

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #21

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the 2014-2018 Rainy River District School Board on December 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Education Centre in Fort Frances.

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

Student Trustee Chloe Machura

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

RESOLUTIONS

- Res. #286 LEWIS-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for December 6, 2016 Annual Board meeting. CARRIED
- Res. #287 LEWIS-McBRIDE That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting November 1, 2016 (Session 20) having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED
- Res. #288 McBRIDE-LEWIS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policy:
8.32 Budget Process CARRIED
- Res. #289 McBRIDE-LEWIS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies for stakeholder consultation:
5.80 Elders, Senators, Knowledge Keepers and Drums
6.10 Community Use of School Facilities and Grounds CARRIED
- Res. #290 KIRCHER-ROY That the Rainy River District School Board rescind the following policies:
8.12 Authorization of Disbursements
8.15 Reserves for Working Funds CARRIED
- Res. #291 KIRCHER-LEWIS That the Rainy River District School Board authorize administration to execute the Joint Transportation Consortium Agreement. CARRIED
- Res. #292 KIRCHER-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board authorize administration to execute the changes to the Facility Partnership Agreement with Project Sunset. CARRIED
- Res. #293 McBRIDE-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board submit a letter to the Minister of Education requesting a re-evaluation of the funding formula for Boards with large geographical areas because of the length of bus rides. CARRIED
- Res. #294 LEWIS-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board submit a letter to the Minister of Education requesting a review of the Student Transportation Effectiveness and Efficiency Review last issued in July 2013 in order to evaluate the steps taken to improve the operational efficiency of the Consortium. CARRIED

- Res. #295 ROY-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board approve trustee appointments to the Board statutory, standing and other committees as presented. CARRIED
- Res. #296 KIRCHER-ROY That the Rainy River District School Board approve the amendment to the Board Procedural Bylaw. CARRIED
- Res. #297 KIRCHER-ROY That the Rainy River District School Board adjourn at 8:47 p.m. CARRIED

CALL TO ORDER

Director of Education, Heather Campbell, welcomed trustees, administration and the public to the Annual Board meeting. Heather Campbell stated that she would reside as Chair until after the election.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Director of Education called for nominations for the position of Chair. Dianne McCormack was nominated by Michael Lewis and accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. Dianne McCormack was declared Chair of the Rainy River District School Board for the term December 2016 to November 2017. Trustee Dianne McCormack assumed the position of Chair for the Annual meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair Dianne McCormack called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Michael Lewis was nominated by David Kircher and accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. Michael Lewis was declared Vice Chair of the Rainy River District School Board for the term December 2016 to November 2017 and assumed the position of Vice Chair for the Annual meeting.

OPSBA REPRESENTATIVE

The Chair called for nominations for the position of OPSBA Representative to the Board of Directors. Trustee Don McBride was nominated by Trustee Ralph Hill and accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. Trustee McBride will hold the position of OPSBA Representative on the Board of Directors for the term December 2016 to November, 2017.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Alternate for the OPSBA Representative to the Board of Directors. Chair Dianne McCormack was nominated by Trustee Don McBride. There were no further nominations. Chair Dianne McCormack accepted the nomination. Chair McCormack will hold the position of Alternate for the OPSBA Representative on the Board of Directors for the term December 2016 to November 2017.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the December 6, 2016 Annual Board meeting was approved. (resolution #286)

SILENT REFLECTION

The Chair called for a moment of silent reflection.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There was no conflict of interest declared.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Sturgeon Creek School – Tying It All Together

Al McManaman, Superintendent of Education, introduced Shane Bliss, Principal at Sturgeon Creek School. Principal Shane Bliss, and Grade 7/8 teacher Robert Kinsman, gave a presentation on what Sturgeon Creek School has been doing to connect math to jobs in the real world. Guest speakers have been invited into classrooms and have provided students with examples of how math relates to their job and why it is important. Career Cruising and the School College Work Initiative are also initiatives that support this work.

Chair McCormack presented a Recognition of Excellence certificate to recognize the school for its excellence in supporting student achievement.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting November 1, 2016 (Session 20). (resolution #287)

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

SYSTEM – PROGRAM/CURRICULUM SUCCESS

Indigenous Education

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, introduced Bob Kowal and Angela Mainville, Indigenous Education Leaders, Pam King, FNMI Collaborative Inquiry Lead and Jason Jones, Ojibwe Language Coordinator.

