

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the 2003-2006 Rainy River District School Board was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2004, at 7:15 p.m. in the Robert Moore School, Fort Frances.

Board Members Present D. Belluz, G. McBride, Margaret Heyens,

Regrets: J. Leonard, M. Darrah, J. Eluik, R. McAlister

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

Due to lack of quorum and in accordance with Board By-laws, Trustees present agreed to convene in Committee of the Whole to hear the following reports:

- ▶ Anti-bullying Committee
- ▶ Public Education Symposium (January 29-31, 2004)
- ▶ Transportation Committee
- ▶ Personnel
- ▶ J.W. Walker Project Update
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety Committee
- ▶ Special Education Programs
- ▶ School Year Calendar
- ▶ Class Size
- ▶ Dr. Alan King Report
- ▶ JK/SK Registration Process

It was noted that no motions would be voted on until being received by the Board at the next regular meeting on March 2, 2004 in Atikokan.

CALL TO ORDER

Dan Belluz, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

SILENT REFLECTION

CONFLICT OF INTEREST Nil

RECOGNITION OF EDUCATION

▶ **Builders Club**

Penny Newman, Principal of Robert Moore School, explained that the Builders Club is a student-led community service organization which operates under school regulations and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis Club is a group of business and professional people in the community and the club sponsors are Dr. Robert Lidkea and Kenneth Koprowski who are members of the local Kiwanis. The

Builders Club was formed in the Spring of 2000 and presently has approximately 30 students participating. The Builders Club participates in many school and community projects and learn about organization, teamwork and leadership. Students present at the meeting who represent the Builders' Club Executive included Kailey Bonner-Vickers (President), Brittainy Spence (Vice President), Katrina Wreggitt (Secretary) and Moretta Onichuk (Treasurer).

Dan Belluz, Chair, presented a certificate of Recognition of Excellence to the Builders Club for their achievements.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA By Consensus

BOARD REPORTS

Anti-Bullying Committee

Diane Ross provided highlights of the Anti-Bullying Committee meeting held on January 22, 2004 which is included in the agenda package on page 12. Feedback was reviewed following community symposiums. The committee discussed ways to communicate with parents regarding bullying. It was noted that bullying at the elementary level is being addressed in their School Improvement Plans. Secondary staff are currently reviewing the Anti-Bullying Program for successes and improvements needed. The next meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Education Centre.

Public Education Symposium

Gord McBride, Ron McAlister, Judy Eluik and Adam Fraser (Student Trustee) attended the Public Education Symposium. Gord McBride provided highlights of the symposium as follows:

- ▶ mandate of the School Board Trustees to set policy, provide Board evaluations and review the Board's strategic plan
- ▶ ongoing concern regarding rising energy costs and the affect on school boards
- ▶ Labour Relations issues with elementary teachers
- ▶ Gerard Kennedy, Minister of Education spoke of his support for Trustees and rural schools, forthcoming changes in the School Closure Policy and pending announcement on areas of funding within education.

Transportation Committee

Dan Belluz reported that the Transportation Committee met on January 27th in response to a request from Jodie Jolicouer. The request outlined a concern that a group of parents and students from the Stratton area have regarding the Board's transportation policy, and more specifically the intention of the Board to end bus service to Fort Frances High School for the out-of-area students residing in the Stratton area.

Letters were heard from three area residents (1 student and 2 parents) requesting continued availability to transportation. Information provided will be reviewed by the Committee and recommendations will be brought to the Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

Directors and Senior Business Officials met with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Education. Focus is on two key issues:

- ▶ targets for student achievement in different grade levels and student success
- ▶ anti-bullying program

It was noted that the Rainy River District School Board has developed an anti-bullying program that is being piloted this year. An education plan will be released shortly.

The Board is reviewing staffing and budget requirements for the school year 2004-2005.

Personnel Report

Diane Ross reviewed the February Personnel Report.

Appointment

Holly Kropelin, .24 FTE, Comm. Assist., NFS, January 30, 2004 to June 18, 2004
Holly Kropelin, .20 FTE, Library Assist., NFS, January 5, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Holly Kropelin, .17 FTE, Secretary I, NFS, commencing January 5, 2004
Rachel McQuaker, .60 FTE, Comm. Assist., DYS, January 5, 2004 to June 18, 2004
Jodie Allan, 1.1 FTE, Ed. Assist. MCT, January 5, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Gwen Olsen, .48 FTE, Ed. Assist., SCS, January 5, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Denise Donaldson, .55 FTE, Ed. Assist, CRS, January 6, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Lisa Maxwell, .55 FTE, Ed. Assist, MCT, January 5, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Denise Miller, 1.1 FTE, Ed. Assist, ACS, January 12, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Robyn Wilson, .44 FTE, Ed. Assist, RMS, January 13, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Cindy Poirier, 1.1 FTE, Ed. Assist, HUF, January 14, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Jolene Richert, 1.1 FTE, Ed. Assist, JWS, January 19, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Michelle Tighe, 1.1 FTE, Ed. Assist, AMS, January 19, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Melissa Gushulak, .55 FTE, Ed. Assist, AMS, January 19, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Verlie Giles, .55 FTE, Ed. Assist, SCAP, January 18, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Sheila Jackson, .55 FTE, Ed. Assist, SCS, January 26, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Darcy Neufeld, .55 FTE, Ed. Assist, RMS, January 27, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Kimberlee Ewald, .55 FTE, Ed. Assist, RIV, January 27, 2004 to June 23, 2004
Wendy Orchard, .33 FTE, Teacher, FHS (LTO), January 30, 2004 to June 24, 2004
Eva Vizi, .67 FTE, Teacher, FHS (LTO), January 30, 2004 to June 24, 2004

