

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, April 28, 2026 at 5:00 pm

Present: Trustees: D. Farrow (Chair), L. Corbiere-Addison, D. Dewar, A. Gibson,
J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly, A. McCauley, Student Trustee Cyr, Student
Trustee Guenette
Absent: B. Clement, 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: G. Bastien, N. Charette, T. Hayes, R. Jones, N. Mousseau,
D. Peristeridis, C. Whitson,

Chair Farrow 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-R57, A.McCauley/J.Hunda

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of April 28, 2026 be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: Absent
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. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

Enrolment, On-the-Ground Capacity and Capital Projects

Adam Guilbault, Superintendent of Business, provided a slideshow presentation outlining enrolment and ground capacity at each of our locations by program, grade and school. Additionally he reviewed the enrolment trends and Board and Ministry projections. Superintendent Guilbault also shared the utilization rates for each of our schools and explained how the rates are calculated.

Nathalie Mousseau, Manager of Facilities, provided details and photos on the significant number of projects the Capital team has planned for this summer, during the construction season.

Trustees were thankful for the updates and were given the opportunity to ask questions.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. Property Matter

Motion: 26-R58, J.Hunda/A.Gibson

That motion #26-W09 RE: Property matter, be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: Absent
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

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 26-R59, A.Gibson/J.Kosmerly

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: Absent
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

NIL

F. NEW BUSINESS

**1. OPSBA (Ontario Public School Board's Association)
- Representative and Alternate**

a) OPSBA Representative

Call for nominations.

Trustee McCauley nominated Trustee Kosmerly, seconded by Trustee Hunda.

- i) Motion: 26-R60, D.Dewar/J.Hunda
That nominations be closed.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: Absent
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

Trustee Kosmerly confirmed her willingness to stand.

- ii) Motion: 26-R61, J.Hunda/D.Dewar
That Trustee Kosmerly be declared acclaimed Rainbow District School Board's voting representative to the Ontario Public School Board's Association.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: Absent
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) OPSBA Alternate

Call for nominations.

Trustee Hunda nominated Trustee Corbiere-Addison, seconded by Trustee Gibson.

- i) Motion: 26-R62, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar
That nominations be closed.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: Absent
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

Trustee Corbiere-Addison confirmed her willingness to stand.

- ii) Motion: 26-R63, J.Hunda/A.Gibson
That Trustee Corbiere-Addison be declared acclaimed Rainbow District School Board's voting alternate to the Ontario Public School Board's Association.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: Absent
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. **Ballots**

Not applicable - no ballots required.

3. **Ontario Public School Board Association Annual General Meeting**

Motion: 26-R64, J.Kosmerly/A.McCauley

That the Board approve the attendance of the following Trustees at the 2026 Annual General Meeting in Ottawa on June 4-6, 2026.

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

Poll vote

Bob Clement: Absent
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

4. **Notice of Absence**

Chair Farrow stated that Trustee Debassige and Trustee Clement had sent their regrets.

5. **Director's Remarks**

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. Trustees will be invited to assist with the presentations as we welcome this opportunity to salute excellence in Rainbow Schools with 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. Individuals with 25 years of service will also be recognized.

The Board's Retirement Dinner will take place on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at the Caruso Club. We look forward to celebrating our retirees for their immense contribution to our students.

Graduations are coming soon! Please let us know which graduations you are able to attend. Once we have all of your information we will plan to ensure that a Trustee or Staff representative is at every graduation.

At this time, we have yet to receive budget information from the Ministry of Education. Upon receipt in the weeks ahead, we will unpack the information and continue with our planning for the 2026-2027 school year. More to come in future meetings.

At an upcoming meeting, I will provide details on administrative transfers and appointments for the 2026-2027 school year. Staffing for next year has started. Principals are working to create schedules and staff their schools for the fall.

