

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #24

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the 2003-2006 Rainy River District School Board held on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at Robert Moore School in Fort Frances.

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

Present

Regrets M. Darrah, J. Leonard, G. McBride, J. Neilson (Student Trustee)

In Attendance J. McMaster, I. Simpson, L. Mills, D. Ross, R. Roy

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #271 ELUIK-HEYENS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for April 4, 2006, Regular Board Meeting. CARRIED

Res. #272 HEYENS-ELUIK That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting March 7, 2006 (Session 23) having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED

Res. #273 HEYENS-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies: CARRIED

- 4.30 Suspension of Students
- 4.31 Expulsion of Students
- 4.32 Search and Seizure of Illegal Materials
- 4.40 Codes of Behaviour
- 4.55 Student Alcohol and Drug Use
- 5.30 Curriculum Management Plans
- 5.50 Student Evaluation
- 5.60 Use of Non-Print Resources in the Classroom

Res. #274 ELUIK-HEYENS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies for stakeholder consultation: CARRIED

- 5.10 Day Field Trip
- 5.11 Extended Field Trip
- 5.70 Co-operative Education
- 5.71 Opening or Closing Ceremonies
- 6.11 Smoking
- 6.12 Community Use of School Rinks

Res. #275 HEYENS-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board approve the Personnel Report dated April, 2006. CARRIED

- Res. #276 HEYENS-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board designate the West District School Community as a low population area and the sum of the electoral quotient be increased by one and direct an alternative distribution be done for the purpose of election of School Board Trustees. CARRIED
- Res. #277 ELUIK-HEYENS That the Rainy River District School Board meet, in camera, in Committee of the Whole Board. CARRIED
- Res. #278 BELLUZ-ELUIK That the Committee of the Whole Board rise and report to the regular meeting. CARRIED
- Res. #279 BELLUZ-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board ratify the agreement made between Educational Support Personnel and the Board for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2008. CARRIED
- Res. #280 HEYENS-BELLUZ That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following as members of the Rainy River District School Board Leadership Pool who may be placed as principals and vice-principals as needed in the system for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years: Donna Kowalski, Brad Oster, James Chorney. CARRIED

CALL TO ORDER

Chair McAlister, 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 4, 2006 meeting was approved. (resolution #271)

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Roots of Empathy – Sturgeon Creek School

Don McBride, Principal of Sturgeon Creek School introduced Andrea Lee, teacher, who was involved in the Roots of Empathy Program with the Grade 3/4 class.

Roots of Empathy is a program that builds caring, peaceful and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults. A parent and infant from the community visit the classroom once a month for a full school year. A certified instructor works with a specialized curriculum to help students observe the infant's development. The focus of the program is to build parenting capacity of the next generation of parents.

Chair McAlister presented a Recognition of Excellence certificate to the participants of this program.

Empty Bowls Project – Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program

Kerri Tolen, Vice Principal of Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program, explained that Empty Bowls is a school fund-raising project for hunger agencies. A local potter, Marke Henteleff, helped students create bowls from potter's clay. On April 6th, these handcrafted bowls were sold with a simple meal of soup and bread to raise money for the Salvation Army and other local agencies. The Empty Bowls Project was an Innovative Project that helped students to make a difference in their community.

Chair McAlister presented a Recognition of Excellence certificate to the participants of the Empty Bowls Project and thanked them for their support in the community.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting March 7, 2006 (Session 23). (resolution #272)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - Nil

SYSTEM PRESENTATION

Lighthouse Program

Ian Simpson, Assistant to the Director, reported that the Board has received funding from the Ministry that is designed to provide rural high schools in the province with a

one time investment. Each secondary school in the Rainy River District submitted an application for funding of a school project that supported the Board and school student success plan. Ian Simpson provided an overview of the projects submitted by each secondary school. A total of \$247,877.22 was received to support student success initiatives throughout the system which will extend to each school and community.

