

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, February 24, 2026 at 5:00 pm

Present: Trustees: A. McCauley (Chair), B. Clement, L. Corbiere-Addison (via Google Meet),
D. Dewar (via Google Meet), D. Farrow (via Google Meet), A. Gibson,
J. Hunda (arrived 5:03pm), J. Kosmerly, Student Trustee Cyr (via Google
Meet), Student Trustee Guenette

Absent: L. Debassige

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

Staff: E. Bacon, G. Bastien, M. Bertrand, J. Burns, N. Charette, T. Dewitt,
S. Dykstra, T. Hayes, R. Jones, N. Mousseau, D. Peristeridis, D. Pratt,
C. Whitson

Other: Algonquin Public School student T. Daigle and parent, Member of the
public

Chair McCauley called the meeting to order and read a declaration of land acknowledgement aloud.

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

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 26-R38, A.Gibson/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of February 24, 2026 be approved.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

1. Algonquin Road – Public Speaking

Principal Trevor Dewit of Algonquin Road Public School was proud to share the success of the students that participated in public speaking within the school. He shared that public

speaking allows students to practice communication, demonstrate character and share thinking. He introduced grade 2/3 teacher Sarah Dykstra who shared that Algonquin Road Public School placed 1st in all 3 divisions at the Lockerby Legion competition. She then had the honour of introducing grade 2 student Talia Daigle who placed 1st at the school level, 1st at the Lockerby Legion competition and an impressive 4th place at the Greater Sudbury zone level.

Talia proudly stood in front of the Trustees and shared her speech titled “If I had a pet Monkey”, which ended with a standing ovation.

Trustees expressed their appreciation for Talia’s wonderful speech and thanked her for sharing.

2. **Pathways** – OYAP / Dual Credits / CO-OP / SHSM

Superintendent McNamara introduced Principal of Student Success, Melanie Bertrand whose work is dedicated to programming for students in grades 7-12. One component of the student success initiative that is having a significant impact is Pathways programs that provide students with experiential learning opportunities that prepare them for their future.

Mel introduced members of the Pathways team, Dana Pratt (Dual Credit Coordinator), Jen Burns (Co-op and OYAP Coordinator and Secondary Skills Facilitator), Eric Bacon (Elementary STEM Coordinator) and Jody Jakubo (SHSM and Experiential Learning Coordinator). Together they provided an overview of the pathways opportunities available in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin, the benefits for students and some recent outcomes and celebrations.

As an essential component of Student Success, pathways programs are designed to support graduation and success post-graduation, which requires a great deal of communication and collaboration between the program team and the school-based student success team. The goal is to work together to provide the opportunities for students that allow them to explore their interests and map out their pathway.

Trustees expressed their gratitude for the wonderful presentation and thanked the presenters and entire team for all of the hard work they do in providing these opportunities to our students.

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

No meeting held. No report.

E. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Previous Minutes**

a) **Motion: 26-R39, B.Clement/J.Kosmerly**

That the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: In-favour

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

- Carried

- b) **Motion: 26-R40, J.Hunda/B.Clement**
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 be approved.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

- c) **Motion: 26-R41, A.Gibson/D.Farrow**
That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on Monday, February 9, 2026 be approved.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

2. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees**

Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee

- a) **Notice of Motion: 26-R42, J.Hunda**
That the revised Terms of Reference, as attached, for the Governance Policy and By-Law Review Committee, be approved.
- b) **Notice of Motion: 26-R43**
That the changes to Governance By-Law 14.12, as attached , be approved.

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **2026-2027 School Year Structure**

Motion:26-R44, A.Gibson/J.Kosmerly

That the Board approve the 2026-2027 School Year Structure for elementary and secondary schools.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

2. **2026 Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium**

Motion: 26-R45, A.Gibson/B.Clement

That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at OPSBA's 2026 Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium in Toronto on April 23-24, 2026. (*Trustee Hunda, Trustee Clement, Trustee Gibson, Trustee Farrow*)

Poll vote

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

- Carried

3. **Notice of Absence**

Chair McCauley stated that Trustee Debassige sends her regrets and Trustee Farrow, Trustee Dewar, Trustee Corbiere-Addison and Student Trustee Cyr requested to participate electronically, with their requests meeting the criteria in by-law 14.

4. **Director's Remarks**

I hope that all students, staff and Trustees had a wonderful Family Day long weekend.

Predicted Enrolment

The beginning of a new school year may seem far away, but we are already planning for the fall.

Elementary school enrolment predictions are due the week before the March break.
Secondary school enrolment predictions are due the week after the March break.
These predictions inform our staffing levels for the next school year.

We encourage parents/guardians to register their children now for the fall if they have not already done so.

While we continue to accept registrations until the start of the new school year, registering early helps with planning and staffing.
We will share more information with Trustees later this spring.

Professional Learning

As you know, Truth and Reconciliation is a stand-alone priority for the Board. I am pleased to share that Kelly Crawford will be joining us for the Professional Activity Day this Friday, February 27th. Her focus will be on treaties and our role as treaty people as we continue to build our understanding and reaffirm our commitment to reconciliation. This presentation will be paired with a presentation from our mental health team.

Staff will also enjoy subject specific professional development around design to promote thinking including literacy and numeracy. French teachers will engage with Professor Denis Cousineau to engage in concepts of French language development, and lesson design to promote language and thinking.

