

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, March 24, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

<p>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 Anishnaabek that maintained these lands from time immemorial.

Roll Call

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| A. | <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u> | *Chair |
| | <u>Motion:</u>
That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of March 24, 2026 be approved. | |
| B. | <u>PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST</u> | *Chair |
| C. | <u>PRESENTATIONS</u> | *Chair |
| | <u>Math Achievement Action Plan – Superintendent Koziar</u> | |
| D. | <u>REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD</u> | *Director |
| E. | <u>OLD BUSINESS</u> | *Chair |
| 1. | <u>Previous Minutes</u> | *Chair |
| | <u>Motion:</u>
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 be approved. | |

2. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees** *Chair
- Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee** *Chair
- a) Motion:
That the revised Terms of Reference, as attached, for the Governance Policy and By-Law Review Committee, be approved.
- b) Motion:
That the changes to Governance By-Law 14.12, as attached, be approved.
- F. **NEW BUSINESS** *Chair
1. **Municipal Election 2026** *SBO
- a) Motion:
That in accordance with Section 4 (1) (b) Ontario Regulation 412/00 the Board does not designate any municipality within its jurisdiction as a low population municipality.
- b) Motion:
That in accordance with Ontario Regulation 412/00 that Appendix A shall form the report of the Determination and Distribution of trustees as required under Section 9 of the regulation and further, that, the municipality with the largest population in each Area and the school board election clerk as referred to in Section 8.1 being identified as follows:
- Area 1 – Clerk of The City of Greater Sudbury
Area 2 – Clerk of The City of Greater Sudbury
Area 3 – Clerk of The City of Greater Sudbury
Area 4 – Clerk of The City of Greater Sudbury
Area 5 – Clerk of The City of Greater Sudbury
Area 6 – Clerk of The City of Greater Sudbury
Area 7 – Clerk of The Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands
Area 8 – Clerk of The Town of Espanola
- c) Motion:
That the vote by integrated internet and telephone services bylaw 2026-01 as attached be deemed to have been read three times and be approved.
2. **Notice of Absence** *Chair
3. **Director's Remarks** *Director
4. **Other Items** *Chair
OPSBA Director
Student Trustee
5. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** *Chair
Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.
6. **Chairperson's Remarks** *Chair

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS *Chair

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
First Nations Advisory Committee minutes November 20, 2025 (official)
Parent Involvement Committee minutes January 27, 2026 (official)
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**
Graduation Ceremony Dates – Elementary, Secondary & Stepping Up
Letter from Paul Calandra, Minister of Education

H. FUTURE MEETINGS *Chair

- Special Education Advisory Committee April 1, 2026 12:00 pm
Student Senate Meeting April 13, 2026 5:30 pm
Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee April 14, 2026 12:00 pm
Equity and Inclusive Education Committee April 16, 2026 3:30 pm
Parent Involvement Committee April 21, 2026 7:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee April 22, 2026 3:30 pm
Board Meeting April 28, 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, 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**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee

~~March 2025~~ February 2026

1. NAME OF THE COMMITTEE

Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee

2. MANDATE

The Governance Policy and By-Law Review Committee shall regularly review and revise Governance Policies and By-Laws to maintain relevant, efficient and effective implementation and to ensure policies comply with the Education Act, Regulations, and other relevant legislation. ~~This committee will function as a subcommittee under the Strategic Planning Committee, reporting directly to it.~~

3. MEMBERSHIP

Composition

1. 6 trustees
2. Chair of the Board (ex-officio)
3. Director of Education/Secretary of the Board (non-voting)

Term

1. Six (6) Trustee members to be selected at the annual Organizational Meeting in November for a one year term.

4. SCOPE

1. Ensure current governance bylaws and policies are properly identified;
2. Prioritize board governance bylaws and policies for review by the committee;
3. Review and, where necessary, revise prioritized bylaws and policies and make recommendations to ~~Strategic Planning Committee~~ the Board of Trustees;
4. Develop a workplan for the regular ongoing review of governance bylaws and policies;

5. Examine issues referred to the committee ~~by Strategic Planning Committee and/or the Board of Trustees~~ to determine if a new governance bylaw/policy should be developed and make recommendations to ~~Strategic Planning Committee~~ the Board of Trustees;
6. If requested by the Board of Trustees ~~and/or Strategic Planning Committee~~, develop a new draft bylaw/policy and submit it to the ~~Strategic Planning Committee~~ Board of Trustees for review and approval.

