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Jack McMaster, Director of Education

Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 2008
7:00 p.m. – Robert Moore School
Fort Frances

AGENDA

1 Call to Order

2 Silent Reflection

3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

4 Approval of Agenda

- *That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for April 1, 2008, Regular Board Meeting.*

5 Recognition of Excellence

5.1 Schools on the Move – F.H. Huffman School Linda Hill
Pages 1-2

6 Confirmation of Minutes *Pages 3-9*

- *That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting March 4, 2008 (Session 14) having been typed and distributed, be approved.*

7 Business Arising From Minutes

8 Presentation

8.1 System

Program/Curriculum Success

- ✓ Oral Language Linda Hill
Pages 10-11

9 Board Reports

- 9.1 Special Education Advisory Committee – March 19 Dan Belluz
Pages 12-14

- 9.2 Ontario Public School Boards' Association.....Judy Eluik

10 Student Trustee Report

11 Chairman Report

- ✓ Comments by Trustees

12 Administrative Reports

- 12.1 Director's Update
Provincial / Regional / BoardJack McMaster

- 12.2 PersonnelDiane Ross
Pages 15-16
 - *That the Rainy River District School Board approve the Personnel Report dated April, 2008.*

- 12.3 School Year Calendar..... Heather Campbell
Pages 17-19
 - *That the Rainy River District School Board approve the 2008-2009 School Year Calendar.*

- 12.4 Occupational Health & Safety Committee – March 6 Raymond Roy
Pages 20-22

- 12.5 Character Education Heather Campbell
Pages 23-24

13 Correspondence

14 Future Meetings

14.1 Rainy River District School Board *Tuesday, May 6, 2008 - 7:00 pm*
North Star Community School – Atikokan

14.2 Accommodation Review Committee – Public Consultation, April 8, 2008,
6:30 p.m., F.H. Huffman School

14.3 Special Education Advisory Committee – April 23, 2008, 12:00 p.m.,
Education Centre

14.4 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee – May 27, 2008, 4:15 p.m.,
Education Centre

14.5 Occupational Health and Safety Committee – June 5, 2008, 9:00 a.m.,
Education Centre

14.6 Employee Recognition Night - Friday, June 20, 2008 - Rendez-Vous

The evening is set aside to honour all retiring employees and those employees who have attained 25 years of service with the Rainy River District School Board and to recognize Bus Drivers and Community Volunteers.

15 Workshops / Conferences / Conventions

15.1 2008 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Annual General Meeting, June 12-15, 2008, Niagara Falls

15.2 NOEL Frontline Conference – April 17-18, 2008, Travelodge Airline,
Thunder Bay

16 Adjournment

- That we do adjourn at _____ p.m.



REPORT

Recognition of Excellence

*Schools on the Move
F.H. Huffman School*

Regular Board Meeting:
April 1, 2008

For further information, please contact:
Linda Hill, Assistant to the Director
Donna Kowalchuk, Principal, F.H. Huffman School



"Schools on the Move" – F.H. Huffman School

"Schools on the Move: Lighthouse Program is one of a number of initiatives supported by the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat and was launched to celebrate and connect schools that are making a significant and sustained progress in student achievement." LNS The central idea of the program is "schools learning from other schools". In the spring of 2007, F. H. Huffman School was invited to participate. The intention is that schools in the network will connect with other schools, sharing successful practices and continuing the learning journey. The *Schools on the Move* project represents the good work being done in schools across the province.

At F.H. Huffman School, staff members believe that every teacher is responsible for every child, that literacy and numeracy are fundamental, and that every child can learn when teachers are precise in their teaching. We improve teaching and learning by taking advantage of board initiatives, studying together, and co-teaching.

The use of common terminology and consistent practices across the school make it easier for the team to be responsible for all students and for students to feel comfortable in every classroom. Differentiated instruction is the foundation of teacher endeavours. The gradual release of responsibility scaffolds learning to ensure that every child moves forward. Teachers mobilize people and resources to provide every child with support at their instructional level.

F.H. Huffman School is part of the Rainy River District School Board. Teachers at Huffman appreciate working in a board that provides learning resources and opportunities for all. People have time together to talk in a culture that fosters open discussion. Teachers particularly value moderated marking as an effective professional learning opportunity and are appreciating the opportunity to do more of this.

Moving into the future . . .

