

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL 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 24, 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,
Absent: Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil
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, D. Peristeridis,
C. Whitson
Other: E. Aibangbee (student), J. Burns, R. Lafraniere, K. MacKenzie,
D. Pratt

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-R71, L. Corbiere-Addison/J. Hunda

That the agenda for the Special Board meeting of June 24, 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

i. Skills Canada National Competition – Gold Medal

Principal Ryan Lafraniere introduced Lockerby Composite School's Esohe Aibangbee, a grade 11 student that captured Gold at the Skills Canada National Competition held in Regina, Saskatchewan in May, a first for Rainbow District School Board.

Esohe won gold at the local, provincial and national level in the Workplace Health and Safety category. In the days leading up to the nationals and on the way to Regina, Esohe spent time practising hazard identification and prevention. She studied the Green Book and relevant resources to better understand the Occupational Health & Safety Act and Regulations.

Trustees congratulated Esohe on her exceptional achievement.

ii. **Math Achievement Action Plan** – Superintendent Koziar

Superintendent Dan Koziar introduced Kate MacKenzie, Principal of Program, who provided a progress report on the Math Achievement Action Plan.

The Math Achievement Action Plan is a Ministry of Education initiative that addresses three priority areas for math instruction and outlines the board's strategic approach to advancing student achievement in mathematics.

Principal MacKenzie shared an overview of the Ministry directives, highlighted key areas of growth across the three provincial priorities and provided updates on board initiatives such as the Math website, monthly elementary program newsletter and demonstration classrooms.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions and were appreciative for all the work and progress made to date.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

Motion: 25-R72, A.McCauley/B.Clement

That the performance appraisal for the Director of Education, 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 Unanimously

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Previous Minutes**

Motion: 25-R73, J.Hunda/D.Dewar

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

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

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. **2025-2026 Budget**

Motion: 25-R74, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the Rainbow District School Board 2025-2026 budget 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 Unanimously

2. **Short Term Borrowing Bylaw**

Motion: 25-R75, J.Hunda/A.McCauley

That the short term borrowing bylaw 2025-01 as attached be deemed to have been read three times and 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 Unanimously

3. **2025-2026 In-Year Deficit Elimination Plan**

Motion: 25-R76, L.Corbiere-Addison/B.Clement

That the 2025-2026 In-year deficit elimination plan 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*

- Carried

4. **Notice of Absence**

Chair Farrow shared that Student Trustee Wilson-Zegil was absent.

5. **Director's Remarks**

Budget:

I would like to thank Trustees for approving the 2025-2026 budget. You have provided the financial framework for staff to continue to implement our Strategic Directions for students.

I would like to thank Superintendent Guilbault, Manager Cecchetto and the Finance department for their hard work to prepare the budget under very tight timelines.

In our budget we continue to prioritize programs and opportunities for students. We will be ready for another exciting school year in September.

Our Facilities staff and contractors will be working on many school renewal projects throughout the summer as we maintain quality facilities for quality programs.

Appreciation:

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for your tremendous support of our students and staff. I am very grateful for your leadership. Your kindness and care for our students and staff is always reflected in the work that we do. We have much to be proud of. To watch young people cross the stage to accept their Ontario Secondary School Diploma gives meaning to our work. You have heard me say a few times this year that confidence is the greatest gift we can give young people. Confidence was certainly evident in the graduation celebrations that we attended over the past month. Chair Farrow, Trustees, I wish you a restful summer knowing that you have made a difference in the lives of children and young adults in the communities that we serve.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our incredible team of Principals and Vice-Principals for their leadership, dedication and commitment. They are dedicated and talented leaders and we are thankful for the work they do each and every day in support of students and staff.

I want to thank our wonderful teachers and educational support staff for providing caring and supportive educational learning environments for our students and guiding and inspiring them to be the best they can be.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to our Executive Council, our System Principals, our Managers, Nicole Charette, Jen Battah Chartrand and Cindy Whitson. This amazing team works tirelessly to support our schools and they excel in what they do. They are true professionals and I appreciate the opportunity to work with them.

It is a privilege for all of us to serve the families of Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island as, together, we prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

And last, but by no means least, I would like to thank parents/guardians for their support. When we work together anything is possible.

As you set out to enjoy your well-earned summer, remember that the caring and kindness you share each day - however big or small - has a positive impact in the lives of others. Positivity, energy, care and compassion in our schools are the primary ingredients to our continued success and our collective well-being. Thank you all for being difference makers and confidence builders.

