

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #40

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2010-2014 Rainy River District School Board on November 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., Education Centre, Fort Frances.

Board Members Present Dianne McCormack, David Kircher, Ralph Hill, Marg Heyens, Michael Lewis (teleconference), Earl Klyne (teleconference)

Student Trustee Jeff Marchuk

Regrets Dan Belluz

In Attendance Heather Campbell, Casey Slack, Al McManaman, Laura Mills, Donna Chief, Travis Enge, Ann Cox

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #500 KIRCHER-HEYENS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for November 4, 2014, Regular Board meeting, as amended.
CARRIED

Res. #501 HEYENS-KIRCHER 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, October 7, 2014.
- Personnel
and that this meeting shall not be open to the public pursuant to Section 207(2) of the *Education Act*.
CARRIED

Res. #502 KIRCHER-HEYENS That the Rainy River District School Board rise and report to the regular meeting with the following recommendation therein:
That the Rainy River District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole In-Camera Session minutes, of the Regular Board Meeting, October 7, 2014.
CARRIED

Res. #503 HEYENS-KIRCHER That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting October 7, 2014 (Session 39), having been typed and distributed, be approved.
CARRIED

Res. #504 HEYENS-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy 8.09, Procurement.
CARRIED

Res. #505 HEYENS-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies for stakeholder consultation:
CARRIED
1.20 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee
5.76 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Students
3.52 Criminal Background Check
1.40 Policy Development

- Res. #506 KIRCHER-HEYENS That the Rainy River District School Board rescind the following policies: CARRIED
6.25 School Boundary Review
7.01 Safety in Technology Classrooms
2.82 Information Security
- Res. #507 KIRCHER-HEYENS That the Rainy River District School Board approve Bylaw #171 for the approval to issue 2015 Education Taxes within the Board's jurisdiction, in the unorganized areas as indicated in Section 257.7 of the *Education Act*. CARRIED
- Res. #508 KIRCHER-HEYENS That the Rainy River District School Board receive the Personnel Report dated November, 2014. CARRIED
- Res. #509 HEYENS-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board adjourn at 8:23 p.m. CARRIED

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Dianne McCormack called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Director of Education requested that an item for Recognition be added to the agenda prior to adjournment of the meeting. There was no objection.

The agenda for the November 4, 2014 Regular Board meeting was approved, as amended. (resolution #500)

IN CAMERA SESSION

The Board met In Camera, in Committee of the Whole Board, to consider confirmation of Committee of the Whole minutes, for the Regular Board meeting held October 7, 2014, and to discuss a Personnel matter. (resolution #501)

RISE AND REPORT

The Board did rise and report to the Regular Board meeting to approve the Committee of the Whole In Camera Session minutes of the Regular Board meeting October 7, 2014. (resolution #502)

The Board met in camera to discuss a Personnel matter.

SILENT REFLECTION

The Vice Chair called for a moment of silent reflection.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There was no conflict of interest declared.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Early Years Fall Harvest – Robert Moore School

Bill Daley, Principal of Robert Moore School, spoke about the Early Years Fall Harvest celebration at the school, and thanked staff and community members for their support.

Sarah Freeman-Kivimaki, an Early Years Teacher, and Vicki Perreault, a Designated Early Childhood Educator, from Robert Moore School spoke about the success of the event. Early Years students were in attendance at the Board meeting to talk about their favourite part of the Fall Harvest celebration. A video was provided to Trustees which showed the many cultural activities held throughout the day. One of the activities was sharing the story of Stone Soup where children learned that if we all give a little, everyone benefits. It was noted that all participants of the Fall Harvest gathered for a feast at the conclusion of the celebration. (*Refer to report p.2 of the agenda.*)

Vice Chair McCormack expressed sincere appreciation to staff for sharing their experience in this special cultural celebration. Staff and students were presented a Recognition of Excellence certificate.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the regular Board meeting October 7, 2014 (Session 39).
(resolution #503)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

SYSTEM – PROGRAM/CURRICULUM SUCCESS

Alison Simpson, Reading Recovery Leader, spoke about the results of a student involved in the Reading Recovery Program and the progress made over a six-week period. Trustees viewed a video clip of the student reading a book at his current level. It was noted that the main goal in the program is to have independent readers. The Reading Recovery Program is designed to reduce the number of students struggling with reading and writing. It was noted that students that make progress, but still require help, can be recommended for longer term support. Ms.

Simpson also spoke about parent engagement opportunities. Comments from teachers involved in the Reading Recovery professional development were shared with Trustees.

Vice Chair McCormack thanked Alison Simpson for her presentation and continued success in the program. *(Refer to report p.15-16 of the agenda.)*

BOARD REPORTS

Special Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held October 8, 2014. *(Refer to minutes p.18-21 of the agenda.)*

A question was brought forward regarding the status of the Later Literacy Program. It was noted that Educational Assistants for that program are now being used to support exceptionally high needs. However, other options for literacy support are being investigated with possible implementation in the spring.