Registrations are ongoing for the fall. Registering early helps us plan ahead. For children starting school this fall, we are offering Kindergarten orientation in May. We encourage parents/guardians who have not already registered, to contact their nearest Rainbow school to secure their child's spot for orientation.

Local partners, including Rainbow District School Board, are working together to improve the health and well-being of young people in our community through Planet Youth. Gathering data from youth is the first step in this important work. Three of our secondary schools are participating in the Planet Youth Survey of Grade 10 students - Confederation Secondary School, Espanola High School and Sudbury Secondary School. Students, with parent/guardians consent, will be invited to share their feedback on a number of topics, such as school life, social life, leisure time, screen use, well-being, substance use, safety, and online behaviour. The survey will be administered in Grade 10 classes the week of May 11, 2026. Information has been shared with parents/guardians of the participating schools.

As you know, questions have been raised regarding the rightsizing of Levack Public School. Rainbow District School Board approved a motion in 2019 to rightsize Levack Public School, pending Ministry of Education approval.

As you saw during our presentation tonight, Levack Public School is operating at approximately 39 per cent capacity. The school was built to accommodate 351 students. Enrolment is currently below 135 students.

No work is scheduled to take place this school year. At this time, discussions have occurred and are ongoing with the Ministry of Education. When Ministry plans are confirmed, we will be able to share more information with you and with our families. Providing quality programs in quality facilities is our first priority. With rightsizing, Levack Public School will continue to have ample space for teaching and learning, child care and community use. We are working with our child care partners to ensure the new space provides a warm and welcoming environment for children and meets Ministry requirements. Upon project final approval, other work will be completed to enhance both the facility and the property. This includes improvements to drainage, roof repairs, paving of the parking lot, flooring upgrades, and renovations to the ceiling in the gym. Like our families, we value Levack Public School and its importance to the community. When we receive more direction from the Ministry, we will provide an update, including timelines.

Rainbow District School Board will host a Career Fair on Manitoulin Island on Saturday, May 30th. The event will take place at Little Current Public School from 11 am to 4 pm. Human Resources staff and hiring Principals/Managers will be on site to conduct interviews as well as share information, 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 Monday, May 25th. Details are available on the board website.

This is an exciting time of the year as we host many culminating activities. I would like to thank administrators, teachers, support staff and community partners for providing opportunities for students. I am sure that Chair Farrow will provide more information in his remarks. As always, Trustees are welcome to attend our system-wide events. It's truly rewarding to see the level of energy, enthusiasm and engagement of our students and staff.

In closing, I would like to express our appreciation for our collaboration and continued focus on supporting high quality teaching and learning environments. We are very grateful for the professionalism, leadership and support of our board of Trustees. Sincere thanks for all you do!

6 **Other Items**

OPSBA Representative - Trustee Kosmerly shared that a joint Northeast/Northwest Council Meeting will be held on May 2nd electronically. Time has been allocated at the meeting for discussion and feedback of Bill 101, which will be a part of OPSBA's submission to the Ontario Regulatory Registry. All Trustees are encouraged to attend and/or submit feedback to Trustee Kosmerly. Take Your MPP to School week is scheduled for May 19-22 and OPSBA's Annual General Meeting will take place on June 4-6, 2026 in Ottawa. This is an election year for positions on the OPSBA executive, regional council executives and OPSBA working groups. Interested trustees are invited to put their names forward.

Student Trustees - Student Trustees shared with the conference one week away, final preparations are underway, invitations have been sent to schools and the shirts are on order. They extended the invitation to all Trustees in hopes that they could attend. They also expressed their appreciation for all of the hard work of the senators for the increased social media presence and the work on the conference. At the recent Student Senate meeting, elections were held for the incoming Student Trustee positions, Sadie Gardiner and Tehya Montgomery were elected for the 2026-2027 school year. Student Trustee Guenette and Student Trustee Cyr recently visited Espanola High School to promote student senate and the upcoming conference. They had a good turnout of students who engaged in their presentation and expressed interest in joining the student senate next year.

