

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, September 23, 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 (via Google Meet), J. Kosmerly (via Google Meet), 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: G. Bastien, M. Bertrand, R. Best, B. Carr, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, S. Clarke, H. Downey, R. Goodfellow, T. Hayes, L. Henderson, R. Jones, D. Kitching, K. Mackenzie, B. Managhan, N. Mousseau, T. Nadjiwon, D. Peristeridis, C. Pitre, C. Whitson, D. Williamson, V. Zymantas

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-R87, A.McCauley/J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of September 23, 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

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

Summer Programs for Students

A detailed presentation was provided to trustees highlighting the nine components of summer learning programs that were offered to students during July and August. There were three Special Education Programs, Mental Health Supports, Kindergarten Camp, the Elementary Grade 1 to 8 Program, the Indigenous Summer Learning Program, and the Secondary Program.

Presenters included:

- Danielle Williamson, Principal of Special Education Programs and Services
- Brien Managhan, Manager of Applied Behaviour Analysis Services
- Robyn Best, Principal of Kindergarten Camp
- Sarah Clarke, Mental Health Lead
- Lindsay Henderson, Principal of Elementary Summer Learning Program
- Heather Downey, Principal of the Indigenous Summer Learning Program @ SSS
- Rachel Goodfellow, Principal of the Indigenous Summer Learning Program @ MSS
- Vicki Zymantas, Principal of the Secondary Summer Learning Program

Presenters shared student participation data along with success stories of student gains over the course of the summer as well as student and parent feedback from the various programs. They also acknowledged the dedicated staff who made these summer programs such a success for students, while being enjoyable and educational.

Trustees expressed sincere gratitude for the informative presentation and thanked all the staff for their work and commitment.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 25-R88, L.Corbriere-Addison/B.Clement

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 be approved, as amended, with the amendment being item F.7. Notice of Absence to read “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.”

Poll vote

*Bob Clement: In-favour
Lisa Corbriere-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. Levying Education Taxes Bylaw

Motion: 25-R89, A.Gibson/A.McCauley

That the Levying Education Taxes for 2025 bylaw 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

2. **Various Capital Projects Update**

Adam Guilbault, Superintendent of Business, provided an update on the planned capital projects that were presented earlier in the year. Towards the end of the school year and throughout the summer, a significant number of projects were completed. He thanked the facilities staff for their tremendous efforts in coordinating the projects and ensuring all critical work was completed before students returned in September.

Superintendent Guilbault thanked Sandi Ackroyd, Manager of Capital Projects, for 25 years of dedicated service to Rainbow District School Board and wished her well in her retirement.

Trustees were thankful for the updates and expressed their gratitude to all Facilities staff for the hard work put in over the summer.

3. **Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) Fall General Meeting**

Motion: 25-R90, A.Gibson/L.Debassige

That the board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Cyr and Student Trustee Guenette at the OSTA Fall General Meeting on November 13 to 16, 2025 in Toronto.

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. **Notice of Absence**

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

5. **Director's Remarks**

I would like to begin by thanking our outstanding administrators, teachers and educational support staff for their purposeful work in getting our school year off to a great start.

As evidenced by our presentation this evening, we had a very successful and full summer of programming to improve learning outcomes for our students. I would like to thank all staff involved in our summer programs for their commitment and commend our students and families for making the most of this opportunity. It was a wonderful summer of learning, friendships and fun.

I would like to share our appreciation for our students on a successful return to school and thank our parents and guardians for their ongoing support. We all know that parental involvement improves student achievement. We look forward to engaging our families throughout the school year as we share resources and provide opportunities to support learning at home.

I would also like to thank Superintendent Guilbault and our Facilities department for the incredible work accomplished over the summer. These capital projects are important because they provide the quality environments in which our staff work and our students learn. They are also a reflection of our shared pride in our schools in the communities that we serve.

Exec Council School Visits -

Visiting schools to connect with staff and students continues to be a priority for the Executive Council. These visits, which occur on Wednesdays and Thursdays, are certainly the highlight of our week. It is wonderful to see the priorities established by this board come to life. There are great things happening in Rainbow Schools inside and outside of the classroom in all of our priority areas.

In addition to dynamic teaching and learning, school clubs, activities and fall athletics are underway. These extra-curriculars enhance the overall student experience and create a strong sense of belonging. When students feel connected at school, they are well on their way towards achieving their goals.

I would like to thank Hazel Fox-Recollet, Tim Nadjiwon, Travis Corbiere and Ozzie Osawamick for their leadership with the Sunrise Ceremony that will be hosted at Espanola High School on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The ceremony will begin at 6:45 am on Tuesday, September 30th and you are all invited to join us.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our board of Trustees and all staff for your dedication and commitment to student learning and well-being. It is a privilege to serve this board and to serve our schools and our students. Your leadership and support are greatly appreciated by all of us.