Policy Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held October 28, 2014. *(Refer to minutes p.23-26 of the agenda.)*

The Board approved Policy 8.09, Procurement. (resolution #504)

The Board approved the following policies for stakeholder consultation: (resolution #505)

- 1.20 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee
- 5.76 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Students
- 3.52 Criminal Background Check
- 1.40 Policy Development

The Board rescinded the following policies: (resolution #506)

- 6.25 School Boundary Review
- 7.01 Safety in Technology Classrooms
- 2.82 Information Security

Finance Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held October 28, 2014. *(Refer to minutes p.41-43.)*

The Board approved Bylaw #171 for the approval to issue 2015 Education Taxes within the Board's jurisdiction, in the unorganized areas as indicated in Section 257.7 of the *Education Act*. (resolution #507)

Parent Involvement Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting held October 30, 2014. (*handout*) The minutes can be found on the Board website at www.rrdsb.com (Parent Information).

Trustee McCormack provided highlights of the meeting:

- The election of co-chairs took place;
- The Recruitment Sub-Committee provided a report regarding community representation on the Parent Involvement Committee;
- A School Council refresher training session will be held in November for School Council chairs and school principals;
- A Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant from the government was received in the amount of \$27,500 which will be used for Family Science nights;
- The Fall Parent Involvement Committee newsletter is available in schools and on the Board website.

Audit Committee Annual Report

Board members received the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2013-14. The report summarizes the Audit Committee's actions for the year ending August 31, 2014. (*Refer to report p.45-47.*)

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Hill reported that there has been no Directors' meeting since the last Board meeting report. The next meeting of OPSBA Directors is scheduled for November 28-29, 2014 and Trustee Hill plans to attend.

Every OPSBA member board passed a resolution authorizing OPSBA to act as the boards' agent for the purposes of provincial discussions on central terms and conditions of employment for Principal/Vice Principal Associations. Meetings are being held to determine which issues are to be negotiated at the central table.

OPSBA will be communicating directly with the expert panel reviewing the competitive procurement processes for student transportation. They will be sharing the feedback and comments they have received from the member boards over the past several years. It was noted that the Rainy River DSB will be submitting input for consideration. The review is to be completed by December, 2014.

OPSBA was active in this year's Municipal Election, trying to increase the focus on education and highlighting the role of trustees.

The progress of Bills, Memoranda summaries and updates can be found on the OPSBA website at www.opsba.org.

Student Trustee Report

Board members received a report from Student Trustee, Jeff Marchuk, on secondary school activities for October:

Rainy River High School:

- Successfully completed We Scare Hunger drive of non-perishable foods items;
- Fall Arts Contest on November 3;
- Held a Hallowe'en Spirit Week with a Hallowe'en dance on October 31;
- Planning began for Anti-bullying Week;
- Committees formed for both the Fall Arts Festival and Mini We Day.

Fort Frances High School:

- Collected 846 non-perishable items for We Scare Hunger;
- Had a Spook Out event and raised money by charging \$2 dollars to watch a basketball game;
- Had a group of students attend We Day in Winnipeg.

Atikokan High School:

- Held a Hallowe'en Dance;
- Plan to sell bracelets in memory of student, Jessie Johnson.

Student Senate

- The Student Senate had their first meeting today;
- The Student Voice Policy was reviewed and it was agreed that the policy should be shared with the Student Leadership Councils;
- The Student Travel Scholarship was reviewed by the Student Senate.

Chair Report

Chair Lewis commended Jeff Marchuk and the Student Council co-president on their recent press releases.

Chair Lewis provided comments on the recent performance appraisal of the Director of Education.

During the past month, trustees evaluated Heather Campbell's performance for the third time in the life of this current Board. The sub-committee comprised of the vice chair and chair is pleased to report that the Director's performance has been outstanding. The sub-committee reviewed all the scores awarded by the trustees with Heather Campbell, as well as the various written comments made by trustees. Trustees were asked to rate Heather Campbell from 1 to 5 on 18 different specifics under the headings:

- Support to Corporate Governance
- Setting Directions
- Building Relationships and Developing People
- Developing the Organization
- Leading the Instructional Program, and
- Securing Accountability

Overwhelmingly, the scores from 6 trustees who answered the survey were 4s and 5s. There were five single scores of 3, which indicated through added comments, that a trustee did not

know enough about that specific topic or it was an area where that trustee saw opportunity for more growth. There were no scores of 1 or 2. There were also 13 questions related to Personal Effectiveness which were scored 5 or 4 by all six trustees.

Chair Lewis stated, "We commend Heather Campbell on her performance this past year, and look forward to more years of the outstanding leadership that she provides to the Rainy River District School Board, its students, staff, and the communities it serves through education".