5. REPORTING

The committee will report ~~to the Board's Strategic Planning Committee as a standing agenda item~~ directly to the Board of Trustees.

6. MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at the call of the committee chair a minimum of 4 times per year. Minutes will be taken at committee meetings and provided to all members prior to the next scheduled meeting. The chair of the committee will set the agenda with input from committee members. The chair of the committee and/or Secretary of the Board may call on external expertise to support the work of the committee where required.

- 14.7 The participating board member shall implement appropriate processes to ensure the security and confidentiality of proceedings that are closed to the public.
- 14.8 Board members who participate in a meeting through electronic means are deemed to be present at the meeting.
- 14.9 For the purpose of complete disclosure, at every electronic meeting of the board, members participating through electronic means shall be made aware of the board members physically present in the room, the board members participating electronically and whether or not the public and/or media are present.
- 14.10 The Director of Education or their designate must be physically present in the meeting room for each meeting of the board and each meeting of a committee of the board, including a committee of the whole board.
- 14.11 The chair of a committee of the board or their designate is expected to be physically present in the meeting room at every regular meeting of the committee of the board (except a committee of the whole board) however they may participate in the meeting by electronic means.
- 14.12 Unless a meeting is closed to the public in accordance with legislation, regular meetings of the board and meetings of the whole board are open to permit physical attendance by the public. The board will endeavour to provide live streaming of regular board meetings. ~~and Strategic Planning Committee meetings.~~
- 14.13 In special circumstances, at the sole discretion of the Board, the Board **may** provide, at one or more locations within its jurisdiction, electronic means to permit participating in meetings by members of the public excluding closed meetings.
- 14.14 If all schools in the board are closed due to a government or health order, physical attendance rules do not apply. This exception lasts until 60 days after the closure order ends.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Legal:

Education Act, Regulation 313/24
Education Act, Regulation 463/97

Board:

Board Policy No. GOV-05 Code of Conduct: Board Members

**Rainbow District School Board
2026 Trustee Distribution
In Accordance with O. Reg 412/00**

Appendix A

Area	Name of Municipality/ Municipal Ward	Trustee Distribution
Area 1	Greater Sudbury Wards 1 & 2	1
Area 2	Greater Sudbury Wards 3 & 4, and the Unorganized Townships of Cartier, Cascaden, Foy, Hart, Harty, Hess, Moncrieff, Shining Tree and Trill	1
Area 3	Greater Sudbury Wards 5 & 6	1
Area 4	Greater Sudbury Wards 7 & 8, and the Municipalities of French River, Killarney, Markstay-Warren, St. Charles, and the Unorganized Townships of Burwash, Cox, Davis, Eden, Hawley, Hendrie, Henry, Janes, Laura, Loughrin, Secord, Servos, Street and Tilton.	1
Area 5	Greater Sudbury Wards 9 & 10	1
Area 6	Greater Sudbury Wards 11 & 12	1
Area 7	The Towns of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, Gore Bay. The Townships of Assiginack, Barrie Island, Billings, Burpee and Mills, Central Manitoulin, Cockburn Island, Gordon, Tehkumah, and Manitoulin Locality Education.	1
Area 8	The Town of Espanola and the Townships of Baldwin, Nairn & Hyman, Sables-Spanish Rivers and Espanola Locality Education.	1
Total		8

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

By-law Number (2026-01)

Being a by-law to authorize voting by integrated internet and telephone services for the 2026 Municipal Election and the entering into of an agreement with Sequent Tech to provide integrated internet and telephone voting services.

WHEREAS Section 42 of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 provides that a municipal council may pass a by-law authorizing an alternative voting method;

AND WHEREAS council deems it appropriate and in the public interest to conduct the 2026 Municipal Election using a vote by integrated internet and telephone voting methods and to contract with Sequent Tech to provide election services;

NOW THEREFORE RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The alternative voting method of "Integrated Internet and Telephone Voting Services" is hereby authorized for the 2026 Municipal Election for the following unorganized townships: Burwash, Cartier, Cascaden, Cox, Davis, Eden, Espanola Locality, Foy, Hart, Harty, Hendire, Henry, Hawley, Hess, Janes, Laura, Loughrin, Manitoulin Locality, Moncrieff, Secord, Servos, Shining Tree, Street, Tilton, and Trill.
2. A Voter Information Letter will be provided to every person who qualifies to be an elector. The Letter will be mailed to each qualified elector.
3. The Voter Information Letter shall consist of:
 - A voting instruction letter with unique voting credentials
 - Such other necessary material as the Returning Officer may determine
4. Voting Period shall be established on the following dates and times:

