

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, January 20, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">AGENDA AND RECOMMENDED MOTIONS</p>
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Land Acknowledgement

The Rainbow District School Board would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional and ancestral territory of the Anishnaabek including Atikameksheng Anishnaabeg and Wahnapiatae Nations.

We would like to acknowledge that we are situated within the Robinson - Huron Treaty of 1850 and want to recognize the inherent rights of the Anishinaabek that maintained these lands from time immemorial.

Roll Call

- A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** *Chair
- Motion:
That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of January 20, 2026 be approved.
- B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST** *Chair
- C. PRESENTATIONS** *Chair
- Student Achievement (EQAO)
- 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, December 9, 2025 be approved.
- 2. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees** *Chair
- Accessibility Planning Committee *SBO
- Motion:
That the Board approve the Multi-year Accessibility Plan 2023-2027, as recommended by the Accessibility Planning Committee.

- F. **NEW BUSINESS** *Chair
- 1. **Revised Estimates 2025-2026** *SBO
- 2. **OSTA/AECO – Education Action Conference** *Chair
- Motion:
That the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Cyr and Student Trustee Guenette at the OSTA/AECO Education Action Conference in Ottawa on February 19-22, 2026.
- 3. **Notice of Absence** *Chair
- 4. **Director’s Remarks** *Director
- 5. **Other Items** *Chair
OPSBA Director
Student Trustee
- 6. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions** *Chair
Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.
- 7. **Chairperson’s Remarks** *Chair
- G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** *Chair
- 1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes November 5, 2025 (official)
- 2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
2026-FAC01 – Dedicated Courier Service
- 3. **Non-Staff Communications**
- H. **FUTURE MEETINGS** *Chair
- Parent Involvement Committee January 27, 2026 7:00 pm
Student Senate Meeting February 2, 2026 5:30 pm
Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee February 3, 2026 12:00 pm
Strategic Planning Committee February 3, 2026 5:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee February 18, 2026 3:30 pm
First Nations Advisory Committee February 19, 2026 10:00 am
Equity and Inclusive Education February 19, 2026 3:30 pm
Board Meeting February 24, 2026 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
and livestreamed from the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive
on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 5:00 pm

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. Ulrichson (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 18th 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 5th 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 18th. 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 11th. 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 15th 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**



**MULTI-YEAR
ACCESSIBILITY PLAN**

FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2023 TO DECEMBER 2027

MULTI-YEAR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

**Rainbow District School Board
January 2023 – December 2027**

Prepared by

**Accessibility Planning Committee
In accordance with
Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation**

January 2023

This publication is available through the Rainbow District School Board's

- Website (www.rainbowschools.ca → About Us → Our Values → Our Commitment to Accessibility)
- In accessible formats upon request

For more information, please contact:
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Objectives

This Plan:

- Describes the process by which the Rainbow District School Board will identify, remove and prevent barriers;
- Reviews recent efforts of the Rainbow District School Board to remove and prevent barriers;
- Describes the measures the Rainbow District School Board will take in the period 2023-2027 to identify, remove and prevent barriers;
- Makes a commitment to update the Wheelchair Accessibility and Lockdown Tracking reports within the multi-year accessibility plan, annually;
- Makes a commitment to review and update the multi-year accessibility plan at least once every 5 years;
- Describes how the Rainbow District School Board will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

Commitment to Accessibility Planning

This plan will be established, reviewed and updated in consultation with persons with disabilities, the Board's Special Education Advisory Committee, Parent Involvement Committee and the Accessibility Planning Committee. It will be presented to the Board for approval.

The Rainbow District School Board is committed to:

- Maintaining an Accessibility Planning Committee;
- Continuing the process of consulting with the Special Education Advisory Committee and with persons with disabilities;
- Ensuring, wherever practicable, that Board policies, procedures and practices are consistent with the principles of accessibility and inclusive/universal design. The Accessibility Planning Committee will provide input re: accessibility issues, where appropriate, with regard to new policies and procedures and to those under review;

- Improving access to facilities, policies, programs, practices and services for students, staff, parents/guardians, volunteers and members of the community. Consideration of ongoing identification of barriers will be the responsibility of the Accessibility Planning Committee and will, wherever practicable, be incorporated in the multi-year plan.

