

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #6

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2014-2015 Rainy River District School Board on May 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Atikokan High School in Atikokan.

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

Student Trustee Jeff Marchuk

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

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #62 HILL-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for May 5, 2015 Regular Board meeting. CARRIED

Res. #63 HILL-LEWIS 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 3, 2015
- Negotiations CARRIED

Res. #64 HILL-KIRCHER 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 March 3, 2015.” CARRIED

Res. #65 HILL-LEWIS That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting April 7, 2015 (Session 5), having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED

Res. #66 KIRCHER-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board approve the updated Special Education Plan 2015. CARRIED

Res. #67 ROY-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy 3.18, Recognition of Service. CARRIED

Res. #68 KIRCHER-ROY That the Rainy River District School Board approve Policy 5.25, Environmental Education for stakeholder consultation. CARRIED

Res. #69 LEWIS-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board rescind the following policies:
8.53 Board Gifts
3.09 Delegation of Authority
7.93 Employee Protection
7.34 Critical Injury CARRIED

Res. #70 McBRIDE-ROY That the Rainy River District School Board award the education financial and human resource software to Altus Dynamics. CARRIED

Res. #71 LEWIS-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board receive the Personnel Report dated May, 2015, as amended. CARRIED

Res. #72 ROY-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board adjourn at 9:01 p.m. CARRIED

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dianne McCormack called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the May 5, 2015 Regular Board meeting was approved. (resolution #62)

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 March 3, 2015. Board members also met to discuss negotiation matters. (resolution #63)

RISE AND REPORT

The Board did rise and report from the In Camera, Committee of the Whole session to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole, In Camera Session meeting held March 3, 2015. (resolution #64)

SILENT REFLECTION

The Chair called for a moment of silent reflection.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There was no conflict of interest declared.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Employee Recognition

The Board acknowledged Marion Dyck and Heather Niskanen for attaining 25 years of service with the Board. Heather Niskanen was also recognized on her retirement. Jody Labossiere, Principal, North Star Community School, provided a brief history on the careers of both employees, and thanked them for their contributions in supporting students. Marion Dyck and Heather Niskanen thanked the Board for their support throughout their careers.

As well, the Board acknowledged Ann Braun on her retirement. Jody Labossiere provided a brief history on Ann Braun's career, and thanked her for her years of service in supporting students. Ann Braun thanked the Board for their support.

Gifts were presented from the Board. Chair McCormack thanked Marion Dyck for her years of service and extended best wishes to Heather Niskanen and Ann Braun on their retirements.

Outers Program

Ian Simpson, Principal of Atikokan High School, spoke about the successful Outers Program that is celebrating its 50th year. He spoke about the importance of the program to the school and the community.

Mike Krassey, teacher, and Brad Gascoigne, Acting Vice Principal, at Atikokan High School, provided background information on Outers as a quality outdoor education program that is celebrating its 50th year. The three main focuses of the program are expeditions, service, and safety. A video was shown that provided insight into the many outdoor activities experienced by the students throughout the spring and winter trips, as well as testimonials from students about their experiences.

It was noted that students will be leaving on June 12 for the next 10-day Outers trip. A celebration will be held in Atikokan on June 27 to recognize 50 years of success in the Outers Program.

Chair McCormack presented a Recognition of Excellence certificate and thanked staff and students for their work and involvement in such a successful program.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting April 7, 2015 (Session 5).
(resolution #65)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Trustees reviewed a letter sent to the Chair of The Northwest Catholic District School Board regarding student transportation in Atikokan. A response has not yet been received.

SYSTEM – PROGRAM/CURRICULUM SUCCESS

Student Success

Char Bliss, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator, spoke about the many Student Success Initiatives that the Rainy River District School Board has to offer to help meet the individual learning styles and interests of students. Details were provided on the Dual Credit Program, the School Within a College Program and the Specialist High Skills Major Program.

Char Bliss explained that, through the Cooperative Education Program, students can earn secondary credits while completing a work placement in the community.

