.

3. **Ontario Public School Board Association Annual General Meeting**

Motion: 25-R57, B.Clement/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2025 Annual General Meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake on June 12-14, 2025.

(Trustee Kosmerly, Trustee Farrow, Trustee Corbiere-Addison, Trustee Clement)

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

4. **Ontario Student Trustee Association – Annual General Meeting**

Motion: 25-R58, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly

That the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Nootchta, Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil and the 2 incoming Student Trustees at the 2025 OSTA-AECO Annual General Meeting May 22-25, 2025 in Toronto.

Poll vote

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

Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
David Farrow: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

5. **Notice of Absence**

Chair Farrow shared that Trustee Debassige and Trustee Dewar were absent.

6. **Director's Remarks**

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.

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

We have not yet received the budget information from the Ministry of Education. Upon receipt in the weeks ahead, we will unpack the information and continue with our planning for the 2025-2026 school year. More information to come in future meetings.

At an upcoming meeting, I will provide details on administrative transfers and appointments for the 2025-2026 school year. Staffing for next year has started. Principals are working to create schedules and staff their schools for the fall.

This is an exciting time of the year as we host many culminating activities. I would like to thank administrators, teachers, support staff and community partners for providing opportunities for students.

7. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly thanked fellow trustees for their support in her as the OPSBA Director. She shared the next Board of Directors Meeting is on May 2nd and 3rd and the AGM is taking place June 12-14 in Niagara-on-the-Lake. At the AGM, elections will be held for Regional Chair and Vice-Chair as well as working group positions. Take your MPP to school week will take place the week of May 20th and nominations are open for the Healthy Democracy Student Leadership award, awarded to one graduating English public school student in each of OPSBA's five regions. The deadline to nominate is June 6th.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil shared that students and senators have been participating in the "ice bucket challenge" to promote mental health. She thanked the board, support workers and teachers for the work in supporting students within our board. She also introduced Sudbury Secondary School student, Izabella Guenette, as the incoming Student Trustee for 2025/2026.

Student Trustee Nootchtai reminded Trustees of the upcoming conference taking place April 24th at College Boreal beginning at 9:30am and all are welcome. She also introduced

Manitoulin Secondary School student, Daynara Cyr, as the incoming Indigenous Student Trustee for 2025/2026.

8. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee McCauley acknowledged Superintendent Mantle for all the great work being done on mental health through the Parent Involvement Committee.

9. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Hello everyone:

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter weekend with loved ones.

I'd like to begin my remarks with a friendly reminder that registrations are ongoing in 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.

Six young scientists from Rainbow Schools who impressed the judges at the Sudbury Regional Science Fair will represent our community at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Fredericton next month. Huge congratulations to all participants for their hard work in developing their projects. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend well wishes as students compete against the best young scientists from across the country.

Schools honoured our planet for Earth Day today. This year's theme "Our Planet, Our Power" aims to foster a widespread awareness and commitment towards harnessing renewable energy to build a healthy, sustainable, equitable and prosperous future for all.

Rainbow District School Board's Student Senate will host a Stand Up Speak Out Conference on Thursday, April 24, 2025. Students from each secondary school will participate in the full-day event at the Au pied du rocher restaurant at Collège Boréal. The goal of the conference is to give students an opportunity to network, build leadership skills and foster effective communications. Breakout sessions with collaborative activities will highlight various types of intelligence.

Rainbow District School Board will host Destination Readiness: Pathways for Students with Special Needs this Thursday, April 24th from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Local 6500 Hospitality, Conference & Education Centre (formerly the United Steelworkers Hall). The free event aims to help students with needs and exceptionalities plan for their future.

Get ready to be inspired during Sudbury Secondary School's "Artbeat". The event will take place this Friday, April 25th from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Artbeat is a celebration of visual and performing arts that offers live music, stunning art displays and captivating performances that showcase creativity in all forms. Admission is complimentary. Guests can contribute a donation at the door.

In keeping with the arts, local performers will join music students and teachers from Rainbow Schools for the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Concert and Silent Auction this Saturday, April 26th. The concert will begin at 7 pm in Sudbury Secondary School's Sheridan Auditorium. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. All proceeds will

support music education in Rainbow Schools. Ralph McIntosh will receive the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award.

Throughout the month of May, Rainbow elementary schools will offer Kindergarten Orientation for students starting school this fall. Families will have an opportunity to connect with Kindergarten teachers, early childhood educators and school personnel. They will also meet other children starting school. A list of dates and times is available on the board website.

Education Week will take place from May 5th to 9th. Schools are planning a variety of activities for students. Each year, Education Week also coincides with Music Monday, which takes place on Monday, May 5th.

Rainbow District School Board will host the 2nd Annual EcoSummit at Laurentian University on Thursday, May 8th. This year's theme is "Water is Life". Eco-leaders from Grades 7 to 12 in Rainbow Schools will attend the green symposium to learn about environmental responsibility and how they can lead green initiatives in their respective school communities. This year's virtual keynote address will feature professional explorer and national bestselling author Adam Shoalts.

Rainbow District School Board will present Embrace Diversity: Free to Be Me, a symposium with workshops for students in Grades 9 to 12 on May 9th at Lockerby Composite School. The educational conference is part of the ongoing work of the Equity and Inclusive Education Committee which includes community partners.

The next Parent Involvement Committee meeting is set for Tuesday, May 13th at 7 pm. Committee members will plan meeting topics for the 2025-2026 school year.

This week marks National Volunteer Week. I extend a heartfelt thank you to parents/guardians and community members who contribute to Rainbow Schools in so many important ways. We are truly grateful.

And a friendly reminder for Trustees to let the Director's Office know which graduations you will be attending. We look forward to joining our school communities in celebrating student success.

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 February 5, 2025 (official)

2. Tenders/Requests for Proposals

Tender 2025-01 – Assiginack Public School

Tender 2025-07 – Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School

Tender 2025-08 – Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School

3. Non-Staff Communications

Board and Strategic Planning Schedule of Meetings 2025-2026 (draft)

April 17, 2025 Letter to Minister Calandra

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Student Senate Meeting May 5, 2025 5:30 pm
Strategic Planning Committee May 6, 2025 5:00 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee May 7 2025 12:00 pm
Parent Involvement Committee May 13, 2025 7:00 pm
First Nations Advisory Committee May 15, 2025 10:00 am
Equity and Inclusive Education Committee May 15, 2025 3:30 pm
Board Meeting May 20, 2025 5:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee May 21, 2025 3:30 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 25-R59, J.Hunda/L.Corbiere-Addison
That we do now adjourn at 6:19 p.m. - **Carried**

OFFICIAL