

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

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

Regrets J. Leonard, J. Eluik

Student Trustee Jay Neilson

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

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #99 McALISTER-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board approve the CARRIED revised agenda for December 7, 2004 Regular Board Meeting.

Res. #100 McBRIDE-McALISTER That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting CARRIED November 2, 2004 (Session 10) having been typed and distributed, be approved.

Res. #101 McALISTER-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board approve the CARRIED following policies:

- #1.00 - Statement of Board Mission, Beliefs and Mission
- #1.11 - Conduct of Business
- #1.21 - Representative of Native Students
- #1.23 - Student Trustee
- #1.40 - Policy Development
- #1.41 - Trustees' Benefits
- #1.42 - Trustees Attending Meetings Electronically
- #1.51 - Naming and Opening of New or Consolidated Schools

Res. #102 McBRIDE-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the CARRIED following policies for stakeholder consultation:

- #2.10 - Announcements
- #2.11 - School Visitors
- #2.12 - Authorization of Agents of the Rainy River District School Board
- #2.13 - School Councils
- #2.22 - Emergency Situations
- #2.40 - Definition of a School Day
- #2.60 - Records Management

Res. #103 HEYENS-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board award the CARRIED nine (9) bus routes to Iron Range Bus Lines within the 2004-2005 Operators contract for the following routes: mis, atw, xde, ash, te, tnc, lamb and butterfly.

Res. #104 HEYENS-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board declare CARRIED Alexander MacKenzie School surplus to the Board and proceed with the Disposition of Surplus Property Regulation.

Res. #105 HEYENS-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board requests the CARRIED Minister of Education review the new pupil accommodation funding formula with a specific view to the lack of equity for Northern Ontario Boards due to the unique circumstances concerning geography, severe declining enrolment, and the extremely high building/renovation costs in the north.

Res. #106 HEYENS-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the CARRIED revised Personnel Report dated December, 2004.

Res. #107 McBRIDE-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the CARRIED Community Recreation and Use Agreement between the Rainy River District School Board and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

Res. #108 McBRIDE-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board meet, in CARRIED camera, in Committee of the Whole Board.

Res. #109 McBRIDE-HEYENS That the Committee of the Whole Board rise and report CARRIED to the regular meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

SILENT REFLECTION

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Gord McBride nominated Dan Belluz for the position of Chair. Warren Hoshizaki called three times for nominations. Nominations were closed and Dan Belluz was acclaimed as Chair for 2004-2005.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Martin Darrah nominated Ron McAlister to the position of Vice Chair. Dan Belluz, Chair, called three times for nominations. Nominations were closed and Ron McAlister was acclaimed as Vice Chair for 2004-2005.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST nil

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

▶ **Folklore - F.H. Huffman School**

Dianne Thompson, Principal at Huffman School, explained that the Folklore Program was developed as an Innovative Project. It is a community volunteer reading program designed to support reading development through building the love of reading in primary students. Jan Perrot, teacher at Huffman School, spoke about the purpose of the reading program and their goal to promote the love and joy of reading. Jean Hebert, teacher at Huffman School explained how the program works and the involvement by community members. Ruth Caldwell and Shirley Scofield, community volunteer readers, were on hand to show their support and enthusiasm for the program that promotes student achievement. Ruth Caldwell read a book entitled, "Winter's Gift".

Dan Belluz presented a Certificate of Excellence to the participants of the Folklore Program and thanked them for their support to students in the Rainy River District.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda Item Additions:

11.3 Finance Committee - tendering of buses from meeting dated December 6, 2004

11.3 Finance Committee - surplus property

11.4 OPSBA Report

Martin Darrah declared conflict of interest on 11.3 Finance - tendering of buses.

The revised agenda for the December 7, 2004, meeting was approved.

(see resolution #99)

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting November 2, 2004 (Session 9).

(see resolution #100)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education, spoke about Board Partnerships. Schools in Rainy River have partnered with Lake of the Woods School in Baudette, Minnesota to bring students together "as a team". High School students have the opportunity to participate and compete in athletic events that would otherwise be unavailable due to the numbers that these teams require.

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC

- √ Community member Helen Crook provided a presentation on "Communities in Bloom". The group is looking at ways to provide continuous community improvement through environmental awareness. The Rainy River District School Board has been asked to help in creating an "appreciation garden" in front of the Education Centre that would honour retired employees, trustees, directors, office staff, teachers, support staff and maintenance workers. A book would be made that would list the names of those being honoured. The cost for this project would be approximately \$1,000. A partnership between "Communities in Bloom" members and the Builders' Club could be considered for this project.

