

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, October 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Trustees: D. Farrow (Chair), B. Clement, D. Dewar A. Gibson, J. Hunda,
J. Kosmerly, Student Trustee Cyr, Student Trustee Guenette

Absent: L. Corbiere-Addison, L. Debassige, A. McCauley

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, N. Cecchetto, R. Jones, R. Lafraniere,
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-R92, J.Kosmerly/B.Clement

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of October 21, 2025 be approved.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

Eco-Schools

Superintendent McNamara introduced Principal Ryan Lafraniere, Chair of the Environmental Education Committee, who provided an in-depth presentation on Environmental Education and Sustainability, one of the board's six priorities.

Principal Lafraniere reviewed how far we have come since the board approved a motion declaring a climate emergency in 2019.

He provided an overview of the EcoSchools program that supports environmental leadership and climate action in schools, instilling in students to become environmentally

responsible citizens inside and outside of the classroom. Rainbow District School Board has achieved 100% EcoSchools certification 2 years in a row and was one of only three school boards in Canada to achieve 100% certification in the 2024-2025 school year. Schools are awarded points based on different 'actions' or 'activities' that students can do at the classroom and school level that support environmental initiatives such as Community Clean Ups, The Great Gulp and G.O.O.S paper (good on one side).

There are also monthly environmental challenges, school-based and board-wide events such as the Eco-Summit which will be held on May 21, 2026 at Laurentian University, that support student learning throughout the system.

Trustees expressed their appreciation for the wonderful presentation and thanked Principal Lafraniere, the Environmental Education committee, staff and students for all of their work and determination in making a difference.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 25-R93, J.Hunda/D.Dewar

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 be approved.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

2. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees NIL

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. OSBIE Refund

Superintendent Guilbault shared the plan to reinvest the funds to enhance network security, addressing key areas for continuous development.

2. Honoraria for Trustees 2025-2026

Superintendent Guilbault explained the report provided and shared there was a slight increase in the amounts for the upcoming term due to an increase in the enrolment component.

3. Trustee Expenditures 2024-2025

Superintendent Guilbault explained the details on the provided Trustee Expenses spreadsheet, which will be posted on the Board's website.

4. **Notice of Absence**

Chair Farrow shared that Trustee McCauley, Trustee Debassige and Trustee Corbiere-Addison sent their regrets.

5. **Director's Remarks**

Today is Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day.

Early childhood education plays a vital role in a child's development and sets the foundation for lifelong learning.

Please join us in celebrating the hard work and dedication of the caring early childhood professionals who support the growth and well-being of young children and families in Rainbow Schools and beyond.

I believe that Chair Farrow will comment on the Parent Involvement Committee evening from last week so I will be brief and thank Leslie Mantle and Nicole Charette for their leadership, the System Principal Team for their hard work and the many school administrators and curriculum consultants and coordinators as well as members of our mental health team whose combined efforts made the evening fun and informative. We all had a great time and it was wonderful to meet families from across our system of schools. Over 600 people attended across the three sites!

In August we provided an overview of our detailed guide for Students, Parents and Guardians. In September, we provided a summary of the extensive summer programs we offered. Earlier this month, we received a presentation from our new System Principals Tim Nadjiwon and Travis Corbiere who shared our ongoing work with Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous Education. We hope to continue to provide updates on the priorities established by the board as part of our Strategic Plan.

In future meetings, we look forward to providing you with updates on the Board Action Plan for Math, the October 31 enrolment and when released, our EQAO results.

I would like to thank the board of Trustees for your ongoing positivity and support. We are making progress with our priorities thanks to your leadership. Your energy, teamwork, focus on students, and commitment to student achievement is paramount to our success and is so greatly appreciated.

I will conclude by saying thank you to all of our staff for continuing to be difference makers in the lives of our students!

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly and Trustee Hunda attended OPSBA's Northern Regional meeting this past weekend in Sault Ste. Marie. She thanked trustees who shared their feedback with her about OPSBA's proposed changes and advised she had the opportunity to share them privately with Kathleen Woodcock and publicly at the meeting. The deadline to submit any feedback about the governance refresh can be sent to OPSBA

before November 3rd. The next board of directors meeting will be held virtually on November 23rd.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Cyr shared that the majority of the recent Senate meeting was spent discussing the Student Senate administrative procedure and revisions they would like to make. Student Trustee Guenette shared that Senate has been able to fill most of the vacancies and will continue recruiting to ensure representation from each secondary school.

