

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

held in person and electronically via Google Meet
Sudbury Secondary School, Library
154 College Street, Sudbury
on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

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
D. Koziar, L. Mantle, K. Wachnuk – Superintendents

Staff: N. Cecchetto, M. Bertrand, T. Hayes, D. Kitching, D. Pratt, C. Whitson

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-R60, J.Hunda/A.McCauley

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of May 20, 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

Dual Credits

Director Bourget introduced Principal of Student Success, Melanie Bertrand and Dual Credit Coordinator, Dana Pratt, who shared a presentation on the Dual Credit Program which is making a measurable impact on student success.

The Dual Credit program creates a pathway that not only supports academic achievement but also prepares students for life beyond high school. Students can earn a college credit while still completing their high school diploma. The program provides unique courses on a college campus, delivered by college instructors, increasing the engagement of students while showcasing the programs available to them after graduation. There is no cost to the student: all course tuition, textbooks or other learning materials, and transportation are fully covered by the program.

The Dual Credit Coordinator works on-site, directly with students, at Cambrian College. Dana is the liaison between our secondary schools and both of our post-secondary partners, Kenjgewin Teg (for Manitoulin students) and Cambrian College (for Sudbury and Espanola students). In addition to supporting students, Dana works with college professors and college support staff. Dana manages attendance, arranges transportation, provides resources for students, and helps students both academically and socially.

While the retention of students in the program steadily rises, the success rate for course completion has also increased. For the 2024-2025 school year, 165 Rainbow students enrolled in the program and by the end of semester two, Rainbow students will have had the opportunity to earn a total of 279 credits.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 25-R61, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, April 22, 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

i.) Special Education Plan 2025-2026

Motion: 25-R62, A.McCauley/D.Dewar

That the Special Education Plan 2025-2026, as recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), be approved.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour
Linda Debassige: Abstain
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.) **Strategic Planning Committee – Trustee Code of Conduct**

Motion: 25-R63, B.Clement/J.Kosmerly

That the changes to *Policy No. GOV-05: Code of Conduct: Board Members*, as attached, 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: Opposed
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

iii.) **Strategic Planning Committee – Electronic Meetings**

Notice of Motion: 25-R64, A.McCauley

That the changes to *Governance By-Law 14: Electronic Meetings*, as attached, be approved.

iv.) **Audit Committee**

Motion: 25-R65, J.Hunda/L.Debassige

That the 2025-2026 Internal Audit Plan and Multi-Year Internal Audit Plan be approved as recommended by the Audit 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. **Notice of Absence** NIL

2. **Director's Remarks**

Retirement Dinner - June 3

Rainbow District School Board will celebrate retirees on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 for their many years of dedicated service. We have 64 retiring staff members this year. This dinner is hosted by Trustees to thank staff.

Challenge Meet - May 27

Some 550 students from 25 Rainbow Schools have signed up to take part in the Challenge Meet on Tuesday, May 27th. The event will take place from 10 am to 2 pm at the Laurentian University Track. Students will compete in various events including races, high jump, long jump, softball throw, shot put and more. In the event of inclement weather, the Challenge Meet will take place on Thursday, May 29th.

No Budget details received to date

As you know, the provincial budget was recently announced. At this time, we do not have the details regarding our funding for the upcoming school year. We do expect, however, to receive this information very soon.

Free to Be Me

Free to Be Me for Grades 9 to 12 was held on May 9, 2025. During the event, students participated in various workshops, including Creating Safe Spaces in Schools, Storytelling to Create Inclusive Spaces, Watercolour Rainbow Painting Workshop, Growth Mindset; and Creating Youth Storytellers. It was a great opportunity for members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community and allies to come together, network and share.

EcoSummit

"Water is Life" was the theme for the Board's second annual Eco Summit held on May 8, 2025. Eco-leaders from Grades 7 to 12 learned about environmental responsibility, water sustainability, and how they can lead green and water initiatives in their respective school communities. The green symposium was a tremendous success and we look forward to building on this initiative next year.

Environmental Challenge

Next month, staff and students are invited to plant a pollinator garden for the final environmental challenge for the school year. Pollinator gardens support local biodiversity, improve ecosystem health, and contribute to agricultural productivity.

Eco Schools - 100% Certification

We are well on our way to having all of our schools EcoSchools Canada certified once again this year. When we receive confirmation, we will certainly celebrate the hard work of our students, staff and schools as we continue to make environmental education and sustainability a priority.