Change in Assignment/FTE

Brad Hill, 1.0 FTE, Teacher, RMS, commencing January 26, 2004

Leave of Absence

Darren Johnson, 1.0 FTE LOA,, September 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005
Kristi Roy, 1.0 FTE LOA extension, January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2004
Martha Siemens, 1.0 FTE LOA, December 31, 2003 to June 30, 2004
Elizabeth Cronin, 1.0 FTE LOA, February 1, 2005 to June 24, 2005

Retirement

Gregory Wilson, 1.0 FTE, Teacher, RIV, commencing June 24, 2004

J.W. Walker Update

Raymond Roy reported continued progress on the J.W. Walker Expansion/Renovation Project. The upper level has been drywalled and will be ready for painting by mid February. Drywall is being hung on the lower level. Mechanical and electrical is on schedule. Windows have been installed, vapour barrier has been completed and there is heat in the building. The project is 70% complete.

Occupational Health and Safety Committee

Fort Frances - January 19, 2004

Raymond Roy reported to the Board on the meeting held in Atikokan on January 19, 2004.

Highlights of this meeting included:

- ▶ structure and operation of the health & safety committee
- ▶ workplace inspection reports at North Star and Atikokan High School
- ▶ incident accident frequency report
- ▶ next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 29, 2004 at 9:15 a.m. at the Sub Office

Special Education Program

Terry Ellwood introduced Jane Tibbetts, Special Education Coordinator, who spoke about the Individual Education Plan. It is a written plan, required by the Ministry of Education, that describes the special education program and services required by a particular student. The IEP identifies learning expectations that are modified from the expectations given in the curriculum policy for the appropriate grade and subject. The IEP assists teachers in monitoring the student's progress and provides a framework for communicating information to parents and the student. It is reviewed periodically to note any changes in the student's special education program and services that are needed. Jane explained the purpose and requirements for developing an Individual Education Plan. Every effort is made to engage the parents of the student in the evaluation process.

School Year Calendar

Terry Ellwood reported that the school year calendar for 2004-05 will be a modified calendar. There will be 194 school days beginning on August 31st and ending on June 24th and there will be common exam weeks. Four School Boards in the region participated in planning the school calendar for 2004-05. Atikokan Roman Catholic Separate School Board was given the opportunity to provide input before the calendar was finalized. A motion to approve the School Year Calendar for 2004-05 will be tabled at the regular board meeting on March 2, 2004.

Class Size

Laura Mills, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the Board is required to report the elementary class size as of October 31st of each year. This legislation limits the maximum average class size that the Board may have in elementary schools. The Board cannot exceed 24 in the primary division and 24.5 for JK to grade 8. The Rainy River DSB average primary class size is 19.13 and the average elementary class size is 22.21 which makes the Board compliant with the regulation. A motion to approve average class size for elementary will be presented at the March 2, 2004 board meeting.

Dr. Alan King Educational Report

Terry Ellwood reported that Dr. Alan King was retained by the Ministry of Education to track the results of the double cohort and results of this study can be found on page 29 of the agenda package. The double cohort includes students who entered Grade 9 in 1999 and graduated in 2003 under the new Ontario Secondary School Program requirements. This meant that the final group of students leaving school after completing OAC's under the former Ontario Schools Intermediate and Senior Program would be competing for the same spots in college and university. The study conducted by Dr. Alan King provided research into success rates and failures along with post-secondary school destinations for the first group graduating under the new OSS diploma requirements. The study also addresses the implications of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test and School to Work Programs.

New Kindergarten Registration Process

Linda Hill introduced members of the steering committee that was formed to look at the registration process for all prospective kindergarten students attending in the school year 2004-05. Ann Anderson, Jean Hebert and Karen Woods were present at the meeting to explain the new process for registration. Karen Woods spoke of the Committee's goals for this new process:

- ▶ improve information gathering
- ▶ improve the personal aspect of registration

On February 25, 2004 parents and children will have the opportunity to attend an Open House at each school to provide program highlights and assist parents in the registration process. Children will have an opportunity at this informational session to meet their teacher and visit the classroom. Each family will be given a book bag which will contain information about the Rainy River District School Board, school information and a new book.

Jean Hebert, together with "Chester" the puppet, read the story, the "Kissing Hand" which is the book that will be included in the child's book bag.

Correspondence was received from the District Manager of the Ministry of Education in Thunder Bay regarding the School Based Services project. There was no further discussion.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- ▶ **Next Regular Board Meeting** - Tuesday, March 2, 2004 - 7:00 p.m. (EST), Atikokan High School - Atikokan
- ▶ **Occupational Health & Safety Committee**
Fort Frances/Emo/Rainy River - March 10, 2004, 1:30 p.m., Education Centre
Atikokan - March 29, 2004, 9:15 a.m., Atikokan Sub Office
- ▶ **Special Education Advisory Committee** - February 11, 2004, Program Support Office, 12:00 noon
- ▶ **Anti-Bullying Committee** - March 31, 2004, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room, Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

- ▶ 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

The Trustees met In Camera to discuss Personnel issues.

Rise and Report Nil

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Director of Education/Secretary

Chair