After a very successful career, I wanted to share with you what Superintendent Kathy Wachnuk has shared with us - her plans to retire. Superintendent Wachnuk's last day of work will be December 19, 2025.

While we are happy that Kathy is beginning a new and exciting chapter in her life, we will certainly miss her leadership and dedication to Special Education. I will express my gratitude and appreciation to Superintendent Wachnuk at our December meeting.

Also, today marks a very special day for Dave Kitching as it is his last board meeting prior to his retirement. Dave has led information services through many changes throughout the years and despite the constant changes in the world of I.T. what has remained constant is his professionalism, his support for staff and students and his kind and caring personality. Dave, on behalf of our students and staff, thank you very sincerely for your leadership and years of great service. We wish you all the best in your new adventures.

Thank you!!

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly will be attending a Board of Directors meeting this weekend in Toronto where the focus will be on strategies to address the unprecedented challenges facing trustees and those facing OPSBA as our expert voice on public education

in Ontario. She shared on September 12th, OPSBA sent an email to northern trustees that included a template letter and a Q&A document. She encourages all trustees to use these documents as tools to advocate for the important role of school board trustees. She also shared that 86% of trustees and Directors of education completed the ministry mandated professional development, though this figure does not include those boards that are under ministry supervision.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Guenette shared the Student Senate held their first meeting of the year, where they did icebreakers to get acquainted and had some preliminary discussions for the Stand Up Speak Out conference. Student Trustee Cyr shared that Student Senate is still recruiting and accepting names from schools with no representation and senators are working on an orange shirt day post for the Senate Instagram page.

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

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

We are now a few weeks into the school year and great things are happening in Rainbow Schools...

Students are once again running or walking in support of The Terry Fox Foundation. Terry Fox Runs are held annually in communities across Canada to raise funds for cancer research. This year, schools are celebrating the 45th year of the Marathon of Hope.

Rainbow Schools will participate in Franco-Ontarian Day on Thursday, September 25th - the 50th anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian Flag / le drapeau franco-ontarien. Staff and students in Rainbow Schools are invited to wear green and white as we celebrate the rich history, culture and contributions of Franco-Ontarians.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will begin with a Sunrise Ceremony at Espanola High School on Tuesday, September 30th at 6:45 am. This is a time to acknowledge the Survivors of residential schools who had the courage to share their stories. It is also a time to remember the children who never made it home. Staff and students will join together and wear orange as a symbol of truth as we continue to walk together on our path towards reconciliation.

Certificates of Internship will be presented to the fourth group of Project SEARCH HSN participants during a signing ceremony at Health Sciences North tomorrow - September 24th. A signing ceremony will also take place for the second group of interns for Project SEARCH Pioneer Manor on Wednesday, October 1st. We congratulate all participants and wish them well during these exciting internships.

The greater community is invited to support Lansdowne Public School's love of reading through the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation's Adopt-a-School initiative. Until October 5th, every dollar donated to Indigo in Sudbury and online will go towards the purchase of books in English and French to further promote reading at school and at home.

The Parent Involvement Committee's Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 14th at 5 pm at Sudbury Secondary School. Beginning at 5:30 pm, our Director of Education will welcome parents/guardians then our educators will host workshops for our families with a focus on literacy, numeracy, mental health and Indigenous education. Parents/guardians are invited to engage in hands-on activities with their children to support

their learning at home. I encourage trustees to join us. Everyone is welcome. The Director's message will be livestreamed to A.B. Ellis Public School and Little Current Public School. Carousels will be offered at both sites.

A friendly reminder that schools will be closed for Thanksgiving on Monday, October 13th.

Also coming up are two Professional Activity Days - one this Friday, September 26th and another on Monday, October 20th. There will be no school for students. Information about PA Days is posted on the board website.

As you heard earlier this evening during the Summer Programs presentation, wonderful things are happening in Rainbow Schools all year round.

I am proud of the work being done in our six priority areas of Student Success and Well-Being, Truth and Reconciliation, Literacy and Numeracy, Mental Health and Well-Being, Environmental Education and Sustainability and Equity and Inclusive Education.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank our administrators, educators and support staff for another successful start up to the school year.

Thank you for making Rainbow Schools wonderful places for teaching and learning.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes May 7, 2025
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
Tender 2025-04 Lockerby Composite School – HVAC upgrades
3. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Audit Committee Meeting September 29, 2025 3:00 pm
Student Senate Meeting October 6, 2025 5:30 pm
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting October 7, 2025 5:00 pm
Parent Involvement Committee AGM October 14, 2025 6:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee Meeting October 15, 2025 3:30 pm
Equity & Inclusion Committee October 16, 2025 3:30 pm
Board Meeting October 21, 2025 5:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 25-R91, L.Corbriere-Addison/B.Clement
That we do now adjourn at 6:36 p.m. – **Carried**