To our students and families, have a wonderful end to the school year and an enjoyable, safe and restful summer.

Another amazing school year is just around the corner and we can't wait to see you back in the fall.

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly recently attended the OPSBA AGM and highlights from the meeting were shared with fellow trustees, but wanted to stress the importance of reading and understanding the changes that will be coming this fall when the legislature resumes and Bill 33 Supporting Children and Students Act is passed into law. The bill includes significant amendments to the education act as they pertain to the naming and renaming of schools, school board relationships with local police services and most notably expanded ministry authority over school boards. OPSBA is preparing a response on behalf of all publicly funded school boards. Additionally from the AGM, she attended a presentation on board self-assessments, and shared that OESC is hoping to have a common assessment tool available in the fall. She also reminded trustees to complete the OESC professional learning modules by August 31st and that the changes to trustee attendance for Board and Strategic Planning meetings takes effect September 1, 2025.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Nootchtai expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to co-chair Student Senate and acknowledged senate members and their hard work all year. She was thankful for the opportunity with OSTA to chair the Indigenous Student Trustees Council and be a voice for students across the province. She expressed her appreciation to the board of trustees and in particular Trustee Hunda for her mentorship as well as Superintendent McNamara for being a role model to look up to.

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee McCauley shared his appreciation to be part of the team of trustees and thanked them for all they do. He wished everyone the best for a safe and happy summer.

Trustee Hunda expressed her gratitude to her fellow trustees and staff for all they do. She also thanked Student Trustee Nootchtai and Student Wilson-Zegil for their commitment to the Student Senate and wished them all the best in their futures. She wished everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Good afternoon everyone,

As the 2024-2025 school year comes to a close, I am filled with gratitude and appreciation.

It's a very magical time in schools. Students have been completing culminating assignments and exams, and celebrating their accomplishments with stepping up ceremonies, graduations, proms and highly anticipated year-end trips.

These opportunities are made possible by the commitment of our school administrators, educators and support staff who make the school experience meaningful and memorable. Thank you for helping students reach their full potential both inside and outside of the classroom.

I would like to recognize our students for their hard work throughout the school year, and their parents/guardians - our dedicated partners in education - for their encouragement and support.

I would also like to take a moment to express gratitude to my colleagues around this table. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the students in our collective care. This is not only the most wonderful time of the year; it is also the most rewarding time of the year.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I extend sincere congratulations to the Class of 2025. Whatever path you choose - whether it's work, independent living, apprenticeship, college or university - we wish you the very best as you embark on the next chapter in your journey. Congratulations!

As the school year draws to a close, we have had many successes to celebrate, including national recognition in skills, science and spelling, and provincial recognition in track and field.

This evening, we celebrate another milestone - 100 per cent certification in EcoSchools Canada, which is a tremendous accomplishment for our schools and school communities.

Rainbow District School Board is one of only three school boards in Canada to have achieved 100 per cent certification in the 2024-2025 school year.

According to EcoSchools Canada: "This exceptional milestone reflects your continued commitment to sustainability and highlights your leadership in environmental education – both within Canada and across the global EcoSchools network."

Rainbow Schools earned 25 Platinum, 9 Gold, 3 Silver and 3 Bronze certifications. The number of schools that qualified for the highest level of certification doubled last year. Rainbow District School Board added another school to the Platinum designation in the current school year.

Rainbow District School Board is leading the way in environmental learning and climate action. Congratulations to students, staff, parents/guardians, community partners and our Environmental Education Committee.

I would like to highlight a few items of note:

The Lung Health Foundation will present the Halt the Haze webinar tomorrow - Wednesday, June 25th at 7:30 pm. This free session will give parents/guardians practical tools and supportive strategies to help teens quit vaping. It's a very timely topic and everyone is welcome to register. The link is available on the board website.

Rainbow District School Board will also offer Summer School credit recovery and upgrading courses at the secondary level. To register, students must have taken the course during the current academic school year. Classes begin next week. There is still time to register. More information is available on the board website.

Rainbow District School Board will offer opportunities for students to earn new credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma this summer, including Summer School Co-operative Education, Barrydowne College Dual Credit and new credit as well as e-Learning for students in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer.
Enjoy a well-deserved break.

Thank you.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
Tender 2025-03 - Monetville Public School
3. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Board Meeting August 26, 2025 5:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 25-R77, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda
That we do now adjourn at 6:31p.m. – **Carried**