A Skills Canada Luncheon for Girls was held on April 9 for young women in Grades 7 to 12 from across the school system. As well, schools will be participating in tours at Confederation College in Thunder Bay in May.

Also, it was noted that a new Ministry policy was implemented this year for K-12 students called, Creating Pathways to Success which involved Early Years to Grade 12 students. Components of the program assist students to achieve their personal goals and to learn about career/life planning.

Questions by Trustees were addressed.

Chair McCormack thanked Char Bliss for her presentation on Student Success Initiatives.

BOARD REPORTS

Special Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held April 8, 2015. (*Refer to minutes p. 16-18 of the agenda*)

The Board approved the updated Special Education Plan for 2015. (resolution #66)

Special Committee – Facility Policy Development

Board members received the minutes of the Special Committee – Facility Policy Development meetings held April 16 (*Refer to minutes p. 20-22 of the agenda*) and May 4 (*handout*).

Policy Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held April 21, 2015. (*Refer to minutes p. 24-30 of the agenda*)

The Board approved Policy 3.18, Recognition of Service. (resolution #67)

The Board approved Policy 5.25, Environmental Education for stakeholder consultation. (resolution #68)

The Board rescinded the following policies: (resolution #69)

- 8.53 Board Gifts
- 3.09 Delegation of Authority
- 7.93 Employee Protection
- 7.34 Critical Injury

Finance Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held April 21, 2015.

(Refer to minutes p. 32-33 of the agenda)

The Board awarded the education financial and human resource software to Altus Dynamics.
(resolution #70)

It was noted that a Finance Committee meeting will be held on May 12, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the Donald Young School renovations.

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee McBride attended the OPSBA Board of Director's meeting April 24-25, 2015 in Toronto and provided the following highlights:

- Discussions were held relating to Labour Relations in school boards across the province and the impact it could have on students.
- The proposed new fee structure for school boards was discussed.
- OPSBA priorities for next year were presented.
- The draft budget was reviewed for next year.

Student Trustee Report

Jeff Marchuk, Student Trustee, reported on the following activities/events for the month of April at the secondary schools:

Fort Frances High School

- An event "We are Silent", through Free the Children organization, was held to raise awareness.
- Preparation is underway for We Day activities on May 8.
- The 30-hour famine took place on April 24.
- Dodge ball tournament.

Atikokan High School

- An election was held for Student Council.
- A carnival event is being held called the "Amazing Race".
- A Courage to Care assembly was held.
- Food drive is planned for the month of May.
- Activities are occurring in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Week.

Rainy River District School Board

- An event "We are Silent", through Free the Children organization, was held to raise awareness.
- Preparation is underway for We Days activities on May 8.
- Wake-a-thon is planned.
- School Dance will be held.
- Spirit Week activities planned.

The Student Trustee spoke about the work of the Student Councils, and congratulated them for their leadership throughout the year.

Chair Report

The Chair spoke about Education Week (May 4-8) as well as Mental Health Awareness that is being provided within the Board and across the province. The Chair acknowledged the work of educators, parents, community members, community partners, trustees and all those that have contributed to and supported public education.

The Chair spoke about the many and varied learning experiences and activities that take place in the RRDSB schools every day throughout the year. In the last two weeks alone, the Chair had the opportunity to attend Family Science Night at Riverview School where 50 families engaged in hands on science activities, experiments and challenges with the students. The Chair also attended the drama production of *Arsenic and Old Lace* at Rainy River High School and acknowledged the students and staff for their hard work. The Chair attended the first NorWOSSA soccer league games hosted by Rainy River High School. The Chair also spoke about the Spring Gathering at Riverview School and the flute making at Rainy River High School which was held on May 1st.

The Chair stated that these are only a few of the many activities that take place continually in the schools across the District and are worthy of recognition and celebration. The Chair stated, "Things that happen throughout the system, day to day, large and small, they matter. They matter to our students, they support student achievement and well-being and they would not be possible without the knowledge, skills, dedication, time and commitment of countless individuals. On behalf of the Board, I offer our deepest and sincerest appreciation".

