

Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the 2000-2003 Rainy River District School Board was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at North Star Community School in Atikokan.

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

**Regrets** F. Sheppard, M. Darrah, J. Leonard

**In Attendance:** W. Hoshizaki, T. Ellwood, L. Mills, M. Quinn, D. Ross

**RESOLUTIONS**

Res. #260 **BELLUZ-ELUIK** That the Rainy River District School Board approve  
CARRIED the agenda for March 4, 2003, Regular Board Meeting.

Res. #261 **ELUIK-BELLUZ** That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting  
CARRIED February 4, 2003 (Session 23) having been typed and distributed, be approved.

Res. #262 **BELLUZ-ELUIK** That the Rainy River District School Board approve the  
CARRIED Personnel Report dated March, 2003 (copy attached).

Res. #263 **ELUIK-BELLUZ** That the Rainy River District School Board support the  
CARRIED initiatives of a northwestern school board consortium to facilitate changes to ORION's policies. The Rainy River District School Board support a funding proposal to Connect Ontario: Broadband Regional Access (COBRA) for the funding of infrastructure to the ORION network.

Res. #264 **BELLUZ-ELUIK** That the Rainy River District School Board designate the  
CARRIED West District school community as a low population area and the sum of the electoral quotient be increased by one and direct an alternative distribution be done for the purpose of election of School Board Trustees.

Res. #265 **BELLUZ-McALISTER** That the Rainy River District School Board meet,  
CARRIED in camera, in Committee of the Whole Board.

RESOLUTIONS continued . . .

Res. #266 McALISTER-BELLUZ That the Committee of the Whole Board rise and  
CARRIED report to the regular meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Gord McBride, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

SILENT REFLECTION

CONFLICT OF INTEREST ..... Nil

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

< **Later Literacy**

Lynn Enge and Julie Ferguson, presented information to the Trustees on the progress of the Later Literacy Program. The main goal of the program is to increase the literacy levels of the students so they are able to pass the grade 10 literacy test and so that they have success in all their subjects in post-secondary education. Later Literacy is a 10-week intervention program for students in the junior and intermediate grades who are experiencing difficulties with reading and writing. Teachers work with students one-on-one each day to help with literacy problems.

Gord McBride presented a Recognition of Excellence certificate to Lynn Enge and Julie Ferguson to show appreciation to those involved in the Later Literacy Program at the Atikokan High School.

< **Educational Support Personnel**

Sylvia Parker, Principal of North Star Community School, spoke about the support of a group of skilled and dynamic individuals who work in partnership with the teachers, parents and other professionals to help the students. Educational Support Personnel provide additional support for students in a variety of ways. They provide support with speech programs, physiotherapy and occupational therapy programs along with monitoring behavior.

Gord McBride presented certificates to recognize the efforts of the following Educational Support Personnel: Angie Bradshaw, Darlene Cox, Jan Hawkins, Lynn Lessard, Linda Manns, Kristy Lynn Roy and Tammy Simard.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the March 4, 2003, meeting was approved. *(see resolution #260)*

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, February 4, 2003 (session 23). *(see resolution #261)*

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Chair reported that the meeting with the Administrator of the Town of Fort Frances was rescheduled to March 19, 2003 to discuss the status of the sale or demolition of the Old Fort Frances High School. There was no further discussion.

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC ..... nil

SYSTEM ..... nil

BOARD REPORTS

- 9.1 Dan Belluz provided highlights of the J.W. Walker Building Committee meeting which was held on February 25, 2003. The architect and committee reviewed building design and specifications which can be found on page 15 of the agenda package. The architect reviewed the areas that will be closed off in the school when construction begins in April. Traffic will be rerouted in this area during construction to ensure safety of students for drop off and pick up areas. The parents will be notified of these changes. It was noted that a yearly savings of approximately \$24,000 will be realized with the heat pump system being used. The committee reviewed the tender process as outlined by the architect. Tenders will close on March 27, 2003 and a meeting will be scheduled for opening the tenders. Colour palettes were viewed and discussed.

