

**RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

to be held in person and electronically via Google Meet  
in the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom  
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive  
on Tuesday, November 18, 2025  
at the conclusion of the Organizational Board Meeting

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**AGENDA  
AND RECOMMENDED MOTIONS**

**Roll Call**

- A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** \*Chair
- Motion:  
That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of November 18, 2025 be approved.
- B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST** \*Chair
- C. PRESENTATIONS** \*Chair
- Math Action Plan – Superintendent Koziar
- D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD** \*Director
- E. OLD BUSINESS** \*Chair
1. **Previous Minutes** \*Chair
- Motion:  
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 be approved.
2. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees** \*Chair
- F. NEW BUSINESS** \*Chair
1. **Public Education Symposium (PES) 2024-2025** \*Chair
- Motion:  
That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2026 Public Education Symposium in Toronto on January 23-24, 2026.
2. **Notice of Absence** \*Chair
3. **Director's Remarks** \*Director

4. **Other Items** \*Chair  
 OPSBA Director  
 Student Trustee
5. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** \*Chair  
*Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.*
6. **Chairperson's Remarks** \*Chair
- G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** \*Chair
1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**  
 Special Education Advisory Committee minutes September 10, 2025 (official)
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**
- H. **FUTURE MEETINGS** \*Chair
- First Nations Advisory Committee November 20, 2025 10:00 am  
 Accessibility Committee November 24, 2025 10:00 am  
 Audit Committee December 1, 2025 3:00 pm  
 Student Senate Meeting December 1, 2025 5:30 pm  
 Parent Involvement Committee December 2, 2025 7:00 pm  
 Board Meeting December 9, 2025 5:00 pm
- I. **ADJOURNMENT** \*Chair
- Motion:  
 That we do now adjourn at            p.m.

## **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.

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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 as amended, with the amendment being to strike item F.4. Letter to the Minister.

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 3<sup>rd</sup>. The next board of directors meeting will be held virtually on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**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**

# 2026 Public Education Symposium (PES)



Friday, January 23 and Saturday, January 24, 2026  
Sheraton Centre, Toronto

## 2026 Public Education Symposium

PES will bring together school board trustees, directors of education, supervisory officers and school board staff from across Ontario to network, learn and share knowledge. Participants will hear from keynote speakers and engage in meaningful professional development workshops that support school boards and excellence in public education.

The theme for PES 2026 is "What Matters Most: Supporting Ontario's Students"

Trustees, directors of education, supervisory officers, student trustees and other education stakeholders are warmly encouraged to attend PES. Please save these dates and stay tuned for more information.

Please direct any questions to our Professional Development Events Team, at [pdevents@opsba.org](mailto:pdevents@opsba.org).

**MINUTES OF THE RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, September 10, 2025  
Time: 12:00 PM  
Meeting held via Google Meet**

**Present:**

**SEAC Members:**

Julie Contini	Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury
Natasha Delaney	Member at Large
Sara Kitlar-Pothier	Member at Large
Alex McCauley	Trustee
Stephanie Roussy	Children’s Community Network

**Staff:**

David Squarzolo	Vice-Principal of Special Education
Kathy Wachnuk	Superintendent of Schools
Danielle Williamson	Principal of Special Education Programs and Services

**Regrets:**

Krista Cotie	Compass
Robert Silvestri (Acting Chair)	NOARC
Jennifer Way	March of Dimes

**1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

Trustee McCauley chaired the meeting.

**2.0 Establish Quorum of Voting Members**

Quorum was established.

**3.0 SEAC Mission Statement**

Vice-Principal D. Squarzolo read aloud the mission statement.

**4.0 Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion 1:**

Moved by: N. Delaney

Seconded by: S. Roussy

That the agenda for the SEAC meeting of September 10, 2025 be approved.

Motion carried.

**5.0 Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were noted.

**6.0 Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Motion 2:**

Moved by: N. Delaney

Seconded by: J. Contini

That the minutes of the SEAC meeting of May 7, 2025 be approved.

Motion carried.

**7.0 Business Arising**

The results of the Educational Assistants professional development survey was tabled until the next meeting.

**8.0 New Business**

Requests for Leaves of Absence

**Motion 3:**

Moved by: S. Roussy

Seconded by: J. Contini

That the SEAC approve the absences of Krista Cotie, Robert Silvestri, and Jennifer Way from the September 10, 2025 SEAC meeting.

Motion carried.

**9.0 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Wachnuk welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Compass is establishing a Step-Up Step-Down Program for students in the former Cyril Varney Public School. The program will provide mental health services on a residential basis for students who have been demitted from hospital but are not ready yet to enter the regular school stream. Information sharing about the program by Compass will be a future meeting agenda item.

Changes have been made by Indigenous Services Canada to Jordan's Principle services and funding eligibility. The funding has previously covered a number of supports available for Indigenous students, but the greatest impact of these changes on schools has been the withdrawal of Educational Assistants. The Board has not staffed additional Educational Assistants in schools to try and offset those losses. The students supported by Educational Assistants through board funding are not necessarily those who would receive Jordan's Principle funding for Educational Assistants. More updates will be provided to the SEAC as more information becomes available.

