

## **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, August 25, 2026 at 5:00 pm.

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Present: Trustees: D. Farrow (Chair), B. Clement, L. Corbiere-Addison (via Google Meet),  
L. Debassige (via Google Meet), D. Dewar, A. Gibson, J. Hunda,  
J. Kosmerly, A. McCauley, Student Trustee Gardiner, Student Trustee  
Montgomery  
Absent: NIL  
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. Cecchetto, N. Charette, T. Hayes, N. Mousseau,  
D. Peristeridis, C. Whitson  
Other: H. Ulrichsen (Sudbury.com)

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

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

#### **A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: 26-R86, J.Hunda/A.McCauley

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of August 25, 2026 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**

#### **STUDENT TRUSTEES**

CEO Bourget administered the Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance to Student Trustees Sadie Gardiner and Tehya Montgomery and welcomed them to the Board table.

Motion: 26-R87, J.Hunda/A.Gibson

That Sadie Gardiner (Lockerby Composite School) and Tehya Montgomery (Lasalle Secondary School) be appointed Student Trustees for the 2026-2027 school year.

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 unanimously**

**B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL**

**C. PRESENTATIONS NIL**

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

No meeting was held. No report.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Previous Minutes**

Motion: 26-R88, A.McCauley/B.Clement

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 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 NIL**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2026-2027 Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians**

CEO Bourget provided page by page details about the publication which is available on the board's website.

CEO Bourget thanked Nicole Charette and Jennifer Battah-Chartrand for their outstanding efforts to produce the guide which is an excellent resource for students, parents/guardians and staff.

Trustees expressed appreciation for the wonderful resource.

2. **2026-2027 Executive Council Portfolios and Family of Schools**

CEO Bourget reviewed the 2026-2027 Executive Council portfolios and distribution of schools, which was shared with Trustees.

3. **Current Expenditures Borrowing Resolution**

Motion: 26-R89, J.Kosmerly/A.Gibson

That the Current Expenditures Borrowing Resolution as attached be deemed to have been read three times and 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. **Notice of Absence and/or Electronic Participation**

Chair Farrow shared there were no absences and Trustee Debassige and Trustee Corbiere-Addison requested to join virtually, with their requests meeting the criteria in by-law 14.

5. **Chief Executive Officer's Remarks**

Chair Farrow, Trustees:

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer.

I look forward to working with you, Superintendents, administrators, staff, students, families, First Nations Chiefs and communities and all of our partners as we continue our journey together.

To begin, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Sadie Gardiner of Lockerby Composite School and Tehya Montgomery of Lasalle Secondary School and tell you a bit more about our Student Trustees.

Sadie Gardiner and Tehya Montgomery have been involved in extra-curricular activities and leadership roles throughout their secondary education and look forward to making a difference on a system-wide level.

A student in the Science Technology Education Program (STEP) at Lockerby Composite School, **Sadie Gardiner** is enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) in Health and Wellness.

She is a member of the school band, Environmental Council, and Student Council, where she will serve as Co-Chair for a second term. Last school year, she was part of the Northern

Ontario Music Festival honour band. She has also been a member of Lockerby's Robotics Club.

Sadie has participated in many competitions organized by the University of Waterloo, including the Waterloo Beaver Computing Challenge, and the Pascal, Kayley, and Fermat competitions. During her Grade 10 Civics Class, she completed a Youth Philanthropy Initiative presentation that earned \$5,000 for the Sudbury Charity Angels of Hope Against Human Trafficking.

She says... and I quote - "Involvement in school and school life is important because it allows you to meet a wide variety of people, and gain new experiences and perspectives. Being involved in the school provides for a better overall experience." She also says "Student voice matters because students are directly affected by the decisions made at the board level."

Sadie plans to pursue studies in health sciences, and become a family physician.

**Tehya Montgomery** will serve as Indigenous Student Trustee. She is enrolled in Lasalle Secondary School's Sports Health Academics and Leadership Program (SHAL) where she works with younger students, referees a variety of sports, and gives back to the community.

Tehya is the Captain of Lasalle Secondary School's Senior Girls' Volleyball team, plays badminton, and is a member of the Senior Reach for the Top team. In Grade 12, she will also be part of the Yearbook Committee.

She says... and again I quote - "When students are involved in their school, they understand more about their school's culture and values while also enjoying a multitude of experiences. I encourage students to get out of their comfort zones to meet new people, share their ideas, learn from others, and participate in the many opportunities available to them." She also says "I am an advocate for youth and mental health in my school and I am very excited to step into my role as Indigenous Student Trustee."

Tehya plans to study psychology or criminal justice. She is interested in becoming a police officer or youth advocate and someone who can empower others.

We know Student Trustee Sadie Gardiner and Student Trustee Tehya Montgomery will be strong voices for their peers.

### **Start Up:**

Our hard working administrative teams have been preparing for the launch of the school year. We look forward to seeing everyone soon and are excited to begin.

Our caring and talented staff will take part in professional learning on September 2nd and 3rd in preparation for school start up.

On Monday, August 31st we will host our New Employee Orientation at Sudbury Secondary School. New staff will spend the day learning together.

On Tuesday, September 1st, there will be a full day session of the New Teacher Induction Program. Teachers will engage in professional development to support a great start to their teaching career.