Comments by Trustees

Vice Chair Lewis spoke about the pressures in the school system involving declining enrolments and decreased funding from the Ministry of Education to support underutilized schools. Vice Chair Lewis spoke about these pressures now being exacerbated and accelerated by the Province's continuing fiscal deficits and the increasing provincial debt. Further, schools in Rainy River and Atikokan, both elementary and secondary, will be negatively impacted by the predicted accelerated declining enrolment, and by the elimination of the extra funding that the Rainy River DSB currently receives to support the underutilized schools in these two communities.

As a Trustee and representative of Atikokan, Vice Chair Lewis spoke about the current enrolment/capacity at both North Star Community School and Atikokan High School, and the projected decline in enrolment/capacity for next year and 2019-20.

Vice Chair Lewis stated that the Ministry of Education plans to eliminate the funding for underutilized spaces completely over the next three years which represents \$315,000 for the Rainy River DSB. Also, that there will be capital funding made available for consolidation of schools, where more than one school shares a common consolidated space.

Vice Chair Lewis stated that the Rainy River DSB will need to give consideration and discuss with the communities of Rainy River and Atikokan, the consolidation of both elementary and secondary schools in these communities. Vice Chair Lewis stated, "That does not simply mean moving one set of students from one school into another. It means creating a consolidated school that is designed and built to house students across the age spectrum, and to provide designed spaces that meet the educational needs of all students from Early Learners to Grade 12."

The Vice Chair spoke about The Northwest Catholic District School Board considering the introduction of a secondary school program in Fort Frances which may further exacerbate the Rainy River District School Board's declining enrolment which would become more difficult to plan, and deliver programs at the secondary level for both the public and Catholic school boards.

Vice Chair Lewis stated that the purpose of his comments at the Board meeting was to alert parents and the communities within the Rainy River DSB that everyone needs to give consideration collectively to the future of the students and schools within the District specifically the accommodation of students and delivery of programs with declining enrolment.

Trustee Roy spoke about the importance of recognizing the positive activities within our Board, especially the re-introduction of the Music Program at Atikokan High School. Presenters at the Board meeting were acknowledgement for their enthusiasm in delivering many of the programs. Trustee Roy also recognized Board employees for their work throughout the year.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

Board members received a report on activities and events during the month of April. The Director of Education thanked staff at Atikokan High School for making arrangements to have the band play for the Trustees and administration.

In addition to Education Week, the Director of Education spoke about the celebration of events planned for Mental Health Awareness Week. The Board focused on mental health literacy training with ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Training) occurring throughout April. The Director of Education acknowledged the work of the Board's Mental Health Leader, the Mental Health and Addictions Nurse, the Mental Health Steering Committee, community partners, school and system leaders, and the Mental Health Champions throughout the schools for bringing attention to this important part of student and staff well-being.

Highlights for the month of April included the following:

- On April 23, the Director of Education attended the final Teacher Education Development Table meeting via teleconference and presented the results of the subcommittee tasked with determining technological education teacher demand within the province. Within five years, the North Bay/Sudbury region, Barrie region, French language boards, and Thunder Bay region will see the over 50% of technological teachers retiring. The Teacher Education Development Table will be resuming its work in the fall of 2015 and the Director will continue as the Public Council of Ontario Directors of Education representative on this table.

- On April 9, Travis Enge, Manager of Plant Operations and Maintenance and the Director of Education attended an Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) webinar on playground design, as part of in the work to implement the revitalization of school grounds across the District. Staff and students from across the District have provided feedback on elementary playground design. Work on the secondary schools grounds will start this summer and the framework for the elementary school playgrounds will be completed in the fall of 2015 in preparation for the 2016 spring/summer implementation.
- The Director of Education thanked Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education for coordinating the visit of Holocaust survivor Eva Olsson who returned to the District to speak to communities and students regarding her experiences, and to stress the importance of respect and understanding. There were presentations from April 19 to 21 in Atikokan and Fort Frances, and were funded in partnership with The Northwest Catholic District School Board.
- April 24 was a professional development day with Behavior Management System refresher training, mental health presentations, Early Childhood Educator sessions, Library Assistant sessions, and school improvement planning occurring throughout the District.
- Family Science Nights/Events occurred throughout the District this past month. The Director attended science nights at J. W. Walker School and Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program on April 14 and 16, respectively, which were very well-attended and received by parents and their children.