The Director of Education has authorized the Accessibility Committee to review and update the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan that will enable the Rainbow District School Board to meet these commitments.

Description of Rainbow District School Board

Rainbow District School Board covers a geographic area of more than 14,757 square kilometers in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island.

Nine trustees govern Rainbow District School Board, including a trustee who represents 10 First Nations who have educational service agreements with the Board, and two student trustees. Elected every four years, the trustees are the public's voice at the Board.

Rainbow District School Board is the largest school board in Northern Ontario with 29 elementary schools and 9 secondary schools. The Board also operates other educational programs – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Program, Cecil Facer Secondary School, N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre, Children's Treatment Centre, O'Connor Park, Applied Behaviour Analysis Program, Restart, Simulated Healthy Independent Living Opportunities (SHILO) Program, Attendance Centre and Mishko-Deh-Wendam, Northern Support Initiative, Frank Flowers School and Barrydowne College operating at Cambrian College.

Rainbow District School Board had 14,487 students on October 31, 2024, with a staff of approximately 1,795. The approved budget for 2024-2025 was \$249.3 million.

In Rainbow Schools, programs focus on student success from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in English and French Immersion.

Mission

Together, we prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

Vision

We are leaders in learning, inspiring success for all students by reaching minds and touching hearts.

Values

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| * <i>Humility</i> | * <i>Respect</i> |
| * <i>Bravery</i> | * <i>Love</i> |
| * <i>Honesty</i> | * <i>Resilience</i> |
| * <i>Wisdom</i> | * <i>Equity</i> |
| * <i>Truth</i> | * <i>Community</i> |

Seven Grandfather Teachings

Priorities

- Student Success and Achievement
- Literacy and Numeracy
- Truth and Reconciliation
- Mental Health and Well-Being
- Environmental Education and Sustainability
- Equity and Inclusive Education

Members of Accessibility Planning Committee

Working Group Member	Department	Contact Information
Judy Kosmerly	Board of Trustees	Phone (705) 897-1603 e-mail kosmerj@rainbowschools.ca
Tiffany Hayes	Human Resources	Phone (705) 674-3171 X 7232 e-mail hayest@rainbowschools.ca
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Kathy Wachnuk	Administration	Phone (705) 674-3171 X 7235 e-mail wachnuk@rainbowschools.ca
Melissa Gladu	PIC Representative	Phone e-mail gladum@rainbowschools.ca

(Note: The above list is based on typical composition of the Accessibility Planning Committee or Accessibility Working Groups currently in place.)

Strategy for prevention and removal of barriers

Beginning on September 1, 2001, the principles of inclusionary practice, freedom from barriers and accessible environments have informed all Rainbow District School Board policies, programs, procedures and services. Through the annual accessibility plan status report process implemented under the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001*, the Rainbow District School Board's programming, policies and practices have been assessed to ensure continuous improvement in accessibility. This process will continue through the establishment of a multi-year accessibility plan which places particular emphasis on the provisions of the regulations made under the AODA with regard to customer service, information and communications, employment and school transportation.

Barrier Identification Methodologies

The Accessibility Planning Committee uses the following barrier-identification methods:

Group	Methods
Students	Barriers to accessibility are identified by students, parents and school staff. Facilities, Special Education and staff work with stakeholders to remove/prevent barriers and develop accommodation plans.
Staff	Employees and Human Resources staff identify barriers, restrictions and limitations and develop accommodation plans.
Public	Barriers to accessibility are identified by individuals accessing programs and services offered by the school board. Members of the public may bring concerns to the attention of the school or the Board Office. The Rainbow District School Board website also provides an opportunity for feedback. Barriers identified by members of the public are referred to the Board’s Accessibility Committee. Development of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and the ongoing feedback opportunities are additional important methods to identify barriers to accessibility.
Board Wide	Ongoing liaison with bargaining partners, provincial associations, school boards, and public sector agencies provides updates on emerging barriers to accessibility. SEAC, PIC and the Ontario Public Schools Boards Association are examples of some of the resources used for barrier identification. Review of our facilities provides up-to-date identification of barriers and permits planning to remove/prevent such barriers.

