

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #10

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2006-2010 Rainy River District School Board on Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Robert Moore School in Fort Frances.

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

Student Trustee Meredith Ivall

In Attendance Jack McMaster, Laura Mills, Heather Campbell, Linda Hill, Brent Tookenay, Diane Ross, Raymond Roy

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #79 McALISTER-ALLEN That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for November 6, 2007 Regular Board meeting. CARRIED

Res. #80 ELUIK-DITTARO That the minutes of the Regular Board meeting October 2, 2007 (Session 9) having been typed and distributed, be approved, as amended. CARRIED

Res. #81 ALLEN-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies:
2.11 School Visitors
4.60 Aboriginal Student Voluntary Self Identification CARRIED

Res. #82 DITTARO-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the Personnel Report dated November, 2007 (copy attached). CARRIED

Res. #83 HEYENS-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board meet, in Camera, in Committee of the Whole Board. CARRIED.

Res. #84 G. BELLUZ-HEYENS 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 declared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the November 6, 2007 meeting was approved. (resolution #79)

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Excellence with Pride – Fort Frances High School Senior Band

Gord McCabe, Principal at Fort Frances High School, spoke about the senior band being goodwill ambassadors for the Board and commended John Dutton for his commitment to the students. The senior band is a source of pride to the school and community. The band has traveled on domestic and foreign trips and is planning a trip to Italy in 2008.

The Fort Frances High School Band performed for Trustees, Board administration, media and community members that were in attendance at the meeting.

Chair Dan Belluz presented John Dutton and the band members with a Recognition of Excellence certificate for their performance.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting October 2, 2007 (Session 9). (resolution #80)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

SYSTEM PRESENTATION

E-learning

Chris Denby, Information Technology Coordinator, reported that video conference courses have been offered in secondary schools across the district. This method of course delivery provides an opportunity for students to gain credits that may not have been available otherwise due to under-loading and staff availability.

E-learning is a new approach that is being promoted province-wide. The Ministry works with Boards and teachers throughout the province in the creation of software and delivery of courses. In addition to providing students with a method of program delivery

that allows flexible learning pace, the e-learning initiative presents students with a varied approach to gaining skills in the age of advancing technology.

Coaching / Co-Teaching

Dianne DeBenedet spoke about how the coaching and co-teaching model positively affects schools, teachers and students. There is increasing evidence that school cultures need to change if schools are to become better places to work and learn. A literacy coach will help teachers to recognize what they know and can do. It also supports teachers as they expand their knowledge base by becoming an ongoing learner, while offering support and encouragement as needed. Respectful coaching relationships involve several objectives including planning for the coaching relationship, altering teaching practices, and improving assessment practices and organizing for instruction. Additional time allotted to the Student Achievement Officers will increase their coaching opportunities to support teachers and students.

BOARD REPORTS

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Dan Belluz presented the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held October 16, 2007. (*refer to pages 16-18 of the agenda*)

Highlights included:

- Site visits to review use of resources
- Training across the province regarding services to students affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Student safety plans
- CODE grant approved to continue PLC meetings for Special Education teachers
- Referrals being sought for students in JK-grade 4 for Ontario Psychological Association assessments.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2007.

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee

Brent Tookenay presented the minutes of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee meeting held October 16, 2007. (*refer to pages 20-21 of the agenda*)

- the Board has increased time for native language/studies at the elementary level
- after-school tutoring programs have been established at First Nation communities.
- Planning is underway for Parental Involvement Workshops in First Nation communities which will be tied to the Outreach Program.

Policy Committee

The Board approved the following policies: (resolution #81)

- 2.11 School Visitors
- 4.60 Aboriginal Student Voluntary Self Identification

The next Policy Committee meeting is November 20, 2007 at the Education Centre.

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Trustee Eluik reported that Lori Lukinuk, Northern Vice President of OPSBA, asked if trustees had any objection to her writing a congratulatory letter to Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education and Deb Mathews, Minister of Children and Youth Services on behalf of Northern Region trustees. No objections were noted.

Trustee Eluik also noted with interest that Liz Sandals, a former OPSBA president, is parliamentary assistant to Minister Wynne.

Minutes of the last Northern Director's meeting were circulated to trustees.

Boards will be voting for a new OPSBA president at the end of November. Trustee Eluik invited Board members to provide feedback on who they would like to vote for.

Trustee Eluik encouraged trustees to attend the upcoming Public Education Symposium January 24-26, 2008 in Toronto. The guest speaker will be Stephen Lewis.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

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

- October 5 – "Think Pink" day at Atikokan High School
- October 30 – Hallowe'en Dance at Fort Frances High School
- Remembrance Day assemblies held at all schools
- Norwossa playoffs
- SEC Presidents of Fort Frances High School and International Falls traded places for one day
- Celebrated Terry Fox day at Rainy River High School

REPORT OF CHAIR

Chair Dan Belluz reported that Trustees and Directors attended the OPSBA Conference of the North 2007 held in Sault Ste. Marie October 19-21. Chair Belluz spoke about the many sessions that took place at the conference (First Nations, Safe Schools, Collective Bargaining, Bill 107).

It was reported that Gord McBride, former trustee with the Rainy River District School Board, was selected as the recipient of the Bernadine Yackman award. This award recognizes dedication, commitment and an outstanding contribution to education in Ontario by an active or retired school trustee.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

Provincial

- As there are many Ministry initiatives, the Board's senior administration has met to set priorities in accordance with the System Plan.