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Kosmerly recognized Espanola High School on hosting their first Eco-Fair that was held April 22nd. Thirteen community groups and vendors took part, most from in and around Espanola. It was a well-received event for students to learn about career and volunteer opportunities in the environmental sector.

Trustee Corbiere-Addison expressed her gratitude to students, teachers and parents for all of the work on "Earth Day" clean up around schools, yards and roads. A lot of work has been done to clean our area.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Six young scientists from Rainbow Schools will participate in the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Edmonton in May. The students are from Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, Lockerby Composite School and Northeastern Elementary School and they earned the honour of showcasing their discoveries on the national stage. On behalf of the Trustees, we wish all participants the very best. Being selected to represent your community is quite an honour.

Throughout May, all Rainbow Schools will offer Kindergarten Orientation sessions for children starting school this fall and their parents/guardians. Registrations for September 2026 will also be accepted at the orientation. Families will have an opportunity to connect with Kindergarten teachers, early childhood educators and school personnel. They will also meet other children starting school. A list of dates and times is available on the board website.

Rainbow Schools will mark Education Week from May 4 to 8 - which begins with Music Monday. Education Week provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate teaching excellence, student achievement, parental involvement and exceptional community support in Rainbow Schools. Schools are planning a variety of activities focused on literacy and numeracy. A list of activities will be posted on the board website.

Rainbow District School Board will host the 3rd annual EcoSummit on Monday, May 4th from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm in the Laurentian University Fraser Auditorium. This year's theme is "Our Land, Our Forests, Our Life". Eco-leaders from Grades 6 to 12 in Rainbow Schools will attend the green symposium to learn about environmental responsibility, land sustainability, and how they can take action in their respective school communities. During the event, students will hear an in-person address from keynote speaker, professional explorer and national bestselling author Adam Shoalts about his story of exploration and inspiration.

Rainbow District School Board's Student Senate will host the annual Conference on Thursday, May 7th. Students from each secondary school will participate in the full-day event at Collège Boréal. The goal of the conference is to give students an opportunity to network, build leadership skills and foster ideas for change. Hall of Fame speaker Sunjay Nath will provide a keynote address followed by breakout sessions for students.

The next Parent Involvement Committee meeting is set for Tuesday, May 19th at 7 pm. Committee members will plan meeting topics for the 2026-2027 school year.

Sudbury Secondary School will present its annual dance showcase, Let's Dance, on May 21st at 6:30 pm in the Sheridan Auditorium. The event will feature a dynamic program of student choreography and performance - highlighting a range of dance styles. Tickets are \$15 for students/seniors and \$20 for adults and can be purchased through SchoolCash Online or at the door.

In keeping with the arts, Lasalle Secondary School will present "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from May 28th to 30th at 7 pm in the school's Black Box Theatre. Tickets, at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, can be purchased through SchoolCash Online or at the door.

Rainbow District School Board will present Embrace Diversity: Free to Be Me, a symposium with workshops for students in Grades 9 to 12 on May 21st at Lockerby Composite School.

The conference is part of the ongoing work of the Equity and Inclusive Education Committee.

And a friendly reminder for Trustees to let the Director's Office know which graduations you will attend. We look forward to joining our school communities in celebrating student success.

And that concludes my remarks for this evening.

Thank you.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

Special Education Advisory Committee minutes January 7, 2026 (official)
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes February 4, 2026 (official)
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes March 4, 2026 (official)

2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**

Tender 2026-01 – Lockerby Composite School
Tender 2026-04 – Espanola High School

3. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Student Senate Meeting May 4, 2026 5:30 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee May 6, 2026 12:00 pm
Board Meeting May 12, 2026 at 5:00 pm (Sudbury Secondary School – Library)
Board Awards May 12, 2026 at 6:30 pm (Sudbury Secondary School – Auditorium)

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 26-R65, J.Kosmerly/D.Dewar

That we do now adjourn at 5:55 p.m. - **Carried**