- Continue to embrace differentiated instruction by applying assessment data from student work to guide personalized, precision teaching for all students in small developmental groups.
- Strengthen the co-teaching model with the use of daily scheduled time for school-based coaching focused on effective assessment and instruction.
- Sustain our Professional Learning Community. Teachers continue to improve the quality of classroom instruction using an expanded pool of ideas, materials and strategies.
- Collect samples of student work and through moderated marking develop consistent assessment and evaluation practices that align with the curriculum achievement charts.
- Initiate student-led conferencing where students can select and display the work they are most proud of.

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #14

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2006-2010 Rainy River District School Board on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Donald Young School in Emo.

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

Regrets Meredith Ivall (Student Trustee)

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

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #127 ALLEN-HEYENS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda as amended for March 4, 2008 Regular Board meeting. CARRIED

Res. #128 ALLEN-HEYENS That the minutes of the Regular Board meeting February 5, 2008 (Session 13) having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED

Res. #129 ALLEN-HEYENS That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy #1.42 Trustee Attending Meetings Electronically. CARRIED

Res. #130 HEYENS-ALLEN That the Rainy River District School Board approved the Personnel Report dated March, 2008. CARRIED

Res. #131 BELLUZ-ELUIK That the Rainy River District School Board meet, in camera, in Committee of the Whole Board. CARRIED.

Res. #132 BELLUZ-ELUIK 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 was declared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

An in camera session was added to the Board agenda.

The agenda for the March 4, 2008 meeting was approved as amended.
(resolution #127)

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Key Players in our School Communities – Donald Young & Nestor Falls Schools

Lucinda Meyers, Principal of Donald Young and Nestor Falls Schools, spoke highly about the individuals that work together to support and students at each school. Four groups were recognized including Bus Drivers, Caretakers, Secretarial staff and Educational Assistants who work with the teachers to support the students in both schools. Bus drivers ensure the students are picked up each day for school and returned home safely at the end of the day. Caretakers work each day to keep the schools clean and provide a comfortable environment for students to learn. The secretarial staff work tirelessly to support teachers and students, and are the constant link between school and home. The Educational Assistants work hand-in-hand with teachers to support students daily and their role in an ongoing partnership is greatly appreciated.

Chair Dan Belluz thanked staff present representing each group and presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation for supporting students.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting February 5, 2008 (Session 13). (resolution #128)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

SYSTEM PRESENTATION - Program/Curriculum Success

Supporting Students for Success

Casey Slack, Student Success Leader, spoke about the various phases of the Student Success Initiative which supports struggling students in Grades 7 to 12. The Board has established priorities for improvement and strategies to assess improvement efforts. Highlights from the 2006-07 nine indicators demonstrate the Board's success in supporting struggling students. Credit Recovery and Credit Success are two programs developed to reduce the dropout rate and keep students in school and on track to graduate. Credit Recovery helps students earn credits that they previously failed to achieve and Credit Rescue works to prevent the loss of a credit before the course is completed. At the conclusion of the first semester of 2007/08, all three high schools had staff dedicated to both programs. In 2007/08 all secondary school staff look for ways to help students to be successful in moving from elementary to secondary by helping them make informed decisions on career choices. Some of the Student Success priorities for 2007/08 include a continued emphasis on student engagement, various program opportunities, professional learning communities for teachers in various programs, differentiated instruction and expansion of e-learning into new subject areas.

BOARD REPORTS

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Dan Belluz presented the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held February 20, 2008 (*refer to pages 15-16 of the agenda*).

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2008.

Policy Committee

Trustee Glenda Belluz, provided an update on Policy #1.42 Trustees Attending Meetings Electronically. This policy was approved for stakeholder consultation at the Board meeting February 5, 2008 and no feedback was received.

The Board approved policy #2.64 Trustee Attending Meetings Electronically (resolution #129).

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Gary Allen presented the minutes of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee meeting held March 3, 2008. The committee reviewed graphs that showed Credit Success and Credit Accumulation rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. There was a report from Fort Frances High School regarding Aboriginal student enrolment and credits received for the first semester. The committee discussed future plans including new programs and upcoming presentations on Character Education.

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Trustee Judy Eluik reported on the OPSBA Director's meeting held in Toronto.