BOARD REPORTS

REACH Program (Recognizing Excellence and Consistent High Quality)

Vice Chair Heyens acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the Information Technology staff who lead the way in enhancing learning for students in the Rainy River District. It was noted that in 2005, the Information Technology team completed a six-year vision to provide all schools within the Board with connection to high speed internet. Three high-tech classrooms have been set up for teachers and students with five additional classrooms to be completed before the start of the 2006-07 school year. These classrooms will provide more opportunity for student learning and establish unique teaching strategies in the classroom.

Vice Chair Heyens presented the Information Technology team with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their contribution to student success.

Policy Committee

The Board approved the following policies: (resolution #273)

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- 4.31 Expulsion of Students
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First Nations Advisory Committee

The Board of Trustees received the minutes of the First Nations Advisory Committee held on March 6, 2006 as presented. Highlights of the report included:

- Program/Curriculum Review
- Northwestern Ontario Aboriginal Forum
- Reports from Fort Frances High School and Rainy River High School

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Trustee Eluik presented an update from OPSBA:

- Collective agreement costs
- Rick Johnson, President of OPSBA is planning to run for another term
- Changes to Trustee remuneration – to be announced
- Labour Relations Symposium on March 30-April 1 was well attended

S.A.L.E.P. Program

Presentation of this report was deferred to the next Board meeting.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Secondary school activities:

Rainy River High School

- dodgeball tournament held with staff and students
- 30-hour famine to be held April 7-8 at the high school
- Students heard a presentation about the dangers of tobacco use
- Youth Action Alliance hosted a teen bowling night – 60 students participated
- Track and field sports co-op with Baudette, Minnesota underway

Fort Frances High School

- planning a board-wide dodgeball tournament
- Hoops for Heart will raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Student Council discussing extra-curricular activity rules

Atikokan High School

- Student Council preparing for 30-hour famine April 7-8
- Hypnotist scheduled to perform at the school April 4

REPORT OF CHAIR

Chair McAlister extended congratulations to the coaching staff, Muskie boys hockey team and all participants for their efforts at OFSAA. The team represented Fort Frances High School, the Board and the community very well.

Chair McAlister thanked Trish Bruyere and the First Nations/ Métis School Council for organizing the First Nations/Métis pow wow held on March 8 in the gym at Robert Moore School. Students from various schools were on hand to learn about and participate in the traditions of native culture.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

Provincial

- Announcements on funding initiatives – New Teacher Induction Program, Lighthouse Program and Parent Involvement Initiative
- NOEL Directors continue to work on strategies to improve aboriginal student achievement

Regional

- MISA Conference was well represented by educators

Board

- Congratulations extended to coaches, team players, and community volunteers of OFSAA Hockey Championships
- School staff and students commended for their efforts in raising money for the Terry Fox annual event

Building Retrofit Project

Raymond Roy, Manager of Plant Operations, introduced Luis Rodrigues, Vice President and Tom Lebel, Project Manager of Honeywell Energy Services. A presentation was made by Honeywell representatives regarding energy and facility renewal solutions. Key issues faced by school boards are rising operating costs, escalating energy costs, regulatory concerns and environmental policies. Building retrofit is a self-funded program where the installation of equipment and technology to modernize schools are paid for by guaranteed energy, operational savings and special Ministry grants. Honeywell will work in partnership with the Rainy River District School Board to collect and analyze information from selected schools within the Board. A Concept Report will be submitted by Honeywell that outlines a comprehensive solution.

Trustee Belluz wanted to know what retrofit changes would be considered in the analysis. Examples provided were lighting system upgrades, ventilation upgrades, and heating/air conditioning modifications.

