

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #26

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2014-2018 Rainy River District School Board on May 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Atikokan High School in Atikokan.

Board Members Present Dianne McCormack, Raymond Roy, David Kircher, Ralph Hill, Don McBride, Michael Lewis, Will Windigo (teleconference)

Student Trustee Chloe Machura

In Attendance Heather Campbell, Wendy Tilbury, Al McManaman, Casey Slack, Ann Cox, Travis Enge

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #328 LEWIS-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for the May 2, 2017 Regular Board meeting. CARRIED

Res. #329 LEWIS-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board meet, in camera, in Committee of the Whole Board to consider the following:
- Confirmation of Committee of the Whole – In-Camera Minutes, Regular Board Meeting, March 7, 2017
- Negotiations
And that this meeting shall not be open to the public pursuant to Section 207(2) of the Education Act. CARRIED

Res. #330 HILL- LEWIS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole – In-Camera Session Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting March 7, 2017 as amended. CARRIED

Res. #331 LEWIS-HILL - That the Rainy River District School Board appoint the Negotiations Committee to review the Executive Compensation Framework and to establish compensation within the Framework for Rainy River District School Board executives. CARRIED

Res. #332 McBRIDE-LEWIS That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting April 4, 2017 (Session 25) having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED

Res. #333 HILL-LEWIS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies for stakeholder consultation:
4.16 Safe Schools
8.22 Expense Claims
1.40 Policy Development and Review CARRIED

Res. #334 ROY-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board revise the mileage rate retroactively to January 1, 2017 to follow CRA reasonable rates of: \$0.54/km on first 5000 km, and \$0.48/km thereafter. The policy will adjust each year to the rates considered reasonable by CRA.

Res. #335 KIRCHER-ROY That the Rainy River District School Board authorize the use of Vote by Mail for the 2018 School Board Elections under By-Law #174. CARRIED

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Employee Recognition

Ann Cox, Manager, Human Resources, recognized Kristy Cameron, Teacher at North Star Community School, Ed Ojala, Teacher at Atikokan High School and Shaunna Sekulich, Secretary at North Star Community School for their contributions with 25 years of service, who were unable to attend the meeting. Ann Cox also recognized David Kerr, Teacher at Atikokan High School, who retired in January, and was also not in attendance.

Music Program – Atikokan High School

Beth Fairfield, Principal, Atikokan High School provided background information on the dedication and hard work of staff and students regarding the renewed Music Program at Atikokan High School. Ms. Fairfield introduced the teacher of the Music Program, Mr. Eric Arner.

The band, consisting of 12 students performed 5 songs for those in attendance. Mr. Arner explained that the students had varying degrees of music experience, including some that had just started for the first time learning to play an instrument this semester. Mr. Arner noted that both he and the students were enjoying the music program and he applauded the students on their progress.

Chair McCormack presented a Recognition of Excellence certificate to the students and thanked them for their performance.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting April 4, 2017 (Session 25) (resolution #332).

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

SYSTEM – PROGRAM/CURRICULUM SUCCESS

EDI/Kindergarten Program

A report was provided

Heather Bridgeman, Early Years Primary Coordinator provided a presentation outlining the supports and programming available for our earliest learners. Ms. Bridgeman provided a handout to Trustees that outlined the 5 areas measured using the Early Development Instrument (EDI).

Heather Bridgeman talked about the Kindergarten Parent Survey results. The Trustees asked questions and there was discussion about ways to support parents in filling out the survey to improve participation rates, in order to receive valuable insight from families on the early development of children in our community.

Chair Dianne McCormack thanked Heather Bridgeman for the information provided.

