

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, October 20, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

AGENDA AND RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

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 Anishinaabek that maintained these lands from time immemorial.

Roll Call

- A. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** *Chair

Motion:

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of October 20, 2026 be approved.

- B. **PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST** *Chair

- C. **PRESENTATIONS** *Chair

Student Achievement - EQAO & OSSLT

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

- E. **OLD BUSINESS** *Chair

1. **Previous Minutes** *Chair

Motion:

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 be approved.

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

- F. **NEW BUSINESS** *Chair

1. **Honorarium for Trustees 2026-2027** *SBO

2. **Trustee Expenditures 2025-2026** *SBO

3. **Notice of Absence and/or Electronic Participation** *Chair
4. **Chief Executive Officer's Remarks** *CEO
5. **Other Items** *Chair
OPSBA Representative
Student Trustee
6. **Trustees' Remarks/Questions** *Chair
Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.
7. **Chairperson's Remarks** *Chair
- G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS** *Chair
 1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**
Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee minutes May 28, 2026
Special Education Advisory Committee minutes September 9, 2026
 2. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**
 3. **Non-Staff Communications**
- H. **FUTURE MEETINGS** *Chair

Student Senate Meeting November 2, 2026 5:30 pm
Parent Involvement Committee AGM November 3, 2026 5:00 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee November 4, 2026 12:00 pm
Environmental Education Committee Meeting November 11, 2026 3:30 pm
Equity & Inclusive Education Committee November 12, 2026 3:30 pm
Board Meeting Inaugural/Organizational November 17, 2026 5:00 pm
First Nations Advisory Committee November 19, 2026 10:00 am
- 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, 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.

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**

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE POLICY & BY-LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING - AGENDA

Held in person and electronically via Google Meet
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive, Room #125
on Tuesday, May 28, 2026 at 12:00 PM

Present: Trustees: J. Kosmerly (Chair), B. Clement (via Google Meet), D. Farrow (via Google Meet),
A. Gibson (via Google Meet), J. Hunda (via Google Meet), A. McCauley (via Google Meet)
Absent: D. Dewar
Officials: B. Bourget, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary of the Board
C. Whitson, recording secretary

A. **WELCOME**

Chair Kosmerly called the meeting to order.

B. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: J.Hunda

That the amended agenda for the Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee meeting of May 28, 2026 be approved, with the amendment being to move 'Bill 101 Requirements' as item D.i.). - **carried**

C. **MINUTES**

Motion: J.Hunda

That the minutes of the Governance Policy & By-Law Review Committee held on April 21, 2026 be approved. - **carried**

D. **POLICY REVIEW**

i.) Bill 101 Requirements

As per Bill 101, the position of Director of Education must be referred to as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) by the school board.

The change will be made to all current policies and any upcoming policies to be reviewed.

ii.) Review and approval of amended policy GOV-08: Performance Review: Chief Executive Officer

- Change Director to Chief Executive Officer throughout the document
- Under #3 Board expectations:
 - Add ...shall be assessed 'annually' in relation to...
 - Remove the board's priorities as they are part of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan
 - Add a new bullet, 'The Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal guidebook and accompanying Chief Executive Officer Performance Plan form.'

- Add the Ministry priorities (provincial priorities in education in the area of student achievement):
 1. Achievement of learning outcomes in core academic skills.
 2. Preparation of students for future success.
 3. Student engagement and well-being.
- Under Reference Documents: Legal, add *Ontario Regulation 83/24: Director of Education Performance Appraisal*

iii.) Review of policies 13, 11, 12, 16

GOV-13: Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship

Questioned if this should be a governance policy or a procedure?

There was discussion that we look at making it a more generalized/broader policy, as there is an existing administrative procedure (Environmental Education).

It was suggested to look at ways to clean it up over the summer.

GOV-11: Learning and Working Environment: Equity and Inclusive Education

The committee discussed there are 2 administrative procedures for Equity currently, but also important to keep the policy. Updating it would be wise by removing the business/administrative information (eg. 3.2 Accommodations, a) is general, then it gets prescriptive). Also discussed reviewing the reference documents to ensure accuracy.