Temporary Disruptions of Accessible Elements

Maintenance staff provide Daily Grounds Reports every morning. In the event there is a temporary disruption of any accessible elements of a Rainbow District School Board facility, a notice will be posted on the Board website in addition to an email communication sent to staff and students. Temporary measures to support those disruptions will also be included in any notice or communication.

Recent Barrier Removal Achievements that have been addressed under the previous Multi-Year Accessibility Plan(s)

- Procurement practices now incorporate accessibility criteria for goods, services and facilities.
- Ongoing accessibility awareness training has been/is provided for all Educators/classroom-based staff on accessible instruction and program delivery.
- Educational resources and materials, student records and information on program requirements in accessible formats are available upon request.
- Ability to respond to feedback to ensure accessibility to persons with disabilities and to provide accessible formats and communication supports upon request
- New websites and content meet WCAG 2.0 Level A standards.
- Human Resources procedures have been updated with regard to accommodating persons with disabilities.
- School transportation plans continue to be developed and reviewed with parents for students with disabilities.
- School libraries are able to provide accessible or conversion-ready formats of print resources upon request.
- The Board is able to provide information and communication supports upon request and in a timely manner to persons with disabilities.
- New school construction has adhered to the current building code and includes level access to schools, automatic door openers, elevators in schools of more than one floor, accessible washrooms. Details of accessibility by school is outlined in Appendix A.

Barriers to be addressed under the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2023-2027

Rainbow Board intends, through this Multi-year Accessibility Plan for the period 2023-2027, to take action to address barriers to accessibility related to the Standards areas of current Regulations. This is in addition to ongoing training and ongoing work the Board is undertaking with regard to identification and removal of barriers in the Board’s physical environment.

2023-2024

Type of Barrier	Location	Action	Effective Date
Systemic	Board-wide	Review status of accessibility awareness training to ensure new staff have been trained	Ongoing
Systemic	Board-wide	Review status of Board accessibility policies and procedures and update as required	Ongoing
Physical	Board-wide	Capital construction work to remove and/or accommodate existing physical barriers	Ongoing

2024-2025

Type of Barrier	Location	Action	Effective Date
Systemic	Board-wide	Review status of accessibility awareness training to ensure new staff have been trained	Ongoing
Systemic	Board-wide	Review status of Board accessibility policies and procedures and update as required	Ongoing
Information and Communication	Board-wide	Upon request, provide, procure or acquire accessible or conversion ready versions of printed based educational or training supplementary learning resources.	January
Information and Communication	Board-wide	Provide, procure or acquire an accessible or conversion ready format of digital or multimedia resources for a person with a disability upon request.	January
Physical	Board-wide	Capital construction work to remove and/or accommodate existing physical barriers	Ongoing

2025-2026

Type of Barrier	Location	Action	Effective Date
Systemic	Board-wide	Review status of accessibility awareness training to ensure new staff have been trained	Ongoing
Systemic	Board-wide	Review status of Board accessibility policies and procedures and update as required	Ongoing
Information and Communication	Board-wide	All internet websites and web content must conform to WCAG 2.0 at level AA, other than live captions and audio descriptions	Ongoing
Physical	Board-wide	Capital construction work to remove and/or accommodate existing physical barriers	Ongoing

2026-2027

Type of Barrier	Location	Action	Effective Date
Systemic	Board-wide	Review status of accessibility awareness training to ensure new staff have been trained	Ongoing
Systemic	Board-wide	Review status of Board accessibility policies and procedures and update as required	Ongoing
Physical	Board-wide	Capital construction work to remove and/or accommodate existing physical barriers	Ongoing

Review and Monitoring Process

The Accessibility Planning Committee meets annually to review progress and evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of barrier-removal and prevention strategies and to plan for increased accessibility throughout the Board.

