

## RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #5

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2006-2010 Rainy River District School Board held on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Robert Moore School in Fort Frances.

**Board Members Present** D. Belluz, J. Eluik, R. McAlister, M. Heyens, G. Belluz, G. Allen

**Regrets** D. Dittaro

**Student Trustee** Jenna Nowak

**In Attendance** J. McMaster, L. Mills, I. Simpson, L. Hill, B. Tookenay, D. Ross, R. Roy

### RESOLUTIONS

Res. #37 McALISTER-HEYENS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for April 3, 2007 Regular Board meeting. CARRIED

Res. #38 HEYENS-McALISTER That the minutes of the Regular Board meeting March 6, 2007 (Session 4) having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED

Res. #39 McALISTER-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies: CARRIED

|                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| #3.75 Harassment          | #8.20 Travelling Expenses |
| #6.50 Pupil Accommodation | #8.22 Expense Claims      |
| #8.05 Advocacy            | #8.34 Advertising         |
| #8.13 Board Credit Cards  | #8.36 Hospitality         |

Res. #40 McALISTER-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board approve the Personnel Report dated April, 2007 (copy attached). CARRIED

### CALL TO ORDER

Dan Belluz, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silent reflection.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST - no conflict of interest declared.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the April 3, 2007 meeting was approved. (resolution #37)

## RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

### Breakfast Buddies Program – Huffman School

Donna Kowalchuk, Principal at Huffman School, spoke about the success of the Breakfast Buddies Program sponsored by the United Native Friendship Centre.

Peggy Loyie and Charlene Strain of the United Native Friendship Centre provided an overview of the programs offered through the Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Initiative with Human Resources Development Canada. The Breakfast Buddies Program is one of the programs offered through this funding initiative. The partnership began in January 2005 with Huffman School and UNFC to ensure a balanced nutritional start for students and allow them to focus on their studies. The program is run by volunteers through the guidance of the staff at the United Native Friendship Centre. They plan, prepare and serve breakfast to the students three mornings a week. The goal is to offer a similar program to all students in the Rainy River District School Board – urban Aboriginal, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

Recognition of Excellence certificates were presented to representatives of the United Native Friendship Centre and staff at Huffman School.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting March 6, 2007 (Session 4). (resolution #38)

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - Nil

## PUBLIC PRESENTATION

### School Bus in Atikokan

Shane Fiore, teacher at Atikokan High School, made a presentation on behalf of concerned community members, Atikokan High School staff and students regarding the Trustees' decision on the Board owned bus used by Atikokan High School.

Shane Fiore conveyed his belief that the Board's decision will have a negative affect on Atikokan High School students by reducing their educational opportunities.

The presenter requested that the Board consider holding a special meeting to allow staff and parent representatives of Atikokan High School to voice their concerns to the Director and Trustees. Further, that Trustees consider their decision regarding the Board owned bus in Atikokan and vote again at the next scheduled Board meeting May 1<sup>st</sup> in Atikokan.

Trustee Allen thanked staff and community members for attending the Board meeting to voice their concern regarding the Board owned bus in Atikokan. Trustee Allen conveyed his regret for not being in attendance at the March Board meeting when the decision was made.

Chair Belluz stated that a response will be forwarded to Shane Fiore.

Chair Belluz read a memo directed to Atikokan High School students, staff and parents/guardians regarding the transportation service which will be provided to Atikokan High School students for field trips and extra-curricular activities for the 2007/08 school year.

#### First Responder Team – Fort Frances High School

John Beaton, Paramedic, provided a presentation regarding the First Responder Team in the Fort Frances High School. A total of 46 students have been trained in this program and 18 are currently on the team. John Beaton provided background information on an automatic computerized machine (AED) that can provide a shock to the heart if required. The rescuer is guided by audio and visual prompts. Two students from Fort Frances High School were on hand to provide a demonstration on how they would react to a person who collapses from a cardiac arrest. They used a mannequin with their equipment, complemented by a defibrillator. This equipment would be valuable for student medical emergencies as well as staff or any adults attending events or activities on school site. Information on liability issues and equipment cost was provided to Trustees for consideration.

Ian Simpson, Assistant to the Director, thanked John Beaton for his work with the students in supporting this program in the Fort Frances High School for the past four years.

## SYSTEM PRESENTATION

### After School Tutoring

Brent Tookenay, Assistant to the Director, spoke about the partnership between the Board and a number of First Nation communities in offering tutoring in addition to the “after school” programs. The educational programming will focus on literacy and numeracy for JK to grade six students. The Board will fund the cost of a teacher and resources while the First Nation communities provide the facility, food and organization of the after school program. Parental involvement is the key to the success of this program which offers a combination of culture, language, and recreational programming. The goal of the Board is to develop a partnership with every First Nation community to provide a unique program to fit the needs of each community.

## BOARD REPORTS

### REACH Program (Recognizing Excellence and Consistent High Quality)

This month, Trustee Eluik recognized the Information Technology Team for their dedication to supporting students and staff in their roles. Jack McMaster, Director of Education, stated that the knowledge and support provided by Information Technology Department exemplifies the team work displayed by staff members. The Board’s high tech classrooms are one of the many innovative ideas that put the Rainy River DSB on the leading edge of technology. Stephen Danielson, Manager of Information Technology Services, Network Technicians William Sixsmith and Jeff Wall were at the Board meeting to accept congratulations from the Director and Trustees for supporting students, Trustees and staff. Jason Rousseau and Matt Marx, Network Technicians, were not able to attend the meeting.