This will be added to the list of policies to review over the summer.

GOV-12: Learning and Working Environment: Safe Schools

There are several administrative procedures (Bullying, Student Discipline: Suspension and Expulsion). The group discussed this should be reviewed to be more high level (eg. 3.6 Appeals and Hearings should not be a part of the policy) This will be added to the list of policies to review over the summer.

GOV-16: Transportation Agreement

Questioned if this should be a governance policy or a procedure?

Bruce shared it was a policy because it is a consortium with the other boards and funding is involved. The committee agreed it is required to provide the Superintendent of Business direction as part of the consortium.

This will be added to the list of policies to review over the summer.

After discussion, it was decided the Chair Kosmerly would share templates for the 4 above policies for the committee to provide feedback over the summer. She will also send a few dates for the committee to possibly meet at the end of August.

E. **RECOMMENDATION**

i.) Governance By-Law 12: By-Laws

Revised for the following:

- 12.3.2 - Change Director to Chief Executive Officer
- 12.3.1 - Change 'receive three readings' to 'be deemed to have been read three times'
- 12.2.4 - Remove 'in the Policy section of the' and add 'on the'

- 12.2.1 - Add at the end 'and next scheduled review'

Motion: A.Gibson

That the changes to Governance By-Law 12: By-Laws, as attached, be recommended to the Board as a notice of motion. - **carried**

- ii.) GOV-01, GOV-02, GOV-06, GOV-07, GOV-08 and GOV-10

There was discussion to hold off on this motion as Bill 101 creates a lot of challenges and changes. It was suggested to complete all the policies with the glossary to present as a full package.

Motion:

~~That the changes to GOV-01, GOV-02, GOV-06, GOV-07, GOV-08 and GOV-10, as attached, be recommended to the Board as a notice of motion.~~

F. DISCUSSION / PARKING LOT ITEMS

- Policy Review Schedule
There was a question regarding the Expense procedure, with the mandates of Bill 101. CEO Bourget shared that the board has updated a draft procedure as required which followed the Ministry directive and language.
The updated procedure will be shared with Chair Farrow, to share with Trustees.
- Definitions & Abbreviations page
It was suggested to add the list of definitions in section 1.3 of the Governance By-Laws. Additionally add definitions for Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Education Officer (CEdO), Governance, Operations & Stakeholder.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That we do now adjourn at 1:32 pm.

**MINUTES OF THE RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM

RDSB, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury, Ontario

Present:

SEAC Members:

Julie Contini

Lisa Corbiere-Addison

Stephanie Goudreault

Sara Kitlar-Pothier

Alex McCauley

Robert Silvestri (Acting Chair)

Jennifer Way

Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury

Trustee

Children's Community Network

Member at Large

Trustee

Northern Ontario Assessment and Resource Centre
(NOARC)

March of Dimes

Staff:

Coleen Eberlein

David Squarzolo

Danielle Williamson

Principal, Special Education Programs and Services

Principal, Special Education Programs and Services

Superintendent of Schools

Regrets:

Krista Cote

Compass

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Superintendent Williamson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2.0 Establish Quorum of Voting Members

Quorum was established.

3.0 SEAC Mission Statement

Superintendent Williamson read aloud the mission statement.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion 1:

Moved by: Trustee Corbiere-Addison

Seconded by: J. Way

That the agenda for the SEAC meeting of September 9, 2026 be approved.

Carried

5.0 Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were noted.

6.0 Approval of the Minutes and Motions of the Previous Meetings

Motion 2:

Moved by: S. Kitlar-Pothier

Seconded by: J. Way

That the minutes and motions of the SEAC meetings of May 6, 2026 and June 3, 2026 be approved.

Carried

7.0 Business Arising

7.1 SEAC Meeting Survey Results

Superintendent Williamson shared the results of the survey. Of the seven SEAC members who responded, six were in favour of the noon start time and one was in favour of a start time of 5:00 PM.