BOARD REPORTS

First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Advisory Committee meeting held April 10, 2017. *(Refer to minutes p. 14-17 of the agenda)*

Special Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held April 12, 2017. *(Refer to minutes p. 18-22 of the agenda)*

Parent Involvement Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting held April 19, 2017. *(Refer to minutes p. 23-26 of the agenda)*

Policy Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held April 25, 2017. *(Refer to minutes p. 27-58 of the agenda)*

The Board approved the following policies for stakeholder consultation: (resolution #333)

4.16 Safe Schools

8.22 Expense Claims

1.40 Policy Development and Review

Finance Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held April 25, 2017. *(Refer to minutes p. 59-62 of the agenda)*

The Board approved the revision to the mileage rate retroactively to January 1, 2017 to follow CRA reasonable rates of \$0.54/km on first 5000 km, and \$0.48/km thereafter. *(resolution #334)*.

The Board approved the use of Vote by Mail for the 2018 School Board Elections under By-Law #174. *(resolution #335)*

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee McBride reported that he attended the OPSBA Director's meetings on April 21 and 22, 2017 in Toronto. Dr. Karen Gross, VP Digital Learning, TV Ontario spoke to the group on Friday night and Trustee McBride noted she was very enthusiastic and passionate about the topic presented. Trustee McBride said that the session on Saturday, focused on labour relations and confidential reports were shared with the delegates at the meeting.

The Board approved the appointment of Dianne McCormack as a voting delegate and as an alternate delegate for the 2017 OPSBA Annual Meeting. *(resolution #336)*.

Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee, Chloe Machura, reported that the Student Senate met via videoconference on Tuesday May 2, 2017. Chloe was unable to attend and Director of Education, Heather Campbell filled in as Chair.

Chloe Machura shared some of the feedback received from each school with regard to the 2017-18 Budget.

The following activities/events occurred during the month of April or are being planned for May at the secondary schools:

Atikokan High School

- The High School celebrated Earth Day on April 21st with a community cleanup.
- Elections for Student Leadership Council are occurring this month.
- May 26th is prom and tickets go on sale this week.
- The Student Leadership Council is currently planning the year-end celebration with a school-wide tournament.

Fort Frances High School

- In April, Fort Frances High School also celebrated Earth Day, with 11 classes participating in a grounds cleanup and all classes being held with lights off during Period 3.
- May 2, 2017 was FFHS's Mini We Day, with 150 Grade 8 students from feeder schools participating in ice breaker activities and having presentations on the various clubs, sports, and activities held annually at the High School. A Mental Health Fair was also occurring in the Atrium, held in partnership with local community partners and the Students Against Stigma.
- The atrium is decorated to promote the musical Mary Poppins, being performed this week, as the Student Leadership Council noted that there was an emphasis on sports and therefore, wanted to highlight the other clubs and events active within the School.

SCAP

- SCAP secondary students held a Famine on April 21st to 22nd. This year, the Famine activities were held in Emo, with a total of \$2,500 raised to go towards providing clean water for those in need. Earth Day was also recognized with no lights on that day.
- The community cleanup is planned for June.
- Trip fundraiser coupons for Lowey's Greenhouses are available.

RRHS

- Students celebrated Earth Day on Friday, April 21st by picking up garbage around the town, building a living wall, making bird feeders, and creating an art mural in the hallway.
- A clothing drive – Give a Shirt Campaign – is currently underway, with a total number of 145 bags of clothing collected to date.
- Grade 8 Day occurred on April 24th, with visiting Grade 8 students participating in archery, science experiments, and band performances.
- Students and staff are preparing for the Owl Theatre musical performance of Stories from the Heart that is being performed from May 10th to 12th.

Chair Report

In recognition of Education Week, Chair McCormack expressed appreciation to all individuals, organizations, communities, community partners, third party service providers, trustees, staff and students across the district for all they do to support and enhance student achievement and well-being. Chair McCormack reminded trustees that they are invited to stop by schools for any of the events taking place during Education Week and thanked Heather Latter for providing the list of activities taking place and acknowledged her work with the website and other sources to continually share RRSSB news and events.

Chair McCormack commented that information and nomination forms regarding the Volunteer, Bus Driver and Community Partner Recognition Awards has been posted to the website.

Throughout April several schools held their math and/or mental health, mental well-being family nights and Chair McCormack noted she had the opportunity to attend Riverview's Family Mental Health night.