An inquiry was received over the summer from a person from Autism Ontario looking to become a member of SEAC. The person has reached out in the past. Superintendent Wachnuk had a productive conversation with the person who lives in Oshawa. The Sudbury chapter of Autism Ontario closed a few years ago following restructuring. SEAC membership is available to those who are residents within the catchment area of the school board and are members of a local association recognized by the board. The person provided two names of people who belong to the provincial association only. The needs of students with an Autism exceptionality in the Board are represented by Sara Kitlar-Pothier from the Ontario Autism Coalition and Natasha Delaney, who had been a member of the local chapter of Autism Ontario and is now a Member at Large, also offers her expertise.

Trustee McCauley thanked Sara Kitlar-Pothier and Natasha Delaney for their work on the SEAC and thanked Superintendent Wachnuk for providing information to Autism Ontario about the status of our SEAC.

Superintendent Wachnuk shared that many students from coterminous boards have registered in the RDSB. Overall student enrolment in the Board is down from last year. Some students may not have started yet. A message for parents of students with significant special education needs attending schools in coterminous boards is posted on the Board's website and outlines the process for enrolment in the Rainbow Board. The regular classroom is the preferred placement for students. The Board offers a range of placements including Intensive Support Programs which provide specialized programming and support for students with significant needs. The majority of these placements are at capacity annually and student entry into these placements is carefully planned to ensure that staffing and resources are allocated in anticipation.

#### **10.0 Special Education Staff Report**

Principal Williamson shared a presentation on the 2025 Summer Programs which occurred. Brien Manahan, Behavioural Analyst Lead, will share information about his summer program at a later date. Special Education Summer Programs included an Early Intervention program, Transition program, and a Skill Development program for students with autism. Other programs that took place were: Kindergarten Camp; a Mental Health Supports program; Grades 1 to 8 Summer Learning; Indigenous Summer Learning Partnership; Secondary Summer School; and the Barrydowne College Summer Program. There were three separate locations for the Early Intervention program, each staffed by a special education teacher and educational assistants. The programs were located at Adamsdale PS, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, and Princess Anne PS. Education assistants also supported students in the Summer Learning Program Grades 1 to 8 and Kindergarten Camp.

Transition days at the end of August were organized in schools throughout the Board and were open to students between the ages of Kindergarten to Grade 12. Students were supported by special education teachers and educational assistants. A total of 748 students supported by 201 teachers and educational assistants participated in the 2025 Summer Transition Programs.

S. Kitlar-Pothier raised a concern that not all parents of eligible students were aware of the summer programs taking place. Principal Williamson stated she would look into the matter.

#### **11.0 Board Report**

No report at this time.

#### **12.0 Chairperson's Report**

No report at this time.

OFFICIAL

**13.0 Association Reports**

Julie Contini (Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury)

The Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury Walk for Awareness is October 5, 2025. Information will be sent to the SEAC for distribution.

Natasha Delaney (Member at Large)

N. Delaney’s daughter attended the Skill Development program for students with autism and truly enjoyed the experience.

Stephanie Roussy (Children’s Community Network)

September is FASD awareness month. CCN is hosting training sessions on FASD with other agencies. Anyone interested in attending can contact Stephanie Roussy.

Sara Kitlar-Pothier (Ontario Autism Coalition)

The government and Minister of Education have stated they are considering doing away with school board trustees. Surveys completed by the OAC indicate that 28 percent of parents reach out to school trustees to advocate for support for their children. Special education is underfunded across Ontario. The OAC wants to advocate for trustees and the role they play to support students with special needs. Grassroots support is needed to advocate for the preservation of school trustees in the province.

Follow-up discussion on the recent government announcement occurred among the SEAC members. Trustees are responsible for governance. Issues that have occurred within a small group of trustees or staff are being used to issue blanket statements and applied to everyone throughout the province. Priorities and issues are regionally based and differ between Toronto and Sudbury. Concerns were raised about the possibility of decisions being made outside of the Board by unelected officials.

Superintendent Wachnuk shared that the role of this SEAC is to make recommendations to the Board. More conversation among Board members about what the government has announced may result in a letter written by the Board to the government.

**14.0 Correspondence Addressed to SEAC**

None

**15.0 Other Items/ Future Agenda Items/ Information Requests**

- Step-Up Step-Down program presentation (Compass)

- Educational Assistants professional development survey results

**16.0 Next Meeting Date**

November 5, 2025 from 12:00 until 1:30 PM via Google Meet. An October meeting can be scheduled if required.

**17.0 Adjournment**

**Motion 4:**

Moved by: S. Roussy

Seconded by: S. Kitlar-Pothier

Motion to adjourn.

Motion carried.

Trustee McCauley adjourned the meeting at 1:09 PM.