Friday, October 16, 2026 to Monday, October 26, 2026 to 8:00 p.m.
Services to be available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week up until end of voting period.
5. Every elector has the responsibility of completing the ballots in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and the procedures authorized by this By-law and submitting their vote by Internet or Telephone Services on or before 8:00 p.m. on Voting Day.
6. No proxy voting provisions or advance voting provisions are applicable at Municipal Elections conducted in accordance with this by-law.

7. The Municipal Clerk shall prepare procedures and rules for the Vote by Integrated Internet and Telephone Voting Services for the municipal election and provide these procedures and rules to each candidate no later than September 1, 2026.
8. Any person, corporation or trade union guilty of corrupt practices or contravening the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 or the procedures and rules as established in paragraph 8 of this by-law may be prosecuted pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.
10. The Secretary and Superintendent of Business are herewith authorized to sign the necessary agreement with Sequent Tech to provide Integrated Internet and Telephone Voting Services.
11. This By-law shall take effect on the date of final passing thereof.

By-law read a first and second time this _____ day of _____ 2026.

By-law read a third time and finally passed this _____ day of _____ 2026.

Chair

Secretary

November 20,2025
MINUTES OF THE
FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Held in person and electronically via Google Meet
From the Centre of Education, 408 Wembley Drive (Room #104)

Members present: Bob Clement, Trustee
(In person)

Members present: Linda Debasige, Trustee
(via google) Carlene Assinewai, AOK
Sherry Moreau, Kenjgewin Teg

Board Staff: Bruce Bourget, Director
Tim Nadjiwon, System Principal of Indigenous Education
Kasey Blanchette, Recording Secretary

1. OPENING

The meeting was called to order by Director Bruce Bourget, and quorum was not established.

2. INTRODUCTION

Introductions were made by those in attendance. This meeting is an information session only.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

As quorum was not met, there was no motion to approve the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

As quorum was not met, there was motion to approve the minutes. Minutes to forward to the next FNAC meeting, dated Thursday, February 19th, 2026.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

a.2025-2026 Chair opportunity

Kelly Lee Assinewe will continue as chair. She is interested in having someone take over her position as chair of this committee.

6. INDIGENOUS EDUCATION POSITIONS

i. ISW hiring update

The October 2025, 8 interviews were conducted and 3 people have been hired on with us as ISW's.

ii.Re-engagement teacher

Serving Espanola High School, we now have Jonathan Beninger.

7. COMMUNITY VISITS

Travis and Tim are looking to connect with communities to discuss ways we can support and to discuss potential opportunities to partner in offering land based learning opportunities for students.

8. FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES

Discussions on having all community reps established for the year, and the appreciation on updates from our communities.

9. EDUCATION SERVICE AGREEMENT – SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

On 2 occasions we had scheduled signing ceremonies (May 16, 2024 and September 19, 2024). Requests for more time to review the agreement were provided on both occasions. An email sent to some communities and the board was received on February 12, 2025. Comments have been received that the changes proposed were not developed by the entire group. A document providing a summary of the proposed changes was received on April 28, 2025. At the May 15, 2025 FNAC meeting it was shared that the board was unaware of meetings being held regarding the ESA and expressed disappointment that we were not included as we have always met at the table. It was shared that without a System Principal the ESA discussion will resume in the upcoming school year. An ESA

subcommittee meeting was held on November 12, 2025. A review of the process and developments to date was shared and a line by line review began.

a. Consent Form

A board form was developed and shared previously. There was discussion on possible changes. We are working on one form that we can all agree upon. It is important for consistency to have one document.

b. Special Education

The team and First Nations Advisory Committee are building a connection & opportunity to move forward where the primary interest is success and support of the student. Linda Debassige added that since being appointed, she cannot fully express the recognition and appreciation of the team. Leadership is being realized.

c. Finance

Schedules and structures do require more time with the Service Agreement. Discussions regarding the data that we are currently working on for the Annual Report, will be shared once completed.

d. Language Programs

Committee to have discussions around language programs moving forward.

e. Dates to meet

We will be sending out polls for which dates will work best moving forward for future meetings.

