

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #12

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2006-2010 Rainy River District School Board on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Robert Moore School in Fort Frances.

Board Members Present Dan Belluz, Judy Eluik, Marg Heyens, Glenda Belluz, Donna Dittaro, Gary Allen

Regrets Ron McAlister

Student Trustee Meredith Ivall (video conference)

In Attendance Jack McMaster, Laura Mills, Casey Slack, Brent Tookenay, Diane Ross, Raymond Roy

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #94 ELUIK-G. BELLUZ That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for January 8, 2008 Regular Board meeting. CARRIED

Res. #95 G. BELLUZ-ELUIK That the minutes of the Regular Board meeting December 4, 2007 (Session 11) having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED

Res. #96 ELUIK-G.BELLUZ That THE Rainy River District School Board award the RFP for the Employee Family Assistant Program to Behavioural Science Centre for three years starting January 1, 2008 with an option to extend for an additional two years. CARRIED

Res. #97 ELUIK-G. BELLUZ That the Rainy River District School Board approve the 2006-07 Financial Statements as presented.

Res. #98 G. BELLUZ-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School board withdraw \$27,600 from classroom reserves for use in the Student Success Programming.

Res. #99 ALLEN-DITTARO That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #1.41 – Trustee Benefits. CARRIED

Res. #100 ELUIK-G. BELLUZ That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #4.30 – Student Discipline. CARRIED

Res. #101 G. BELLUZ-ALLEN That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #5.73 – Adult Education. CARRIED

- Res. #102 G. BELLUZ-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #8.09 – Purchasing. CARRIED
- Res. #103 DITTARO-ALLEN That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #8.10 – Contracted Services. CARRIED
- Res. #104 ELUIK-DITTARO That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #8.12 – Authorization of Disbursements. CARRIED
- Res. #105 DITTARO-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #8.15 – Reserves for Working Funds. CARRIED
- Res. #106 ELUIK-DITTARO That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #8.24 – Participation in Fundraising Activities. CARRIED
- Res. #107 DITTARO-ALLEN That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #8.30 – Petty Cash. CARRIED
- Res. #108 ALLEN-DITTARO That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #8.32 – Budget Process. CARRIED
- Res. #109 DITTARO-ALLEN That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #2.64 – Information/Communication Technology Use, for stakeholder consultation. CARRIED
- Res. #110 ALLEN-DITTARO That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #2.65 – Code of Conduct for stakeholder consultation. CARRIED
- Res. #111 ALLEN-DITTARO That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #4.16 – Safe Schools for stakeholder consultation. CARRIED
- Res. #112 DITTARO-ALLEN That the Rainy River District School Board approve the Personnel Report dated January, 2008. CARRIED
- Res. #113 ELUIK-DITTARO That the Rainy River District School Board meet, in camera, in Committee of the Whole Board. CARRIED.
- Res. #114 DITTARO-ELUIK That the Committee of the Whole Board rise and report to the regular meeting. 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 was declared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the January 8, 2008 meeting was approved. (resolution #94)

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Teachers Learning Together – Crossroads School

Nancy Mapledoram-Councillor, Luella Kellar and Caren Fagerdahl, members of the Teachers Learning Together Team, spoke about the research initiative project that was undertaken by Crossroads staff. The basis for this project is to gauge the impact of the use of specific oral language strategies from Grades 1-8. A random sampling of students was selected from the student body to provide the necessary data that will drive instruction. Team members will implement oral language strategies from the resource material throughout the remainder of the school year in their classrooms. Once the results are collated, a formal and in-depth conclusive summary of the action research project will be completed and presented at a Teachers Learning Together symposium in Toronto in June.

Trustee Dittaro asked if there are different skill levels that individualize the program. It was explained that the random sampling was done and teachers will teach to the different levels using various strategies at each level.

Chair Belluz asked how the instruction would differ from what is currently being done.

It was explained that teachers are using strategies that focus specifically on oral language. The assessments will help to show areas that need improvement.

Jack McMaster, Director of Education, thanked the Crossroads Teachers Learning Together Team for pulling together and submitting the proposal, and then following through on such a worthwhile project. He commended them for their efforts.

Chair Dan Belluz presented the Crossroads Teachers Learning Together Team with a Recognition of Excellence certificate for their dedication to supporting students.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting December 4, 2007 (Session 11). (resolution #95)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

SYSTEM PRESENTATION

Student Success in Mathematics

Kathy Smeeth, Coordinator for Math/Science/Geography/History/Tech/Social Studies, explained that PRIME means **P**rofessional **R**esources and **I**nstruction for **M**athematics **E**ducators. Kathy reported that PRIME is a university-conducted Canadian research project. It is designed using current research on developmental learning with Kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum in mind. Kindergarten to Grade 3 students were interviewed for the research and students in Grades 4-7 wrote written tests. PRIME will help educators to understand how students think mathematically and to become more comfortable with teaching math. Differentiated instruction will enable students to experience success more often and focus on the “big picture”. In the past, staff training for PRIME has been provided to grade 2 teachers and the student success initiative plans to provide training for Grades 7 and 8 teachers as well as Grade 9 teachers of the workplace and applied level programs. Training for the junior division will begin in January. PRIME training allows the Board to continue to move forward with best practices in numeracy.

Trustee Marg Heyens asked if the program and training would be expanded to include all schools. It was noted that the student success initiative is in its first year. Kathy Smeeth offered to report back to the Trustees on the success of the program.