Comments by Trustees

Vice Chair McCormack stated that this is the last meeting of the current term of the Board of Trustees, and spoke about how OPSBA has raised the profile of Trustees. Overall, working for students and with fellow board members, and board administration, has been a rewarding experience. Vice Chair McCormack congratulated all individuals that put their names forward as school board trustees, and stated that she looks forward to the new term with the Rainy River District School Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

Board members received a report on activities and events during the months of October.

Highlights for the month of October included:

- The public directors of education met on Friday, October 24th. The Director of Education was appointed to the Advisory Committee on the new two-year pre-service teacher program as the director representative. The first meeting of the Advisory Committee will be in late November.
- On October 23rd, the Ministry of Education held a 21st Century Roundtable at the Toronto Reference Library. The Director of Education and the MISA Leader/eLearning Coordinator, Chris Denby, attended the one-day session and shared the highlights of the Board's work in supporting technology use within the classroom. Technology Coach, Tanya Kroocmo, was the lead on this project last year and Trustees were given a one-page summary of this project which is funded by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education. The Director of Education commended Tanya Kroocmo for her work in this regard.
- The Annual Fall Harvest, the Young Women's Conference, and the Challenge 2014 occurred in October.
- An Aspiring Leaders' session was held on October 30, with 10 educators attending. The morning featured presentations on strength-based learning and Special Education, with the afternoon involving problem-solving scenarios and various supports for aspiring leaders. Kerri Tolen spoke about strength-based learning from a principal's perspective, and Kelly Forbes provided an overview of the school administrator's responsibilities in special education programming.
- The Director met with Confederation College in October regarding the joint facility partnership in Atikokan. Trustees are invited to attend the official Open House of the Atikokan High School/Confederation College Facility Partnership on November 19 at 1:00 p.m. at Atikokan High School.

- In alignment with the Board's Operational Plan, all bus operators and drivers have completed the Respect in School training.
- On November 10, 11 and 12, EGALE Workshops are taking place at the Education Centre, during the day, for staff and community members. An evening session on November 12 is open to the public.
- The Director of Education thanked Trustees for their ongoing support of student achievement.

Personnel Report

The Board received the Personnel Report as presented for November, 2014. (resolution #508)
The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Jennifer Pagnotta, 0.2 FTE Teacher, RMS, effective October 1, 2014

Change in Assignment

Bonnie Stewart, 1.0 FTE, Caretaker, AHS, effective October 1, 2014

Retirement

Evelyn Fisher, 1.0 FTE Communication Assistant, CRS, effective December 31, 2014

Kathleen Pattison, 1.0 FTE Education Assistant, CRS, effective November 21, 2014

Debbie Thomas, 1.0 FTE Secretary, AHS, effective November 28, 2014

Mental Health Plan

Sarah Irwin-Gardner, Mental Health Leader, spoke about strategy areas for mental health and addiction within the Board. A statement from The World Health Organization was shared on the meaning of "mental health and well-being". She spoke about mental health problems and illnesses which can interfere with development, relationships and overall functioning. It was noted that many Canadian schools struggle with mental health problems that impact student's day-to-day functioning. She went on to speak about the successes of the Board's Mental Health Plan including training, surveys and development of a mental health and addiction strategy. Mental health strategy areas of priority were shared with Trustees. (*Refer to report p.51-52 of the agenda.*)

Vice Chair McCormack thanked Sarah Irwin-Gardner for the work being done and for promoting mental health and well-being of students in the schools.

Questions by Trustees were addressed.

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

The Director of Education spoke about the many activities being planned in the schools across the District relating to bullying awareness and prevention. The activities can be found on the schools' websites.

CORRESPONDENCE

Board members reviewed a letter received from Chief Jim Leonard of Rainy River First Nations. Rainy River First Nations would like to open discussions regarding the possibility of a facility partnership in a daycare facility at Donald Young School. The Director of Education stated that in the spring, the Board called for expression of interest from the community in forming a facility partnership. In mid-October, a representative from Rainy River First Nations approached the Board about possible options and opening discussions in this regard.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting – Inaugural Board Meeting, December 2, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Education Centre, Fort Frances

Special Education Advisory Committee – November 12, 2014, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Audit Committee – November 12, 2014, 5:00 p.m., Education Centre

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee – November 17, 2014, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Policy Committee – November 25, 2014, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

Finance Committee – November 25, 2014, 1:30 p.m., Education Centre

Theatre Management Advisory Committee – November 26, 2014, 2:00 p.m., Education Centre

Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee – December 4, 2014, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

2014-15 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Public Education Symposium, January 29-31, 2015, Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

Labour Relations Symposium, March 26-28, 2015, Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

Annual General Meeting, June 11-13, 2015, Westin Trillium House, Blue Mountain, Collingwood

Trustee Orientation – November 26, 2014, 5:00 p.m., and January 20, 2015, 5:00 p.m., Education Centre, Fort Frances

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 8:23 p.m. (resolution #509)

Director/Secretary

Chair