

Public board salutes staff, students

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By [Sam Odrowski](#)

The Rainy River District School Board shone a light on staff and students during its regular monthly meeting last Tuesday night at the Education Centre here.

Several teachers and public school employees were recognized for 25 years of service to the board.

They included Krista McNabb Williams, Greg McKay, Kent Kowalski, and Al McManaman.

Communications assistant, Josie McLeod received recognition for her retirement.

J.W. Walker students Sophia Black and Emma Bodnarchuk then received the board's monthly recognition of excellence award for their involvement in the school's production of the play, "A Year With Frog and Toad."

The students and staff worked daily for two months learning songs and dances, memorizing lines, painting sets, and making costumes.

They enjoyed putting on the production, with some students saying the play was their best memory of the school year.

The board also heard a presentation by Jason Jones on the "Connected North" program during last Tuesday's meeting.

"Connected North" delivers an immersive and interactive experience for students and staff through Cisco's high-definition, two-way TelePresence video technology.

Through the program, experts are brought into the classroom electronically to run labs and teach the class.

"Connected North" also brings field trips into the classroom by having experts show students things like live dissections or autopsies.

The program is made possible through TakingITGlobal, an organization focused on youth empowerment and engagement.

Also at last week's meeting, the board received an update regarding its Special Education Advisory Committee and then voted on several policies.

The board approved policies 7.22 (Emergency Response) and 8.33 (Donations to the board), which were due for a review per the five-year review cycle.

Policy 7.45 (Fire Safety—Fire Detection, Egress Devices, and Fire Fighting Equipment) was rescinded with the approval of Policy 7.22 to replace it.

Meanwhile, policies 2.71 (Opening or Closing Exercises) and 6.13 (Playground Structures and Sports Fields) were created and approved due to the five-year review cycle, which now will be up for stakeholder approval.

Policy 6.13 was reviewed and updated to include reference of the Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act.

The report from the chair and trustee announcements followed.

Correspondence then was received before the meeting was adjourned.