

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #4

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2006-2010 Rainy River District School Board held on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Donald Young School in Emo.

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

Student Trustee Jenna Nowak

Regrets J. McMaster, G. Allen

In Attendance L. Mills, I. Simpson, L. Hill, B. Tookenay, D. Ross, R. Roy

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #29 ELUIK-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for March 6, 2007 Regular Board meeting. CARRIED

Res. #30 McALISTER-ELUIK That the minutes of the Regular Board meeting February 6, 2007 (Session 3) having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED

Res. #31 ELUIK-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies for stakeholder consultation: CARRIED
#3.75 Harassment
#6.50 Pupil Accommodation

Res. #32 McALISTER-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies for stakeholder consultation: CARRIED
#8.05 Advocacy #8.22 Expense Claims
#8.13 Board Credit Cards #8.34 Advertising
#8.20 Travelling Expenses #8.36 Hospitality

Res. #33 McALISTER-G. BELLUZ That the Rainy River District School Board approve the replacement of the Board owned bus to be used by Atikokan High School at a capital cost up to \$100,000 plus all operating costs. DEFEATED

Res. #34 McALISTER-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board approve the Personnel Report dated March, 2007 (copy attached). CARRIED

Res. #35 ELUIK-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the 2007-08 School Year Calendar. 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 declared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the March 6, 2007 meeting was approved. (resolution #29)

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment

Lucinda Meyers, Principal at Donald Young School and Nestor Falls School spoke about supporting learning by providing a healthy nutrition environment for students. The goal at each school was to have nutritious food available to all students to promote children's development and support learning. Community volunteers and the Northwestern Health Unit have formed a partnership to ensure students are provided a hot nutritious lunch.

Recognition of Excellence certificates were presented to volunteers for programs offered at both Donald Young and Nestor Falls.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting February 6, 2007 (Session 3). (resolution #30)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - Nil

SYSTEM PRESENTATION

EQAO Math and Literacy

Gord McCabe, Principal at Fort Frances High School, provided a report on a symposium sponsored by the Education Quality and Accountability Commission

entitled, "Working Together with Learning in Mind". Fort High was invited to this symposium based on their improved achievement on EQAO tests. It was an opportunity to network with secondary school principals from across the province and to share ideas to improve student success. Improved performance on both the EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy test has been a focus for Fort High and remains equal or above provincial average. The Literacy and Numeracy Team continues to find ways to improve EQAO results.

BOARD REPORTS

REACH Program (Recognizing Excellence and Consistent High Quality)

This month, Trustee Eluik recognized the School Secretaries of the Rainy River District School Board for their dedication to supporting students and staff in their roles. Gord McCabe, Principal at Fort Frances High School spoke about the valuable role each school secretary plays in creating a positive school environment and handling multiple tasks on a daily basis.

Kathy Pruyss and Fawn Lindberg of Fort were on hand to accept congratulations from Trustees and senior administration.

Policy Committee

Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business presented the minutes of the Policy Committee held February 12, 2007 and February 28, 2007. The Pupil Accommodation Policy (formerly School Closure Policy) was revised in accordance with Ministry guidelines. New policies were reviewed by the committee in the areas of school board expenditures.

The Board approved the following policies for stakeholder consultation: (resolutions 31-32)

- 3.75 Harassment
- 6.50 Pupil Accommodation
- 8.05 Advocacy
- 8.13 Board Credit Cards
- 8.20 Travelling Expenses
- 8.22 Expense Claims
- 8.34 Advertising
- 8.36 Hospitality

Finance/Transportation Committee

The minutes of the Finance/Transportation Committee meeting held February 28, 2007 were presented.

The joint committee reviewed the request to replace the Board-owned bus used by Atikokan High School.

The Board defeated a motion to replace the bus in Atikokan. (resolution #33)

The committee received YTD Financial Statements for the period ending January 31, 2007. Finance policies and procedures were reviewed and referred to the Policy Committee.

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Trustee Eluik presented highlights of the OPSBA Director's meeting as follows:

- Proposed new copyright costs remain a concern for Boards
- Studies show a growing concern for media violence
- Report received on dual credit delivery models and interim guidelines for recording dual credits in 2006/07.
- OPSBA involved in consultations on the WSIB draft policies
- AGM being hosted by the Northern Region but not held in the north.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustees received a report from Jenna Nowak, Student Trustee, on activities at Rainy River High, Atikokan High, Fort Frances High and Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program.