### Policy Committee

Jack McMaster, Director of Education, presented the minutes of the Policy Committee held March 26, 2007.

The Board approved the following policies: (resolution #39)

- 3.75 Harassment
- 6.50 Pupil Accommodation
- 8.05 Advocacy
- 8.13 Board Credit Cards
- 8.20 Travelling Expenses
- 8.22 Expense Claims
- 8.34 Advertising
- 8.36 Hospitality

### Special Education Advisory Committee

The minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on March 21<sup>st</sup> were presented. Ian Simpson, Assistant to the Director, shared highlights of the meeting:

- IEP Review in Thunder Bay February 22
- CODE SERT Professional Learning Community Support
- Presentation on February 28<sup>th</sup> entitled Handwriting Without Tears
- Systems PD Day April 27<sup>th</sup>
- Laptop Updates

The next Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2007.

### Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Trustee Eluik attended the Labour Relations Symposium in Toronto March 29-31, 2007. OPSBA held a very successful symposium which featured the theme, Positive Labour Relations – a Key to Improving Student Achievement. Registrants attended two sessions, eight workshops and the closing keynote address which was delivered by Assistant Deputy Minister Dominic Giroux who provided his perspective on the current labour relations environment and the relationship between effective labour relations and student achievement. Diane Ross, Human Resources Administrator attended the symposium and spoke about the opportunities to network with trustees and discuss labour relations. The opening keynote address was from the Chair of the Provincial Stability Commission – “What Do We Mean by Positive Labour Relations?” The sessions were beneficial for collective bargaining in the education sector.

### STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustees received a report from Jenna Nowak, Student Trustee, on activities at Rainy River High, Atikokan High, Fort Frances High and Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program.

### REPORT OF CHAIR

There were no comments by Trustees. Chair Belluz reported that the main focus of trustees has been on the issue of the Board owned bus in Atikokan.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### Director's Update

#### **Provincial**

- CODE meetings were held March 28-30 and Directors discussed concerns throughout the province and system planning.
- Director attended a webcast of the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat on student achievement.
- Budget information has been released from the Ministry – the Rainy River DSB will begin preliminary budget planning and staffing for the next school year.

#### **Regional**

- Board representatives attended a meeting in Thunder Bay on March 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss First Nations education funding for Special Education and Tuition Agreements.

#### **Board**

- Board is doing preliminary planning for next year's budget
- Reviewing System Plan for accomplishments in 2006/07 and goals for 2007/08

### Personnel Report

The Board approved the Personnel Report as presented for April, 2007.  
(resolution #40)

The Personnel Report included the following:

#### **Appointment**

Tracy Lewis-Tucker, 0.4 FTE Teacher, CRS, commencing February 12, 2007  
Tracy Lewis-Tucker, 0.1 FTE Teacher, CRS (LTO), February 12, 2007 to June 22, 2007  
Tracy Lewis-Tucker, 0.5 FTE Teacher, CRS (LTO), February 12, 2007 to March 19, 2007  
Jennifer Herdman, 0.2 FTE Teacher, JWS (LTO), January 12, 2007 to June 15, 2007  
Sarah Gushulak, 1.0 FTE HR Officer (term), May 23, 2007 to May 23, 2008  
Marla Knutsen, 0.67 FTE Teacher, FHS (LTO), March 5, 2007 to June 22, 2007

#### **Change in Assignment**

Bill Bird, 1.0 FTE Caretaker, RMS, commencing March 5, 2007

#### **Leave of Absence**

Sherri Allan, 0.8 FTE Teacher, DYS, September 4, 2007 to June 26, 2008  
Deb Sloan, 1.0 FTE Teacher, NFS, May 2, 2007 to June 22, 2007  
Deb Sloan, 1.0 FTE Teacher, NFS, August 25, 2007 to August 25, 2008  
Lisa McCart, 0.8 FTE Teacher, DYS, September 4, 2007 to June 26, 2008  
Melisande Lucas, 0.5 FTE Teacher, DYS (LTO), April 2, 2007 to June 22, 2007  
Paul Elliot, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, September 4, 2007 to June 30, 2009  
John LaPlante, 1.0 FTE Teacher, RHS, January 26, 2007 to June 22, 2007

Occupational Health & Safety Committee

The minutes of the Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee meeting held on March 29, 2007 were presented. A Health and Wellness training day was held with three local community speakers attending.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Trustees received Board correspondence. There was no discussion.

FUTURE MEETINGS

**Next Regular Board Meeting** – Tuesday, May 1, 2007, 7:00 p.m., Atikokan High School, Atikokan.

**Policy Committee** – April 16, 2007, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

**Special Education Advisory Committee** – April 25, 2007, 12:00 Noon, Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

**2007 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association**  
Annual General Meeting – June 7-10, 2007, Huntsville

Res. #41 ELUIK-McALISTER That we do adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

CARRIED

---

Director/Secretary

---

Chair