10. LAND BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS - LASALLE TRIP

Principal Tim Nadjiwon shared a presentation on Land Based Learning.

The Sunrise Ceremony was held in Espanola this year. Ozzie Osawamick, the board Cultural Facilitator, supported the setup of the tipi along with cultural teachings to students during the previous school day.

The Truth & Reconciliation day was held at Bell Park. Some of the events included deer hide tanning and prep, skinning, and deer meat processing.

Ozzie restored the Tipi at Redwood Acres P.S.

Highlights of the great work staff are doing in schools was shared.

11. COMMUNITY UPDATES

Sherry had shared her appreciation and gratitude for our meetings, and the connection with the School Board & what we offer, and the appreciation she shared in getting to know the students.

The Fall Harvest was very well attended providing a great range of opportunities of culture, language and ceremonies.

12. CLOSING

Director Bruce Bourget thanked members for the information session. We will be sending out future dates regarding the Service Agreement.

Next meeting: February 19th, 2026

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7 pm
In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

Attendance:

Steffany Bourque, Parent, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School; Melissa Gladu, Parent, Northeastern Elementary School/Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School; Ashley Vickman, Parent, Walden Public School; Jenne Atkinson, Parent, Walden Public School; Jessica Lamarilli, Parent, Lasalle Elementary School; Kylee MacCormack, Parent, C.R. Judd Public School; Jessica Newell-Tremblay, Parent, Copper Cliff Public School; Deanna Hardy, Parent, Charles C. McLean Public School; Kelly Rodriguez, OSSTF representative; Julie Cuss, Parent, R.H. Murray Public School; Coleen Eberlein, Elementary Principal representative; Natasha Delaney, Parent, Jean Hanson Public School; Ashley Hurley, Parent, Alexander Public School; Erin Holloway, Parent, Lockerby Composite School; Melissa Harrison, Parent, A.B. Ellis Public School/Espanola High School; Jennifer Harvey, Principal, Churchill Public School; Melanie Bertrand, Principal of Student Success; Sarah Clarke, Mental Health Lead; Ryan Jones, Senior Technician; Leslie Mantle, Superintendent of Schools; and Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning

Regrets:

Trustee Alex McCauley; Bryanne de Casto Rocha, Parent, Lansdowne Public School; Laurie-Anne Lielkalns, Secondary Principal representative; Meredith Coulas, OSSTF representative

Call to Order: 7 pm

1. Welcome

Chair Steffany Bourque welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Self-Introductions

Online and in person participants introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda

“That the agenda for the meeting on January 27, 2026 be approved.”

Moved by: Erin Holloway, Lockerby Composite School

Seconded by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary/Lo-Ellen Park SS

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes

“That the minutes of the meeting held on December 2, 2025 be approved.”

Moved by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Seconded by: Erin Holloway, Lockerby Composite School

Carried

5. Panel Presentation

Attendance and Lates - What You Can Do at Home

Superintendent Leslie Mantle said regular attendance and arriving at school on time are essential habits that play a major role in a student’s success. Being present in class every day ensures that students do not miss important lessons, discussions, or instructions. Punctuality helps the school day begin smoothly and teaches responsibility, time management, and respect for others. When students attend school consistently and arrive on time, they are better prepared to learn, achieve academically, and develop positive habits.

Superintendent Mantle introduced the panel of three experienced administrators and leaders who provided their perspective on attendance and lates, offered strategies and solutions, and answered questions. The panel discussion was recorded for sharing with Principals and School Councils.

Jennifer Harvey, Principal, Churchill Public School

Principal Harvey said students thrive on routine and repetition. She invited parents/guardians to be role models by talking about school in a positive way, showing interest in what their children are learning or excited about, talking openly about punctuality and attendance, celebrating student success, displaying school work at home to show pride, and building positive relationships with teachers and administrators. Parent involvement in the school shows children that education is valued. When children engage fully in school life, through sports and clubs, they gain a sense of belonging. When there are challenges, inform the school early and seek solutions together.

