

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

held in person and electronically via Google Meet
and livestreamed from 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 (5:36 p.m.)

Present: Trustees: B. Clement, L. Corbiere-Addison (via Google Meet), L. Debassige (via Google Meet), D. Farrow 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: G. Bastien, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes, R. Jones,
K. MacKenzie, D. Peristeridis, C. Whitson

Other: H. Ulrichson, member of the public

Chair Farrow called the meeting to order.

Director Bourget completed roll call to establish who was participating in the Google Meet.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 26-R13, B.Clement/A.McCauley

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of November 18, 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

Math Action Plan – Superintendent Koziar

Superintendent Dan Koziar and Principal of Program Kate MacKenzie provided an update on the Board’s Math Achievement Action Plan for 2025-2026. The plan addresses the three priority areas for math instruction and outlines specific strategies at the system, school and classroom levels.

In April 2023, the Ministry of Education announced the launch of a provincial Math Achievement Plan, which began in September of that year. As the board enters the third year of the Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP), Principal MacKenzie shared key information and how the plan outlines the board's strategic approach to advancing student achievement in mathematics.

Through data collection such as achievement, attendance, assessment and EQAO data along with perceptual data (surveys), the board has identified a series of targeted actions within each priority area to strengthen mathematics teaching and learning across the system.

Principal MacKenzie shared the different initiatives the board has implemented to support educators, such as the updated Scope and Sequence lesson plans for grades 1 to 6 and the grade 9 EQAO preparation guide. This year the board is continuing with five demonstration math classrooms, four in elementary and one in intermediate. Additionally, this summer the board hosted a Summer Symposium for educators to engage in collaborative professional learning.

With a variety of professional development and resources for educators, newsletters for families, information nights and digital home supports, the Math Achievement Action Plan has all of the elements that will contribute to student success and improved math achievement.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions and expressed their gratitude for the in depth presentation.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 26-R14, L. Debassige/J. Hunda

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 be approved, as amended, with the amendments being to revise the wording of motion 25-R92 to read "*That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of October 21, 2024 be approved.*" As well as item F.6 OPSBA Director remarks to adjust the next Board of Directors meeting date to November 23rd.

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: Absent
Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

2. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

NIL

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Education Symposium (PES) 2024-2025

Motion: 26-R15, J.Hunda/L.Debassige

That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2026 Public Education Symposium in Toronto on January 23-24, 2026.

(Trustee Kosmerly, Trustee Gibson, Trustee Clement, Trustee Hunda, Trustee Corbiere-Addison)

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: Absent

Alex McCauley: In-favour

- Carried

2. Notice of Absence

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

3. Director's Remarks

Thank you to the dedicated math team under the leadership of Superintendent Koziar. As you can see, we continue to provide incredible guidance and support for continued growth in math. Thanks to Superintendent Koziar, Principal MacKenzie, the program team, our school administrators and educators in all of our schools. I'd also like to thank our parents and guardians for supporting their child's learning in math at home. When the school and the home work together, schools flourish and students thrive.

Speaking of working together for student success, our program team recently hosted two student and parent guardian engagement events that drew enthusiastic crowds. A Pathways Planning evening for secondary students was held here at the Centre for Education with guest speaker Dr. John Callegher and Next Stop Grade 9 at Cambrian College. Both events had great presentations and informative booths on a variety of topics. Next Stop grade 9 was also livestreamed to Manitoulin Secondary School. We heard over 50 participants joined Superintendent Koziar who made himself present there to make sure everything went well and to be present for parents. The pathways event will be presented at Manitoulin Secondary School on March 3rd 2026. We would also like to thank our program team and school administrators for participating in these wonderful events as we continue to provide hands-on opportunities to engage parents and guardians in their child's education. Both events were very well done, very well attended, and certainly a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our staff and the support and diligence of our parents and guardians.

I have a quick enrolment update. We had projected a total of 14,388 students for the start of the school year. At this point, after the October 31st count date, we have 14,438 students in Rainbow Schools. We have met our predicted enrolment and I will provide more details in future meetings.