The Accessibility Planning Committee will ensure that in respect of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan the following steps take place:

- (a) An annual status report on the progress of the measures taken to implement the plan is prepared.
- (b) At least once every 5 years the plan is reviewed and updated in consultation with persons with disabilities, with the Board's Special Education Advisory Committee and other relevant committees.

Communication of the Plan

This Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and the Annual Reports prepared by the Accessibility Planning Committee will be posted on the Rainbow District School Board's website [www.rainbowschools.ca/aboutus/accessibility] and made available to the public in accessible formats upon request.

Questions, comments or feedback regarding the Accessibility Plan may be directed to:

info@rainbowschools.ca

Phone: 705-674-3171, ext. 7217

For more information on providing feedback, please visit:
www.rainbowschools.ca/about-us/our-values/accessibility

Appendices

Wheelchair Accessibility Report - September 2025	A-14
Lockdown Tracking Report – September 2025	A-15

A-14 Wheelchair Accessibility Report

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD																
Wheelchair Accessibility of Facilities Updated September 2025																
As of September 1, 2025																
Elementary School	Wheelchair Accessible	Washrooms Wheelchair Accessible	Elevator	Exterior Ramps	Interior Ramps	Auto Door Openers	Fountain	Playground	Shops	Stage	Bleachers	Science Labs	Tactile Indicators ****	Lockdown Alarms & Signals	Parking with Signs	
A.B. ELLIS (New)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	No	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	
ADAMSDALE	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
ALEXANDER	Yes	Yes	Yes**	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes**	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	
ALGONQUIN	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
ASSIGNACK	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	No	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
C.R. JUDD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
CENTRAL MANITOULIN	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
C.C. MCLEAN	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
CHELMSFORD SENIOR- closed	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
CHURCHILL	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
COPPER CLIFF	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
JEAN HANSON	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
LANSDOWNIE	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
LARCHWOOD	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
LASALLE ELEMENTARY	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	
LEVACK	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
LITTLE CURRENT	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
MACLEOD	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	
MARKSTAY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
MONTEVILLE	Yes	Yes	In Progress	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
NORTHEASTERN ELEM	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes**	N/A	Yes*	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	
PRINCESS ANNE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	
QUEEN ELIZABETH	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	No	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
R.H. MURRAY	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
R.L. BEATTIE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	
REDWOOD ACRES	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
S. GEIGER	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	
VALLEY VIEW	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	
WALDEN PUBLIC	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	
WESTMOUNT	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	

SECONDARY SCHOOL	Wheelchair Accessible	Washrooms Wheelchair Accessible	Elevator	Exterior Ramps	Interior Ramps	Auto Door Openers	Fountain	Playground	Shops	Stage*	Bleachers	Science Labs	Strips on Stairs	Alarms & Signals	Parking with Signs
CECIL FACER	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes***	Yes	N/A	Yes	No	No	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
CHELMSFORD VALLEY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes**	N/A	Yes	Yes
CONFEDERATION	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ESPANOLA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LASALLE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LIVELY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes*	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes
LOCKERBY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes
LO-ELLEN PARK	Yes	Yes	Yes**	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MANITOULIN	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes
SUDBURY SECONDARY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Board Office - Wembley	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes

Notes

N/A - Not Applicable

* A Portable Wheelchair Lift Is Available To All Schools To Access School Stage

** The majority of the property is accessible

*** Hand Held Remote To Open Door

**** Installed as requested for Staff/Students with low vision

A-15 Lockdown Tracking Report

ELEMENTARY	Fiscal Yr Installed	Fiscal Yr Proposed	Comments		
A.B. Ellis P.S. (EHS)	2021-2022				
Adamsdale P.S.					
Alexander P.S.					
Algonquin P.S.					
Assiginack P.S.					
C.R. Judd P.S.					
Central Manitoulin P.S.					
C C. McLean P.S.					
Churchill P.S.	2022-2023				
Copper Cliff P.S.					
Jean Hansen					
Lasalle Elementary	2023-2024				
Lansdowne P.S.					
Larchwood P.S.					
Levack P.S.					
Little Current P.S.		2026-2027			
MacLeod P.S.	2023-2024				
Markstay P.S.					
Monetville P.S.					
Northeastern E.S.	2020-2021				
Princess Anne P.S.					
Queen Elizabeth P.S.					
R.H. Murray P.S.					
R.L. Beattie P.S.		2025-2026			
Redwood Acres P.S.					
S. Geiger P.S.					
Valley View P.S.	2018-2019				
Walden P.S.	2017-2018				
Westmount P.S.					
SECONDARY					
Chelmsford V. D.C.S.	2021-2022				
Confederation S.S.	2017-2018				
Espanola H.S. (ABE)	2021-2022				
Lasalle S.S.	2020-2021				
Lively District S.S.	2020-2021				
Lockerby C.S.	2020-2021				
Lo-Ellen Park S.S.	2015-2016				
Manitoulin S.S.	2018-2019				
Sudbury S.S.	2017-2018				
Administration					
Centre for Ed	2016-2017				



Education Action Conference

February 19, 2026 – February 22, 2026
Ottawa, ON

Conference Agenda

Thursday, February 19, 2026	
6:00 PM	Conference Registration
8:00 PM	Welcome to EAC 2026!
8:15 PM	BoD Introductions and Conference Rules
8:30 PM	Icebreakers
10:00 PM	Nightly Check-In
Friday, February 20, 2026	
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies
9:30 AM	<p>High School Too – Growing Our Futures with Consent (Part 1) High School Too is a two-year, province-wide initiative co-led by OSTA-AECO and Possibility Seeds, funded by the governments of Ontario and Canada as part of their National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.</p>
10:30 AM	Networking Break
10:45 AM	<p>High School Too – Growing Our Futures with Consent (Part 2) The two plenary sessions invite participants into an engaging and forward-thinking learning experience designed to strengthen their capacity to drive meaningful change within their school boards and communities. Key competencies developed through this experience include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Development and Systems Thinking- Participants examine how to influence structures, policies and practices that support safer, more equitable school environments. • Curriculum Design: This session highlights approaches for integrating gender-based violence prevention into learning spaces in thoughtful and effective ways.
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	<p>Advocacy Interest Group Sessions – Curriculum & School Community</p> <p>Advocacy Interest Group Sessions – Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion</p> <p>Advocacy Interest Group Sessions – Student Well Being</p> <p>Advocacy Interest Group Sessions – Truth & Reconciliation</p> <p>Advocacy interest group (AIG) sessions bring participants together in focused, small group setting to explore shared advocacy priorities. Through open discussion, attendees will exchange insights, identify</p>

	emerging challenges and develop practical approaches to strengthen student-driven advocacy across the province.
2:00 PM	<p>Catholic Education Interest Group Breakouts</p> <p>Indigenous Student Trustees Council</p> <p>Public Education Interest Group Breakouts In these breakout sessions, participants gather with peers from their respective education systems to discuss system-specific experiences, opportunities, and challenges. Attendees will deepen their understanding of their educational context, build connection with peers and identify actionable ideas to bring back to their school boards and communities.</p>
3:15 PM	<p>Community Building: Student Trustee Roundtable</p> <p>This collaborative session invites student trustees into an engaging, small-group environment designed to spark reflection, problem-solving and shared learning. Participants will explore real challenges and successes from their school boards, leadership groups, and ongoing initiatives using open dialogue and peer insight to uncover new approaches and strengthen their impact.</p> <p>Throughout this session, student trustees will naturally develop key leadership competencies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration & Community Building: Trustees work together to exchange perspectives, offer support and build meaningful connections across school boards. • Problem-Solving & Critical Thinking: Through collective troubleshooting, participants analyze complex situations, consider multiple viewpoints and identify practical strategies. • Creative Thinking & Adaptability: Trustees are encouraged to think beyond familiar solutions and explore innovative ways to navigate their roles. <p>A guided debrief will help participants consolidate insights and translate them into actionable next steps. Student trustees will leave with renewed clarity, a stronger sense of purpose and fresh ideas to help them complete their terms feeling supported, empowered and accomplished.</p>
4:15 PM	<p>Escape the Ordinary: Unlocking Teamwork, Problem-Solving, and Creative Thinking</p> <p>This is an immersive and dynamic session designed to challenge participants to use essential skills in a fun environment. Team will be “locked” in a themed room and must work against a ticking clock to discover clues, solve a series of intricate puzzles and find the key to escape.</p>

