

Minutes of the Thirtieth Meeting of the 2000-2003 Rainy River District School Board was held on Tuesday, November 11, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at Rainy River High School in Rainy River.

Board Members Present G. McBride, D. Belluz, R. McAlister, J. Eluik, J. Leonard, M. Darrah

Regrets F. Sheppard

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

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #324 LEONARD-DARRAH That the Rainy River District School Board approve
CARRIED the agenda for November 11, 2003, Regular Board Meeting.

Res. #325 LEONARD-DARRAH That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
CARRIED October 7, 2003 (Session 29) having been typed and distributed, be approved.

Res. #326 DARRAH-LEONARD That the Rainy River District School Board approve
CARRIED the 2003 Procedural By-laws as updated.

Res. #327 LEONARD-DARRAH That the Rainy River District School Board approve the
CARRIED Personnel Report dated November, 2003.

Res. #328 McALISTER-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board meet, in
CARRIED camera, in Committee of the Whole Board.

Res. #329 ELUIK-BELLUZ That the Committee of the Whole Board rise and report
CARRIED to the regular meeting.

Res. #330 McALISTER-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board approve the
CARRIED Principal and Vice Principal contract as negotiated for the period September, 2003 to August, 2005.

Res. #331 ELUIK-McALISTER That the Rainy River District School Board ratify the
CARRIED agreement made between the Educational Support Personnel and the Board for the period of September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2005.

CALL TO ORDER

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

SILENT REFLECTION

CONFLICT OF INTEREST Nil

RECOGNITION OF EDUCATION

▶ **First Steps Writing Program**

Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education, introduced Bob Derkson, Principal at Riverview and McCrosson-Tovell Schools. Bob Derkson provided a visual presentation on highlights of the program. The First Steps Program emphasizes the Narrative, Recount, Procedure, Report, Explanation and Exposition forms of writing. Riverview and McCrosson-Tovell Schools are in the second year of implementing this writing and it is recognized by the Board as a significant tool for the teaching and learning of writing.

Certificates were presented to Bob Derkson (Riverview / McCrosson-Tovell Schools) in recognition of education and staff commitment to improving student achievement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the November 11, 2003, meeting was approved. *(see resolution #324)*

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, October 7, 2003 (session 29). *(see resolution #325)*

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES nil

PRESENTATIONS

<u>PUBLIC</u>	nil
<u>SYSTEM</u>	nil

BOARD REPORTS

9.1 Special Education Advisory Committee

Terry Ellwood provided highlights of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on October 15, 2003 as found in the agenda package on pages 14-16.

- ▶ application for reimbursement of ISA 1 Specialized Personal Equipment expenditures was submitted this month
- ▶ ISA file preparation continues as a priority to meet October 31st deadline
- ▶ an exceptionally high-needs student returned to the Board from Manitoba - community partners have been extremely helpful in working with FHS staff in making a smooth transition in programming and specialized equipment

Dan Belluz conveyed congratulations to staff and community partners for their outstanding efforts to assist this special needs student.

It was noted that the increased number of claims will generate approximately \$1M for the Board.

9.2 Finance Committee

Judy Eluik provided a report on the Finance Committee meeting held October 21, 2003. Highlights included:

- ▶ reserve transfer for Junior Based PD is deferred until the 2002-03 year-end position is known
- ▶ committee reviewed the Rural Education Strategy recommendations and the draft report to the public. Committee members agreed with recommendations addressed as priorities of the system.

9.3 Anti-Bullying Committee

Ron McAlister reported that the Community Partnership for School Safety Symposium held in Rainy River on October 22, 2003 was successful. Approximately 28 community representatives attended providing positive feedback on the program.

9.4 By-law Review

The Board approved the revised 2003 Procedure By-laws.

(see resolution #326)

REPORT OF CHAIR

Gord McBride thanked the Trustees that served on the Board for the term 2000-2003. The Chair commended the Board members for their dedication to improving the education system within the Rainy River District. Accomplishments included closure of three schools and ongoing renovation of an existing facility.

The Chair spoke of the schools' involvement on Remembrance Day. Bob McGreevy, Principal of Rainy River High School reported that students attended the cenotaph and observed the ceremony.