SYSTEM

- √ Program/Curriculum Success - Beyond the Curriculum
Jay Neilson, student trustee, spoke about co-curricular activities available in the schools at the secondary level to enhance the academic programs. Student Council Presidents from secondary schools in Fort Frances, Rainy River and Atikokan were in attendance to provide an overview to the Board on activities available. Along with various sports activities, School Council President at Rainy River High School spoke about the co-op with Baudette, Minnesota and student involvement in drama and development of a school yearbook. School Council co-presidents spoke about the athletic programs available at Atikokan High School as well as the well known Outer's Program which is the longest running publicly funding program. A group called "Students Against Drunk Drivers" was recently established and are planning fun and safe activities for students. School Council President at Fort Frances High School spoke about the athletic programs available such as court sports, girls and boys hockey, golf, soccer as well as non-athletic activities such as "Students Against Drunk Drivers", hosting a get together with Koochiching County (International Falls) students, Yearbook Committee and Muskie Theatre. School Council President of Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program spoke about the partnership with Rainy River High School and Lakewood School in Baudette which allows Sturgeon Creek students to participate in athletic programs that are not available due to the small number of senior students. SCAP planned a Christmas banquet this year, ran a winter carnival and participated in a fund raising event called the "30-hour famine".

BOARD REPORTS

11.1 Special Education Committee

Martin Darrah provided highlights of the meeting held on November 18, 2004.

- ▶ training for SERTS ongoing
- ▶ training for use of assistive software

Terry Ellwood, Superintendent of Education, provided an update at the meeting on the development of Pathways courses for students who are academically or behaviourally at risk.

11.2 Policy Committee

Gord McBride provided a report on the Policy Committee meeting held on November 2, 2004.

The Board approved policies as presented. *(see resolution #101)*

The Board approved policies for stakeholder consultation as presented. *(see resolution #102)*

11.3 Finance Committee

Ron McAlister reported on the Finance Committee meeting held November 9, 2004 which dealt with a transportation issue.

A Finance Committee meeting was held on December 6, 2004.

Laura Mills provided a report on the tender of bus routes which closed on November 26th. There were expressions of interest from several operators and the committee considered level of service, financing and the possibility of finding operators for all 9 routes.

The Board awarded the 9 bus routes to Iron Range Bus Lines within the 2004-2005 Operators contract. *(see resolution #103)*

Laura Mills reported on the meeting held to discuss the procedure in disposing of Alexander MacKenzie property. The Board will offer this property to a preferred list of potential buyers and if no interest is expressed then it would be open to the public market.

The Board declared Alexander MacKenzie School surplus to the Board and will proceed with disposition of property in accordance with regulations *(see resolution #104)*

11.4 Ontario Public School Board's Association

Gord McBride provided the following highlights:

- ▶ negotiations are an important item in the new year
- ▶ the Ministry will be more involved in the negotiations
- ▶ Special Education position paper to be submitted
- ▶ Class Size Committee continues to meet
- ▶ encouraged Trustees to attend the Public Education Symposium scheduled for January 27-29 in Toronto

REPORT OF CHAIR

NOEL members and Board Chairs in Northwestern Ontario met on November 25th in Thunder Bay to discuss education issues. Two key items included support for Aboriginal Education and pupil accommodation. The group is currently focusing on pupil accommodation and Directors in Northern Ontario plan to meet and draft a letter to the Minister of Education.

A letter was received from the Minister regarding multi-year funding and teacher contracts.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

13.1 Director's Update

Board

- ▶ Megaconference can be viewed online
- ▶ J.W. Walker Christmas concert available online
- ▶ Director recognized the hard work of elementary teachers as they spend many hours preparing student report cards and thanked the teachers on behalf of the Board
- ▶ EQAO results are available for Grades 3, 6 & 9 - improvements are due to the focus in the North
- ▶ Mentoring Program grant will be extended into other areas of the Board

The Director expressed appreciation to all staff for their support in contributing to a great year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

13.2 Personnel Report

The Board approved the revised Personnel Report as presented for December, 2004.
(see resolution #106)

The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Natalie Katona, Human Resources Officer, commencing November 22, 2004
Maureen Knowles, .50 FTE Educational Asst, November 22, 2004 to June 23, 2005