	<p>This experience is specifically crafted to foster and refine technical competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teamwork and Collaboration: Participants must rely on each other, leveraging diverse strengths and listening to all ideas to succeed. • Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking: Navigating complex challenges requires sharp, analytical skills, quick thinking and the ability to adapt to new information. <p>Following the escape room, a debriefing session will solidify the lessons learned, ensuring participants can transfer these valuable skills to real-world situations and their daily work environments.</p>
5:15 PM	Closing Ceremonies
5:45 PM	Free Time
8:30 PM	Night Activity
10:00 PM	Nightly Check-In
Saturday, February 21, 2026	
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies
9:15 AM	<p>Keynote: Leadership at the Midpoint</p> <p>“Leadership at the Midpoint” is an inspiring keynote designed to re-energize student trustees as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of the second half of their terms. This session offers a reflective and motivating space to explore what it means to lead with resilience, clarity and purpose- especially during demanding moments.</p> <p>Through shared insights, real experiences and practical strategies, participants will deepen essential leadership capacities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience and Sustained Motivation: Trustees will examine how to stay grounded and energized when responsibilities intensify or obstacles arise. • Communication and Influence: This session reinforces the importance of clear messaging, relationship-building and leading through collaboration. • Purpose-Driven Leadership: Student trustees will reconnect with the values and intentions that brought them into their roles, strengthening their sense of meaning and impact.
10:15 AM	<p>Workshop: Student Trustee Collaboration Lab</p> <p>In this hands-on, collaborative session, student trustees will step into a creative design environment where they will co-develop meaningful initiatives and campaigns to bring back to their school boards.</p>

	<p>Throughout the experience, student trustees will strengthen key leadership and workplace-ready skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration and Teamwork: Participants work together to blend diverse perspectives and co-create initiatives with shared ownership. • Creative Thinking and Innovation: Student trustees are encouraged to think beyond traditional approaches and design campaigns that are fresh, engaging and impactful.
11:00 am	Networking Break
11:15 am	Public Education Interest Group Breakout Session
	Catholic Education Interest Group Breakout Session
	Indigenous Student Trustee Council Breakout Session
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Advocacy Interest Group Sessions – Curriculum & School Community
	Advocacy Interest Group Sessions – Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
	Advocacy Interest Group Sessions – Student Well Being
	Advocacy Interest Group Sessions – Truth & Reconciliation
2:00 pm	<p>Panel: Navigating Policy and Decision-Making</p> <p>In this engaging panel discussion, experts and alumni will walk student trustees through case studies, illustrating how key decisions are made and where student voice can meaningfully influence outcomes. This session will focus on the following skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Communication: Learn how to present ideas clearly and persuasively in decision-making spaces. • Systems Awareness: Build a stronger understanding of board processes and how to identify leverage points for student impact.

3:00 pm	<p>Workshop: Building Resilience and Managing Burnout</p> <p>In this practical session, student trustees will explore strategies for maintaining balance and wellbeing while navigating the demands of their role.</p> <p>Through shared experiences and guided discussion, participants will refine the following skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Wellbeing Management: Learn techniques for maintaining balance, setting boundaries and supporting your own mental and emotional health. • Resilience and Stress Navigation: Build strategies for staying grounded and effective during busy or challenging periods.
4:00 pm	<p>The Power of Collaboration: Action Commitments</p> <p>To conclude the day’s programming, student trustees will come together to share one concrete action they plan to bring back to their school boards. This reflective session reinforces learning, strengthens accountability and helps participants translate insights into meaningful next steps.</p>
4:30 pm	Group Photo
4:45 pm	Free Time
8:00 pm	Night Activity
10:00 pm	Nightly Check-In
Sunday, February 22, 2026	
8:00 am	Catholic Student Trustee Mass
11:00 am	Hotel Check-out & Departure