- Upper Grand DSB is seeking additional compensation for water flushing procedures.
- Release of GSN's by late March.
- School Energy Coalitions
- Copyright and Accessibility
- Lakehead DSB chosen to participate in an Urban Aboriginal Education Project
- Reviewing member fee formula
- Changes to website

Trustee Donna Dittaro spoke about the OPSBA Public Education Symposium held in January. She spoke very highly about the Safe Schools Symposium where students put together a video on bullying. Trustee Dittaro also enjoyed the presentation by Stephen Lewis who stated that it is our responsibility to teach our children tolerance.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Heather Campbell, Superintendent of Education, presented a written report from Student Trustee, Meredith Ivall.

Atikokan High School is organizing a Winter Carnival on March 3rd. Student Council is planning a Spring Fling dance and famine. Fort Frances High School is planning a Winter Carnival and also organizing a famine. Rainy River High School has started a program to make the community aware of issues in the community such as drunk driving.

REPORT OF CHAIR

Chair Dan Belluz spoke about the participation of trustees, Board staff, First Nation leaders and community members in the Healing Circle held at Couchiching First Nations. Chief Chuck McPherson welcomed everyone and encouraged all participants to focus on positive thoughts and comments during their time together. Chair Dan Belluz was grateful for the opportunity to learn more about the Aboriginal traditions. The Rainy River District School Board will work with the First Nation communities to move forward together.

Trustee Glenda Belluz also participated in the Healing Circle which was well attended by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members.

Trustee Gary Allen reported on the Peace Ontario meeting and the resolutions being brought forward in terms of education. One of the recommendations is to review the current funding formula for Special Education which will be presented to the Chiefs in June.

Trustee Judy Eluik voiced her concern regarding a video game on the market that encourages bullying and fighting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

Provincial

- Attended CODE meeting March 27-28 and discussed current issues across the province with Directors of Education from other Boards.

Regional

- Attended the Northwestern Ontario Aboriginal Education Forum in Thunder Bay February 27 & 28.
- Shared best practices at the forum
- Listened to a strong student leader who spoke about the incident at Fort Frances High School involving the video.

Board

- The Director spoke about the Healing Circle which he attended at Couchiching First Nation earlier in the day.
- The Director felt it was a learning experience for all staff and community members and appreciated the words of support from Elders and presentations on the traditions in the Aboriginal culture (ie. drumming and dancing)
- The Director was honoured to received the "eagle feather".

Brent Tookenay, Assistant to the Director, thanked Jack McMaster for his support.

Personnel Report

The Board approved the Personnel Report as presented for March, 2008.
(resolution #130)

The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Heather Anderson, 0.5 FTE Ed. Assistant, RHS, February 19, 2008 to June 24, 2008
Missy Nelson, 0.7 FTE Ed. Assistant, SCS, February 11, 2008 to June 25, 2008

Change in Assignment

Carla Galbraith, 1.0 FTE Head Sec. (Sec. IV), FHS, commencing January 7, 2008
Shaunna Hammond, 1.0 FTE School Sec.(Sec. III), FHS, commencing February 21, 2008
Nancy Taggart, 1.0 FTE Admin. Assist, Ed. Centre, commencing March 5, 2008

Leave of Absence

Catherine Bruyere, 0.67 FTE Teacher, FHS, September 2, 2008 to June 26, 2009
Pamela Avis, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, September 2, 2008 to June 26, 2009
Brad Gascoigne, 1.0 FTE Teacher, AHS, September 2, 2008 to June 26, 2009
Shane Fiore, 1.0 FTE Teacher, AHS, September 2, 2008 to June 26, 2009
Dana Kosowick, 4/5 Deferred Leave, September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2013
Lisa McCart, 1.0 FTE Teacher, DYS, April 14, 2008 to April 14, 2009

Retirement

Frank McComb, 1.0 FTE Teacher, RMS, effective June 26, 2008

Safe Schools

Heather Campbell, Superintendent of Education, reported that the provincial government passed Bill 212, the Education Amendment Act on Progressive Discipline and School Safety. Under this new legislation several changes resulted in the approach to progressive discipline when determining consequences for inappropriate behaviour. The Board has taken steps to implement this legislation such as updating the Safe Schools policy and Board Code of Conduct, creating a new Student Discipline policy, providing staff training and updating the anti-bullying curriculum. In implementing the new legislation, the Board will build on the strong commitment to student success.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, April 1, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Robert Moore School, Fort Frances.