Indigenous Education Leader Bob Kowal recognized the working relationship and collaboration of the Indigenous Education group in the School Support Services Department. The group continues to build on valuable relationships, refine instructional strategies and build staff capacity and awareness for indigenous culture. Three sessions with Grade 8 teachers have now been conducted with positive feedback, and lesson plans will be prepared and provided to teachers for inclusion in the curriculum.

Indigenous Education Leader Angela Mainville provided a video clip from the Connections series, which show students talking about their favorite places within their community and Jason Jones, Ojibwe Language Coordinator, provided examples of lessons used for students to translate teachings from Elders.

Pam King, FNMI Collaborative Inquiry Lead, noted that a Cultural Interest Survey was conducted at three schools and Trustees were provided with an overview of the results of the

survey. It was noted that one-time events such as Pow Wows and Fall Harvest are important; however, the Board is continuing to focus on embedding the everyday culture and perspectives into the curriculum. The FNMI Collaborative Lead and Ojibwe Language Coordinator provided examples of various activities being promoted in classrooms with students and remarked that there is now a Book Club for interested educators that meets on a regular basis to learn about new resources that are available.

Vice-Chair Mike Lewis remarked that he is impressed with the teamwork and appreciates the work that is happening throughout the District to raise awareness for indigenous culture and our shared history.

BOARD REPORTS

Special Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held November 16, 2016. *(Refer to minutes p. 18-22 of the agenda)*

Parent Involvement Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting held November 22, 2016, *(Refer to minutes p. 23-26 of the agenda)*

Policy Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held November 29, 2016. *(Refer to minutes p. 27-36 of the agenda)*

The Board approved Policy 8.32 Budget Process. (resolution #288)

The Board approved sending policies 5.80 Elders, Senators, Knowledge Keepers and Drums and 6.10 Community Use of School Facilities and Grounds for stakeholder consultation. (resolution #289)

The Board rescinded policies 8.12 Authorization of Disbursements and 8.15 Reserves for Working Funds. (resolution #290)

Finance Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held November 29, 2016. *(Refer to minutes p. 37-40 of the agenda)*

The Board authorized administration to execute the Joint Transportation Consortium Agreement. (resolution #291)

The Board authorized administration to execute the changes to the Facility Partnership Agreement with Project Sunset. (resolution #292)

Joint Transportation Policy Committee

Board members received a handout of the draft minutes of the Joint Transportation Policy Committee meeting held December 5, 2016.

The Board approved the writing of a letter to the Minister of Education requesting a re-evaluation of the funding formula for Boards with large geographical areas because of the length of bus rides. (resolution #293)

The Board approved that the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting a review of the Student Transportation Effectiveness and Efficiency Review last issued in July 2013 in order to evaluate the steps taken to improve the operational efficiency of the Consortium. (resolution #294)

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Don McBride attended the Board of Directors meeting in Toronto on December 2 and 3, 2016, and reported to trustees that each Board has been asked to prioritize the three main supports the Board sees as necessary to improve graduation rates. The goal is to determine how to best support students and improve graduation rates. Trustee McBride provided a list of examples of internal and external challenges for Boards in the northern region, as well as a list of potential things that can be done to support students.

Director of Education, Heather Campbell attended the meeting via teleconference and noted that while there are short term quick fixes available, a long term strategy is needed. Trustees were in agreement that Trustee McBride and Director of Education, Heather Campbell meet and discuss the various options. Trustee McBride will then compile the list of top three priorities to be submitted to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, who will compile the data from all the Northern Region Boards and make their recommendations to the Ministry of Education on strategies needed to increase Northern graduation rates.

Student Trustee Report

The Student Senate met through videoconference on December 6, 2016.

The following activities/events occurred during the month of November at the secondary schools:

Atikokan High School

- Operation Christmas Child has been completed with approximately 74 shoeboxes created.
- The school recognized Drug Awareness Week in November.
- Christmas celebrations are upcoming, including the semi-formal, a whole school breakfast on the last day before the break, and a Christmas themed week.
- In the New Year, the Student Leadership Council is looking to hold activity days each Friday (e.g., floor hockey) to encourage active lifestyles.