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

**Wednesday, November 5, 2025
Time: 12:00 PM
Meeting held via Google Meet**

Present:

SEAC Members:

Lauri Christison	Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury (Alternate)
Krista Cotie	Compass
Natasha Delaney	Member at Large
Sara Kitlar-Pothier	Member at Large
Judy Kosmerly	Trustee (Alternate)
Robert Silvestri (Acting Chair)	NOARC

Staff:

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

Regrets:

Julie Contini	Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury
Lisa Corbiere-Addison	Trustee
Stephanie Goudreault	Children’s Community Network
Alex McCauley	Trustee
Jennifer Way	March of Dimes

Guests:

Alan Legault	Compass
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1.0 Welcome and Introductions

R. Silvestri chaired the meeting.

2.0 Establish Quorum of Voting Members

Quorum was established.

3.0 SEAC Mission Statement

R. Silvestri read aloud the mission statement.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion 1:

Moved by: N. Delaney

Seconded by: L. Christison

That the agenda for the SEAC meeting of November 5, 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: S. Kitlar-Pothier

Seconded by: N. Delaney

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

Motion carried.

7.0 Business Arising

Alain Legault, Clinical Manager from Compass, shared an overview of the Step Up, Step Down Live-In Treatment Centre opening Spring 2026 in the former Cyril Varney PS building currently under renovation. The program is designed to meet the mental health needs of up to six students in a live-in day treatment program. The program is designed for students whose needs are greater than what can be met in their community school, but not requiring the services provided through the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Program (CAMHP) at Health Sciences North (HSN). Educational instruction will also be offered onsite by a teacher in partnership with the Rainbow DSB. The referral pathway will be through HSN. Students will stay up to six months in the program, but the

duration will be individualized.

8.0 New Business

Superintendent Wachnuk responded to the inquiry regarding Educational Assistants (EA) funded through Jordan's Principle from S. Kitlar-Pothier. Since September 2025, funding was approved through Jordan's Principle for an EA to be hired to support a specific student's needs. Some First Nations bands have given the board permission to hire and the band is paying for the service as they have pursued the funding for reimbursement. As there are fewer EAs funded through Jordan's Principle, there are more on the Board's occasional list. The Board's staffing process for schools takes place in the spring and permanent EAs are assigned at that time. A temporary EA may be assigned for a short term during the course of the school year for an emergent situation.

Requests for Leaves of Absence

Motion 3:

Moved by: L. Christison

Seconded by: S. Kitlar-Pothier

That the SEAC approve the absences of Julie Contini, Trustee Corbiere-Addison, Stephanie Goudreault, Trustee McCauley, and Jennifer Way from the November 5, 2025 SEAC meeting.

Motion carried.

9.0 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wachnuk shared information from Cambrian College about a new program for students who need extra support. The program is designed to support individuals with developmental disabilities and other learning exceptionalities in experiencing college life while planning for future employment. Students will learn job skills, have access to a mentor, earn safety certificates, and build friendships. The Glenn Crombie Centre and the Career Centre will also be involved. The College is hosting an open house on Saturday, November 8 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in Room 4273. The information received will be forwarded to the SEAC.

On November 4, the Board received information from the Autism Alliance of Canada and asked to share with the SEAC. There will be an in-person town hall meeting on November 22 at College Boreal for the francophone community. Superintendent Wachnuk responded to the sender that we are an English-speaking school board with French Immersion programs and inquired if an English-speaking session was planned. We were informed there are no plans yet for a session.

EQAO results have not been issued yet to school boards but it is expected they will be provided later this month. The results allow for school and board improvement planning.

Earlier this year, the Ministry revised the regulations and funding for school programs in partnership with other community agencies. Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECP) in the Board are located at Cecil Facer Secondary School, the Frank Flowers School Program, and the Attendance Centre. The other partnership programs, previously known as section programs, are now considered Care and Treatment Education Programs (CTEP). Under the previous model, school boards applied to the Ministry for CTEP and ECP funding, which covered staffing expenses, and a provincial moratorium was in place that did not permit the addition of more programs. Under the new process, CTEP funding is allocated to school boards based on their existing programs or a baseline amount, whichever number is greater. The change was made to meet the needs of students in school boards who do not have established programs. School boards can add new programs.

