

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2003-2006 Rainy River District School Board was held on Tuesday, April 6, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., at the Robert Moore School in Fort Frances.

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

Regrets J. Leonard

Student Trustee Adam Fraser

In Attendance: W. Hoshizaki, T. Ellwood, L. Mills, L. Hill, R. Roy, D. Ross

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #42 McBRIDE-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the CARRIED agenda for April 6, 2004 Regular Board Meeting.

Res. #43 McBRIDE-McALISTER That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting CARRIED March 2, 2004 (Session 3) having been typed and distributed, be approved as amended.

Res. #44 McBRIDE-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the CARRIED tender RFP-CSW2004RMS (Network Cable Installation - Robert Moore School) to Phoenix Infrastructures in the amount of \$18,935 plus taxes.

Res. #45 McBRIDE-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the CARRIED tender RFP-CS2004ISA (ISA Computers) Section A and B to Wilson's Business Solutions for \$68,167 plus taxes and Section C to Microcomputer Science Centre for \$38,004 plus taxes.

Res. #46 McALISTER-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board approve the CARRIED Policy #2.61 - Filtering Internet Sites.

Res. #47 McBRIDE-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the CARRIED Policy #6.81 - Safe Water.

Res. #48 McALISTER-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board approve the CARRIED revised Personnel Report dated April, 2004.

Res. #49 ELUIK-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board meet, in CARRIED camera, in Committee of the Whole Board.

Res. #50 McALISTER-DARRAH That the Committee of the Whole Board rise and report CARRIED to the regular meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Dan Belluz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

SILENT REFLECTION

CONFLICT OF INTEREST Nil

RECOGNITION OF Excellence

▶ **Innovative Program**

Bob McGreevy, Principal of Rainy River High School, spoke about the success of the Innovative Project which was a winter camping trip on March 1-3, 2004 at Moose Lake camp near Sprague, Manitoba. Bob McGreevy introduced Lauri Armstrong, teacher and two students that were involved in the camping trip. It was a three-day winter camping trip in which 42 grade nine and ten students, five senior students from the school's Leadership and Peer Support class and six staff members participated. This trip was planned as a way to help students work together, foster team building and promote self esteem. Many of the activities enjoyed by the students are part of the Anti-Bullying Program which was recently introduced in the schools. Activities included cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, sliding, bannock making, storytelling and making crafts. The Leadership and Peer Support class ran additional team-building activities. The staff and students found the adventure to be highly successful and look forward to planning a similar activity next year to help welcome the grade nine students.

A Certificate of Excellence was presented to the group in recognition of their hard work and efforts in planning and carrying out such a worthwhile activity.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the April 6, 2004, meeting was approved.

(see resolution #42)

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Correction of the minutes was noted by Gord McBride.

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting April 6, 2004
(Session 3) as amended. *(see resolution #43)*

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES nil

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC nil

SYSTEM

International Trips

Terry Ellwood, Superintendent of Education, spoke about the three international trips that were planned. Atikokan High School students went to Italy and Fort Frances High School students planned trips to Costa Rica and France. Darryl Gannon, Principal of Atikokan High School and Lindsey Kerr, student participated by video conference and Lindsey provided the Trustees with a recap of the trip to Italy. There were 27 students involved in the trip along with chaperones.

Rob Roy Donaldson, teacher at Fort Frances High School, explained that a joint trip between Fort Frances High School and Rainy River High School students was planned. The purpose of the trip was to visit Costa Rica and provide community service work while visiting. The students provided worked at a nun's home and a nursery school during their visit. The students stayed in the community with families.

Megan Hebert and Miranda Miller provided a recap of their trip to France, providing pictures for the Trustees and staff to see. The students felt it was beneficial because they were able to experience the culture and see historical buildings that they had learned about in school. They both felt that their involvement in the french immersion program was a great benefit in speaking and understanding the language while visiting France.

BOARD REPORTS

9.1 Finance Committee

Ron McAlister provided highlights of the meeting held on March 23, 2004.

Topics included the Board's financial position as at February 29, 2004. The committee reviewed tender summaries for the Network Cable Installation at Robert Moore School and the ISA 1 Equipment/Computers.

The Board approved the tender RFP-CSW2004RMS (Network Cable Installation - Robert Moore School) to Phoenix Infrastructures in the amount of \$18,935 plus taxes. *(see resolution #44)*

The Board approved the tender RFP-CS2004ISA (ISA Computers) Section A and B to Wilson's Business Solutions for \$68,167 plus taxes and Section C to Microcomputer Science Centre for \$38,004 plus taxes. *(see resolution #45)*

Other items discussed by the committee included budget and the funding pressures that the Board faces in 2004-05. These cost pressures include salary/benefits, hydro/utility costs, declining enrolment, transportation and school renewal. Correspondence was reviewed.

