

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, September 22, 2026 at 5:00 pm.

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, P. Berardelli, M. Bertrand, A. Burke, B. Carr, N. Cecchetto,
N. Charette, S. Clarke, L. Coleman, H. Downey, C. Eberlein, T. Hayes,
L. Henderson, K. MacKenzie, B. Managhan, N. Mousseau,
D. Peristeridis, C. Whitson

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.

CEO Bourget provided some information on an outstanding question regarding quorum at Board meetings and shared that after seeking legal counsel, quorum does exist, under legal counsel rules section 228(1)(e) of the Ontario Education Act and Ontario Regulation 463/97. It was recommended to proceed under the basis of the most recent legal advice received. He advised that the meeting proceed on the basis of the most recent legal advice that is currently available. Further follow up will occur regarding the application of section 228(1)(e) of the Ontario Education Act and Ontario Regulation 463/97 to determine if quorum was met. Updates will be provided in the future.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 26-R91, A.McCauley/J.Kosmerly

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of September 22, 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

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. PRESENTATIONS

Summer Programs for Students

A detailed presentation was provided to trustees highlighting the nine components of summer learning programs that were offered to students during July and August. There were three Special Education Programs, Mental Health Supports, Kindergarten Camp, Elementary Grade 1 to 8 Program, Indigenous Summer Learning Program, Secondary Summer School and new this year was the French Immersion Summer Learning Program.

Presenters included:

- Coleen Eberlein, Principal of Special Education Programs and Services
- Brien Managhan, Manager of Applied Behaviour Analysis Services
- Amanda Burke, Principal of Kindergarten Camp
- Sarah Clarke, Mental Health Lead
- Lindsay Henderson, Principal of Elementary Summer Learning Program
- Brenda Carr, Principal of FSL, NTIP and Arts Education
- Heather Downey, Principal of the Indigenous Summer Learning Program
- Laura Coleman, Principal of the Secondary Summer Learning Program

Presenters shared student participation data along with success stories of student gains over the course of the summer, as well as student and parent feedback from the various programs. They also acknowledged the dedicated staff who made these summer programs such a success for students, while being enjoyable and educational.

Trustees expressed sincere gratitude for the informative presentation and thanked all the staff for their work and commitment.

D. REPORT FROM THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE BOARD

No meeting was held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 26-R92, J.Hunda/B.Clement

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 be approved, as amended.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

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

a) **Audit Committee**

Motion: 26-R93, J.Hunda/D.Dewar

That the 2025/2026 External Audit Plan be approved as recommended by the Audit Committee.

Poll vote

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

- Carried

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Levying Education Taxes Bylaw**

Motion: 26-R94, B.Clement/A.Gibson

That the Levying Education Taxes for 2026 bylaw 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

2. **Various Capital Projects Update**

Adam Guilbault, Superintendent of Business, provided an update on the planned capital projects that were presented earlier in the year. Towards the end of the school year and throughout the summer, a significant number of projects were completed.

Superintendent Guilbault thanked the facilities staff for their tremendous efforts in coordinating the projects and ensuring all critical work was completed before students returned in September.

Trustees were thankful for the updates and expressed their gratitude to all Facilities staff for the hard work put in over the summer.

3. **Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) Fall General Meeting**

Motion: 26-R95, J.Hunda/A.Gibson

That the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Gardiner and Student Trustee Montgomery at the OSTA Fall General Meeting on November 12 to 15, 2026 in Toronto.

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**

I would like to begin by thanking our outstanding administrators, teachers and educational support staff for their purposeful work in getting our school year off to a great start.

As evidenced by our presentation this evening, we had a great summer of programs to improve learning outcomes for our students. I would like to thank all staff involved in our summer programs for their commitment and commend our students and families for making the most of this opportunity. It was a wonderful summer of learning, friendships and fun.

I would like to share our appreciation for our students on a successful return to school and thank our parents and guardians for their ongoing support. We all know that parental involvement improves student achievement. We look forward to engaging our families throughout the school year as we share resources and provide opportunities to support learning at home.

I would also like to thank Superintendent Guilbault and our Facilities department for the incredible work accomplished over the summer. These capital projects are important because they provide the quality environments in which our staff work and our students learn. They are also a reflection of our shared pride in our schools in the communities that we serve.

Exec Council School Visits -

Visiting schools to connect with staff and students continues to be a priority for the Executive Council. These visits, which occur on Wednesdays and Thursdays, are certainly the highlight of our week. I have been to 15 schools so far this year. Our Superintendents have been on 44 school visits and we look forward to more this week. It is wonderful to see the priorities established by this board come to life. There are great things happening in Rainbow Schools inside and outside of the classroom in all of our priority areas.