Occupational Health and Safety Committee – March 6, 2008, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

Special Education Advisory Committee – March 19, 2008, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre.

Policy Committee – March 31, 2008, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

Public Consultation Meeting – F.H. Huffman Pupil Accommodation Review
April 8, 2008, 6:30 p.m., F. H. Huffman School

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

2007/08 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association
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 Personnel issues. (resolution #131)

RISE AND REPORT

The Board returned to public session. (resolution #132)

Res. #133 G. BELLUZ-ELUIK That we do adjourn at 10:01 p.m. CARRIED

Director/Secretary

Chair



REPORT

Oral Language



Self Identification Oral Language Project (LNS/SIP)

The Self Identification Oral Language Project (LNS/SIP) is a research project to develop and evaluate strategies and approaches to oral language assessment and instruction that will assist the language development of all students and help close the achievement gap between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Junior and Senior Kindergarten students.

This research project has a proposed three-year timeline comprising four activities:

1. Project Planning
2. Development and adaptation of assessment tools
3. Development and implementation of instruction programs
4. Evaluation

The Rainy River District School Board was one of three boards who initially participated in the Self-Identification Oral Language Project in June 2007. In September 2007, a further five boards, as well as the Northern School Resource Alliance, joined the research project.

During 2007-08, the emphasis is on further developing and validating oral language assessment tools and initiating professional learning sessions aimed at assisting schools to use assessment data to improve instruction.

The LNS/SI Oral Language Project is intended to provide all JK and SK teachers and principals with a greater understanding of oral language development and of the most appropriate teaching approaches to be used to ensure that all students have personalized and precise instructional opportunities throughout the day.

The critical focus for the project is to highlight the importance of the teacher's instructional language and the use of differentiated, personalized precision instruction on a daily basis as a means to maximize the opportunities for all students, and in particular, aboriginal students, to develop strong receptive and expressive language skills in the JK and SK years.



REPORT

Special Education Advisory Committee

- Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting March 19, 2008.



Special Education Advisory Committee – Meeting Minutes
PST Office, Education Centre
March 19, 2008– 12:00 pm

Present:

Christie Gushulak, Community Living-Atikokan
Barry McTavish, Community Living
Dan Belluz, Trustee
Heather Campbell, Superintendent of Education
Jane Tibbetts, Special Education Coordinator

Regrets:

Lorraine Stromberg, Family & Children's Services-Atikokan
Debra Bruyere, Family & Children's Services
Brent Tookenay, Assistant to the Director

(Alternate- D. Dittaro)

Chair: Barry McTavish

Guest Speaker: Leanne Penney, Parent, and Autism Support Therapist

1. Approval of agenda as distributed.
2. Review of Minutes of previous meeting of February 2008
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest – None
4. New Business : None

5.Coordinator's Report – J. Tibbetts

Site Concerns

Riverview School Individual Education Plans (IEP) will be managed centrally due to absence of Special Education Resource Teacher. Referrals for assessment will be held until fall, when a permanent appointment can be trained.

Policy/Program Memorandum 140 (Applied Behavior Analysis) –The Ministry of Education mandated teacher training is planned for all schools in the west zone and for Robert Moore School on the April 21 Professional Development Day.

IEP Training for New Teachers – A day-long training session will take place on Thursday, March 20 at Fort Frances High School. The Coordinator has prepared an orientation binder on Special Education Services available, how teachers can initiate referrals, what psychological assessment consists of, and the types of exceptionalities, as well as has planned an Assistive Technology Demonstration with teacher time for IEP development.

Transition Services On March 4th, the Coordinator met with district agency staff regarding the release of the new Memorandum of Understanding for Student Transition Planning.

Information Technology Computer Update- New software and a Braille printer has been acquired, as well as 10 new prescriptions for laptop packages. Information Technology staff and Special Education Services staff met on February 29 to review progress, concerns and plan for the end of this year. The next update and distribution of older laptops will be completed in April.



Assistive Technology- The RRDSB provided two days of training to Northwest Catholic District School Board teachers in Dryden and Sioux Lookout through the services of Sheila Hanson from Riverview School.

Data-Driven Projects for Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)

The in-house audit of parent participation in the Individual Education Plan continues with this final distribution. Initial feedback has been uniformly positive.

The second project, documenting the improvement of academic achievement of Learning Disabled students through the use of Assistive Technology is proceeding as well. Results should be returned to the coordinator by mid-April.