Regional

- NOEL conference and Directors have joined together with school leaders to attend workshops in Thunder Bay
- Carmel Crevola will lead JK-SK oral language workshops
- Brent Tookenay and Heather Campbell will present at a First Nation Metis and Inuit Education Conference November 26-28 in Toronto
- Brent Tookenay, Sylvia Parker and Jack McMaster to present at an Education Conference for Chiefs of Ontario in Thunder Bay November 21-22.

Board

- The Board's system-wide professional development day held on October 29th offered many excellent workshops for all staff. Guest speaker was David Bouchard who opened the sessions with a presentation on the "gift of reading".

Personnel Report

The Board approved the Personnel Report as presented for October, 2007.
(resolution #82)

The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Val Carrier, 0.2 FTE Sch. Sec. (Sec II), JWS, September 21, 2007 to July 8, 2008
Greg Wilson, 0.33 FTE Teacher, RHS (LTO), October 1, 2007 to June 26, 2008
Deborah Dolzer, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS (LTO), October 16, 2007 to January 29, 2008
Rose Kelly, 0.67 FTE Teacher FHS, 0.3 FTE Teacher, JWS,
commencing September 25, 2007

Appointment (cont'd)

Cathy Richards, 0.4 FTE Teacher, JWS, commencing October 10, 2007
Alexis Norris, 0.7 FTE Teacher, JWS, 0.3 FTE Teacher, HUF (LTO),
commencing October 18, 2007
Alison Simpson, 0.5 FTE Teacher, RMS, 0.2 FTE Teacher, RMS (LTO),
commencing October 16, 2007
Shar Gilbert, 1.0 FTE Teacher, JWS, commencing October 15, 2007
Kim Walter, 0.4 FTE Teacher, SCS (LTO), October 24, 2007 to June 26, 2008
Michelle Veldhuisen, 1.0 FTE Teacher, DYS (LTO), September 4, 2007 to
November 19, 2007
Stephanie Botsford, 0.7 FTE Teacher, JWS (LTO), October 22, 2007 to June 26, 2008
Laura Rempel, 0.13 FTE ESP, SCAP, October 15, 2007 to June 20, 2008
Beverly Strachan, 0.5 FTE ESP, NFS, October 15, 2007 to June 20, 2008
Marcia Broughton, 0.33 FTE LA, HUF, September 24, 2007 to June 25, 2008

Change in Assignment

Jeff Ogden, 1.0 FTE Teacher, CRS, commencing October 10, 2007
Sherri Hay, 0.9 FTE Teacher, SCS, commencing October 22, 2007

Leave of Absence

Rachel McQuaker, 0.7 FTE CA, DYS, September 27, 2007 to September 1, 2008
Shelley Fairbrother, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, November 20, 2007 to November 23, 2007
Glenna Kehl, 1.0 FTE Teacher, AHS, January 1, 2008 to January 1, 2009

Resignation

Paul Fischer, 1.0 FTE Accounting Clerk III, commencing November 8, 2007

Retirement

Linda Hill, Assistant to the Director, commencing December 31, 2007

Enhancing School Effectiveness through Professional Learning

Linda Hill, Assistant to the Director, reported that the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat is working with the school boards to improve student achievement. Their mandate is to closely align the Ministry priorities to increase levels of student achievement, reduce gaps in student achievement and increase public confidence in education. The Board has moved through three phases in working to meet these priorities. The Board is now entering Phase 4 which is the School Effectiveness Framework which is a new level of accountability. Each Board has been given dedicated funding to hire School Effectiveness Leads who will work closely with schools to guide and support the process. All schools will participate in a self-assessment process and selected schools will participate in a District review process.

Fall Harvest Celebration

Brent Tookenay provided a video presentation on the cultural activities at the Fall Harvest. A total of 300 students attended the celebration from the Board. Seven Generations Education Institute holds its annual Fall Harvest on the Nanicost grounds and this year it was held October 2-4. It is a celebration of cultural and traditional teachings as well as workshops that involve Elders, teachers and parents. There was also a Fall Harvest held at Big Grassy First Nation and 40 students attended from Rainy River High School.

After-School Tutoring Program

Brent Tookenay spoke about the After-School Tutoring Program which is currently running at Red Gut and Seine River First Nations. The Board is looking to expand this program to other First Nation communities. The program will be unique to each community depending on the need. The goal/objective of the program is to help students in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Students are also provided support for completing homework assignments.

Occupational Health & Safety Committee

Raymond Roy, Manager of Plant and Operations, presented the minutes of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held October 23, 2007. (*refer to pages 36-37 of the agenda*)

Highlights included:

- Committee reviewed memo to principals outlining Health & Safety regulations for all facilities.
- Healthy Workplace Week was celebrated October 22-28.
- Committee participated in two workshops presented by the Education Safety Association of Ontario.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2007.

CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was reviewed. There was no further discussion.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, December 4, 2007, 7:00 p.m., Robert Moore School, Fort Frances.

Special Education Advisory Committee – November 14, 2007, 12:00 Noon, Education Centre

Policy Committee – November 20, 2007, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

Occupational Health and Safety Committee – December 13, 2007, 9:30 a.m., North Star Community School, Atikokan

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee – January 29, 2008, 4:15 p.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 #83)

RISE AND REPORT

The Board returned to public session. (resolution #84)

Res. #85 ELUIK-G. BELLUZ That we do adjourn at 9:56 p.m.

CARRIED

Director/Secretary

Chair