Change in Assignment/FTE

Clara Ryan, 1.0 FTE Teacher, NSC, commencing November 5, 2004
Charlene Brubacker, 1.0 FTE Teacher, RIV, commencing November 22, 2004
Connie Schwartz, .67 FTE Teacher, FHS, February 1, 2005 to June 24, 2005
Barb Marusyk, 1.0 FTE Custodian, SCS, commencing November 22, 2004

Leave of Absence

Hue Eldridge, .33 FTE Lib. Assist., HUF, November 15, 2004 to December 10, 2004
Anne Carradice, 1.0 FTE Admin Leave, August 31, 2004 to August 31, 2006
Peg Keffer, 1.0 FTE Admin Leave, August 31, 2004 to August 31, 2006
Crystal Hershey, 10.0 FTE Admin Leave, October 13, 2004 to October 13, 2006
Charlene Brubacker, 1.0 FTE Teacher, RIV, commencing November 22, 2004
Lynn Enge, 1.0 FTE Teacher, AHS, January 1, 2005 to June 24, 2005

Resignation

Lindsey Rogoza, Info. Technology Specialist, commencing November 26, 2004

Retirement

Walter Rogoza, 1.0 FTE Program Coord., commencing June 30, 2005
Merle Perreault, 1.0 FTE Van Driver/Caretaker JWS, commencing December 31, 2004

13.3 EQAO Grade 3 and 6 Results

Linda Hill provided a visual presentation regarding EQAO results for Grade 3 and 6 for the Rainy River District School Board. Tests results are analyzed each year for Grade 3 and 6 students to determine areas of strength and areas requiring improvement. A full report on the results is found on page 59-60 of the agenda package. The Board continues to show improvement in the areas of reading, writing and math. Plans are underway to address the lower results in writing scores.

EQAO results for Grade 3 and 6 for the Board are available on the EQAO website.

13.4 EQAO Grade 9 Math Results

Heather Campbell, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator, reported that the Board continues to focus on student achievement and reducing the gap between high and low-achieving students. The Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics test measures the achievement of the Grade 9 expectations in mathematics. It is written twice a year, in January for semester one students and in June for semester two students. Results indicate that the Board improved from the previous year by 1% in the Academic program and 2% in the Applied program. Several recommendations have been made to focus on growth in mathematic achievement and reduce the gap between high and low-achieving students.

13.5 Occupational Health and Safety Committee

Raymond Roy provided highlights of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held on November 29, 2004 as found page page 65-67 of the agenda package:

- ▶ OH & S training day
- ▶ W.H.M.I.S.
- ▶ workplace health & safety bulletin boards

13.6 Community Recreation and Use Agreement

Terry Ellwood, reported that many district schools boards across the Province encourage community use of school facilities. School boards will look into possible joint agreements with municipalities to provide for the maintenance and operation of facilities for cultural, recreational, athletic, educational, administrative and other community purposes. Terry Ellwood explained the purpose of the program and the allocation provided to the Rainy River District School Board to support this program.

The Board approved the Community Recreation and Use Agreement between the Board and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. *(see resolution #107)*

13.7 Student Success Update

Terry Ellwood provided background information regarding the Student Success Action Plan as outlined in the agenda on pages 73-83 which indicates the disposition of funding given to each board for the program. The Student Success Program is designed to promote opportunity and achievement for students who exhibit conditions which place them at risk to graduate. A Student Success Steering Committee was formed together with The Northwest Catholic District School Board to prepare the Action Plan.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was reviewed by Trustees.

There was no further discussion.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- ▶ **Next Regular Board Meeting** - Tuesday, January 11, 2005 - 7:00 p.m., Robert Moore School, Fort Frances
- ▶ **Special Education Advisory Committee** - December 14, 2004, Program Support Office, 12:00 noon

- ▶ **Occupational Health & Safety Committee**
Atikokan - January 17, 2005, 1:00 p.m., Atikokan Sub Office
Joint Committee - February 21, 2005, 12:30 p.m., Education Centre
(Atikokan members via teleconference)

- ▶ **Finance Committee** - January 4, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

- ▶ **2005 Calendar of Events Ontario Public School Boards' Association**
Public Education Symposium - January 27-29, 2005, Toronto
Labour Relations Symposium - March 31-April 2, 2005, Toronto
Annual General Meeting & Program - June 9-12, 2005, London

INCAMERA SESSION

The Board met in camera to discuss a Personnel issue. *(see resolution #108)*

The Board returned to the public session and reported. *(see resolution #109)*

RISE AND REPORT

The Board discussed a Personnel issue.

Res. #110 McALISTER-McBRIDE That we do adjourn at 9:13 p.m.
CARRIED

Director of Education/Secretary

Chair