As OPSBA's alternate Director, Chair McCormack noted that she participated in a conference call on Tuesday, April 11th regarding ratification of the OSSTF teacher contract extensions, and all Union groups within the Rainy River District School Board, now have contract extensions until August 31, 2019.

Rural Education Strategy Consultations will take place across the province beginning Friday May 5, 2017. The consultations are not taking place in the northwest, however, there is opportunity for everyone to read the discussion paper and email responses to information.met@ontario.ca by June 9th. Chair McCormack noted that the links are available on the Ministry's web site.

Comments by Trustees

Vice-Chair Mike Lewis noted that on Wednesday April 26, 2017, the Board's Capital Planning team held a meeting at North Star school with staff from potential community partners for the proposed new consolidated school in Atikokan. These potential partners showed an interest in shared space, or in making use of surplus space when, and if, a consolidation plan is approved and funded by the Ministry of Education. As potential partners, Family and Children's Services, Atikokan Day Care, Contact North, Rainy River DSSAB, brought their own questions about possible designs to the meeting.

Vice-Chair Lewis noted that the potential partners asked about, new day care spaces, special education rooms, and computer rooms.

Vice-Chair Lewis commented that those present were very pleased with the interest and participation of the various community partners.

Trustee Raymond Roy commented that he recently participated in curling activities with students at the curling club. Trustee Roy noted that it was nice to see the students engaged in the activities and that they were very respectful of the facilities. Trustee Roy also attended the Co-op Display Day at Fort Frances High School, where he found the students to be very enthusiastic, with some indicating that the experience has helped them determine what field of study they want to pursue in the future.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

Board members received a report on activities and events during the month of April. Highlights for the month of April included the following:

- In mid-April, the Ministry of Education launched the Rural Education Strategy Consultation. As noted on the Ministry of Education's website, approximately 15% of all students within the province attend rural schools. The purpose of the consultation is to learn how to best serve rural communities effectively while making the best use of public resources. The Fort Frances High School campus is featured within the Discussion Paper as an example of a community hub.
- May 1st to 5th is Education Week, when we formally recognize the excellent work that occurs daily within our schools. The theme of this year's Education Week is Ontario 150. The first week in May is also Children's Mental Health Week, an observance that the Rainy River District School Board also pays considerable attention to. The April 2017 Be Well Together newsletter and the list of school activities in recognition of both themes were included as handouts with the Director's report.
- Training was provided to staff to support children and youth mental health and well-being in April. Mental Health Champions met on April 6th and staff from across the District attended ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skill Training) on April 27th and 28th. On April 30th, the Board's Student Injury Prevention Plan was submitted to the Council of Ontario Directors of Education. Now in Phase Three, the Initiative focuses on ensuring that student injury prevention is approached in a sustained, proactive and systematic way through the development of a Board plan. The scope of work within this Plan is quite extensive.
- A Board-wide Staff Well-Being Committee was established in February 2017 to develop a plan to support employee well-being, focusing on the individual lifestyle practices and workplace environment.
- The Student Accommodation Review for the Atikokan Schools is underway. A letter was sent to all parents of Atikokan High School and North Star Community School students, to advise them of the Accommodation Review. Travis Enge, Manager of Plant Operations and Maintenance and Heather Campbell, Director of Education attended staff meetings at Atikokan High School and North Star Community School on April 5th to answer questions. The Terms of Reference for the Accommodation Review Committee has been finalized, and Questions and Answers have been posted to the Board webpage dedicated to the Accommodation Review.

The Committee's orientation is planned for May 11th, at North Star Community School, starting at 6 p.m.

Personnel Report

The Board received the Personnel Report dated May, 2017. (*Refer to report pages 63-64 of the agenda*)

The Personnel Report included the following:

Leave of Absence

DeGagne, Susan, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, FHS, 0.33 FTE General Leave of Absence effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Fairbrother, Shelley, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, FHS, 1.0 FTE General Leave of Absence effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Gibson, John, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, FHS, 4/5 Deferred Salary Leave Plan effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-22.