REPORT OF CHAIR

Chair Belluz reported attending a meeting with the Minister of Education on February 26th. Ben Levin, Deputy Minister, provided opening remarks at the meeting. There was an update on Board progress by Dominic Giroux, Assistant Deputy Minister for French-Language Education and Educational Operations Division. Nancy Naylor, Assistant Deputy Minister, Elementary/Secondary Business and Finance Division, provided a presentation on proposed Board budgets with discussion. Dr. Avis Glaze, Chief Student Achievement Officer presented on "Putting Together the Student Achievement and Financial Management Agendas at the Board Level.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

Provincial

- Laura Mills, Brent Tookenay and Jack McMaster attended a meeting with the Minister on February 26th for discussions pertaining to the future of education in the province.

Regional

- NOEL Directors met on February 15-16 in Thunder Bay and received updates on many projects ongoing in the region, as well as upcoming conferences. An event is planned for May in Thunder Bay to include staff and community members. The topic of this session is Character Education. Other topics of interest at the NOEL meeting included Aboriginal education, e-learning, oral language and Learning to Age 18.

Board

- Brent Tookenay and Jack McMaster met with a provincial representative of the Metis Nation of Ontario to discuss a partnership to support student achievement for Metis students.
- A group of school council members, staff, trustees and community members form the Accommodation Review Committee to develop a School Valuation Framework for the Pupil Accommodation Policy. This will provide direction for the consultation process should schools be designated for review under this policy.
- Donna Kowalchuk, Linda Hill and Dianne DeBenedet met with staff from the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat to discuss strategies for the Schools on the Move Initiative. Huffman School is a candidate for this project that recognizes schools that show progressive improvement. It is also an opportunity to build a larger network with other schools on the move.

Personnel Report

The Board approved the Personnel Report as presented for March, 2007.
(resolution #34)

The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Andrea Domanski, 1.0 FTE Teacher, RIV, commencing February 14, 2007
Nicole Jewell, 1.0 FTE Teacher, CRS/RMS, commencing February 1, 2007
Cindy Poirier, 0.5 FTE Teacher, CRS (LTO), February 6, 2007 to June 22, 2007
Alexis Norris, 0.9 FTE Teacher, RMS (LTO), February 1, 2007 to June 22, 2007

Leave of Absence

Nathalie von Niebelchutz, 0.9 FTE Teacher, RMS, September 4, 2007 to June 26, 2008
Darryl Gannon, 1.0 FTE Principal, AHS, January 30, 2008 to January 31, 2009
Heather Campbell, 1.0 FTE Supt. of Education. January 24, 2007 to June 29, 2007
Shane Fiore, 1.0 FTE Teacher, AHS, January 30, 2008 to June 26, 2008
Kendall Richardson, 0.67 FTE Teacher, FHS, September 4, 2007 to June 26, 2008
Michelle Mosbeck, 0.67 FTE Teacher, FHS, September 4, 2007 to June 26, 2008
Catherine Bruyere, 0.67 FTE Teacher, FHS, September 4, 2007 to June 26, 2008
Laura Mason, 1.0 FTE Teacher, RHS, September 4, 2007 to June 26, 2008
Chris Dube, 1.0 FTE Teacher, RHS, September 4, 2007 to June 26, 2008
Connie Schwartz, 0.33 FTE Teacher, FHS, September 4, 2007 to June 26, 2008
Julie Shuh, 0.33 FTE Teacher, FHS, September 4, 2007 to June 26, 2008
Karen Gannon, 1.0 FTE Teacher, AHS, January 30, 2008 to January 31, 2009
RobRoy Donaldson, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, July 2, 2007 to January 21, 2008
Tamara McLean 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, April 17, 2007 to February 29, 2008

Retirement

John Loewen, 1.0 FTE Teacher, SCAP, commencing June 30, 2007
Charleen Gustafson, 1.0 FTE Teacher, CRS, commencing June 30, 2007
Marnie Cumming, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, commencing June 30, 2007
Ken Stanley, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, commencing June 30, 2007

School Year Calendar

Ian Simpson, Assistant to the Director, reported that a meeting was held with four Boards in the region – Rainy River District School Board, Northwest Catholic District School Board, Keewatin-Patricia District School Board and Kenora Catholic District School Board, to plan dates for the school year calendar.

The Board approved the 2007-08 School Year Calendar. (resolution #35)

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, April 3, 2007, 7:00 p.m., Robert Moore School, Fort Frances.

Policy Committee – March 26, 2007, 1:00 p.m., Education Centre

Special Education Advisory Committee – March 21, 2007, 12:00 Noon, Education Centre

Occupational Health & Safety Committee – March 29, 2007, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

2007 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Labour Relations Symposium – March 29-31, 2007, Toronto

Annual General Meeting – June 7-10, 2007, Huntsville

Res. #36 ELUIK-McALISTER That we do adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

CARRIED

Director/Secretary

Chair