

## 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, December 9, 2025 at 5:00 pm

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

Absent: nil

Officials: B. Bourget – Director and Secretary of the Board  
A. Guilbault – Superintendent of Business  
D. Koziar, L. Mantle, K. Wachnuk – Superintendents

Staff: G. Bastien, N. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes, R. Jones,  
D. Peristeridis, C. Whitson, D. Williamson

Other: D. D'Angelo (KPMG), H. Ulrichsen (Sudbury.com)

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-R18, A.McCauley/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of December 9, 2025 be approved.

Poll vote

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

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

No meeting held. No report.

#### **E. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **1. Previous Minutes**

- a) Motion: 26-R19, J.Hunda/L.Corbriere-Addison  
That the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 be approved.

Poll vote

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

**- Carried**

- b) Motion: 26-R20, D.Dewar/B.Clement  
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 be approved.

Poll vote

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

a) Audit Committee

i) External Audit Plan

Motion: 26-R21, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly

That the 2024-2025 External Audit Plan be approved as recommended by the Audit Committee.

Poll vote

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

**- Carried**

ii) Audit Committee Annual Report

Trustee Hunda, Chair of the Audit Committee, provided information from the 2024/2025 Audit Committee report, which was shared with trustees.

iii) 2024/2025 Financial Statements

Superintendent Guilbault introduced Derek D'Angelo, Lead Audit Engagement Partner from KPMG, who presented the consolidated financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2025. He reported the board ended the year with a surplus and a clean audit which is the highest level of assurance.

Trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Motion: 26-R22, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly

That the 2024/2025 Financial Statements be approved.

Poll vote

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

**- Carried**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Director's Annual Report**

Director Bourget provided a page-by-page review of the 2024-2025 Annual Report, that will be posted on the Board's website in the coming weeks in accessible format.

Trustees were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions, and congratulated the board on a wonderful report.

2. **Policy Review Calendar**

Motion: 26-R23, A.Gibson/J.Hunda

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.

Poll vote

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

**- Defeated**

3. **Insurance Renewal**

Motion: 26-R24, J.Hunda/D.Dewar

That the 2026 Renewal of Insurance for liability, property, crime and fleet automobile with the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange for \$487,735.60 be approved.

#### Poll vote

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

**- Carried**

#### 4. **Budget Development Process**

Motion: 26-R25, A.McCauley/L.Corbiere-Addison

That the 2026-27 Budget Development Process be approved.

#### Poll vote

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

**- Carried**

#### 5. **Notice of Absence**

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

#### 6. **Director's Remarks**

I would like to thank Superintendent Guilbault and Finance Department Manager Nancy Cecchetto and the Finance team for the excellent work in preparing for the audit. The Clean Audit Report is the highest level of assurance and is certainly a testament to good practices and ongoing diligence.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Principal Brenda Carr for assembling a team from Rainbow District School Board and thank the staff who volunteered at the Sudbury Lions/CTV Christmas Telethon on Saturday. Some of our schools performed as well. Sudbury Secondary, Algonquin and CVDCS did a great job. It was an amazing evening and the Telethon raised \$357,000.

We received the EQAO results last week. We are continuing to review the data. In January, we will present an update to the board. Overall, we continue to make gains in our student achievement. I would like to express our gratitude to our talented teachers and amazing administrators for their dedication and commitment to the success of our students.

This is Kathy Wachnuk's final Board meeting. Kathy has been a Superintendent of Schools for the past 10 years.

Kathy came to this senior leadership role with 22 years of experience with the board as an elementary classroom teacher, Vice-Principal, Principal and Principal of Special Education in both the English and French Immersion Programs. She is a proud graduate of our board.

In addition to being responsible for a family of schools, Superintendent Wachnuk has overseen special education programs and services throughout her tenure in the role.

Her extensive experience working with local agencies has been of great benefit to our Board and our schools.

As Superintendent, Kathy focused on evidence-based approaches to meet student needs and fostered a culture of high standards.