Melanie Bertrand, Principal of Student Success

Principal Bertrand encouraged parents/guardians to keep the Rainbow District School Board card calendar on the fridge for daily reference, be aware of what is happening at school and with peer groups, be aware of the number of days your child is missing school which results in learning loss, and know school and classroom procedures on absences and lates. Parents can support their child's education by scheduling appointments after school, knowing school start times and arriving on time, knowing a student's course schedule, and reaching out to the school to explain absences. When students miss school, it's important to develop a plan to get back on track. Co-constructing routines is also important such as regular bed/wake up times, limiting screen time, scheduling homework time, preparing lunches in advance, etc.

Sarah Clarke, Mental Health Lead

Mental Health Lead Sarah Clarke emphasized the importance of engaging students in co-curricular activities which engages them in school life and fosters positive attendance and mental health. If a child needs support, contact the school. It's important to understand why your child is missing school or does not want to attend school. Talk to your child and engage in collaborative problem-solving. Work with the school to make a plan to address barriers to success. Sarah Clarke talked about the anxiety/avoidance cycle, where long term avoidance leads to more anxiety. She also stressed the importance of accessing a mental health professional, if necessary. On behalf of Brien Managhan, Manager of Applied Behaviour Analysis Services, she shared evidence-based strategies on establishing and maintaining routines and increasing motivation to attend school. Self-monitoring against pre-determined expectations is an effective tool.

Summary:

Regular attendance and arriving at school on time helps students achieve academically and socially, and develop positive habits.

Academically, students who attend school regularly are more likely to understand lessons and keep up with their work. Each class builds on the previous one, so missing school or arriving late can create learning gaps. Being on time allows students to fully participate in lessons, ask questions, and complete assignments, which leads to better grades and stronger study habits.

Socially, regular attendance helps students build and maintain positive relationships with classmates and teachers. Being present every day allows students to take part in

group activities, discussions, and teamwork, which strengthens communication and cooperation skills. Arriving on time also shows respect for others and helps students feel connected to their peers.

Consistent attendance provides structure and routine, which are important for mental health and well-being. Knowing what to expect each day can reduce stress and anxiety. Students who attend school regularly often feel more confident and motivated because they are prepared and not constantly trying to catch up. This sense of stability and achievement supports healthy mental development.

Parents/guardians asked questions at the end of the panel discussion and also requested a flyer about attendance and lates for sharing at school events.

7. Communications Report

Nicole Charette, Senior Advisor of Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning, delivered the following communications report:

Rainbow District School Board's **Annual Report for the 2024-2025 school year** is now available online at [rainbowschools.ca](https://www.rainbowschools.ca). The Annual Report provides a snapshot of how the Board's strategic priorities are being implemented in Rainbow Schools. There is also an overview of the 2025-2026 budget.

Rainbow District School Board's **Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2023-2027** was approved by the Board at its regular meeting on January 20, 2026. Melissa Gladu attended the accessibility planning committee meeting on behalf of the Parent Involvement Committee. The plan is updated annually and posted on the Board website. The plan includes two important summaries - A Wheelchair Accessibility Report and a Lockdown Tracking Report. We invite you to share this information with parents/guardians and school visitors. Our Commitment to Accessibility is under the "Values" section of the board website - [rainbowschools.ca](https://www.rainbowschools.ca) - at the following link:

<https://www.rainbowschools.ca/about-us/our-values/accessibility/>

The Education Quality and Accountability Office presents **EQAO webinars for parents/guardians**, including math sessions, literacy sessions with a focus on writing, etc. Visit the Board's Facebook page to learn more and to register. We would like to thank parents/guardians for supporting your children with reading, writing and math. Our results continue to trend upwards, an indication that our efforts are having a positive impact on student achievement and well-being.

We would like to thank families who visited Rainbow elementary schools for our **Kindergarten Information Nights** on January 14 and 15, 2026. Families who were unable to attend and have a child starting school, can register by contacting their area Rainbow school.

Secondary School Information Nights will continue in the coming weeks including Manitoulin Secondary School on Wednesday, February 11th at 7 pm and Espanola High School on Thursday, February 12th at 6 pm. For the Information Nights that have already taken place, there is still time to register for the fall. Visit the board website to learn more.

The **Environmental Education Committee** has challenged Rainbow Schools to kick off the new year with an e-waste clean up drive. Personal electronics have a large environmental impact. Over the last decade, there has been a substantial increase in ownership of personal electronics and the lifespan of our devices is becoming increasingly shorter. In February, all schools will be challenged to reduce their electricity consumption. This environmental challenge will kick off with Bundle Up Day on Thursday, February 5, 2026. Schools will turn down the heat and invite staff, students and visitors to wear a warm sweater, hoodie, poncho or alternative for students with sensory needs.