8.0 New Business

None

9.0 Requests for Leaves of Absence

Motion 3:

Moved by: Trustee Corbiere-Addison

Seconded by: J. Contini

That the SEAC approve the absence of Krista Cote from the September 9, 2026 SEAC meeting.

Carried.

10.0 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Williamson shared the following information. The title of Board Certified Behaviour Analyst has been updated to Registered Behaviour Analyst (RBA) which applies to Brien Managhan and Ashley Kindrat. A. Kindrat is on leave this year and a contract position was posted. There were no applicants. A plan is in place to meet the needs of students in her absence which includes the Itinerant Teachers for Behaviour. The RBA contract posting can be shared with the SEAC.

There is a vacant position for an Itinerant Teacher of the Blind/Low Vision. This role requires specific qualifications. The Board has one teacher in the position already and that teacher's schedule has been modified to meet the needs of the students throughout the Board.

Earlier this year, the Board entered into a partnership with Compass for the new Step-Up Step-Down (SUSD) program. The program opening is delayed until October 1. The program referral process is active and Health Sciences North staff are able to refer students for the program. The teacher and educational assistant for SUSD are currently shadowing other programs in the Board and receiving additional training.

With municipal elections happening this fall, nominations for membership on the SEAC are needed and will be accepted by the Board. Superintendent Williamson reviewed membership requirements and the nomination process for potential SEAC members. Eligible candidates must be a member of a local association of parents that operates locally and is affiliated with an organization incorporated under provincial or federal law. The function of the organization needs to further the interests of individuals with disabilities. Trustees and members at large can also be SEAC members. The finalized nomination form will be shared with all RDSB SEAC members within the week for their consideration.

Information from the Ministry regarding secondary student attendance and grading requirements was sent to all schools to share with parents. Superintendent Williamson will follow up with one school to ensure that the communication was sent to all families.

11.0 Special Education Staff Report

Principal Eberlein shared an overview of the programs offered and work completed by special education staff over the summer.

Early Intervention summer programs were offered at Churchill PS and MacLeod PS staffed with one teacher and two educational assistants at each location. Students from the four Early Intervention classrooms in the city were invited to attend. The focus of the classroom was on literacy, numeracy, social skills, self-regulation and conflict resolution.

To support students in Grades 1 to 6 who attended the Summer Learning Program, special education funded an educational assistant at each location, as well as a special education resource teacher. Along with community outings and experiential learning activities, 27 students received instruction from the special education teacher who provided Tier 2 and 3 reading intervention using the SpellRead program.

Summer Transition programs for students from kindergarten to Grade 12 took place in 17 elementary schools and all secondary schools. These programs were designed to support the transition back to their home school for students with special needs. Each program was organized by the school administration and supported by educational assistants and special education teachers. The majority of the programs ran on August 31. Some schools provided a full day or more in class. Other schools hosted visits and fun activities, while some focussed on one-to-one interaction with staff.

Special education provided staff support to meet the needs of students attending Kindergarten Camp in a number of schools. There were 15 educational assistants hired for programs at Assiginack PS, Central Manitoulin PS, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, Churchill PS, Lasalle Elementary School, Little Current PS, Northeastern Elementary School, Princess Anne PS, Queen Elizabeth II PS, R.L. Beattie PS, Walden PS, and Valley View PS.

The Skill Development Program for students with autism was developed by the Applied Behaviour Analysis team and delivered in collaboration with the Mental Health Team. Program participants were taught various social and life skills through fun activities and acquired many new skills and new friendships. Lessons were developed based on the needs of the group and activities were sent home to further promote the development of skills. The program was offered in three-week blocks in July and August at Westmount Avenue Public School. In total, 46 students participated in the program this year.

Positive feedback from families was received about the success of all the programs.