Trustee Donna Dittaro commented on the benefits of expanding this worthwhile program into the junior and intermediate levels.

Trustee Gary Allen applauded Board staff for their involvement in such a proactive program that enables students that are “on the edge” or have hit a barrier, to receive help that will allow them to continue to succeed.

BOARD REPORTS

Finance Committee

Dan Belluz presented the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held December 11, 2007.

The Board awarded the tender for Employee Family Assistance Program Services to the Behavioral Science Centre for three years starting January 1, 2008 with an option to extend for an additional two years. (resolution #96)

The Board approved the 2006-07 Financial Statements as presented. (resolution #97)

The Board approved withdrawal of \$27,600 from classroom reserves for use in the Student Success Programming. (resolution #98)

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Dan Belluz presented the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held December 19, 2007 (*refer to pages 16-17 of the agenda*).

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2008.

Policy Committee

Trustee Glenda Belluz, presented the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held December 20, 2007.

Jack McMaster, Director of Education, spoke about the changes to the Student Discipline Policy as recommended by the law firm Keel and Associates.

Jack McMaster also addressed a concern voiced by the student trustee, regarding the restriction of fundraising events as outlined in the Board's policy.

The Board approved the following policies: (resolutions #99-108)

- 1.41 Trustee Benefits
- 4.30 Student Discipline
- 5.73 Adult Education
- 8.09 Purchasing
- 8.10 Contract Services
- 8.11 Authorization of Disbursements
- 8.15 Reserves for Working Funds
- 8.24 Participation in Fundraising Activities
- 8.30 Petty Cash
- 8.32 Budget Process

The Board approved the following policies for stakeholder consultation:

- 2.64 Information/Communication Technology Use (resolutions #109-111)
- 2.65 Code of Conduct
- 4.16 Safe Schools

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Trustee Judy Eluik reported on the upcoming 2008 OPSBA Public Education Symposium being held in Toronto January 24-26, 2008. Trustees will have the opportunity to participate in the Safe School pre-symposium which is offered free of charge by the Ministry of Education.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Meredith Ivall, Student Trustee, reported on activities at Atikokan High School, Rainy River High School and Fort Frances High School.

Atikokan High School

- Christmas assembly and semi-formal dance went well
- Student Council is planning for a Winter Carnival activity.

Fort Frances High School

- The semi-formal dance went well
- The assembly was cancelled
- Student Council is promoting the 30-hour famine and a winter activity day

Rainy River High School

- Received a grant and are planning to use the grant for national Smoke Free Ontario week.
- Brick-by-brick campaign raised a lot of money.

REPORT OF CHAIR

There were no comments by Trustees.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

Provincial

- OPSBA Public Education Symposium and Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) meetings will be held January 24-25, 2008 in Toronto
- International assessments indicated that the Rainy River District School Board showed a marked improvement in Grade 4 and secondary scores. The Director thanked staff for their efforts in promoting student achievement.

Regional

- Oral Language training continues with Phase II scheduled for February with Carmel Crevola.

Board

- The Board received correspondence from the Ministry of Education confirming the government's support for the Board construction/renovation of J.W. Walker School through the PTR Capital Program.
- The Board also received a letter from the Ministry of Education confirming the government's support for new school construction to address facility condition for students at Robert Moore School and Huffman School.
- The Director wrote a letter to the Accommodation Review Committee regarding the announcement on the local radio station about Huffman School closure. The Director stated that there has been no decision made on the outcome of Huffman School. The Accommodation Review Committee has been established to consider what is best for the students. The committee will follow the review process as set out in Ministry guidelines and in accordance with Board policy.

Personnel Report

The Board approved the Personnel Report as presented for January, 2008.
(resolution #112)

The Personnel Report included the following:

Leave of Absence

Julie Taylor, 1.0 FTE Teacher, DYS, December 10, 2007 to December 10, 2008
Tena Enge, 1.0 FTE Teacher, CRS, March 6, 2008 to March 7, 2009

Occupational Health and Safety Committee

Raymond Roy, Manager of Plant Operations and Maintenance, presented the minutes of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held December 13, 2007 (*refer to pages 70-71 of the agenda*).

The next meeting will be held March 6, 2008.

CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees reviewed a letter received from the Chair and Director of Education of the District School Board of Niagara regarding the special education grant. In the past, the Board has expressed their concern to the government for the shortfall in funding allocations to support special education services. No further action will be taken at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, February 5, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Robert Moore School, Fort Frances.

Public Consultation Meeting – Pupil Accommodation Review – January 15, 2008, 6:30 p.m., F.H. Huffman School (gymnasium)

Public Information Session – January 16, 2008, 6:30 p.m., Robert Moore School gymnasium.

Special Education Advisory Committee – January 22, 2008, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre.

Policy Committee – January 28, 2008, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee – January 29, 2008, 4:15 p.m., Education Centre

Finance Committee – January 29, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Education Centre

Occupational Health and Safety Committee – March 6, 2008, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

2007/08 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Public Education Symposium, January 24-26, 2008, Toronto

Labour Relations Symposium, March 27-29, 2008, Toronto

Annual General Meeting – June 12-15, 2008, Niagara Falls

INCAMERA SESSION

The Board met incamera to discuss a Personnel issue. (resolution #113)

RISE AND REPORT

The Board returned to public session. (resolution #114)

Res. #115 ELUIK-DITTARO That we do adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

CARRIED

Director/Secretary

Chair