Ontario Psychological Association (OPA) Assessments - The final testing contract for the year has been booked for May. This completes the Ministry-funded project to provide boards with support to contract with Ontario Psychological Association (OPA) members. A major report to the OPA is due at the end of March, a Resource Guide for Boards is being printed for fall, and a Promising Practices Conference is being planned for Oct. 15, 2008 in Toronto.

Funding Application for Training Learning Center –has been completed for cost of staff and supplies for 2008-9.

ESP Training Grid– Data has been entered to create a master list of all qualifications, certificates, and training sessions the Educational Support Personnel have participated in over the past five years.

Professional Development 2008 – The Geneva Center for Children with Autism has been contracted to deliver up to 3 days of Ministry-mandated Autism/Applied Behaviour Analysis to the Education Support Personnel staff on system professional development dates during the 2008-2009 school year.

6. Date of next meeting: **Wednesday, April 23, 2008 -- Noon CST.**
7. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.



REPORT

Personnel

Resolution:

- *That the Rainy River District School Board approve the Personnel Report dated April, 2008 as presented. (copy attached)*

Rainy River District School Board
PERSONNEL REPORT
 April 2008

	NAME	PREVIOUS		STATUS		EFFECTIVE DATES	
				CODE	NEW	COMMENCING	TERMINATING
<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	Lori Cress			N	0.4 FTE Education Assist., HUF	17-Mar-08	25-Jun-08
<u>CHANGE IN ASSIGNMENT</u>							
<u>LEAVE OF ABSENCE</u>	Shari Reynolds Char Bliss	1.0 FTE Teacher, SCS/SCAP 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS		F F		7-Apr-08 15-May-08	7-Apr-09 29-Jan-09
<u>RESIGNATION</u>							
<u>RETIREMENT</u>							

<u>CODES:</u>	A - Additional Staff	E - Leave of Absence	I - Sick/Medical Leave	M - Parental Leave (Rv)
	B - Transfer	F - Pregnancy Leave	J - Personal Leave	N - Replacement
	C - Resignation	G - Pregnancy Leave (Rv)	K - Additional Enrolment	O - Termination
	D - Retirement	H - Deferred Salary Leave	L - Parental Leave	



REPORT

School Year Calendar

Resolution:

- *That the Rainy River District School Board approve the 2008-2009 School Year Calendar.*



SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The school year calendar recommended for 2008-2009 will be a regular school year calendar. There will be 194 school days beginning on September 3, 2008 and ending on June 25, 2009.

Due to the shared bussing between boards in this region, a meeting was held with all four boards – Rainy River District School Board, Northwest Catholic District School Board, Keewatin-Patricia District School Board and Kenora Catholic District School Board and in consultation with the Mine Centre District School Authority, to plan for special dates including the six professional activity days.

Advertisements were placed in all community newspapers. As well, the revised calendar was posted in all schools and shared with school and system administration to receive feedback.



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SCHOOL YEAR 2008-09

All students begin school on September 3, 2008 and end school on June 25, 2009.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2008-09

- September 1, 2008 Labour Day
- October 13, 2008 Thanksgiving Day
- December 22, 2008 to January 5, 2009 Christmas Holidays
- February 16, 2009 Family Day
- March 16 - 20, 2009 incl. March Break
- April 10, 2009 Good Friday
- April 13, 2009 Easter Monday
- May 18, 2009 Victoria Day

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAYS 2008-09

- September 2, 2008
- September 26, 2008
- October 27, 2008
- January 30, 2009
- April 24, 2009
- June 26, 2009

SECONDARY EXAMS 2008-09

- January 23-28, 2009
- June 19-25, 2009

SECONDARY EXAMS - AHS ONLY

- January 26-January 29, 2009
- June 17-24, 2009

DRAFT

CODE

- P School Holidays
- E School P.A. Days
- Secondary Exams

SEPTEMBER

P-2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	P-26
29	30			

OCTOBER

	1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24
P-27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

DECEMBER

1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19

JANUARY

5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	E-23
E-26	E-27	E-28	E-29	P-30

JUNE

1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	E-19
E-22	E-23	E-24	E-25	P-26
29	30			

FEBRUARY

2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27

MARCH

2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

APRIL

	1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	
14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	P-24
27	28	29	30	

MAY

				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29

JUNE - AHS

1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	E-17	E-18	E-19
E-22	E-23	E-24	25	P-26
29	30			



REPORT

Occupational Health & Safety Committee

- Minutes of Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting March 6, 2008.



