

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Held in person and electronically via Google Meet
in the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive
on Tuesday, June 10, 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, J. Hunda (via Google Meet),
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, K. Wachnuk – Superintendents

Staff: N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes, D. Kitching, N. Mousseau,
D. Peristeridis, 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-R67, A.McCauley/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of June 10, 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

Outgoing Student Trustees (Tia Nootchtai and Alexandra Wilson-Zegil) – Director Bourget

Trustees:

This evening, we have an opportunity to show our appreciation for our Student Trustees -
Tia Nootchtai of Lockerby Composite School and Alexandra Wilson-Zegil of Manitoulin
Secondary School.

Our Student Trustees joined us around the board table after serving on the Student Senate in Grade 11. They co-chaired the Student Senate in the current school year, including the Stand Up Speak Out conference held this spring to foster student leadership in our schools.

As Indigenous Student Trustee, Tia Nootchtai also served as Chair of the Indigenous Student Trustees' Council for the Ontario Student Trustee Association.

Tia is graduating from the Science Technology Education program (STEP) at Lockerby Composite school.

She has made an immense contribution to her school - as a member of Student Council, the Athletic Association, and the Planning Committee.

In addition, Tia has been involved in a number of sports, including cross-country running, track and field, badminton and volleyball.

A former Miss Teen Greater Sudbury and Miss Ontario Regional Canada, she has hosted confidence and leadership building workshops for girls across Ontario.

When she assumed the role of Indigenous Student Trustee, Tia emphasized the importance of getting involved. "Being involved in your school community creates relationships among peers and develops life skills," she said. "Education is what empowers the next generation of leaders. Student voice, therefore, is the voice of the future."

Tia will attend the University of Ottawa this fall. She is enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Sciences with a Joint Honours in Feminist, Gender Studies, and Political Science. And she would welcome the opportunity to continue her studies in graduate school in Masters and PhD programs.

Tia has left her options open for possible career paths, including law, public and international relations, federal politics, the UN in New York, real estate possibly.

By her own account, she is excited for her future and can't wait to see where life takes her. She says: "I want to talk to people and make the world a better place." Thank you for your service Tia. You are well on your way.

Alexandra Wilson-Zegil has demonstrated leadership skills throughout her years as a student at Manitoulin Secondary School. In recognition of her efforts, she was recently awarded a TD Scholarship for Community Leadership.

TD Scholarships for Community Leadership recipients receive up to \$70,000 for tuition and living expenses as well as opportunities for paid summer employment, peer networking and mentorship. Congratulations Alexandra. And we certainly join with you in expressing our gratitude to TD for making this scholarship possible.

A resident of Gore Bay, Alexandra Wilson-Zegil has a long list of school accomplishments and community involvement to her credit locally and provincially.

During the current school year, she served as the Northern Schools Regional Representative for the Ontario Student Trustees' Association.

Alexandra has been involved in many extra-curricular activities at Manitoulin Secondary School. She is captain of the robotics team, has taken on leadership roles in the Student Council and SHARE/Go Green, and writes a weekly column about school events in the local newspaper.

Enrolled in the school's Specialist High Skills Major in Arts and Culture, she also authored a children's book, Robofriends and the Mowzone, that promotes robotics and environmental sustainability. Last summer, she attended the prestigious SHAD Canada program. She has been playing hockey for the Gore Bay Bruins since she was four-years-old.

"Involvement in school and school life enriches the student experience and provides a broader platform for learning," she said. "Joining extracurriculars, exploring new concepts in class, and actively developing learning strategies have kept me invested in my education and motivated me to make a difference. Being engaged in teams teaches students invaluable transferable skills like teamwork, commitment and responsibility." Well said.

Alexandra will attend McMaster University in the fall. Enrolled in Wilson College's new Leadership & Civic Studies program, she will complete a double major in Political Science. Wilson College's Leadership & Civic Studies program is Canada's only Combined Honours degree that has students engage with real-life issues. Students learn to think critically and creatively about our collective future.

Alexandra has her sights set on law school after she completes her undergraduate degree. She plans to pursue a career in government and advocacy. Thank you for your service Alexandra.

Trustees.... We wish both of our Student Trustees continued success as they graduate and move forward on their chosen pathways.