Also in noteworthy news we signed a memorandum of understanding with N'Swakamok on November 5th. We created this document to strengthen our educational opportunities for indigenous students within our city, ensuring all students have equitable pathways to completing their secondary school diploma, connecting students with post-secondary education, apprenticeships or the workplace, and providing supports for our students to ensure success for all. We're proud of our long-standing partnership with N'Swakamok and this memorandum of understanding reaffirms our shared commitment to our learners.

Kids Caring for Kids. You've heard this before, but we have to highlight the Lockerby Composite Schools Kids Caring for Kids cancer drive was another tremendous success. A total of \$42,700 was raised for Health Sciences North Foundation and pediatric cancer care in the north in memory of Laura Cotesta. We want to congratulate Lockerby and share that they are well over \$1 million raised by Lockerby Composite School for this endeavor.

Students and staff participated in the Terry Fox campaign again this fall. I received letters from the Terry Fox Foundation in the Spring that informed us that schools in Rainbow District School Board showed great strength in numbers and leadership by raising over \$50,000 last year. Certainly, a remarkable achievement. Of special note, AB Ellis Public School has held the most runs to date, 42 in all, and has raised over \$432,000 over that time. What a tribute to the staff, students and the Espanola community.

We recently spoke about the Think Trades Trailer, which was officially launched at a media event on November 6th at Alexander Public School. Trustee McCauley and Trustee Kosmerly who were in attendance can certainly attest to the level of excitement among the students who are hard at work building their very own multi-trade toolbox. We extend our gratitude to Lopes Limited and Coniston Industrial Park Limited for leasing a truck and purchasing a trailer to enable us and support us in making trades education on the road. The Think Trades initiative targets student in grade 8, opening pathways to exciting careers by inspiring students to consider the trades in secondary school and beyond. We certainly want to thank Lopes Limited and Coniston Industrial Park Limited for their investment in trades education.

From Mental Health, Rainbow District School Board continues to participate in Headstrong, an evidence-based anti-stigma initiative aimed at inspiring students to be brave, reach out, and speak up about mental health. A full-day conference brought together more than 100 secondary school students from the four school boards. Led by the Mental Health Commission of Canada, Headstrong educates youth from ages 14 to 18. Through Headstrong, students are inspired to become leaders of change for their respective school communities. It features activities that promote hope and resiliency. Students also hear from keynote speakers who've lived with and recovered from mental illness.

Trustees, I'd like to conclude my comments this evening by sharing my sincere gratitude to all of you, the board of trustees, for your leadership, your support of our staff, our students, and our families. Your daily efforts are not unnoticed and greatly appreciated. We want to thank you for all you do. As we move on from our organizational meeting tonight, we look forward to working with you in your various roles on our committees this year. Our work together is making a difference for our students and staff. We greatly appreciate your leadership, professionalism, teamwork, and support very much.

4. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly shared that OPSBA staff are working hard to advocate on behalf of Trustees in the media. With OPSBA also impacted due to

government changes, they are looking at a change to its board structure, reducing the Board of Directors from 52 to 13, Vice Presidents from 2 to 1, and increasing the Regional Chairs from 5 to 6. This will be reviewed at the virtual Board of Directors meeting being held this Sunday which Trustee Kosmerly is attending. OPSBA will be holding information sessions with board Chairs, Vice Chairs and Directors at the end of November to review the proposed changes and a special meeting will be called on December 18th for the vote.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Cyr shared the October Senate meeting revolved around details for the Stand Up Speak Out conference, with the theme for this year being “Change Making”. They also started work on breakout room themes, speakers, activities and keynotes. She also thanked the board for sending them to the OSTA Fall General Meeting, where they were able to experience a lot of professional development, informative workshops, keynote speakers and meaningful discussions with fellow student trustees from across the province.

5. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Kosmerly congratulated the Confederation Chargers Senior Football team for winning the 2025 city championship as well she commended Confederation Secondary School on hosting a very successful craft show this past weekend where nearly 3,000 people attended the two-day event which raised approximately \$25,000. These funds will be used to support student activities including the purchase of baseball and weight room equipment, sound and lights for the drama program and outdoor prospector tents for winter camping. She especially wanted to thank Jesse Brooks and Stephanie Crowder for their ongoing commitment along with the many student volunteers that helped make the craft fair such a success.

Trustee Gibson presented the following notice of motion:

Notice of Motion: 26-R16, A.Gibson

That the Board establish a Policy Review Calendar for the 2025-2026 year, to be adopted by Board motion and appended to the Governance Policy Manual.

Trustee McCauley congratulated the Lo Ellen Park Junior Boy’s Football team on winning the city championships. While they fell short at NOSSA, the kids played like troopers and should be very proud.

Trustee Clement shared that Bill 33 was going to the final vote with potential changes coming. He reflected on the fundraising that has taken place over the years in Espanola for the Terry Fox campaign and remembered when Terry Fox ran through McKerrow and spoke in Espanola. He also congratulated the Espanola Senior Boys’ Volleyball team who took second place at NOSSA and are moving on to OFSAA.

6. **Chairperson’s Remarks**

Hello everyone... I would like to begin my remarks by expressing that it is an honour for me to serve as Chair. I extend sincere thanks to my fellow Trustees for your vote of confidence.

It’s **Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week**. Educational activities and lessons are part of Rainbow District School Board’s ongoing commitment to safe and inclusive schools. A full list of activities are available on the board website. In 2022, the Board piloted the Dare to Care program in 12 schools. The Canadian program has proven to be an effective way to build empathy and reduce bullying. The program has since expanded to all Rainbow elementary schools.

Sudbury Secondary School invites the greater community to flash back to the 1950s with a production of **"Grease: School Version"**. Public performances will take place on Friday, November 21st at 7 pm, Sunday, November 23rd at 1 pm, Friday, November 28th at 7 pm and Saturday, November 29th at 1 pm and 7 pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for seniors and youth, and can be purchased at the door or in advance through School Cash Online.

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School will present their annual winter concert - **"Winter Vibes"** - on Wednesday, November 26th at 7 pm in the school's main gym. The concert will feature performances by the Senior Band, the Grade 9 Purple and Gold Band, the Jazz Orchestra, the Grade 7/8 Band and more. Admission is by cash donation.

Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians are invited to **Information Nights** at all Rainbow secondary schools between November and February. Upcoming Information Nights include:

- Lively District Secondary School on Wednesday, November 26th at 6 pm
- Confederation Secondary School on Thursday, December 4th at 6 pm
- Lasalle Secondary School also on December 4th at 6:30 pm, and
- Sudbury Secondary School on Thursday, December 11th at 6 pm

A full list of schools, dates and times is available on the board website.

The fourth **Professional Activity Day** of the 2025-2026 school year will take place next Friday, November 28th. There will be no school for students. Parents/guardians can access a summary of the learning taking place that day on the board website.

Next month, Rainbow District School Board invites staff and students to host **a green gathering** - a shared meal where there is just enough food for everyone with no waste and minimal garbage. This challenge is part of the Rainbow District School Board Environmental Committee's ongoing efforts to encourage sustainable practices in schools and communities.

As the festive season approaches, Rainbow District School Board will once again participate in the **Edgar Burton Kids Helping Kids Food Drive**. Staff and students will join together to collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations to assist area food banks in the communities we serve.

The next **Parent Involvement Committee meeting** will take place on Tuesday, December 2nd at 7 pm in the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom. The topic will be Parents Reaching Out Grants and school success stories.

And, finally, secondary students from Rainbow Schools will showcase their business skills at the second annual **FCR Accounting Case Study Competition** on Tuesday, December 9th at the Holiday Inn. For the half-day event, students will compete in teams of four to solve a real community business challenge for the Sudbury Theatre Centre (STC). Best of luck to all participants.

And that's it for me this evening.

Thank you.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

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

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

Motion: 26-R17, J.Kosmerly
That we do now adjourn at 6:53 p.m. – **Carried**

OFFICIAL