

## **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, August 26, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

---

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

Absent: 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, R. Jones, D. Kitching,  
D. Peristeridis, C. Whitson

Other: H. Ulrichson, family of Student Trustee Guenette

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-R78, J.Hunda/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of August 26, 2025 be approved.

Poll vote

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

**- Carried**

#### **STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Director Bourget administered the Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance to Student Trustees Daynara Cyr and Izabella Guenette and welcomed them to the board table.

Motion: 25-R79, J.Hunda/A.Gibson

That Daynara Cyr (Manitoulin Secondary School) and Izabella Guenette (Lasalle Secondary School) be appointed Student Trustees for the 2025-2026 school year.

Poll vote

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

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

**- Carried unanimously**

**B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL**

**C. PRESENTATIONS NIL**

**D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD**

**1. Property Matter**

Motion: 25-R80, A.Gibson/J.Hunda

That motion #25-W10 RE: Property matter, be approved.

Poll vote

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

**- Carried**

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

Motion: 25-R81, J.Kosmerly/A.McCauley

That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 be approved.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour  
Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour  
Linda Debassige: In-favour  
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 NIL**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2025-2026 Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians**

Director Bourget provided page by page details about the publication which is available on the board's website.

Director Bourget thanked Nicole Charette and Jennifer Battah-Chartrand for their outstanding efforts to produce the guide which is an excellent resource for students, parents/guardians and staff.

Trustees expressed appreciation for the outstanding and informative publication.

2. **2025-2026 Executive Council Portfolios and Family of Schools**

Director Bourget reviewed the 2025-2026 Executive Council's distribution of schools and portfolios, which was shared with Trustees.

3. **Current Expenditures Borrowing Resolution**

Motion: 25-W82, A.Gibson/A.McCauley

That the Current Expenditures Borrowing Resolution as attached be deemed to have been read three times and approved.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: In-favour*  
*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. **OPSBA Fees**

Motion: 25-W83, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda

That the 2025-2026 membership fees in the Ontario Pubic Schools Boards' Association be approved.

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour*  
*Lisa Corbiere-Addison: In-favour*  
*Linda Debassige: Opposed*  
*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. **OPSBA Northern Regional Meeting**

Motion: 25-W84, L.Corbiere-Addison/J.Hunda

That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2025 OPSBA Northern Regional Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie on October 17-18, 2025.

(Trustee Clement, Trustee Hunda, Trustee Kosmerly)

Poll vote

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

*David Farrow: In-favour*  
*Anita Gibson: In-favour*  
*Judy Hunda: In-favour*  
*Judy Kosmerly: In-favour*  
*Alex McCauley: In-favour*

**- Carried**

6. **OSTA-AECO Fees**

Motion: 25-R85, J.Hunda/L.Corbriere-Addison

That the 2025-2026 Ontario Student Trustees' Association membership fees be approved.

Poll vote

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

**- Carried**

7. **Notice of Absence**

Chair Farrow shared that Trustee Dewar sends her regrets and Trustee Debassige requested to join virtually, with her request meeting the criteria in by-law 14.

8. **Director's Remarks**

Chair Farrow, Trustees:

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer.

I look forward to working with you, Superintendents, administrators, staff, students, families, First Nations Chiefs and communities and all of our partners as we continue our journey together.

To begin, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Daynara Cyr and Izabella Guenette and tell you a bit more about our Student Trustees.

From Zhiibaahaasing First Nation, Daynara Cyr is the former Indigenous Student Senator for Sudbury Secondary School and this year's Indigenous Student Senator for Manitoulin Secondary School. She is passionate about Indigenous Advocacy, and sharing her language and culture.

Daynara attended Grade 9 and 10 at Sudbury Secondary School where she was enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major in Visual Arts and Dance. She worked with a team of peers to establish the Sudbury Secondary School Indigenous Advocacy Committee. Daynara has facilitated ribbon skirt making classes, presented hand-drumming practices, shared cultural teachings, and offered fancy shawl demonstrations at school-wide and public events.

As she enters Grade 11, she will continue to be a student leader at Manitoulin Secondary School where she plans to get involved in school sports. Daynara is taking the level 3 Ojibwe course and would like to teach Anishinaabemowin in her community to revitalize the language. She also wants to continue making regalia, ribbon skirts, shirts, vests, and building her brand as

an Anishinaabe seamstress, aspiring to have her creations featured on runways. Daynara contributes to Youth Councils on Manitoulin Island.