Let's Talk Drugs on June 9th

Rainbow District School Board is partnering with Drug Free Kids Canada to host a session for parents/guardians on Monday, June 9, 2025. "Let's Talk Drugs: Spotlight on Alcohol, Cannabis and Nicotine" will take place from 5 pm to 7 pm in the Auditorium at Lockerby Composite School. The presentation will be livestreamed to Espanola High School and Manitoulin Secondary School.

Future Leaders - year 2 of 2 - engagement, graduation

Our two-year Future Leaders Program concluded this month for the current cohort. Close to 30 staff members graduated, having completed a series of learning modules and a

culminating project. The level of engagement was high. We congratulate all participants and thank them for their interest in leadership roles.

Future Leaders 2025-2027

Future Leaders is one of many initiatives that we have to build capacity and prepare staff for positions of progressive responsibility. We have extended an invitation to staff to consider applying for our next group of Future Leaders.

Eligibility Process - second round this year

New Leaders - successful program this year, timing sessions on practical content

System wide VP meetings - PD, best practices

We implemented system-wide Vice-Principal meetings this year that have been very well received. This is an opportunity for professional learning. As instructional leaders with our Principals, VPs also share best practices with staff to improve student achievement.

School visits - tremendous efforts

At a recent Strategic Planning meeting, she shared some highlights of school visits. This is a weekly part of the Executive team's work as we get into schools and classrooms to engage with administrators, educators, support staff and students. Through these visits, we have witnessed first-hand the wonderful work being done by our staff and students to achieve our priorities. They are certainly the highlight of our week.

Graduations

Thank you for sending in your availability dates to participate in elementary and secondary graduations. This really is the most important time of the year as we join with our students, staff and families to celebrate student success.

Administrative Appointment and Transfers

This is the time of the year when we also look at administrative appointments and transfers for the coming school year.

3. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly recently attended the Board of Directors meeting, where OPSBA directors voted in favour to hold a by-election at the AGM for the 1st Vice President vacancy and other positions, which will take nominations from the floor. Also at this meeting the OPSBA budget for 2025-2026 was approved, which included a 2.9% general increase as well as an increase to trustee mileage rates. Trustee Kosmerly voted against approval of the budget as so many schools are running a deficit, she felt OPSBA should find more ways to manage within their current budget. She reminded fellow trustees of the online and webinar courses that are available offered through OESC which a mandatory and to be completed by August 31st.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil shared that Student Senate are still taking applications for Senator positions for next year and will review all applications at the next Student Senate meeting. She also shared quote from an article she wrote for the Manitoulin Expositor for the Stand Up Speak Out. Student Trustee Nootchtai gave an update on the successful Stand Up Speak Out conference that featured keynote speaker Ian Tyson which was a highlight of the day.

4. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Dewar attended the Eco-Summit at Fraser Auditorium which was well attended by students across the board. She thanked the Environmental Education committee for hosting an excellent event.

Trustee Corbiere-Addison recently attended an OBSPA Education Program work group meeting where information was shared around the Measles outbreak, mental health resources and the development of culturally relevant resources that are being created for student mental health.

Trustee Clement attended the Stand Up Speak Out conference and the Free To Be Me conference and commended the organizing committees on their excellent work. He also attended the Powwow at Espanola High School where student's sense of pride is truly felt by attendees.

5. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Chair Farrow recently visited some schools with Director Bourget, and highly recommended his fellow Trustees to visit Westmount Public School to see the amazing work going on there.

Following our Board meeting, we will continue a rich tradition of honouring excellence in Rainbow Schools with the Board Awards ceremony.

The Board of Trustees and Executive Council will be seated on the stage in the Sheridan Auditorium for these presentations.

We congratulate all board award recipients and employees with 25 years of service.

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

G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Audit Committee minutes December 2, 2024
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes April 2, 2025 (official)
Parent Involvement Committee minutes February 25, 2025 (official)
Parent Involvement Committee minutes April 15, 2025 (official)

2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**

Tender 2025-05 – Confederation Secondary School
Tender 2025-10 – Copper Cliff Public School

3. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Environmental Education Committee May 21, 2025 3:30 pm
Student Senate Meeting June 2, 2025 5:30 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee June 4, 2025 12:00 pm
Board (Budget) Meeting June 10, 2025 5:00 pm

Board Meeting June 24, 2025 3:30 pm

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 25-R66, J.Kosmerly/L.Corbiere-Addison
That we do now adjourn at 6:11 p.m. – **Carried**

OFFICIAL