Under her leadership, the Board launched ProjectSEARCH at Health Sciences North and Pioneer Manor; introduced the Applied Behavioural Analysis Program and training; and developed the Transitioned Aged Youth Protocol.

Literacy interventions were implemented through Empower and Lexia with positive results. We continue to build on these efforts.

Kathy also worked on mental health and safe schools for many years.

Throughout her career, Kathy proved to be an advocate for students of all abilities and a champion for inclusive education.

Superintendent Wachnuk leaves a rich legacy in special education and school support.

We wish you all the best for a well-deserved retirement Kathy. Have fun as you enjoy time to explore new interests, travel, and spend time with friends and family.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Trustees, Executive Council, our School Administrators, our teachers and all support staff for the incredible work you do each and every day in support of students and student learning.

There are many events in the upcoming days for students and staff to enjoy. A very well earned break is just around the corner. As this is the last regular board meeting of 2025, I wish everyone a restful, safe, fun-filled holiday season! We look forward to continuing our good work on behalf of students in the new year.

## 7. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Director** – Trustee Kosmerly will be attending an online special Board meeting for OPSBA delegates to vote on the motion to amend and restate its general bylaw to change OPSBA's size and structure. If passed, the board of directors will immediately be reduced from 52 to 19 members. In the new model, regions will be represented at the OPSBA table by their regional chairs and vice chairs, and the role of regional councils will be enhanced in January to align with the new governance structure to ensure that board's voices are not lost. She plans to vote in favour of the motion and welcomes fellow trustees thoughts and feedback prior to the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Student Trustee** - Student Trustee Guenette shared that while the December Senate meeting was a smaller group, it was a productive meeting with discussion for the upcoming conference. The themes for the five breakout rooms were chosen and they discussed possible speakers for the keynote and breakout rooms as well. Student Trustee Cyr confirmed the venue for the event would be at College Boreal in the Au pied du rocher restaurant/hall plus an additional 5 rooms for the breakout sessions on May 7, 2026. She also shared that on December 5<sup>th</sup> she met with Director Bourget, Principal Nadjiwon and Principal Corbiere to discuss and share the student experience as indigenous students within the board to share with staff that directly support the indigenous student body. She thanked them for taking the time to meet and for prioritizing indigenous education.

## 8. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee McCauley expressed his gratitude to Superintendent Mantle on the great work with the PIC committee. The recent meeting had a great turnout where a new PIC chair (Steffany Bourque) and vice-chair (Melissa Gladu) were voted in. Three schools shared their 2024-2025 Parents Reaching Out Grant success stories and the 2025-2026 applications for grants were reviewed. He also shared that he looks forward to visiting schools in the new year and wished all trustees, staff and students a Merry Christmas.

Trustee Clement wished a Merry Christmas to all and encouraged fellow trustees to attend the festive events happening in schools.

Trustee Hunda thanked staff, students and parents for all of their hard work in hosting the Christmas feasts, concerts and plays. She also thanked Superintendent Wachnuk for all she has done for the board and wished everyone happy holidays.

Trustee Kosmerly congratulated the board on ending the year with a surplus after forecasting a deficit position. Well done. She also shared that she was honored to be one of the elves at the Lion's Club telethon, answering calls and taking pledges. She thanked Principal Carr for her work in coordinating and organizing the phone teams for the event. She also wished everyone a safe and happy holiday and thanked all staff for the work at the feasts and events.

Trustee Corbiere-Addison wished a safe and happy new year to staff and students and thanked all across the board for the hard work in helping our schools excel and for the many events such as concerts. She also shared that Manitoulin Secondary School will be hosting their annual awards ceremony on December 18<sup>th</sup>. She also wished Superintendent Wachnuk a happy retirement and to enjoy life. Her leadership will be missed.

9. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Good Evening Everyone. Before I start my formal remarks tonight I do want to add onto Director Bourget's comments and take a few moments to speak about my long term colleague and friend Superintendent Kathy Wachnuk.

Today I calculated that I have known Kathy for over 30 years. We first met as young teachers at an Ontario Public School Teacher Union Meeting. I believe she was a teacher at Robert Jack and I was a teacher at Pinecrest at that time. Now I know that both of those schools are now closed and I don't think the fact that we both taught there influenced the closure. But I can't be certain.