Chair Farrow.... I invite you to please come forward along with our Student Trustees. We will take a photo as you present a watch to Indigenous Student Trustee Nootchtaï and Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil in recognition of our appreciation for having served on the Board.

Thank you.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 25-R68, D.Dewar/J.Kosmerly

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

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

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

Motion: 25-R69, B.Clement/A.McCauley

That the changes to *Governance By-Law 14: Electronic Meetings*, as attached, 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: Opposed
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Alex McCauley: In-favour*

- Carried

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **2025-2026 Budget Presentation**

Superintendent of Business Guilbault provided a line-by-line review of the 2025-2026 budget presentation.

This draft budget meets the Ministry of Education compliance standards as a balanced budget.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions and were encouraged to submit any questions to Superintendent Guilbault prior to the June 24, 2025 Board meeting.

2. **Notice of Absence** NIL

3. **Director's Remarks**

I would like to thank Superintendent Guilbault, Manager Cecchetto and the Finance department for their hard work to prepare the DRAFT budget presentation for Trustees this evening. As you know, the budget information was shared by the Ministry in May and there has been a tremendous amount of work done since then to prepare for today.

Administrative Appointments and Transfers:

- Tim Nadjiwon will be appointed as System Principal of Indigenous Education effective August 20, 2025.

- Travis Corbiere will be appointed as System Principal of Indigenous Education effective August 18, 2025.
- Vice-Principal Chelsey Ouimet will be appointed as Acting Principal of C.R. Judd Public School effective August 20, 2025.
- Vice-Principal Katrina Nadeau will be appointed as Acting Principal of Redwood Acres Public School effective August 20, 2025.
- Vice-Principal Vicky Zymantas will be appointed as Acting Principal of Lively District Secondary School effective August 20, 2025.
- Vice-Principal Yves Poirier will be appointed as Acting Principal of Confederation Secondary School effective August 20, 2025.
- Principal Laurie-Ann Lielkalns will be transferred to Restart, O'Connor Park, Continuing Education and PLAR effective August 20, 2025.
- Principal Susan Kett will be transferred to Barrydowne College effective August 20, 2025.
- Vice-Principal Kim Reisiger will be transferred to Vice-Principal of Algonquin Public School effective August 20, 2025.
- Vice-Principal Sandy MacEwan will be transferred to Vice-Principal of Princess Anne Public School effective August 20, 2025.
- Vice-Principal Erin Ferguson will be transferred to Vice-Principal of Sudbury Secondary School effective August 20, 2025.
- Acting Vice-Principal Daniella Cotesta will be transferred to Acting Vice-Principal of Northeastern Elementary School effective September 2, 2025.
- Acting Vice-Principal Chris Claridge will be transferred to Acting Vice-Principal of Lasalle Intermediate effective September 2, 2025.
- Jo-Anne Alexander will be appointed Acting Vice-Principal of Lasalle Elementary School effective September 2, 2025.
- Stefanie Gemmell will be appointed Acting Vice-Principal of RL Beattie Public School effective September 2, 2025.
- Chantal Commito will be appointed Acting Vice-Principal of Valley View Public School effective September 2, 2025.
- Stephanie Moyle will be appointed Acting Vice-Principal of Redwood Acres Public School effective September 2, 2025.
- Dane MacVeigh will be appointed Acting Vice-Principal of Confederation Secondary School effective September 2, 2025.
- Laura Coleman will be appointed Acting Vice-Principal of Lasalle Secondary School effective September 2, 2025.
- Miranda Lessard will be appointed Acting Vice-Principal of LoEllen Park Secondary School effective September 2, 2025.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our incredible team of Principals and Vice-Principals for their leadership, dedication and commitment. We are so fortunate to have such great people in leadership roles.

4. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly shared that the OPSBA AGM is being held this weekend in Niagara-On-The-Lake. It will be a busy 2 days of workshops, speakers and meetings, where elections will be held for various positions.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil introduced the members for next year's Student Senate and shared there were still some schools that have no participation. Students are encouraged to submit applications if interested. Student Senate is hosting their year-end event on Wednesday where current and incoming senators gather to say hello and goodbye. Student Trustee Nootchtai shared it has been her pleasure co-chairing senate this year and looks forward to welcoming the incoming senators. She reiterated the importance for all schools to be represented on senate and encouraged students to apply in school or on Instagram.

5. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Hunda thanked the outgoing student trustees for all the work they did throughout the year, it was a pleasure to see them grow. She also shared it was her favourite time of year with graduations upon us, an exciting time to reflect on the positives and wished all graduates well.

Trustee Kosmerly shared that June is Pride and Indigenous History month and appreciates the opportunities the board gives students, staff and the community to recognize, honour and move forward together towards a world that embraces and celebrates all persons.

Student Trustee Nootchtai shared that she recently attended a couple different summits and had the opportunity to sit on a few discussion panels, which were wonderful opportunities.

Trustee Clement attended Espanola High School's athletics awards where numerous students were recognized for their achievements. He also attended the Espanola co-op year-end luncheon and thanked retiring teacher Dave Gallant.

6. **Chairperson's Remarks**

In a first for Rainbow District School Board, a Grade 11 student from Lockerby Composite School has **captured Gold at the Skills Canada National Competition**. Esohe Aibangbee placed first in the Workplace Health and Safety category. The competition was held in Regina, Saskatchewan from May 27 to 31, 2025. With an impressive score of 87.01 per cent, Esohe Aibangbee demonstrated an extraordinary level of knowledge, a keen eye for identifying hazards, and an exceptional ability to communicate what this means to a young worker starting out in a new job. Congratulations Esohe!

Emily Anstice, a Grade 3 student from Assiginack Public School, captured third place in the Primary category at the **Spelling Bee of Canada National Championships** held in Toronto last month. She won the honour to compete nationally by winning the Regional Spelling Bee Competition in Sudbury. Emily prepared for the competition by reading over word lists, playing mini spelling bees with her family, and being quizzed by her teachers. Congratulations, Emily!

Following a record-breaking season, **Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School** won the overall Championship at **OFSSA Track and Field** this past weekend - accumulating more total points than any other school in Ontario. At the event, Lo-Ellen student athletes reached the podium 10 times - garnering an impressive three gold, one silver and six bronze medals as well as a number of notable placements. This is a truly historic accomplishment. Sincere congratulations to Coach Colin Ward and the track and field athletes from Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School.

A reminder to parents and guardians... if you have a child starting school this fall, you are invited to register them for **Kindergarten Camp**. Rainbow elementary schools will offer the half-day program from Monday, August 25th to Thursday, August 28th. The deadline to register is June 23rd. The link to register is available on the board website.

This summer, the board will offer a variety of programs for **Summer School** at the secondary level including credit recovery, upgrading, new credits, co-operative education and eLearning. The last day to register for Summer School is Wednesday, July 2nd. Also, for current and incoming Barrydowne College students, a **Digital Photography Dual Credit** course will be available this summer. More information is available on the board website.

This month, Rainbow Schools are challenged to **create a pollinator garden** to maintain biodiversity, support plant reproduction and provide many other ecological services. Staff and students can also make houses for bees and delegate a "No Mow Zone" in the schoolyard for habitat.

Sudbury Secondary School will mark a major milestone this fall with a weekend celebration in honour of **40 years of arts education**. From September 19th to 21st, the event will bring together alumni, staff, and supporters to commemorate the school's long-standing impact on the region's arts and culture landscape. Three events will be held over the course of the weekend including a music night at La Fromagerie Elgin, an Art-stravaganza at the school and a brunch at Idylwyld Golf & Country Club. Tickets can be purchased online through Eventbrite.

It's a magical time of the year for students, whose achievements are celebrated at graduation ceremonies across the board. Graduations are taking place over the coming weeks. Trustees, I hope you enjoy this opportunity to celebrate student success and achievement.

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

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
First Nations Advisory Committee minutes September 19, 2024
First Nations Advisory Committee minutes November 21, 2024
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
Tender 2025-09 - Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School
3. **Non-Staff Communications**
OPSBA 2024-25 Central Bargaining Invoice dated September 1, 2024

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Board Meeting June 24, 2025 5:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 25-R70, J.Kosmerly/B.Clement
That we do now adjourn at 6:05 p.m. – **Carried**