## 9.2 Occupational Health & Safety Committees

*Atikokan, February 17, 2003 -*

Judy Eluik reported to the Board on the meeting held in Atikokan on February 17th. Highlights of this meeting included:

- < disposal of waste chemicals - Clean Harbors Canada Inc. disposed of approximately half of the chemicals on site and will return to collect the balance on their next trip
- < joint Occupational Health & Safety meeting discussed
- < problem with exhaust fumes has been resolved
- < Township of Atikokan is sanding the school parking lots before school opens
- < next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2003 at 9:15 a.m. at the Atikokan Sub Office

The Board agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to the Township of Atikokan for their efforts to sand school parking lots at no cost.

## 9.3 Special Education Advisory Committee

Terry Ellwood reported that two individuals have expressed interested in being members of SEAC - Christie Gushulak of Atikokan & District Association for Developmental Services and Vic Nowak of Family & Children's Services. The committee will be reviewing the Special Education Plan and recommendations by the Ministry. The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2003.

*Trustee Question:* Do school visits include the Rainy River area?

*Answer:* Yes

## 9.4 First Nations Advisory Committee

Warren Hoshizaki reported on the meeting held February 19, 2003. The committee reviewed native study resource material provided by Walter Rogoza which has been matched to the Ontario curriculum.

The Fort Frances High School Planning Committee report identified areas to improve First Nation student achievement. This information was collected by the native Educational Counsellors at the Fort Frances High School and the data indicated an improvement in attendance. It was noted that assignments are not being handed in and a high percentage of First Nation students are not writing the grade 10 literacy test. EQAO results have increased in grade 9 math but the focus will be to monitor report cards and continue to develop strategies to increase achievement. The Board was pleased with the participation at the consultation meeting held in partnership with Seven Generations Education Institute to review vision statements.

## 9.5 Strategic Direction Review Committee

Judy Eluik reported on the consultation meetings held at Seven Generations Education

Institute on February 4<sup>th</sup> and North Star Community School (Atikokan) on February 17<sup>th</sup> to review the Board's vision statements. The meetings were attended by teaching staff, Board administration and community members, and there was excellent feedback from both meetings. This information will be reviewed at the next Strategic Direction Review Committee for inclusion to the Board's vision statements.

#### 9.6 Anti-Bullying Committee

Ron McAlister provided highlights of the February 13<sup>th</sup> Anti-Bullying Committee meeting. It was reported that the initial plan of the committee was to develop a plan to address bullying in the schools from Kindergarten to grade 6. It was decided that this plan would be extended to include Kindergarten to grade 12. The principals would be surveyed to determine what programs/resources are currently being used in the schools and what is needed. The results of this survey would be shared with the committee at the next meeting scheduled for March 3, 2003.

Warren Hoshizaki reported that the information was collected by surveying all the schools and the committee has moved to the next phase of the action plan. Teachers within the various divisions will be selected to review the recommendations on programs/resources that will be useful and an action plan will be determined (ie. program, resources, cost, time lines). These recommendations will be brought to the Board Leadership Team in April to be discussed and recommendations will be made to the Anti-Bullying Committee members. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2003 to review recommendations.

#### 9.7 2003 Public Education Symposium

Judy Eluik reported attending the OPSBA 2003 Public Education Symposium with the Chair, Gord McBride and the Director of Education, Warren Hoshizaki. Items discussed at the symposium included:

- < legal issues of school boards
- < strategies and communication by Board members
- < labour relations issues
- < discussion of the Rozanski Report
- < "students at risk"

#### REPORT OF CHAIR

The Chair reported on the following:

- < OPSBA reports that 20 schools in the Province are experiencing labour disruptions
- < Thames Valley Catholic School Board has settled
- < OPSBA reports a new Transportation Policy will be out in the Fall

Gord McBride and Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education, met with Larry Fontana, Supervisory Officer and John McInnis, Chair, of the Atikokan Roman Catholic Separate School Board on March 4, 2003. It was agreed that improved communication between the two Boards would assist in making decisions that affect both Boards. The SK Program was discussed and the Rainy River District School Board will make a decision on the program once the grant regulations have been received and the Board is in a position to make a final decision.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### 11.1 Director's Update

#### Provincial

- Laura Mills, Chief Financial Officer, is waiting for grant regulations and the results of the Rozanski Report

#### Regional

Directors in Northwestern Ontario are focusing on two items:

- ORION Project - access to high speed internet
- leadership and literacy

#### Board

- report cards are being processed

### 11.2 Personnel Report

The Board approved the Personnel Report as presented dated March, 2003

*(see resolution #262)*

The Personnel Report included the following:

#### **Appointment**

Fay Edwards, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, January 31, 2003 to June 26, 2003  
Shane Beckett, 1.0 FTE Teacher, RMS, January 31, 2003 to June 26, 2003  
Colin Drombolis, Network Tech Specialist, commencing February 17, 2003

#### **Leave of Absence**

Connie Schwartz, 0.375 FTE LOA, September 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004  
Benjamin Andrusco, 1.0 FTE LOA, September 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004  
Pamela Avis, 1.0 FTE LOA, September 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004  
Catherine Bruyere, 0.375 FTE LOA, September 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004  
Joel Banbury, 1.0 FTE LOA, September 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004  
Gerry Seaward, 1.0 FTE LOA, September 1, 2003 to January 25, 2004  
Kelli Seaward, 1.0 FTE LOA, September 1, 2003 to January 25, 2004  
Nathalie von Niebelschutz, 1.0 FTE LOA, May 22, 2003 to May 22, 2004

#### **Resignation**

Lorraine Reguly, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, commencing June 30, 2003

#### **Retirement**

Allan Holt, 1.0 FTE, Teacher, RMS, commencing June 30, 2003  
Kathleen DeGagne, 1.0 FTE, Teacher, CRS, commencing June 30, 2003  
Willis James, 1.0 FTE, Teacher, RMS, commencing June 30, 2003

### 11.3 ORION Project

The Board supported the initiative of a northwestern school board consortium and a proposal to Connect Ontario (COBRA) for the funding of infrastructure to the ORION network. *(see resolution #263)*

Warren Hoshizaki reported that ORION (Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network) is a new high speed , optical network that can bring affordable broadband access and connectivity to the education institutions. Major school boards in Northwestern Ontario, through the Northern Education Leaders, are working to create a consortium for the purpose of sharing common applications and services to reduce costs, and for connection to ORION.

*Trustee question:* Does this support have any financial implications to the Board?

*Answer:* Yes, but not at this time. A letter of support for this initiative is being requested by way of resolution from each Board to proceed. Further information will be brought back to the Board if the proposal is accepted.

### 11.4 Trustee Determination

The Board approved the designation of the West District school community as a low population area for Trustee determination. *(see resolution #264)*

Warren Hoshizaki reported that schools boards are responsible, by Ministry regulation, to determine the number of trustees they can have on their board based on the principal of representation by population, as well as the geographic area each of the trustees will represent. As part of the determination and distribution of the number of trustees, a Board must decide whether or not the school board has designated any areas within its jurisdiction as low population areas. In the past, the Board has designated the west district as a low population area which would allow for representation by three Trustees.

CORRESPONDENCE ..... nil

### FUTURE MEETINGS

< **Next Regular Board Meeting** - Tuesday, April 1, 2003 - 7:00 p.m., Robert Moore School, Fort Frances

< **First Nations Advisory Committee** - May 27, 2003 - 7:00 p.m., Education Centre

- < **Occupational Health & Safety Committee**  
Fort Frances/Emo/Rainy River - March 18, 2003, 1:30 p.m., Education Centre  
Atikokan - April 14, 2003, 9:15 a.m., Atikokan Sub Office
- < **Special Education Advisory Committee** - March 19, 2003,  
6:30 p.m., Program Support Office, Education Centre
- < **Anti-Bullying Committee** - April 24, 2003, 1:00 p.m., Education Centre
- < **Finance Committee** - March 18, 2003, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre
- < **Strategic Direction Review Committee** - March 18, 2003, 1:30 p.m., Education  
Centre

#### WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

- < 2003 -Calendar of Events Ontario Public School Boards' Association  
March 27-29, 2003 - Labour Relations Symposium, Toronto  
June 12-15, 2003 - Annual General Meeting, Niagara Falls

#### INCAMERA SESSION

The Board met in camera to discuss Personnel and Negotiation issues *(see resolution #265)*

The Board returned to the public session and reported *(see resolution #266)*

#### RISE AND REPORT

The Board discussed Personnel and Negotiation issues.

Res. #267 BELLUZ-McALISTER That we do adjourn at 8:18 p.m.  
CARRIED