Over the years I watched Kathy's career blossom as she took on more and more Positions of added Responsibilities including Vice Principal, Principal and finally Superintendent of Special Education. During those years we had many opportunities to interact on a personal and professional level. Some of them which can be shared here and many of them that can't. I remember distinctly that when we were both Principal's together, her mantra was, "Well if Farrow hasn't been fired yet, I'm probably good!"

All joking aside, Kathy's strength has always been her system thinking and her ability to speak the truth to power when a decision was heading towards a difficult path.

As Chair of the Board of Trustees I want to thank you on behalf of all of us for your dedication and years of service to the Rainbow District School Board. Personally, I want to wish you, Jim, Carter & Sydney all the best and wish you many years of a happy retirement. You have done great my friend. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The festive season is upon us. As we embark on a very merry time of year in Rainbow Schools, staff and students are spreading kindness and holiday cheer in a number of ways. A list of **festive events** has been posted on the board website.

In keeping with kindness, Rainbow District School Board is once again participating in the **Edgar Burton Kids Helping Kids Food Drive**. Staff and students have been working together to collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations to assist area food banks. I would like to thank Vice-Principals Brad Smith and Andrew Kendall for leading this campaign on behalf of Rainbow Schools.

Metro is bringing nutrition home for the holidays. Students at Lansdowne Public School and Princess Anne Public School will receive breakfast kits of non-perishable food items just before the winter break. The kits will be delivered to both schools next week. Thank you Metro.

This 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.

Three hundred turkeys will be distributed to 16 Rainbow Schools this Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. The Turkeys for Families initiative was launched in 2019 thanks to the kindness of Matt Stillwaugh of Matt's Plumbing. The program has since expanded with the generosity of community partners. We thank Matt's Plumbing and community partners for making the festive season brighter for families in Rainbow Schools.

**Manitoulin Secondary School** will host its annual awards night on Thursday, December 18th at 7 pm. More than \$70,000 in awards will be presented to students. We commend the community of Manitoulin for its continued generosity and support.

Lasalle Secondary School will proudly present "**A Christmas Carol**" next week. Public performances will take place on Wednesday, December 17th and Thursday, December 18th at 7:30 pm at the Lasalle Secondary School Black Box Theatre.

Do you have a child starting school next fall? Elementary schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island will host **Kindergarten Information Nights** for families on Wednesday, January 14th at 5:30 pm for the English program, and Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm for schools offering French Immersion and dual track schools offering both English and French Immersion. All parents/guardians and children are welcome.

We also have some upcoming **Secondary Information Nights**, including:  
**Sudbury Secondary School** on Thursday, December 11th at 6 pm;  
**Chelmsford Valley District Composite School** on Tuesday, January 13th at 6 pm;  
**Lo-Ellen Park** on Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30 pm for Grade 6 and 7 pm for Grade 8;  
and **Lockerby Composite School** on Thursday, January 15th at 6:45 pm.  
Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

A friendly reminder that the **winter break** will soon be upon us. Schools will be closed from December 22nd to January 2nd. Schools will reopen on Monday, January 5th.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend best wishes to staff, students, families and community partners.

Have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season. Merry Christmas! We look forward to working together in 2026. Thank you!

**G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Accessibility Planning Committee minutes November 25, 2024 (official)  
Parent Involvement Committee minutes May 13, 2025 (official)  
Audit Committee minutes September 29, 2025 (official)  
Parent Involvement Committee minutes October 14, 2025 (official)

2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**

3. **Non-Staff Communications**

December 2, 2025 Letter to Minister Calandra

**H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Student Senate Meeting January 5, 2026 5:30 pm  
Special Education Advisory Committee January 7, 2026 12:00 pm  
Board Meeting January 20, 2026 5:00 pm  
Parent Involvement Committee January 27, 2026 7:00 pm

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 26-R26, J.Hunda

That we do now adjourn at 6:55 p.m. – **Carried**

OFFICIAL