

## RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #21

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the 2003-2006 Rainy River District School Board was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at Robert Moore School in Fort Frances.

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

**Absent** M. Darrah, J. Leonard, J. Neilson (Student Trustee)

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

### RESOLUTIONS

Res. #238 BELLUZ-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for January 10, 2006, Regular Board meeting.  
CARRIED

Res. #239 McBRIDE-BELLUZ That the minutes of the Regular Board meeting meeting December 6, 2005 (Session 20) having been typed and distributed, be approved as amended.  
CARRIED

Res. #240 BELLUZ-McBRIDE That the minutes of the Special Board meeting December 21, 2005 having been typed and distributed, be approved.  
CARRIED

Res. #241 McBRIDE-BELLUZ That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies for stakeholder consultation:  
#3.78 – Computer/Electronic Network Usage  
#4.16 – Safe School  
#4.17 – Playground Safety  
#4.18 – Safe Arrival Plan  
#4.20 – Police Interviewing Students  
CARRIED

Res. #242 McBRIDE-BELLUZ That the Rainy River District School Board award audit tender services for up to 5 years to BDO Dunwoody per proposal.  
CARRIED

Res. #243 McBRIDE-BELLUZ That the Rainy River District School Board transfer the Rainy River HVAC reserve of \$800,000 and the Donald Young Renovation reserve of \$250,000 to a capital reserve.  
CARRIED

Res. #244     McBRIDE-BELLUZ That the Rainy River District School Board  
CARRIED     approve the 2004-05 Financial Statements as presented.  
CARRIED

Res. #245     McBRIDE-BELLUZ That the Rainy River District School Board  
CARRIED     approve the withdrawal of up to \$1,155,000 from Classroom  
reserve and up to \$150,000 from Working Fund reserve to  
support reinvestment in Student Achievement as presented.  
CARRIED

Res. #246     HEYENS-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board  
CARRIED     approve the Personnel Report dated January, 2006.  
CARRIED

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair McAlister, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked for a moment of silent reflection.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST - Nil

### RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

#### Lunch with an Author

Marnie Dutton, teacher at J.W. Walker School, spoke about an event held at J.W. Walker School on May 4, 2005 called "Lunch with an Author". This event was to promote students' writing accomplishments. Students provided one polished copy of a piece of writing and parents were invited to have lunch with their children at the school and hear the stories along with reading other pieces of writing they had completed. Parents were also given a presentation on anti-bullying and heard the students sing. Each classroom performed for the parents their Festival pieces and Mr. Cain's class performed the story *Thank You, Mr. Falker*. Special thanks were made to Donna Kowalchuk, Bill Daley, MaryLynne Bondett, Julie Angus, Joanne Brown, Kathy Smeeth and Jody Bonner-Vickers for planning this successful event.

Emma Kunkel, grade 1 student, was on hand to read a story that she authored.

Chair McAlister presented a Certificate of Excellence to the participants for supporting students in the Rainy River District.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the January 10, 2006 meeting was approved. (resolution #238)

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Trustee McBride indicated that the December 6, 2005 minutes should include a letter received from Durham District School Board on November 24, 2005 under the Correspondence section.

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting December 6, 2005 (Session 20), as amended. (resolution #239)

The Board approved the minutes of the Special Board meeting December 21, 2005. (resolution #240)

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Two letters were presented to the Board:

- Letter dated December 8, 2005 from the Chair to the President of OPSBA
- Letter dated December 9, 2005 to the Police Services Board

There was no further discussion.

## SYSTEM PRESENTATION

### Student Success Update

Ian Simpson, Assistant Superintendent of Education, provided an update on the Student Success Program that is currently in its third year in Ontario. A handout was provided to Trustees that outlines an Action Plan for 2005-06 and how the Board will use the plan to improve student success. The primary goal is to improve the Grade 12 graduation rate of students in the Rainy River District School Board. The will plan focus on key strategies to accomplish this goal. Some of the programs identified as part of this strategy are:

- Credit Recovery Programs
- Alternative Education Programs
- Program Pathways
- Student Success in Grades 9 and 10
- Success for Aboriginal Students

## BOARD REPORTS

### REACH Program (Recognizing Excellence and Consistent High Quality)

Trustee Heyens was pleased to announce the recognition of Education Centre Staff for the month of January. This includes the Business Office, Transportation and Human Resources staff. Trustees acknowledge the important contribution that Education Centre staff make that contributes to the success of students in the Rainy River District.

Accepting recognition of behalf of the Education Centre were: Donna Lee, Transportation Officer, Paul Fischer, Payroll Coordinator and Natalie Cousineau, Human Resources Officer.

### Policy Committee

Trustee McBride explained the policy review process. Policy review starts with the Policy Committee and new or revised policies then go to stakeholders for their input. When the revisions are complete, the policy is presented to the Board for final approval.

The Board approved the following policies for stakeholder consultation:

- 3.78 – Computer/Electronic Network Usage
- 4.16 – Safe School
- 4.17 – Playground Safety
- 4.18 – Safe Arrival
- 4.20 – Police Interviewing Students

(resolution #241)

Trustee Belluz recommended that revisions to policies be identified so Trustees know what changes are being made.

### Finance Committee

Trustee Heyens reported that the Finance Committee meet on December 21, 2005 to review the audit tender report for the Board. The Committee received and reviewed the Distant and Rural School Report. Boards are required by the Ministry of Education to report on funds received in 2005-06 for use in distant and rural schools. The estimated allocation for rural schools in the Rainy River District School Board for 2005-06 is \$2,723,908. Of that amount, \$61,954 is enhanced for operations and \$2,661,954 is instructional based. The Board received an OSBIE refund of \$9,780.48 as a 2006 premium reduction.

Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business, provided a visual presentation on the 2004-2005 Financial Statements and Auditor's Report. The Board is found to be

compliant with all funding envelope regulations. The Board is in a surplus position as of August 31, 2005. Surplus of \$1.5M has been allocated to classroom, working fund and capital reserves.

The Board approved the 2004-05 Financial Statements as presented. (resolution #242)

The Board approved the transfer of the Rainy River HVAC reserve of \$800,000 and the Donald Young Renovation reserve of \$250,000 to a capital reserve. (resolution #243)

The Board approved withdrawal of up to \$1,155,000 from Classroom reserve and up to \$150,000 from Working Fund reserve to support reinvestment in Student Achievement. (resolution #244)

### Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Trustee Eluik presented the key issues and activities from OPSBA:

- current school board budgets being monitored
- pressure of high energy costs
- need for new Transportation Funding formula
- new Literacy Initiative (3-year project launched in 2006)
- upcoming Public Education Symposium Feb. 2-4, 2006 in Toronto

Student Trustee Report - nil

### Chairman Report

Chair McAlister commented on the success of the Board's senior administration team in their efforts to meet all funding regulations and dedication to improving student success in the Rainy River District.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### Director's Update

#### **Provincial**

- School Boards enjoyed a break for the Christmas holidays
- Annual OPSOA CEO Conference is scheduled for January 25-27 in Toronto

#### **Regional**

- Aboriginal Forum scheduled for January 19-20 in Thunder Bay with 5 reps from the Rainy River District School Board attending
- Strategic Plan will focus on aboriginal student achievement
- NOEL Chair wrote a letter to Teachers' Federation regarding reduction of days for retired teachers and its impact on Boards

### **Board**

- Ongoing initiatives include Reinvestment to Support Student Achievement, Aboriginal Pilot Project, Achievement School Project
- Senior staff looking at Strategic Plan for 2005-06

### **Personnel Report**

The Board approved the Personnel Report as presented for January, 2006.  
(resolution #246)

The Personnel Report included the following:

#### **Appointment**

Heather Bridgeman, 0.2 FTE Teacher, JWS, commencing December 8, 2005  
Tammy Thibault, 0.2 FTE Teacher, DYS, commencing December 16, 2005  
Ingrid Carlson, 1.0 FTE Teacher, SCS, commencing January 9, 2006  
Marlene Davidson, 0.2 FTE Teacher, NSC, commencing January 13, 2006  
Kathleen DeGagne, 0.2 FTE Teacher, CRS (LTO), December 16, 2005 to June 23, 2006  
Jeff Ogden, 0.2 FTE Teacher, JWS (LTO), January 13, 2006 to June 16, 2006  
Frances Walsh, 0.33 FTE Library Asst., HUF, December 12, 2005 to June 22, 2006  
Darcy Robson, 1.0 FTE Educ. Asst., FHS, December 5, 2005 to December 22, 2005  
Donna Rogers, 0.56 FTE Caretaker, CRS, commencing December 12, 2005  
Irving Blight, 1.0 FTE Caretaker, SCS, commencing December 12, 2005  
Joy Wilson, 0.86 FTE Sec II, RIV/Alt. Ed., commencing January 9, 2006

#### **Change in Assignment**

Heather Bridgeman, 0.8 FTE Teacher, JWS (LTO), December 8, 2005 to February 17, 2006  
Terri Yeo, 1.0 FTE Sec II, RIV, commencing January 9, 2006  
Marilyn Tanner, 1.0 FTE Head Caretaker, AHS, commencing January 9, 2006  
Kellie Whalen, 0.7 FTE Attend. Counsellor, December 1, 2005 to June 21, 2006  
Lisa Leonard, 0.7 FTE Teacher, CRS/DYS, commencing January 9, 2006

#### **Leave of Absence**

Michelle Mosbeck, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, February 20, 2006 to January 29, 2007

### **MISA Update**

Ian Simpson, Assistant Superintendent of Education, presented a report on MISA (Managing Information for Student Achievement) which is found on pages 54-55 of the agenda package. In May, 2005 a consortium of 8 NOEL Boards were established as partners for the MISA Initiative. The consortium selected COGNOS as the vendor for the analysis tool. A proposal was submitted to the Ministry outlining a 3-year plan for establishing a decision support tool as well as related data analysis and access initiatives. Lakehead District School Board has been selected as the MISA Network Centre location. Training of Board staff will be set up following the receipt of MISA funding. Chris Denby of the Rainy River DSB and Diane Findlay of Keewatin-Patricia DSB have provided invaluable technological expertise throughout the planning.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was reviewed by Trustees. There was no discussion.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Next Regular Board Meeting** – Tuesday, February 7, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Robert Moore School, Fort Frances

**First Nations Advisory Committee** – January 11, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Education Centre

**Occupational Health & Safety Committee** – January 19, 2006, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

**Special Education Advisory Committee** – January 25, 2006, 12 Noon, Program Support Office

**Policy Committee** – February 7, 2006, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

## WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

### **2006 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association**

Public Education Symposium - February 2-4, 2006, Toronto

Labour Relations Symposium – March 30 – April 1, 2006, Toronto

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

Res. #247 ELUIK-HEYENS That we do adjourn at 8:25 p.m. CARRIED

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Director/Secretary

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Chair