Himanen, Rebecca, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, FHS, 0.33 FTE General Leave of Absence effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Kowalski, Kent, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, FHS, 1.0 FTE Federation Leave effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Knutsen, Marla, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, FHS, 0.33 FTE General Leave of Absence, effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

LaPlante, John, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, RHS/SCAP-Secondary, 1.0 FTE General Leave of Absence, effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Lowes, Jennelle, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, RHS, 4/5 Deferred Salary Leave Plan, effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-22.

Noonan (Faragher), Sarah, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, FHS, 1.0 FTE General Leave of Absence, effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Orchard, Wendy, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, RHS, 4/5 Deferred Salary Leave Plan, effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-22.

Tom, Morning Star, 0.33 FTE Secondary Teacher, RHS, 0.33 FTE General Leave of Absence effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Bodnar, Kendra, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher, CRS, 0.2 FTE Extended Parental Leave effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Bryk, Arla, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher, NSCS, 1.0 FTE Pregnancy Leave effective 27-Jun-17 to 26-Jun-18.

Domanski, Andrea, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher, JWS, 0.5 FTE General Leave of Absence, effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Evans-Duquette, Christine, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher, NSCS, 0.2 FTE General Leave of Absence effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Gibson, Christa, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher, RMS, 4/5 Deferred Salary Leave Plan, effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-22.

Skinaway, Doreen, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher, DYS, 1.0 FTE General Leave of Absence, effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Spooner, Meghan, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher, CRS, 0.4 FTE General Leave of Absence, effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Veldhuisen, Kim, .83 FTE Elementary Teacher, DYS, 0.29 FTE General Leave of Absence, effective 28-Aug-17 to 31-Aug-18.

Resignation

Dubuc, Rosalie, 0.4 FTE Elementary Teacher, CRS, effective June 30, 2017.

Retirement

Lovelace, Lloyd, 1.0 Accounting Clerk IV-Purchaser, effective May 31, 2017.

Summer Facility Projects

Board members received a report from Travis Enge, Manager, Plant Operations and Maintenance and he reviewed the summer work priorities with the Trustees. *(Refer to p.65-68 of the agenda)*

Accommodation Review Update

Heather Campbell, Director of Education spoke to the Atikokan – ARC – Municipal and Partnership Consultation report from Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business, which was provided in the Board package. *(Refer to p.69-70 of the agenda)*

It was moved by David Kircher, Trustee and seconded by Raymond Roy, Trustee, to recommend that the Board form an Accommodation Review Committee to consider the consolidation of Atikokan High School and North Star Community School into a new K-12 School, in accordance with the Board's Policy 6.50 Student Accommodation. The Board approved the motion. *(resolution #337)*

Correspondence

Board members received a letter from the Honourable Laura Albanese, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration calling for nominations for the inaugural Champion of Diversity Award.

Board members received a copy of a letter from Thames Valley District School Board sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, requesting reduction of class size requirements for Native Language courses.

Board members received a copy of a letter from Thames Valley District School Board sent to the Honourable Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, requesting reduction of class size requirements for Native Language courses.

Chair Dianne McCormack, asked Director of Education, Heather Campbell to speak to the impact class size requirements for Native Language Courses has on the Rainy River District School Board. Based on the information provided by Director Campbell, it was moved by Dave Kircher and seconded by Mike Lewis, to write a letter to the Honourable Mitzie Hunter in support of the Thames Valley District School Board letter, to lower the minimum number of resident pupils for Indigenous Languages classes funding. The Board approved the motion. *(resolution #338)*

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting – June 6, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Education Centre, Fort Frances.

First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee – May 8, 2017, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Special Education Advisory Committee – May 10, 2017, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Policy Committee – May 29, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

Finance Committee – May 29, 2017, 1:30 p.m., Education Centre

Audit Committee – May 29, 2017, 5:00 p.m., Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

2016-17 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association

OPSBA Annual General Meeting & Program June 8-11, 2017, Western Trillium House
Blue Mountain, Collingwood

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 8:43 p.m. (resolution #339)

Director/Secretary

Chair