

Rainy River District School Board Reports Financial Surplus for 2003-2004 and Reinvests into Students and Schools

(January 11, 2005) – The Rainy River District School Board approved the audited Financial Statements for 2003-2004 at the regular board meeting on Tuesday January 11, 2005. The Board is pleased to announce a \$2 million surplus for 2003-2004.

The Board will reinvest \$2.1 million from reserves. The surplus will be directed immediately to all schools to support students. Schools will be allocated funds for library and classroom resources and textbooks. To improve achievement, dollars will be directed to two special projects – Achievement Schools and Aboriginal Success. Increased funding in technology will provide our schools with additional computer software and access to hardware. Funds will also be directed to facility improvements and maintenance, which will include the initial planning stages of a major renovation to Donald Young School in Emo.

Ron McAlister, Chair of the Finance Committee said, “The reinvestment of surplus funds will add life into existing programs and create new initiatives for the ongoing benefit of our students. The Board’s decision to invest a total of \$1 million to retrofit the heating system at Rainy River High School from electricity to natural gas will certainly enhance the air quality for the students and marks a commitment by the Board to the community.”

The Board was also able to cover \$355,000 in costs for the JW Walker renovation. The Board has financed \$4 million for the project. This is \$600,000 less than the originally projected budget.

Trustee, Gord McBride said, “I feel administration and Trustees have done a highly commendable job of managing our \$34 million yearly budget. Ratepayers can feel assured that we are doing the utmost for our entire student population with the funds that are made available to us. Trustees realize that we must be more accountable than ever and our group is meeting the challenge head on.”

Staff and students were thrilled with J.W. Walker School’s 28,644 square foot renovation and addition. “This 14 classroom school, with its vibrant colour scheme, full size gymnasium and fully-automated learning resource centre will provide a learning environment for our students that we can all be very proud of,” said Raymond Roy, Manager – Plant Operations. Each classroom is equipped with overhead projectors and audio/visual equipment that gives teachers the capacity to integrate computer presentations into their lessons. The computer lab is fully equipped to ensure that this is one of the most technologically advanced schools in the province.

On opening day at the Rainy River District School Board, 1,701 elementary students and 1,330 secondary students arrived. This is nine more elementary students and fourteen less secondary

students than projected. In comparison with 2003/2004, enrollment has decreased by 74 elementary students and 169 secondary students.

The Rainy River District School Board operates fourteen schools located throughout a geographic area that extends from Rainy River to Atikokan along the shores of the river.