7. Trustees' Remarks/Questions

Trustee Kosmerly proposed the following motion:

That the Rainbow District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education in support of the important role trustees play in school boards and request a process be established for public and trustee input into any consideration for changes in the role.

Motion: 25-R94, J.Kosmerly/B.Clement

To waive the notice of motion requirements.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

Motion: 25-R95, J.Kosmerly/B.Clement

That the Rainbow District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education in support of the important role trustees play in school boards and request a process be established for public and trustee input into any consideration for changes in the role.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

Trustee Hunda thanked Trustee Kosmerly for the work she does with OPSBA and for the opportunity to attend the Northern Regional meeting as it was great to have the ability to speak her feelings about the current issues with fellow trustees in the north. She also attended the PIC event at Sudbury Secondary School last week and shared what a wonderful event it was and applauded all the staff involved.

Trustee Gibson also congratulated everyone on the wonderful PIC event last week.

8. Chairperson's Remarks

Over 2,000 students from 21 Rainbow Schools attended the Level Up! Skilled Trades Fair on October 8th and 9th at the Sudbury Arena. Fairs are being presented across the province as part of the Ministry of Education's efforts to modernize the skilled trades and apprenticeship programs, address shortages in the skilled trades and attract more of Ontario's young people to the industry.

In keeping with the trades, a launch for the new Think Trades Trailer will take place on Thursday, November 6th at 10 am at Alexander Public School where students in Grade 8 will try the tools and explore the trades. On behalf of the Board, I extend sincere thanks to Lopes Limited and Coniston Industrial Park Ltd. for supporting this wonderful learning initiative for students in Rainbow Schools.

The Parent Involvement Committee's Annual General Meeting took place last week. The event attracted some 615 attendees at three sites - Sudbury Secondary School, A.B. Ellis Public School and Little Current Public School. Following a welcome from Director Bourget, families explored activities with a focus on literacy, numeracy, mental health and Indigenous education. Thank you to all staff, volunteers and members of the Parent Involvement Committee for hosting another wonderful event for families. And thank you to the many families who came out to learn more about how they can support their children's learning at home.

Tomorrow, some 54 students from Rainbow Schools in Grades 9 to 12 will take part in the HEADSTRONG Summit at Collège Boréal. Students will learn how to recognize the signs of mental health and reduce stigma. They will also be inspired to become leaders to foster wellness in their own school communities.

Staff and students in Rainbow Schools will continue to learn about treaties and relationships during Treaties Recognition Week from November 2 to 8, 2025. Educational activities and lessons are part of Rainbow District School Board's focus on truth and reconciliation.

Grade 9 students in Rainbow Schools will spend the day at work shadowing a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host on Wednesday, November 5th as part of Take Our Kids to Work. Now in its 31st year, the national program gives students the opportunity to experience the world of work as they explore possible career paths.

Rainbow District School Board will host Pathways Planning - Your Future, Your Plan on Wednesday, November 5th from 6 pm to 8 pm here at the Centre for Education. A second event will take place at Manitoulin Secondary School on Tuesday, March 3rd also at 6 pm. Students in Grades 11 and 12 and their parents/guardians will explore job trends and various pathway opportunities - from Co-op to OYAP to SHSMs and Dual Credits. Guests will also hear from a dynamic and highly energetic speaker, Dr. Jon Callegher. Join us in Sudbury or Manitoulin Island to learn how these pathways support a successful transition to the workplace, apprenticeship, college or university.

All Rainbow Schools will observe Remembrance Day on Tuesday, November 11th. Flags will fly at half-mast in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island from November 8th to mark Indigenous Veterans Day through to November 11th.

And, parents/guardians and students in Grades 7 and 8 are invited to mark their calendars for Next Stop: Grade 9 on November 12th. The information session will focus on the

changes and choices students face while entering high school. This is an evening presentation in the Student Centre at Cambrian College. Free parking is available in Lot 15.

That's it for me this evening. Thank you.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Audit Committee minutes May 5, 2025
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Student Senate Meeting November 3, 2025 5:30 pm
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting November 4, 2025 5:00 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee November 5, 2025 12:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee Meeting November 12, 2025 3:30 pm
Equity & Inclusion Committee November 13, 2025 3:30 pm
Board Meeting November 18, 2025 5:00 pm
First Nations Advisory Committee November 20, 2025 10:00 am

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 25-R96, J.Kosmerly
That we do now adjourn at 6:22 p.m. – **Carried**