Personnel Report

The Board received the Personnel Report dated May, 2015, as amended. (resolution #71)

A correction was noted in a change of assignment position.

The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Susan Chiasson, 0.5 FTE Education Assistant, SCAP, effective April 15, 2015

Brandy Hyatt, 0.5 FTE Education Assistant, DYS, effective April 13, 2015

Change in Assignment

Pam Bujold, 1.0 FTE Teacher, AHS, effective February 2, 2015

Brandy Hyatt, 1.0 FTE Education Assistant, JWS, effective April 24, 2015

Jolene Richert, 1.0 FTE Education Assistant, RMS, effective April 13, 2015

Patti Wilson, 1.0 FTE Education Assistant, FHS, effective April 20, 2015

Leave of Absence

Brian Church, 0.17 FTE Federation Leave of Absence, FHS, August 31, 2015 to June 24, 2016

Shelley Fairbrother, 0.33 FTE Leave of Absence, FHS, August 31, 2015 to June 24, 2016

Marla Knutsen, 1.0 FTE Leave of Absence, FHS, August 31, 2015 to June 24, 2016

Kent Kowalski, 1.0 FTE Federation Leave of Absence, FHS, August 31, 2015 to June 16, 2016

Tracy Rob, Maternity Leave, June 8, 2015 to June 7, 2016

Retirement

Ann Braun, 1.0 FTE Teacher, NSC, effective June 26, 2015

Tracy Morrish, 1.0 FTE Teacher, JWS, effective June 26, 2015

Kathie Zatulsky, 1.0 FTE Executive Assistant, Board Office, effective July 31, 2015

Education Week

The Director of Education spoke of the various activities held in schools across the District for Education Week which was celebrated from May 4 to 8, 2015. In addition to the achievement of excellence in mathematics, the Board recognized the importance of mental health awareness for students, their families, and staff. A report was presented that highlights school activities planned for this week. The Director invited everyone to attend these events. (*Refer to report p. 37-39 of the agenda*)

Summer Facility Projects

Travis Enge, Manager of Plant Operations and Maintenance, provided highlights of work planned in each facility for the summer months. (*Refer to report p. 41-43 of the agenda*)

CORRESPONDENCE

Board members received correspondence from the Minister of Education regarding *Ryan's Law, 2015*, which was passed by the Ontario Legislature to ensure the well-being of students in an asthma friendly school, and that procedures are updated in each Board according to legislation. The Director of Education stated that procedures are already in place within the Rainy River DSB.

Correspondence was also received from the President of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association regarding the Premier's Community Hub Framework Advisory Group. It was noted that OPSBA is seeking active participation on the Advisory Group but there has been no information received.

There was no further discussion.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting – Regular Board Meeting, June 2, 2015, 6:30 p.m. Education Centre, Fort Frances

First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Advisory Committee – May 11, 2015, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Special Committee – Facility Policy Development – May 12, 2015, 1:00 p.m., Education Centre

Finance Committee – May 12, 2015, 3:30 p.m., Education Centre

Parent Involvement Committee – May 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Education Centre

Special Education Advisory Committee – May 13, 2015, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Audit Committee – May 14, 2015, 5:00 p.m., Education Centre

Policy Committee – May 26, 2015, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

Finance Committee – May 26, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Education Centre

Joint Health and Safety Committee – June 4, 2015, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

2014-15 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association
2015 Annual General Meeting, June 11-13, 2015, Westin Trillium House, Blue Mountain,
Collingwood

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 9:01 p.m. (resolution #72)

Director/Secretary

Chair