9.2 Innovative Projects

Judy Eluik spoke about the Innovative Projects as outlined on page 19 of the agenda package. Schools within the Rainy River District School Board received funding for five innovative projects. One of the projects was the Moose Lake winter camping trip which was planned and developed by the Rainy River High School staff and students. Other projects receiving funding included Atikokan High School for production of a video yearbook and an expansion of the existing "Outers Program" that has been operating successfully in Atikokan for the past 39 years. Huffman School will receive funds to support reading development in the primary grades through a Community Volunteer Reading Program. Alexander MacKenzie School will begin Project Green in April 2004 with funding to create a green space to provide a friendly, healthy attractive playground environment at the new J.W. Walker School.

9.3 Policy Committee

The following policies have gone for stakeholder consultation and have been presented to the Board for final approval:

Policy #2.61 - Filtering Internet Sites

Policy #6.81 - Safe Water

(see resolution #46)

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Adam Fraser, Student Trustee, attended the Public Education Symposium in Toronto and felt it was an excellent opportunity for him to learn more about the education system and allowed him to network with student trustees from other Boards across the province.

Adam reported that he has had the opportunity to participate in an International Trip and stressed the importance of giving secondary students the opportunity to experience an international trip and learn about the culture of other countries.

It was noted that this time of year is a stressful time for students as they prepare for mid-term exams. It is especially important for grade 12 students that are going on to post-secondary studies as they work hard to maintain good grades.

REPORT OF CHAIR

Dan Belluz thanked the municipalities and community representatives for their budget input as the Board plans for the school year 2004-05.

School Boards across the province are concerned about the rising Hydro costs.

Trustees and school councils were invited to tour J.W. Walker School prior to the Board meeting to see the work that has been completed to date on the building/renovation project.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

11.1 Director's Update

Provincial

- Minister of Education has created a partnership table that includes Trustees, Directors, Principals and will be used as an advisory group for policies being considered.
- Boards continue to wait for the government to release budget and grant information.

Regional

- Directors in Northwestern Ontario have requested a meeting with local MPP's on April 16th to discuss education issues in the North.

Board

- Warren Hoshizaki spoke about "*Moments of Pride*" within the Rainy River District School Board
 - ✓ Atikokan High School (grade 7 & 8) under the direction of Elizabeth Cronin received superior rating while performing in Thunder Bay

- ✓ Jump Rope for Heart Campaign coordinated by Cathy Burton at North Star Community School in Atikokan raised \$4,437
- ✓ Regional Science Fair results within the District included:
 - Sturgeon Creek School / Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program**
 - Mitchell Haw - 1st place, grade 5, Life Science
 - Jared McQuaker - 2nd place, grade 7, Life Science
 - Nicholas Olsen - Honourable Mention, grade 5 - Physical Science
 - Brandon Olsen - 1st place, grade 8 - Physical Science
 - Dan McBride - 2nd place, grade 8 - Physical Science
 - Andrew Friesen - 3rd place, grade 8, Physical Science
 - Kelsey Quibell - 3rd place, grade 7 - Physical Science
 - McCrosson-Tovell School**
 - Courtney Hansen - 2nd place, grade 4
 - Shane Rencher - Honourable Mention, grade 4
 - Alexander MacKenzie School**
 - Bryson Skirten - 1st place, grade 4, "Temperatures and Bubbles"

Brandon Olsen placed 2nd overall and Dan McBride placed 3rd overall in the Regional Fair and will go on to the National Science Fair in St. John's, Newfoundland representing the Rainy River District School Board and Sunset Country Region.

12.2 Fort Frances Facility Plan Committee

Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business, reported that an ad hoc committee was formed to review the facility needs with the Board and provide a report to the Property Committee.

This report would include:

- ▶ review of maintenance shop alternatives
- ▶ review of cold storage for the system
- ▶ alternative locations for the alternative education program
- ▶ viability of community partnerships
- ▶ disposition of Board properties.

The Ministry has completed a facility survey and the Board continues to wait for the results.

A full report from the Fort Frances Facility Review Committee will be made to the Board when the review is completed.

12.3 Strategic Plan Review

Warren Hoshizaki reported that three meetings were held across the district on March 1, 2 & 3, 2004 to review system goals. School councils, Trustees, community members and Board administration participated in these meetings and information was gathered on priorities for the next school year. A draft report found on page 30 of the agenda package outlines information that was gathered from the sessions. This information will be provided to principals and administration as they plan for 2004-05.

12.4 Personnel Report

The Board approved the revised Personnel Report as presented for April, 2004.

