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# REPORT

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## ***Finance Committee***

- *Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting January 26, 2016.*

### **Resolutions:**

- *That the Rainy River District School Board receive the Facility Master Plan.*
- *That the Rainy River District School Board address the overcapacity issue at J.W. Walker School by moving the Grade 7 and 8 students to Fort Frances High School, effective August 29, 2016.*

Heather Campbell  
Director of Education



Dianne McCormack  
Chair

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**Finance Committee Minutes  
Education Centre  
January 26, 2016 – 1:30 p.m.**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Kircher, Ralph Hill, Don McBride, Raymond Roy

**ALSO ATTENDED:** Dianne McCormack, Michael Lewis

**GUEST:** Cynthia Clarke, Vice President, Enterprise Asset Management, Ameresco

**STAFF:** Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business; Travis Enge, Manager of Plant Operations & Maintenance; Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education; Al McManaman, Superintendent of Education; Sherri Belluz, Recording Secretary

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was amended to include Item 6.c) Policy 1.43 Trustee Honoraria. The agenda was approved as amended.

**3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

There was no conflict of interest disclosed.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on December 15, 2015 were approved as circulated.

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Transportation: Operator Contracts**

It was reported that 17 of the 19 remaining available routes have now been extended. An Expression of Interest has been released for the remaining 2 routes which closes on January 29, 2016.

#### **b) Donald Young School Construction Update**

Ministry of Education approval has been received for the adjusted budget request, as approved at the January 5, 2016 Board meeting. As a result, an Invitation to Tender has been released which closes on February 18, 2016.

#### **c) Rainy River High School/Riverview School Consolidation Update**

Correspondence to the Northwest Catholic District School Board with respect to Our Lady of the Way being part of the consolidation was received for information. It was indicated that their response will be delayed.

#### **d) Grounds Reinvestment Playgrounds**

An update was provided on the grounds reinvestment that was approved at the Finance Committee in December 2014.

A Playground Advisory Committee was formed to provide feedback on enhancements to school playgrounds. This Committee researched best practices, reviewed Ontario regulations, and surveyed students to develop Playground Guidelines to support schools and school councils in their decision-making.

Over the summer, the Manager of Plant Operations and Maintenance conducted a review of all playground equipment across the District. An analysis of each elementary school's playground has been completed to create a comparison matrix that takes into consideration each schools' existing playground and student enrollment. Based on this analysis, funding has been allocated for each elementary school, with the exception of Mine Centre School, as considerable funds have been spent on upgrading the playground. Elementary principals have been advised of their school's funding allocation and provided a template to support the development of a Playground Plan. Playground Plans are to be submitted to the Manager of Plant Operations & Maintenance by February 26, 2016.

All Plans will be made public for feedback on the Board's website from March 1 to March 11, 2016.

### **6. New Business**

#### **a) Facility Master Plan**

Cynthia Clarke, Vice President, Enterprise Asset Management, Ameresco, presented the Facility Master Plan for consideration.

The Plan will be used as a guide in assisting the Board in making informed decisions on the operations and maintenance of schools as effectively and responsibly as possible with an emphasis on programming that will support student achievement and well-being.

**The Finance Committee recommended that the Rainy River District School Board receive the Facility Master Plan as presented.**

Cynthia was thanked for all of the work that went into the preparation of the Facility Master Plan. The Facility Master Plan will be posted on the Board's website once it has been approved by the Board.

## **b) Facility Master Plan – Next Steps**

The Facility Master Plan included a recommendation to configure Fort Frances High School as a Grade 7-12 campus based on student enrolment projections, financial analysis of transitioning intermediate students, and limited impact on student transportation ride times, and the opportunities and benefits for students, staff, and the community. Combined with data identifying school capacity and facility utilization, administration is recommending that, to address the overcapacity issue at J.W. Walker School, Grade 7 and 8 students will have their programming in Fort Frances High School for the 2016/17 school year. A Transition Committee will be created to prepare for the transition, with discussions being held with students, staff, school administration, school councils, and parents.

Administration will explore the recommendation included in the Facility Master Plan to configure the Fort Frances High School as a Grade 7-12 campus in terms of programming, student enrolment projections, and timing of such a reconfiguration.

**That the Finance Committee recommends that the Rainy River District School Board address the overcapacity issue at J.W. Walker School by moving the Grade 7 and 8 students to Fort Frances High School, effective August 29, 2016.**

## **c) Policy 1.43 Trustee Honoraria**

The Policy Committee met and reviewed correspondence from the Greater Essex County District School Board requesting that the Ministry of Education add the Student Discipline Committee to the list of paid Statutory Committees. The Policy Committee referred this discussion to the Finance Committee.

Discussion included the current grant calculation for trustee honoraria. Other methods in distributing the grant could be explored. Trustee McBride will begin an Informal discussion at the next OPSBA Northern Boards meeting. No further action will be taken at this time.

## **7. Future Meetings**

The next Finance Committee meeting is February 23, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.