Fort Frances High School

- A Remembrance Day assembly was held on November 11th. This assembly featured the Fort Frances Highlanders and students provided readings and songs.
- 31 students attended WE Day in Winnipeg and also visited the National Human Rights Museum.
- The school held a pep rally and tried to incorporate other school events in this celebration.
- A Christmas themed week is upcoming, with a semi-formal and other fun activities such as PJ day, and dress like your favorite Christmas character day.

- The Student Leadership Council is also collecting non-perishables in support of the local food banks.

Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program

- Students have been busy fundraising to support several charitable organizations. Presently, they are working to support the building of a school in Guatemala, and have worked to provide communities in Africa with a water pump, a well, and livestock.
- The Program's banquet is planned for this coming Saturday.
- Students are beginning to plan their high school trip.

Rainy River High School

- Report was not available.

Chair Report

The Board approved trustee appointments to the Board statutory, standing and other committees as presented in the trustee package. (resolution #295)

A notice of motion was brought forward at the November Board meeting, to amend the Procedural Bylaw to include Acknowledgement of Treaty Three lands. The Board approved the amendment to the Board Procedural Bylaw. (resolution #296)

Chair McCormack thanked her fellow trustees for the confidence conveyed in her ability to fulfill the role of Chair of the Board by returning her to the position for another year. Chair McCormack also thanked all trustees for the work they have done over the last year and their continued commitment to supporting and enhancing student achievement and well-being. Chair McCormack stated, "I am very proud to be a part of this Board and work with outstanding individuals who each bring their own knowledge, experience and passion to their roles. I look forward again to working hard over the next year to fulfil my responsibilities as Chair but wish to acknowledge that what I do is but a very small part of the work necessary to accomplish the many positive things we do as a board. I also would like to assure every trustee here that I have every confidence in your ability to assume the role of either Chair or Vice-Chair and sincerely hope you consider putting your name forward to do so next December."

In the month of November, Chair McCormack attended two events, the first being the Musical Revue presented by Fort Frances High School. Chair McCormack recognized the talent and commitment of the performers as well as everyone who works behind the scenes to bring such an impressive performance to the community. The second event attended was at Rainy River High School for their Winter Solstice Relaxation Evening. Chair McCormack described the evening in which students could just relax and enjoy each other's company and the activities provided. For this Chair McCormack expressed sincere appreciation to the staff of Rainy River High School, acknowledging staff and community members for giving their time for an evening dedicated to students.

Chair McCormack offered congratulations to Nestor Falls School for being awarded with a grant from TBayTel to support an afterschool art collaborative.

Chair McCormack participated in interviews with the *CBC* and *The Chronicle Journal* respectively, regarding the plans for consolidation of schools in Rainy River and exploration of consolidation in Atikokan.

Chair Dianne McCormack, Vice-Chair Mike Lewis, Director of Education Heather Campbell and Marilyn Gouthro met by teleconference to discuss a refresh of the Board's Strategic Plan in the new year. During the process of refreshing the Strategic Plan the focus will be on working to answer the question, "What do we need to do to move forward knowing what we do about the future?" It was noted that stakeholder groups who were involved in the last Strategic Plan sessions will be consulted. Additionally, a group of students will be included in the discussions to bring student voice, an important and significant perspective, to the discussions. Having provided a framework and some specifics regarding the planning session to Marilyn Gouthro, it is expected the Board will receive an agenda and plan for a one day session shortly.

Chair McCormack wished all students, staff, parents and community members a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

Comments by Trustees

Trustee Roy noted that he attended the Co-op Display Day at Fort Frances High School and the students were fully engaged.

Trustee Hill commented that for students in rural areas, the longer bus rides have an impact on high school graduation rates and relevant programming for geographical areas is another important factor.

Vice-Chair Mike Lewis noted that currently across the Province, there are parent and community protests being held to highlight the closing of schools, particularly the closings of "rural" schools. Many boards across the province, particularly in Northern Ontario are, or will be, subject to school closings.

Vice-Chair Lewis stated, "The Ministry of Education's stock response is to point out how education funding has substantially increased over the years, and to deflect the problem of school closings onto school boards. Yes, school boards have to make the decisions about school closings, but it is the Ministry funding model which dictates how boards need to act. Kathleen Wynne, the Premier, is being disingenuous when she defends the funding model and blames the school boards that have to implement the model, for the decisions being made to close schools. Premier Wynne knows full well that the funding model is designed to force boards to close unused school spaces, and to force boards to consolidate schools, which for the most part means closing small rural schools and busing students to larger urban schools. It's no wonder the rural communities are upset and outraged. Neither the Premier, nor the newly minted Minister of Education, and their spokespersons are being forthcoming. It is no coincidence that the Premier's approval rating has fallen to below 15% this past year."