Also on Tuesday, September 1st, we will once again host our education symposium at Macleod Public school. Well over 100 teachers will participate and benefit from a full day of presentations and sharing of best practices in teaching and learning.

Kindergarten Camp is occurring this week on August 26th, 27th and 28th. We are accepting Kindergarten registrations for the upcoming school year. No experience necessary:)

I would like to thank our System Principals, Consultants, Coordinators, Managers and Superintendents for their leadership and hard work over the summer to prepare and lead these highly beneficial opportunities for growth for our staff.

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

We look forward to seeing our students and welcoming all of our new and returning families to Rainbow Schools.

We extend a special welcome to our youngest learners - the children starting school for the very first time.

As always, our schools will be safe and supportive places where students have fun while they learn.

We will continue to prioritize reconnecting, mental health and well-being as our teachers engage with and support students to determine learning needs.

We have a strong team of administrators, educators and support staff who will nurture student success.

As we know, public education prepares students to be active, confident, capable and contributing members of society.

Rainbow Schools play a critical role in the academic, social, emotional and physical development of children and young adults.

When students feel safe, supported, accepted, respected and connected in school and in their school community - when they have a sense of belonging - they are well on their way towards achieving their full potential.

On behalf of all of our staff, I would like to welcome our students and families to the 2026-2027 school year.

We also would like to note Acting Principal Dawn Noble McCann appointed to Charles C. McLean P.S. effective August 26, 2026, and shared some previous announcements in June.

Our administrators and our staff are excited to work with students and families in their respective schools and school communities.

We look forward to seeing everyone on September 8th.

I will close my comments with gratitude to our Board of Trustees. Your ongoing, incredible support and commitment to our students and staff makes a difference in our schools each day. Thank you for all you do. Together, we all feel excitement for the start of another school year filled with positive energy, promise, pride and possibility as together, we prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

6. **Other Items**

**OPSBA Representative** - Trustee Kosmerly shared that OPSBA Board of Directors engaged in a strategic planning session on August 20th and that Trustees can expect an email soon from President Woodcock outlining the changes the organization will be making to its services in light of significant changes to its financial situation.

**Student Trustees** - Student Trustee Montgomery shared that she is grateful to co-chair the Student Senate committee with Sadie and excited to have the opportunity to be a part of the Board. Student Trustee Gardiner agreed and is looking forward to working with her fellow Trustees.

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** **NIL**

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

As we set sail on another exciting school year of learning and discovery, I extend a sincere welcome to new and returning students, staff and families across Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island. Your presence and commitment are what make our schools strong and our communities vibrant.

Each new school year brings a wealth of possibilities. It's a time for new beginnings, new relationships and new opportunities to grow.

In Rainbow Schools, ongoing character development is guided by the values that are modeled, taught and expected. They include Humility, Bravery, Honesty, Wisdom, Truth, Respect, Love, the Seven Grandfather Teachings, braided together with Resilience, Equity and Community.

We nurture young people who contribute to their communities, who recognize their ability to make a difference, and who understand that being a responsible citizen means caring about the world in which we live.

This work requires a team effort with dedicated educators, administrators and staff; engaged parents, guardians and mentors; supportive Trustees; community partners who open doors and create opportunities; and students who bring their own voices, ideas and aspirations to our schools every day.

When the home, the school and the community work together, we maximize learning opportunities for students and help them achieve their full potential.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to this year's Student Trustees Sadie Gardiner and Tehya Montgomery.

We look forward to having you both represent our students and contribute to our collective focus of student achievement and well-being.

Tomorrow, our youngest learners will kick off the school year with Kindergarten Camp. The three-day program will run for three hours per day at a number of Rainbow elementary schools. Welcome to the class of 2040!

For those who have not already done so, there is still time to register. Parents and guardians are encouraged to contact their area Rainbow school as soon as possible.

I also extend a special welcome back to our teachers and support staff who make Rainbow Schools exceptional places for teaching and learning. We appreciate all that they do on behalf of students.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

A friendly reminder that the first two Professional Activity Days of the 2026-2027 school year will take place on Wednesday, September 2nd and Thursday, September 3rd. Information about PA Days is available on the board website.

This year, Labour Day falls on Monday, September 7th.

And staff will welcome students back for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 8th.

Staff and students in Rainbow Schools will wear pink on Thursday, September 17th as Rainbow District School Board marks its 19th annual "Stand Up Against Bullying Day". We invite everyone in the community to join us and wear pink on September 17th.

That's it for me this evening. We wish everyone a wonderful start up to the school year.

#### **G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**  
Tender 2026-16 Lansdowne Public School
3. **Non-Staff Communications**

#### **H. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Special Education Advisory Committee September 9, 2026 12:00 am  
Student Senate Meeting September 14, 2026 5:30 pm  
Environmental Education Committee Meeting September 16, 2026 3:30 pm

First Nation Advisory Committee September 17, 2026 10:00 am  
Equity & Inclusion Committee September 17, 2026 3:30 pm  
Board Meeting September 22, 2026 5:00 pm

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 26-R90, A.McCauley

That we do now adjourn at 5:54 p.m. - **Carried**

OFFICIAL