Some 39 elementary students in Grades 4 to 6 from Rainbow Schools will test their technical skills during Science North's first annual **Robot Builder Showdown** on Monday, February 9th in the Vale Cavern. Students will compete in teams of three to build a robot using LEGO Spike Prime Essential Kits to complete a series of challenges.

Parents/guardians of students with special needs in Rainbow District School Board are invited to provide **input for the 2026-2027 Special Education Plan**. The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, March 6th. The survey link is available on the board website.

Visit rainbowschools.ca for more information throughout the school year.

8. School Announcements

Erin Holloway of Lockerby Composite School said the popular school newsletter has a new look. She also highlighted the school's food and culture fair, fundraising, successful Open House, and news broadcast room.

Melissa Gladu said the Kindergarten Information Night at Northeastern was well attended. She highlighted the holiday feast (facilitated by the newly renovated kitchen) as well as upcoming ski trips. She indicated that Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School also had a well-attended Information Night and continues to achieve success in athletics.

Ashley Vickman of Walden Public School said the school had a successful Kindergarten Information Night and recognized that early registration of children starting school helps schools plan for September. She asked when schools needed to submit projected enrolment for staffing purposes and was advised prior to March Break. She highlighted

a number of activities, including the parade to the local food bank to deliver donations, grant applications to support the ongoing school yard enhancement project, planning for the PRO grant family engagement evening, the annual spring fair, and the whole school pancake breakfast.

Julie Cuss said R.H. Murray Public School students are enjoying cross-country skiing, with upcoming field trips. The micro hatchery is running once again this year. Students will work with community partners to release fry in the coming months.

Kylee MacCormack of C.R. Judd Public School said the school's festive events were successful, including a partnership with the Capreol/Hanmer communities. She also highlighted the cereal box dominoes drive, a challenge to build positive attitudes and great habits, the Kindergarten Open House, and a visit by the Think Trades trailer. The new Principal has been well received and there is a renewed focus on community involvement.

Natasha Delaney of Jean Hanson Public School said the school also welcomed a new Principal. Students continue to visit the Lancer Dome and will soon participate in a winter carnival. Fundraising is ongoing.

Deanna Hardy of Charles C. McLean Public School highlighted the festive concert, food bank donations, a cake walk fundraiser to support the Grade 8 year-end trip, and student participation in chess and volleyball.

Steffany Bourque of Chelmsford Valley District Composite School said the annual feast was a success and praised the students' good manners. The school participated in the food drive and sponsored families. She also highlighted the ongoing success of the Robotics Team. Students in the leadership class are serving as mentors for primary students. The school is also hosting tournaments, planning field trips, and raising funds.

Superintendent Mantle reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and topics.

March 3, 2026:	Thrive/Thrive Together
April 21, 2026:	Safe and Caring Schools
May 19, 2026:	Planning for the 2026-2027 school year

Chair Bourque thanked all parents/guardians and staff for participating in the meeting.

Adjournment at 8:42 pm

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

Moved by: Melissa Gladu, Northeastern Elementary / Lo-Ellen Park SS

Seconded by: Ashley Vickman, Walden Public School

Carried

Next meeting:

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 7 pm

In Person at 408 Wembley Drive and Via Google Meet

Topic: Thrive/Thrive Together

ELEMENTARY GRADUATIONS 2026

TRUSTEE	SCHOOL	DETAILS (DATE/TIME)
Anita Gibson (Area 2)	CVDCS (Grade 8)	Thursday, June 18 @ 6:00 PM
	Lansdowne	Tuesday, June 23 @ 6:00 PM @ SSS auditorium
	Levack	Wednesday, June 24 @ 6:00 PM
Bob Clement (Area 8)	A.B. Ellis	Thursday, June 18 @ 6:00 PM
	S. Geiger	Wednesday, June 24 @ 6:00 PM
Doreen Dewar (Area 5)	Alexander	Thursday, June 25 @ 6:00 PM @ SSS auditorium
	Algonquin	Monday, June 22 @ 6:00 PM
	Lo-Ellen (Grade 8)	Wednesday, June 24 @ 6:30 PM
	MacLeod	Wednesday, June 24 @ 6:00 PM
Linda Debassige	First Nations system wide	
Judy Hunda (Area 6)		
Lisa Addison-Corbriere (Area 7)	Assiginack	Wednesday, June 24 @ 6:00 PM
	Central Manitoulin	Tuesday, June 23 @ 6:00 PM
	Little Current	Monday, June 22 @ 6:00 PM @ NEMI Complex
	CC McLean	Thursday, June 25 @ 6:30 PM
Judy Kosmerly (Area 3)	Confederation (Grade 8)	Wednesday, June 17 @ 6:00 PM
	Valley View	Thursday, June 18 @ 6:00 PM
Alex McCauley (Area 4)	CR Judd	Thursday, June 25 @ 6:00 PM
	Lasalle (Grade 8)	Thursday, June 18 @ 6:30 PM
	Markstay	Monday, June 22 @ 6:00 PM
	Monetville	Wednesday, June 24 @ 7:00 PM
	Northeastern Elem	Wednesday, June 24 @ 6:00 PM
David Farrow (Area 1)	Copper Cliff	Tuesday, June 23 @ 6:00 PM
	Jean Hanson	Wednesday, June 17 @ 11:30 AM
	RH Murray	Thursday, June 18 @ 5:30 PM
	Princess Anne	Monday, June 22 @ 6:00 PM @ SSS auditorium
	Lively (Elem)	Wednesday, June 24 @ 6:30 PM

STEPPING UP CEREMONIES

Adamsdale

Wednesday, June 24 @ 9:30 AM

Churchill

Tuesday, June 23 @ 6:00 PM

Larchwood

Monday, June 22 @ 6:00 PM

Lasalle Elementary

Wednesday, June 17 @ 6:00 PM

Queen Elizabeth

Wednesday, June 24 @ 12:00 PM

Redwood Acres

Wednesday, June 24 @ 9:30 AM

R.L. Beattie

Wednesday, June 24 @ 1:00 pm @ Lo-Ellen Park

Walden

Tuesday, June 16 at 6:00 PM

SECONDARY GRADUATIONS 2026

SCHOOL	DETAILS (DATE/TIME)
BARRYDOWNE COLLEGE	Wednesday, June 24 at 6:00 PM Cambrian Student Life Centre
CHELMSFORD VDCS	Tuesday, June 16 @ 6:00 PM
CONFEDERATION	Thursday, June 11 at 6:00 PM
ESPANOLA	Thursday, June 11 at 6:00 PM
LASALLE	Tuesday, June 16 @ 6:00 PM
LIVELY	Thursday, June 11 at 6:00 PM
LOCKERBY	Monday, June 15 at 6:00 PM Cambrian College
LO-ELLEN PARK	Thursday, June 11 at 7:00 PM Cambrian College
MANITOULIN	Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 PM
SUDBURY SECONDARY ADULT DAY SCHOOL N'SWAKAMOK	Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 PM @ Sheridan Auditorium Friday, June 12 at 12:00 PM @ SSS Courtyard Thursday, June 11 at 10:30 AM @ N'Swakamok

Ministry of Education
Minister
315 Front Street West
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Ministère de l'Éducation
Ministre
315, rue Front Ouest
Toronto ON M7A 0B8



David Farrow
Chair
Rainbow District School Board
farrowd@rainbowschools.ca

Dear David Farrow,

Thank you for your letter and sharing your perspective regarding publicly funded education and the role of school board trustees in Ontario.

I agree that public education is foundational to a strong, democratic society and that schools are deeply connected to the communities they serve. Our government continues to invest in our publicly funded education system and is committed to ensuring that these resources are used wisely and for the benefit of students. Promoting an inclusive, equitable, and supportive school environment for every student in this province is a top priority for our government.

As you may be aware, *The Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025* (previously Bill 33), received Royal Assent on November 20, 2025 and aims to modernize education governance by enhancing trustee and board accountability and increasing flexibility for me to intervene where there are significant board governance issues. This legislation is designed to reinforce good governance, responsible financial stewardship and a clear focus on student education and well-being.

More broadly, options for broad governance reform are currently under consideration. I have stated publicly that I am reviewing the role of school trustees, with the goal of reducing bureaucracy and ensuring that resources are directed to where they matter most, into classrooms to support students and teachers. Any proposed governance changes will respect the constitutional rights of French-language and Catholic School boards.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Calandra".

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education