Bob McGreevy also highlighted accomplishments in sports at Rainy River High School.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

11.1 Director's Update

Provincial

- Directors of school boards are making plans to meet with the new Minister to find out priorities in education
- Supervisors previously appointed to run the school boards in Toronto are being replaced by Trustees
- EQAO results will be available next month

Regional

- John Madigan, Director of Education for the Northwest Catholic District School Board will be retiring in June, 2003

Board

- special thanks to those involved in coordinating the professional development day on October 27th
- Director thanked the Trustees for their hard work and support provided in the last three years

11.2 J.W. Walker Project Update

Murray Quinn highlighted work currently underway at the J.W. Walker site. There are no cost overruns at this time and the project is proceeding on time. A complete report for the month of October is available at the Education Centre.

11.3 Personnel Report

The Board approved the Personnel Report as presented dated November, 2003
(see resolution #327)

The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Stephanie Thingstad, 1.0 FTE Teacher, NSC (LTO), October 6, 2003 to June 24, 2004
Elizabeth Jack, 1.0 FTE Teacher, SCS (LTO), October 14, 2003 to December 19, 2004
Laura Caul, 1.1 FTE Ed. Assist., AHS, October 14, 2003 to June 22, 2004

Change in Assignment/FTE

Julie Ferguson, .70 FTE Teacher, NSC (LTO), September 29, 2003 to June 24, 2004
Chris Hill, .81 FTE Teacher, FHS, commencing September 30, 2003

11.4 West End Schools Enrolment and Staffing Analysis

Laura Mills, Chief Financial Officer, reported on the content of the analysis report found on page 25 in the agenda package. West end schools include Crossroads, Donald Young, Nestor Falls, Sturgeon Creek, McCrosson-Tovell, Riverview and Rainy River High School. Projections indicate that the west end schools will decrease in enrolment by 90 students or 9% over the next three years. Enrolment is the key for funding. Laura Mills reported on the financial picture of the west end schools as well as the outcome of the preliminary review of existing facilities. Schools are running at 60% capacity in the west end of the district which result in many multi-level classes due to low enrolment. As a result, grants are not generated to fund straight grades in these schools. In light of the Rural Strategic and Distant Schools grant, there are no large financial concerns at this time to warrant a detailed accommodation review. It was noted that rural education funding is permanent and not just for one year.

Terry Ellwood, Superintendent of Education, explained the elementary staffing chart in the report which shows straight grades in the west end schools versus split grades. Plans are being made to place Educational Assistants in Nestor Falls and McCrosson-Tovell schools to help in the multi-level classes.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair reviewed correspondence received. There was no further discussion or action required.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- ▶ **Next Regular Board Meeting** - Inaugural Meeting, Tuesday, December 2, 2003 - 7:00 p.m., Robert Moore School, Fort Frances
- ▶ **First Nations Advisory Committee** - November 12, 2003 - 7:00 p.m., Education Centre
- ▶ **Occupational Health & Safety Committee**

Atikokan - November 24, 2003, 9:15 a.m., Atikokan Sub Office
Fort Frances/Emo/Rainy River - December 9, 2003, 1:30 p.m., Education Centre

- ▶ **Special Education Advisory Committee** - November 19, 2003, Program Support Office, 12:00 noon
- ▶ **Anti-Bullying Committee** - November 24, 2003, 10:00 a.m., Training Room, Robert Moore School

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

- ▶ 2004 Calendar of Events Ontario Public School Boards' Association
January 29-31, 2004 - Public Education Symposium, Toronto
March 25-27, 2004 - Labour Relations Symposium, Toronto
June 3-6, 2004 - Annual General Meeting, Huntsville

INCAMERA SESSION

The Board met in camera to discuss Negotiation Issues.

(see resolution #328)

The Board returned to the public session and reported.

(see resolution #329)

RISE AND REPORT

The Trustees approved a resolution for the Principal and Vice Principal contract as negotiated for the period September, 2003 to August, 2005

(see resolution #330)

The Trustees approved a resolution to ratify the agreement with Educational Support Personnel for the period September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2005

(see resolution #331)

Res. #332 McALISTER-ELUIK That we do adjourn at 8:20 p.m.
CARRIED

Director of Education/Secretary

Chair