(see resolution #47)

The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Shawnee Guimond, 1.1 FTE, Ed. Assistant, FHS, February 17, 2004 to June 21, 2004
Rianna Hampton 1.1 FTE, Ed. Assistant, FHS, March 1, 2004 to June 21, 2004
Kim Perreault, .44 FTE, Ed. Assistant, RMS, March 2, 2004 to June 22, 2004
Patty McNally, .48 FTE, Ed. Assist., RIV, March 30, 2004 to June 23, 2004

Leave of Absence

Tamara McLean, 1.0 FTE, Teacher, FHS, commencing November 29, 2004
Julie Shuh, 1.0 FTE LOA, Teacher, FHS, June 23, 2004 to June 30, 2005
Catherine Bruyere, 1.0 FTE LOA, Teacher, FHS, May 10, 2004 to May 10, 2005
Nathalie vonNiebelschutz, 0.1 FTE LOA, Teacher, RMS, September 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005
Vicki Ogilvie, 0.4 FTE LOA, Teacher, SCS, September 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005
Sherri Allan, 0.2 FTE LOA, Teacher, DYS, September 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

Retirement

Rhonda Cain (Jesse), 1.0 FTE, Teacher, NSC (LOA), commencing March 31, 2004

Retirement

Carolee Hogue, 1.0 FTE, Teacher, RIV, commencing June 30, 2004

12.5 J.W. Walker Project Update

Raymond Roy reported that Trustees, School Councils and staff toured the J.W. Walker School prior to the Board meeting. The building project is approximately 80-85% complete with June 15th as a completion date. The gym and admin offices are being painted and the flooring is scheduled for installment over the next two weeks. Plans are underway to commence outside work on the facility.

12.6 Occupational Health and Safety Committee - *Fort Frances/Emo/Rainy River*

Raymond Roy provided highlights of the meeting held on March 10, 2004.

- ▶ Incident/Accident Frequency Report reviewed
- ▶ Workplace Inspection Reports
- ▶ revised Workplace Inspection Procedure
- ▶ staff to be advised on the procedure to follow if an accident occurs while work is being completed during school breaks and holidays.
- ▶ next meeting scheduled for June 10, 2004

12.7 Occupational Health and Safety Committee - *Atikokan*

Raymond Roy provided the following highlights of the meeting held on March 29, 2004 which was held by teleconference with Atikokan staff:

- ▶ location/installation of cabinets for hazardous chemicals
- ▶ structure and operation of committee
- ▶ Workplace Inspection Reports reviewed
- ▶ back safety and training techniques

- ▶ Incident/Accident Frequency Report
- ▶ nine custodians and maintenance staff successfully completed training on aerial work platform and fall protection fundamentals
- ▶ next meeting scheduled for May 31, 2004

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was reviewed. A recommendation was made to provide letters of support for The Durham District School Board regarding utility cost pressures for school boards and Bruce-Grey Catholic District School in requesting that the government provide all school boards with full relief from the portion of GST that they is now paid. An acknowledgment letter will be forwarded to Mildred Brockie regarding J. W. Walker School.

12.9 Labour Relations Symposium

Diane Ross, Human Resources Administrator and Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business attended the Labour Relations Symposium in Toronto on March 25-27, 2004. Highlights included:

- ▶ labour relations within the Province - two Boards have not settled with ETFO (Kawartha Pine Ridge and Greater Essex District School Board)
- ▶ no active negotiations with OSSTF and ETFO
- ▶ discussion to remove retirement age of 65
- ▶ Human Rights issue regarding the accommodation of injured workers by employers

FUTURE MEETINGS

- ▶ **Next Regular Board Meeting** - Tuesday, May 4, 2004 - 7:00 p.m., Donald Young School, Emo
- ▶ **Occupational Health & Safety Committee**
Fort Frances/Emo/Rainy River - June 10, 2004, 1:30 p.m., Education Centre
Atikokan - May 31, 2004, 9:15 a.m., Atikokan Sub Office
- ▶ **Special Education Advisory Committee** - April 15, 2004, Program Support Office, 12:00 noon
- ▶ **Crisis Management Committee** - April 15, 2004, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre
- ▶ **Finance Committee** - April 20, 2004, 6:30 p.m., Education Centre
- ▶ **First Nations Advisory Committee** - April 20, 2004, 7:00 p.m., Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

- ▶ Roots of Behaviour - Working Conference on Education
May 3-6, 2004 - 1st Annual Education Conference, Fort Frances High School
- ▶ 2004 Calendar of Events Ontario Public School Boards' Association
March 25-27, 2004 - Labour Relations Symposium, Toronto
June 3-6, 2004 - Annual General Meeting, Huntsville

INCAMERA SESSION

The Board met in camera to discuss Personnel and Negotiation Issues.

(see resolution #49)

The Board returned to the public session and reported.

(see resolution #50)

RISE AND REPORT

The Board discussed Personnel and Negotiation issues.

Res. #51 ELUIK-McALISTER That we do adjourn at 8:40 p.m.
CARRIED

Director of Education/Secretary

Chair