Principal Eberlein reported that a writing team made up of Carole Burke and Gillian Cacciotti (special education coordinators), Paula Corradini (chief psychological associate) and Erin Tremblay (Princess Anne PS special education resource teacher) created a document entitled “Strengthening Student Specific Individual Education Plan (IEP) Accommodations”. The Companion is a comprehensive reference tool to support educators in developing high-quality, student-centred IEPs grounded in student strengths and needs and aligned with Ministry of Education requirements and evidence-informed practices. The Companion will be shared with all RDSB educators at the November 20 PD Day where the focus will be on IEP development and implementation. A presentation about the Companion will be made to the SEAC at a future meeting.

S. Kitlar-Pothier asked if the SEAC could piggyback off of the good work around better support for teachers creating IEPs and create a document for families that could help them understand what to expect in an IEP, what exactly an IPRC meeting is, and when to ask for what their child needs and share that information with education staff, such as sharing ideas at the IPRC meeting to be able to add to the IEP. This would help families be more prepared and make it easier and more meaningful for teachers creating the IEP document. Superintendent Williamson responded that this could be a good idea and would look into it and would appreciate consultation from S. Kitlar-Pothier. Superintendent Williamson shared that the Board is creating a new transition guide for parents that will be available later this school year. The draft document is undergoing revisions and input from the SEAC would be helpful before it is finalized.

Principal Eberlein shared that the Summer Symposium took place on September 1 at MacLeod PS. The event provided professional development to approximately 200 educators including new teachers in the Board. The presenters were RDSB staff including special education coordinators, teachers, administrators, speech-language pathologists, and social workers. Sessions specific to special education included Intensive Support Programs 101, Classroom Management Strategies, Storytime that Supports Every Learner, Circle of Care and Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills 101.

12.0 Board Report

Trustee Corbiere-Addison shared updates from the August 25 Board Meeting. Two new student trustees were introduced and sworn in for the year. The Board received a report during the in-camera portion of the meeting. The Board also reviewed in detail the annual Guide for Parents and Guardians which contains much useful information. The 2026-2027 portfolios of Executive Council members were discussed and summer schools were reviewed.

Trustee McCauley shared that he is not running for re-election this fall and wished everyone all the best. Superintendent Williamson and members of the SEAC thanked Trustee McCauley for all his work for students and the RDSB.

13.0 Chairperson's Report

R. Silvestri thanked everyone for attending the meeting and shared that the start-up at Cambrian College has been busy.

14.0 Association Reports

Julie Contini (Down Syndrome Association of Sudbury)

J. Contini shared that the LDAS Walk for Awareness takes place October 4. More information will be shared with the SEAC.

Sara Kitlar-Pothier (Member at Large)

During the summer in Alberta, a boy with ASD eloped from his day program and later passed away. These types of occurrences happen in many places and are not discussed enough by the public. A petition is circulating in Canada about saving the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The Ontario Autism Coalition is advocating for an alert for vulnerable people similar to an Amber Alert. Nonverbal individuals are highly vulnerable. The petition can be forwarded to the SEAC to share with their networks. Also, the results of the previous Coalition survey were received and sent to the Ministry.

Stephanie Goudreault (Children's Community Network)

September is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) awareness month and today marks FASD Awareness Day. CCN is hosting three virtual training sessions this month open to anyone to join.

Jennifer Way (March of Dimes)

Statistics from Project SEARCH indicate that 64 percent of program graduates have found employment. The average employment rate for individuals with developmental disabilities is 26 percent. Project SEARCH gives students the opportunity to gain the skills they need for greater success.

15.0 Correspondence Addressed to SEAC

- OAC Community Survey results
- 2026 CLO School Inclusion Survey results
- Upcoming Sexual Education Training on September 29

16.0 Other Items/ Future Agenda Items/ Information Requests

- Sudbury Youth Wellness Hub presentation
- Individual Education Plans presentation

17.0 Next Meeting Date

October 7, 2026 from 12:00 until 1:30 PM.

18.0 Adjournment

Motion 4:

Moved by: J. Way

Seconded by: Trustee Corbiere-Addison

That the SEAC meeting of September 9, 2026 be adjourned.

Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 PM.