Personnel Report

The Board approved the Personnel Report as presented for April, 2006. (resolution #275)

The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Doreen Skinaway, 0.2 FTE Teacher, HUF (LTO), March 6, 2006 to June 23, 2006
Dianne McCormack, 0.4 FTE Teacher, RIV (LTO), February 28, 2006 to June 23, 2006
Jennifer Herdman, 0.4 FTE Teacher, JWS (LTO), March 20, 2006 to June 23, 2006
Tammy Thibault, 0.5 FTE Teacher, DYS, commencing March 9, 2006
Wilma Kooistra, 0.2 FTE Teacher, DYS, commencing March 24, 2006
Jennifer Burns, 0.2 FTE Teacher, CRS, commencing March 20, 2006
Jeff Ogden, 0.5 FTE Teacher, CRS, commencing March 21, 2006
Moreen Cox, 0.5 FTE Educ. Asst., NSC, March 20, 2006 to June 22, 2006
Jillian Gagne, 0.5 FTE Educ. Asst., HUF, March 23, 2006 to June 22, 2006
Jillian Gagne, 0.33 FTE Library Asst., HUF, March 23, 2006 to June 22, 2006
Tamara Dumenev-McCabe, 1.0 FTE Med. Educ. Asst., HUF, April 5, 2006 to June 22, 2006

Leave of Absence

Leslie Sharpe, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, February 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007
Diane Coutts, 1.0 FTE Teacher, AHS, September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2007
Diane Coutts, $\frac{3}{4}$ Deferred Salary Leave, September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2008
Connie Schwartz, 0.33 FTE Teacher, FHS, August 29, 2006 to June 22, 2007
Peter Burton, $\frac{3}{4}$ Deferred Salary Leave, August 29, 2006 to August 31, 2010
Keira Chown, 0.5 FTE Teacher, JWS, August 29, 2006 to June 22, 2007
Nicole Evans, 0.8 FTE Teacher, JWS, August 29, 2006 to June 22, 2007
Cathy Burton, $\frac{3}{4}$ Deferred Salary Leave, August 29, 2006 to August 31, 2008

Resignation

Holly Kropelin, 0.5 FTE Educ. Asst., SCS, commencing April 4, 2006
Darren Johnson, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, commencing June 30, 2006

Retirement

Leslie Sharpe, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, commencing June 30, 2007
David Ogilvie, 1.0 FTE Teacher, SCS, commencing June 30, 2006

Innovative Projects

Ian Simpson, Assistant to the Director, provided a report on the Innovative Projects that were approved this year through the Innovative Project Initiative. These funding projects encourage creativity and address needs that are not met through any existing board program. Nine projects were approved for 2005-06. Proposals were approved for projects at Atikokan High School, Fort Frances High School, Rainy River High School, Crossroads, J.W. Walker, Robert Moore (2), North Star and Sturgeon Creek School/Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program.

Trustee Determination

Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business, reported that schools boards are responsible for determining the number of trustees on the board based on the principle of representation by population as well as the geographic area each of the trustees represent.

The Board approved the motion to designate the West District School Community as a low population area. (resolution #276)

Trustees Eluik, Heyens, McAlister – IN FAVOUR

Trustee Belluz – OPPOSED

CARRIED

Labour Relations Symposium

Diane Ross, Human Resources Administrator provided highlights of the Labour Relations Symposium held March 30 to April 1 in Toronto. The conference was well attended by Human Resources representatives and School Board Trustees. Topics of interest were Mandatory Retirement, Effective Practices in the training of Principals/Vice Principals, Attendance Management and information regarding the Provincial Stability Commission. There was opportunity to network and share best practices.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, May 2, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Donald Young School, Emo

Occupational Health & Safety Committee – April 13, 2006, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

Special Education Advisory Committee – April 27, 2006, 12:00 Noon, Program Support Office

Policy Committee – May 2, 2006, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

First Nations Advisory Committee – May 15, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

2006 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Annual General Meeting & Program – June 8-11, 2006, Ottawa

INCAMERA SESSION

The Board met in camera to discuss Personnel and Negotiation issues. (resolution #277)

RISE AND REPORT

The Board returned to public session. (resolution #278)

The Board approved an agreement between the Board and the Educational Support Personnel for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2008. (resolution #279)

The Board approved a motion for Donna Kowalski, Brad Oster and James Chorney to be members of the Leadership Pool. (resolution #280)

Res. #281 BELLUZ-HEYENS That we do adjourn at 9:38 p.m. CARRIED

Director/Secretary

Chair