Superintendent Wachnuk shared that she has given the Board her notice and is retiring in December. Effective January 5, 2026, Principal Danielle Williamson will be Superintendent of Schools. A posting has been issued for the position of Principal of Special Education. The person hired for that role will also begin in January.

10.0 Special Education Staff Report

Principal Williamson shared a presentation on the 2025 Summer Skill Development Program for Students with Autism. The program was delivered by the Applied Behaviour Analysis Team with the support of the Mental Health Team. The program targeted the development of social and life skills for students with autism. Sessions ran in three week blocks from July 7 to 25 and August 5 to 22. Participants were divided into groups (K to Grade 4, Grades 5 to 8, and Grades 9 to 12) and split into morning or afternoon sessions of three hours each. There were 50 students who participated in person at Lasalle Elementary School. Feedback from students and parents about the program was overwhelmingly positive.

The annual Challenge Meet, now renamed the All Stars Athletic Meet, has been set for May 28, 2026 at Laurentian University. A rain date will also be set. An all abilities soccer meet at Lasalle Secondary School is in development. More details will be shared when they are available.

The “Next Stop Grade 9” (formerly Transitions Night) is being held on November 12, 2025 in the Student Centre at Cambrian College from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

Central Special Education Staff will have a table set up to share information and answer questions for parents and students.

11.0 Board Report

Trustee Kosmerly shared that the Board received a presentation by Lockerby CS Principal Ryan Lafreniere on the progress toward achievement of environmental education goals and EcoSchool certification of all schools in the Board.

The Board approved a motion to write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding the importance of school board trustees.

Trustee Kosmerly offered her congratulations to Superintendent Wachnuk on her retirement.

12.0 Chairperson's Report

Congratulations to Superintendent Wachnuk on her upcoming retirement.

13.0 Association Reports

Sara Kitlar-Pothier (Member at Large – Ontario Autism Coalition)

S. Kitlar-Pothier is co-chair of the northern working group. An education survey was conducted. Issues and barriers were identified with the Ontario Autism Program. The Coalition attempted to share the results of the survey with the Minister of Education, but have been unsuccessful. The Coalition is in support of school boards and what trustees are trying to do, and appreciates the work done in the Rainbow Board to advocate for students with special needs.

Robert Silvestri (NOARC)

The support staff strike ended and NOARC is now in the catch-up phase. We are working with Career Centres and when students finish a college program, how do they disclose disabilities to employers and arrange for accommodations. Cambrian College staff will develop learning modules on how to transition to the workplace. Dr Alana Holmes retired last month and NOARC is posting for a new manager. The EA survey data is in review with Principal Williamson.

14.0 Correspondence Addressed to SEAC

None

15.0 Other Items/ Future Agenda Items/ Information Requests

- Educational Assistants professional development survey results

16.0 Next Meeting Date

January 7, 2026 from 12:00 until 1:30 PM.

17.0 Adjournment

R. Silvestri adjourned the meeting at 1:20 PM.

OFFICIAL



**2026-FAC01 - DEDICATED COURIER SERVICE
PROPOSAL RECORD FORM**

PROJECT AND DETAILS:

Selection of one firm to provide Dedicated Courier Services for the period of January 1st, 2026 to July 31st, 2028.

EVALUATION:

Each proposal was evaluated on the basis of criteria such as: fees, experience providing similar services, references, methodology.

SUPPLIERS:

Proposals were received from the following:

Name

SQM Janitorial Services Inc.
2781203 Ontario Inc. o/a Elite Facilities Group
Phil Jutras & Son Limited
TForce Logistics

Location

Mississauga, Ontario
Mississauga, Ontario
Sudbury, Ontario
Sudbury, Ontario

AWARDED TO:

Phil Jutras & Son Limited