Vice-Chair Lewis congratulated the Atikokan High School Senior Boys' Volleyball team for advancing to represent the Board at the OFSAA Championships in North Bay, Ontario.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

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

- A regional Well-Being consultation took place on November 23rd, with our Board hosting 23 attendees at our Education Centre. The Education Centre site had the largest

number of participants outside of Thunder Bay. In addition to administrative representatives, teaching representatives, our Mental Health Leader, our School Attendance Counsellor, and an Indigenous Education Leader, the session involved attendees from a number of community partners as well.

- On November 18th, Anne Carradice, Vice Principal, McCrosson-Tovell School and the Director of Education met with Cisco/Taking It Global staff via teleconference to finalize plans to expand Connected North to the Grades 4 to 8 classroom at the school.
- On November 30th, school council representatives from 10 schools attended the Parent Involvement Committee's School Council session. In addition to Brad Oster, Numeracy Coordinator, and Sarah Irwin-Gardner, Mental Health Leader, providing ideas/activities for Family Engagement Nights, and the Director of Education provided an overview of effective meeting practices as well as walked participants through a mock school council meeting.

A draft copy of the Director's Annual Report 2015-2016 was included for Trustees in their agenda packages.

The Director of Education wished all trustees, staff, students and their families, a wonderful holiday season.

Personnel Report

The Board received the Personnel Report dated December, 2016.

The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Janis Flewelling, Casual Secretary to 0.3 FTE School Secretary, JWS, effective October 31, 2016

Wendy Tilbury, 1.0 FTE Assistant Manager of Financial Services, EDC effective November 14, 2016

Change in Assignment

Jasmine Noble, 0.5 FTE School Secretary, EDC, to 0.9 FTE School Secretary, RMS effective October 31, 2016

Roberta Wyder, 1.0 FTE EA, RMS to 1.0 FTE EA, SCAP effective November 17, 2016

Leave of Absence

Andrea van Zwol, 1.0 FTE Teacher, RIV to 1.0 FTE Leave of Absence, December 7, 2016 to January 8, 2017

Correspondence

Board members received correspondence from the Toronto District School Board regarding systemic racism and implementing meaningful change through the curriculum review process. A letter to the Honourable Mitzi Hunter requesting the Ministry of Education undertake an ethno-racial, equity-based, comprehensive review of the curriculum from Grade 1 to Grade 12 in all major subjects was also attached.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting – January 10, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Education Centre, Fort Frances

First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee – December 12, 2016, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Special Education Advisory Committee – December 14, 2016 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Joint Health and Safety Committee – December 16, 2016, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

Finance Committee – December 12, 2016, 3:00 p.m., Education Centre

Policy Committee – December 20, 2016, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

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

Robert's Rules of Order – December 15, 2016
Education Centre – Fort Frances

Public Education Symposium 2017 – January 19-21, 2017
Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

Education Labour Relations and Human Resources 2017 –
March 30 – March 31, 2017, Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

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

2016 School Christmas Concerts/Events

Crossroads	Dec. 21/16	7:00 p.m.
Donald Young	Dec. 15/16	6:00 p.m.
J.W. Walker – Kindergarten	Dec. 14/16	5:00 – 5:45 p.m.
Gr. 1 to 3	Dec. 14/16	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Gr. 4 to 6	Dec. 15/16	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
McCrosson-Tovell	Dec. 21/16	7:00 p.m.
Mine Centre	Dec. 22/16	1:30 p.m.
Nestor Falls	Dec. 8/16	6:00 p.m.
North Star	Dec. 23/16	1:00 p.m.
Riverview	Dec. 20/16	6:30 p.m.
Robert Moore Kindergarten to Gr. 3	Dec. 20/16	6:30 p.m.
Grades 4 to 8	Dec. 21/16	6:30 p.m.
Sturgeon Creek	Dec. 16/16	7:00 p.m.
Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program	Dec. 20/16	7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 8:47 p.m. (resolution #297)

Director/Secretary

Chair