Board Awards

Rainbow District School Board will pay tribute to its dedicated employees and community partners with the presentation of Board Awards on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. The ceremony will begin at 6:30 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium at Sudbury Secondary School.

Awards for Outstanding Contribution to the Co-Curricular Program Community Partnership Awards, the Go Green Globe Awards, Awards for Excellence, the Barbara Konarek Memorial Award and the William N. Roman Teacher of the Year Award will be presented. Employees with 25 and 35 years of service will also be recognized.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 6, 2026.

Retirement Dinner

The Board's Retirement Dinner will take place on Tuesday, June 2, 2026. Please mark your calendars. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate our retirees for their dedicated service.

Thank you

5. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – Trustee Kosmerly recently attended the OPSBA Public Education Symposium in Toronto where the theme was “What Matters Most in Supporting Students”. The keynote speakers and breakout sessions focussed on the good work Trustees do to support student success, and the challenges trustees are facing and the ways to address them. She shared that the conference was informative and energizing, but was most impressed that 7 trustees attended from boards that are now under supervision. At the regional meeting, 75 minutes was allotted to discuss draft terms of reference for Regional Councils. The next OPSBA Board of Directors meeting will be held virtually this Saturday where the audited financial statements will be reviewed as well as further discussion on the draft terms of reference. There will be a special meeting on March 12th to vote on OPSBA's proposed governance structure changes.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Guenette shared that at the recent Senate meeting, an election was held for the vacant Vice Chair position, which will be filled by Lo Ellen Park Senator Daniela Grotoli. They also continued to work on the upcoming Stand Up Speak

Out conference and shared that registration information will be sent to schools in March. She thanked the board for opportunity to attend the OSTA Education Action Conference in Ottawa. She shared there was great professional development and lots of opportunity to network with fellow trustees.

Student Trustee Cyr acknowledged the hard work of the senators and their dedication to their roles on Senate and their passions for student leadership and advocacy. They have worked very hard on this conference securing speakers and other tasks. She also expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to attend the conference. As part of the Indigenous Student Trustee Council, they got to work on the indigenous Student Trustee Handbook at the provincial level, with the hopes to create a helpful resource for indigenous student trustees, separate from the Student Trustee Handbook created by OPSBA.

6. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Farrow thanked Chair McCauley for stepping in as Chair.

Trustee Corbiere-Addison shared that she attended the OPSBA conference and enjoyed the sessions as well. She attended a workshop on vaping which included presentations on the Stomp and Quash programs, and was happy to see the board was using the Quash program.

7. **Chairperson's Remarks**

In Rainbow Schools, the second Thursday in September of each school year is "Stand Up Against Bullying Day". Staff and students wear pink as we join together to demonstrate our collective commitment to safe schools. This year, Wednesday, February 25th is **Pink Shirt Day in Canada**. Everyone is invited to wear pink and reflect on the importance of fostering warm and welcoming school environments all year long.

The **Parent Involvement Committee** will meet next Tuesday, March 3rd at 7 pm. The topic will be the Thrive initiative. Parents/guardians can join in person or online via Google Meet. The link is on the agenda which will be available on the board website.

On March 4th, some 165 students from Grades 9 to 12 in Rainbow Schools will test their skills in various skilled trades during the board's **19th annual Technological Skills Competition**. The elementary competition continues to grow with approximately 370 students participating in seven categories. Competitions will take place at Cambrian College. Today, competitions for carpentry as well as home and team building took place at the Carpenter's Union training hall in Azilda.

A reminder that Friday, March 6th is the deadline for parents/guardians of students with exceptionalities to provide input into the **2026-2027 Special Education Plan**. The survey link is available on the board's website.

March 6th is also the deadline for nominations for Board Awards.

Rainbow District School Board will host a **Career Fair** on Saturday, March 7th from 9 am to 3 pm at Lockerby Composite School. Positions currently available include Teachers (for English, French and Ojibwe), Administrative Assistants, Cleaners, Designated Early Childhood Educators, Educational Assistants, a Plumber and a Burner Mechanic. Individuals currently working in a skilled trade who are thinking about a career in education

are invited to learn how they can bring their experience in the trades into the classroom during one of two information sessions - 9 am to 11 am OR 1 pm to 3 pm. Human Resources staff and hiring Principals and Managers will be on site to conduct interviews, answer questions and accept applications. To ensure an interview time, candidates are encouraged to pre-book by submitting their application to hr@rainbowschools.ca by March 2nd.

The board's annual **Science Fair** is set for Tuesday, March 10th. Projects from students in Grades 7 to 12 will be on display in the Lockerby Composite School gym. The public is welcome to view the projects from 12 pm to 1 pm. An awards ceremony will follow. Best of luck to all.

This month, staff and students were challenged to use less electricity. Next month, schools will explore fisheries, conservation and water awareness.

There will be no school for students on Friday, February 27th for our sixth Professional Activity Day of the 2025-2026 school year. Information about the PA Day is on the board website.

A friendly reminder that the **Mid-Winter Break** is next month. There will be no school for students from March 16th to and including March 20th.

And that concludes my remarks for this evening.

Thank you.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Parent Involvement Committee minutes December 2, 2025 (official)
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Student Senate Meeting March 2, 2026 5:30 pm
Parent Involvement Committee March 3, 2026 7:00 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee March 4, 2026 12:00pm
Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee March 10, 2026 12:00pm
Board Meeting March 24, 2026 5:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 26-R46, B.Clement
That we do now adjourn at 6:18 p.m. – **Carried**