September 17

Staff and students in Rainbow Schools wore pink on September 17th as Rainbow District School Board marked the start of the school year with a focus on building positive relationships.

As we know, when students feel safe, supported and welcomed, they develop a strong sense of belonging at school. Belonging is fundamental to well-being and provides a foundation for student success. You will recall that one of my favourite school signs that I have seen stated, "If you can be anything, be kind".

Extracurricular activities

In addition to dynamic teaching and learning, school clubs, activities and fall athletics are underway. These extracurriculars enhance the overall student experience and create a strong sense of belonging. When students feel connected at school, they are well on their way towards achieving their goals.

Sunrise Ceremony

I would like to thank Tim Nadjiwon, Travis Corbiere and Ozzie Osawamick for their leadership with the upcoming Sunrise Ceremony that will be hosted at Lively District Secondary School on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The ceremony will begin at 6:45 am on Tuesday, September 30th and you are all invited to join us.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our board of Trustees and all staff for your dedication and commitment to student learning and well-being. It is a privilege to serve this board and to serve our schools and our students. Your leadership and support are greatly appreciated by all of us.

Thank you!!

6. **Other Items**

OPSBA Representative - NIL

Student Trustee - Student Trustee Montgomery shared that the Student Senate held its first meeting of the year with 13 senators in attendance. The focus of the meeting was the Stand Up Speak Out Conference and the goals for Senate this year. Student Trustee Gardiner shared that elections were held for the open positions on Senate with many interested senators putting their names forward. They shared that the focus of the October meeting was to finalize the theme for the conference, breakout rooms and speakers.

7. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Kosmerly shared that former Trustee Grace Fox is being honoured as an Anishnaabe Education Leader at the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation event being held at Laurentian University on September 30, 2026.

Trustee Debassige attended the Central Manitoulin Public School Fall Fair and Open House. She shared it was an incredible event of land based learning with students and families. Teachers and staff were extremely welcoming for the wonderful turnout.

8. **Chairperson's Remarks**

Good evening everyone...

We are now three weeks in, the school year is well underway, and it's wonderful to see our schools and classrooms filled with the energy of teaching and learning.

Students are settling into routines, making connections with teachers and peers, and building the foundation for a successful school year... while our staff continue to do what they do best - creating welcoming and supportive environments for students to learn, grow and thrive.

Here is a glimpse at what's happening in Rainbow Schools:

Students are once again running or walking in support of The Terry Fox Foundation. Terry Fox School Runs are held annually in communities across Canada to raise funds for cancer research. This year, our schools are marking the 46th year of the Marathon of Hope.

Rainbow Schools will take part in Franco-Ontarian Day this Friday, September 25th - the 51st anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian Flag / le drapeau franco-ontarien. Staff and students in Rainbow Schools are invited to wear green and white as we celebrate the rich history, culture and contributions of Franco-Ontarians.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will begin with a Sunrise Ceremony at Lively District Secondary School on Wednesday, September 30th at 6:45 am. This is a time to acknowledge the Survivors of residential schools who had the courage to share their stories. It is also a time to remember the children who never made it home. Staff and students will join together and wear orange as a symbol of truth as we continue to walk together on our path towards reconciliation.

Certificates of Internship will be presented to the fourth group of Project SEARCH HSN participants during a signing ceremony at Health Sciences North next Tuesday, September 29th. A signing ceremony will also take place for the second group of interns with Project SEARCH Pioneer Manor on Wednesday, October 7th. We congratulate all participants and wish them the best during these exciting internships.

And a friendly reminder that schools will be closed for Thanksgiving on Monday, October 12th.

As you heard earlier this evening with the Summer Programs presentation, amazing things are happening in Rainbow Schools all year round.

I am proud of the work being done in our six priority areas: Student Success and Well-Being, Truth and Reconciliation, Literacy and Numeracy, Mental Health and Well-Being, Environmental Education and Sustainability and Equity and Inclusive Education.

These priorities reflect our commitment to creating supportive learning environments where all students have the opportunity to succeed. This important work is making a meaningful difference for students, and I want to thank all those who continue to move these priorities forward.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would also like to extend a special thanks to our teachers, students, administrators, support staff and families for a great start to the school year. Thank you for all that you do.

I wish everyone a successful and rewarding school year ahead.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes May 6, 2026
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes June 3, 2026
2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
3. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

Environmental Education Committee Meeting September 23, 2026 3:30 pm
Student Senate Meeting October 5, 2026 5:30 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting October 7, 2026 12:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee Meeting October 14, 2026 3:30 pm
Equity & Inclusive Education Committee Meeting October 15, 2026
Board Meeting October 20, 2026 5:00 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 26-R96. D.Dewar

That we do now adjourn at 6:44 p.m. - **Carried**