“Through school involvement, students learn important life skills like collaboration, communication and leadership,” she says. “Being involved has enabled me to meet new people and gain an appreciation for the diversity in our schools.” Daynara says student voice matters because students are the future. “I am so excited to be representing Indigenous students across the Rainbow District and be a role model and a voice for us all,” she says.

A Grade 12 student at Lasalle Secondary School, Izabella Guenette is actively involved in her school community, including drama productions, the Concert Band, Jazz Band, Senior Winds, and many sports from flag football and basketball to volleyball and soccer.

Izabella is President of Student Council and serves as score keeper and captain of the Reach for the Top Team. She has also supported Lasalle’s Sport Health Academics and Leadership Program (SHAL), helping out with tournaments and special events. Her involvement in school life will continue as she co-chairs the Student Senate and serves as Student Trustee.

“Involvement in school and school life is extremely important as you get to experience new things and meet new people, which can lead to lifelong relationships,” says Izabella. “You also get to develop your strengths, such as leadership, confidence, responsibility and time management.”

She adds: “Students experience school every day. Their voice matters. When students have the opportunity to be heard, they are recognized as active participants in their education. They feel respected and know they matter.”

Izabella says every student experiences the school day differently, through extracurriculars, academics and social aspects. “The student perspective offers valuable insight,” she says. “The student voice makes education more meaningful.”

We know Student Trustee Izabella Guenette and Student Trustee Daynara Cyr will be strong voices for their peers.

Start Up:

Our amazing administrative teams have been preparing for the launch of the school year. We look forward to seeing everyone next week and are excited to begin.

Our caring and talented staff will take part in professional learning on Tuesday, September 2nd in preparation for school start up.

In preparation, on Monday, August 25 we hosted New Employee Orientation Day at Sudbury Secondary School. Our new staff spent the day learning together in preparation for success.

Today, a full day session of the New Teacher Induction Program took place. Teachers were provided with a full day of professional development to support a great start to their teaching career!

Tomorrow, we host our education symposium at Macleod Public school. Well over 100 teachers will be participating and benefitting from a full day of presentations and sharing of best practices in teaching and learning.

I would like to thank our System Principals, Consultants, Coordinators, Managers and Superintendents for their leadership and hard work over the summer to prepare and conduct these highly beneficial opportunities for growth for our staff.

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 3, 2025.

We look forward to seeing our students and welcoming all of our new and returning families to Rainbow Schools.

We extend a special welcome to our youngest learners - the children starting school for the very first time.

As always, our schools will be safe and supportive places where students have fun while they learn.

We will continue to prioritize reconnecting, mental health and well-being as our teachers engage with and support students to determine learning needs.

We have a strong team of administrators, educators and support staff who will nurture student success.

As we know, public education prepares students to be active, confident, capable and contributing members of society.

Rainbow Schools play a critical role in the academic, social, emotional and physical development of children and young adults.

When students feel safe, supported, accepted, respected and connected in school and in their school community - when they have a sense of belonging - they are well on their way towards achieving their full potential.

On behalf of all of our staff, I would like to welcome our students and families to the 2025-2026 school year.

We also would like to welcome our newest school administrators and administrators who are new to a school:

- Tim Nadjiwon will serve as System Principal of Indigenous Education.
- Travis Corbiere will serve as System Principal of Indigenous Education.
- Chelsey Ouimet will serve as Acting Principal of C.R. Judd Public School.
- Katrina Nadeau will serve as Acting Principal of Redwood Acres Public School.
- Vicky Zymantas will serve as Acting Principal of Lively District Secondary School.
- Yves Poirier will serve as Acting Principal of Confederation Secondary School.
- Laurie-Ann Lielkalns will serve as Principal of Restart, O'Connor Park, Continuing Education and PLAR.
- Susan Kett will serve as Principal of Barrydowne College.
- Kim Reisiger will serve as Vice-Principal of Algonquin Public School.
- Sandy MacEwan will serve as Vice-Principal of Princess Anne Public School.
- Erin Ferguson will serve as Vice-Principal of Sudbury Secondary School.
- Daniella Cotesta will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Northeastern Elementary School.
- Chris Claridge will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Lasalle Intermediate.
- Jo-Anne Alexander will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Lasalle Elementary School.
- Stefanie Gemmell will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of R.L. Beattie Public School.