Jack McMaster
Director of Education

Laura Mills
Superintendent of Business

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**Joint Occupational Health & Safety – Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.**

Fort Frances High School – Conference Room

Present: Mary Makarenko, Kristy Cameron,
Brenda Greengrass, Owen Johnston, Ed Ojala,
Jeff Lehman, Mickey Christiansen, Diane Ross

Regrets: Sylvia Parker, Darryl Gannon, Don
McBride, Raymond Roy, Brian Love, Lanny
Freeman, Roger Desserre, Sharlene Gilbert

1. Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2007
2. Addition to Agenda – Winter Tires/Winter Driving

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

a) **Health & Safety Information Memo**

The committee reviewed the Health & Safety information memorandum that was sent to the Principals on January 17, 2008. The main focus of the memorandum is to increase awareness to employees regarding slips, trips and falls and Musculoskeletal Disorder.

4. **REPORTS**

a) **Monthly School Workplace Inspection Reports**

The committee noted reports for January and February (2008) inspections from all facilities.

b) **Hazard Identification Summary Reports**

The committee discussed all hazards identified in the January and February (2008) reports.

c) **Incident/Accident Frequencies Report**

The committee noted all incidents/accidents reported in the September 1, 2007 - August 31, 2008 report.

d) **Occupational Health & Safety Action Request – North Star Community School**

The committee reviewed an Occupational Health & Safety request from North Star Community School regarding a gas smell coming through the vents. The committee will further review this request at the next Health and Safety meeting.

e) **Training – Confined Space, Fall Arrest and Elevating Platforms Training**

The committee reviewed recent training for Maintenance and Custodial Staff.



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f) **Health & Safety Posters**

The committee reviewed three health & safety awareness posters. The safety posters can be found at <http://www.safetyworld.com/topics.htm>.

g) **Winter Driving/Winter Tires**

The committee discussed winter tires and winter driving. The Committee discussed purchasing winter tires for the Board vans.

5. **NEXT MEETING**

June 5, 2008 - 9:00 a.m. PST Conference Room - Education Centre

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



REPORT

Character Education



Character Education

The Rainy River District School Board supports character education in all of its schools and identifies the priority to enhance a safe learning and teaching environment. Initially, the Anti-Bullying Curriculum was developed to address this one key issue – a safe learning and teaching environment. The new Character in Action program aligns with the Ministry of Education's directives and focuses on the empowerment of all stakeholders in fostering the democratic ideals of citizenship, justice, thoughtful decision-making, and enhanced quality of life. The practice and application among our students and staff in following the character attributes – Respect, Initiative, Courage, Compassion, Optimism, Honesty, Integrity, Fairness, Perseverance, and Responsibility – maximizes opportunities to learn.

Supported by an Ontario Education Services Corporation grant, the Rainy River District School Board has undertaken the following activities to develop this program:

- revising the Anti-Bullying curriculum by updating resources and lessons for Grades JK to 9;
- developing Character into Action curriculum for Grades JK to 8;
- integrating the Seven Grandfather Teachings into this curriculum;
- supporting the professional development of administration, consultants, and teachers in the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People and the further implementation of Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens in the Grades 7, 8 and 10 curriculum;
- supporting the implementation of Peer Mediation programs throughout the Board;
- providing a leadership retreat for secondary students;
- compiling a bank of motivational speakers to support this curriculum, such as the recent Turtle Concepts presentations at Fort Frances High School;
- developing and providing a workshop for new teachers in the New Teacher Induction Program.

Character Education is not a curriculum . . . it is a deliberate effort to nurture and create a community that promotes the highest ideals of student achievement and citizenship. Many schools are implementing a variety of programs, and in implementing these programs, all members of the school community seize the teachable moments to reinforce and model the attributes:

"Quality education includes the education of the heart as well as the head; it includes a focus on the whole person – the cognitive, affective, and behavioral domains of learning. It means preparing students to be concerned citizens who have empathy and respect for people within their increasingly diverse communities. It means providing opportunities for students to understand deeply the importance of civic engagement and what it means to be a global citizen in an increasingly interdependent global community. An approach to teaching that is infused with character development is education at its best."

Avis Glaze, 2006, Finding Common Ground: Character Development in Ontario Schools, K-12