- Chantal Commito will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Valley View Public School.
- Stephanie Moyle will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Redwood Acres Public School.
- Dane MacVeigh will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Confederation Secondary School.
- Laura Coleman will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Lasalle Secondary School.
- Miranda Lessard will serve as Acting Vice-Principal of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School.

Our administrators and our staff are excited to work with students and families in their respective schools and school communities.

We look forward to seeing everyone on September 3rd.

I will close my comments with appreciation to our Board of Trustees. Your incredible support and commitment to our students and staff makes a difference each day. Thank you for all you do. We appreciate all the work you do to support education in Rainbow Schools!! Together, we all feel excitement for the start of another school year filled with positive energy, promise, pride and possibility as together, we prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

9. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Director** – Trustee Kosmerly shared the next OPSBA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for September 26-27, 2025 in Toronto and reminded Trustees that the deadline for completion of mandatory Trustee training is August 31<sup>st</sup>. She noted that while Trustees are facing a number of changes, the focus should continue to be student success and governance oversight.

**Student Trustee** – Student Trustee Cyr thanked the group for the warm welcome and is looking forward to working with Trustees and representing the students. She also shared that she will be the Vice-Chair on the Indigenous Student Trustee Council at OSTA. Student Trustee Guenette also thanked fellow trustees for the genuine welcome and is looking forward to this opportunity and to co-chair Student Senate.

10. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** NIL

11. **Chairperson's Remarks**

As we embark on another wonderful school year, I would like to begin by extending a warm welcome to all new and returning students, staff and families across Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island.

We are thrilled to start a new school year with a continued focus on our priorities. In Rainbow Schools, we instill in students the skills they need to lead independent and productive lives and become responsible and respectful citizens who care about each other and the world in which they live.

As always, parents and guardians are encouraged to take an active interest in their child's education.

Ensuring your child attends school regularly is a good place to start. When parents and guardians value education, students value education. There is a strong correlation between attendance and achievement.

When the home, the school and the community work together, we maximize learning opportunities for students and help them achieve their full potential.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Student Trustees **Daynara Cyr** and **Izabella Guenette**.

We look forward to having our Student Trustees represent the student voice and contribute to our collective focus on student achievement and well-being.

At the board table, they will also have an opportunity to experience the decision-making process and learn more about public education locally and provincially.

Our youngest learners kicked off the school year yesterday with **Kindergarten Camp**. The four-day program is running for three hours per day at a number of Rainbow elementary schools. Welcome to the class of 2039!

For those who have not already done so, there is still time to register. Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their area Rainbow school as soon as possible given that classes begin next week.

I also extend a special welcome back to our teachers and support staff who make Rainbow Schools exceptional places for teaching and learning. We appreciate all that they do on behalf of students.

A friendly reminder that **Labour Day** is this Monday, September 1st. The first **Professional Activity Day** of the 2025-2026 school year will be on Tuesday, September 2nd. Information about PA Days is posted on the board website.

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 3rd and according to official predicted enrolment for the start of the 2025-2026 school year, we will be welcoming 14,388 students into our schools.

Staff and students in Rainbow Schools will wear pink on Thursday, September 11th, as Rainbow District School Board marks its 18th annual "**Stand Up Against Bullying Day**". We invite everyone in the community to join us and wear pink on September 11th.

We wish everyone a wonderful school year. We can't wait to get started.

## **G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**  
Tender 2025-12 Lively District Secondary School  
RFP – Mechanical and Electrical Consulting Services  
RFP – Architectural Consulting Services
3. **Non-Staff Communications**  
Board & Strategic Planning Schedule of Meetings 2025-2026

## **H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Student Senate Meeting September 8, 2025 5:30 pm  
Special Education Advisory Committee September 10, 2025 12:00 am  
Environmental Education Committee Meeting September 17, 2025 3:30 pm

First Nation Advisory Committee September 18, 2025 10:00 am  
Equity & Inclusion Committee September 18, 2025 3:30 pm  
Audit Committee Meeting September 22, 2025 3:00 pm (tentative)  
Board Meeting September 23, 2025 5:00 pm  
Parent Involvement Committee AGM October 15, 2024 6:00 pm

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 25-R86. J.Kosmerly/B.Clement

That we do now adjourn at 5:57 p.m. – **Carried**

OFFICIAL