

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #20

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2014-2018 Rainy River District School Board on November 1, 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, Chloe Machura

Regrets Will Windigo

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

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #272 **LEWIS-HILL** That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for November 1, 2016 Regular Board meeting. CARRIED

Res. #273 **LEWIS-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 4, 2016.
- Negotiations CARRIED

Res. #274 **HILL-LEWIS** 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 4, 2016.” CARRIED

Res #275 **LEWIS-HILL** 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 ratify the Memorandum of Settlement on local terms with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (OSSTF) and its Rainy River District Occasional Teachers’ Local, dated October 12, 2016.” CARRIED

Res. #276 **HILL-LEWIS** That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting October 4, 2016 (Session 19) having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED

Res. #277 **HILL-LEWIS** That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies:
1.70 Director’s Performance Appraisal
7.22 Emergency Response
7.75 Workplace Harassment and Violence Prevention CARRIED

Res. #278 **ROY-LEWIS** That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policy for stakeholder consultation:
8.32 Budget Process CARRIED

Res. #279 **ROY-LEWIS** That the Rainy River District School Board apply to the Ministry of Education for funding for a consolidated K-12 school within a renovated Rainy River High School. CARRIED

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There was no conflict of interest declared.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Employee Recognition

Ann Cox, Manager, Human Resources, recognized Lorina Fryer, a teacher at Robert Moore School, for her contributions to the Board and achievement of 25 years of service with the Board. Donna Kowalski, Principal, Robert Moore School, provided a brief overview of Lorina's career with the Board thus far and presented Lorina with her 25 year service award. Chair, Dianne McCormack offered her thanks for Lorina's years of service on behalf of the Board.

Crossroads School – Cheers for 20 Years

Al McManaman, Superintendent of Education, introduced Kerri Tolen, Principal, and Sharla MacKinnon, Acting Vice-Principal, Crossroads School, to speak about the celebrations happening throughout the year at the school in honour of its 20 year anniversary. A video that celebrates the past and looks forward to the future was presented. It was noted that over 200 people attended Crossroads School Fall Feast that was held in partnership with Project Sunset. Chair Dianne McCormack noted that she attended the Fall Feast and was greeted by proud and enthusiastic students upon arrival. A Christmas Solstice Dinner is being planned and trustees were invited to attend.

Chair McCormack presented a Recognition of Excellence certificate for the work of the school community to create a safe, respectful and responsible environment.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting October 4, 2016 (Session 19).
(resolution #276)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

A letter from Heather Campbell, Director of Education, to the Minister of Transportation, regarding highway safety concerns was included in the Board agenda package. Director Heather Campbell noted that Nikki Armstrong, Transportation Manager for the Transportation Services Consortium reported that the Ministry of Transportation has provided two new signs on Highway 11, however more are still required.

SYSTEM – PROGRAM/CURRICULUM SUCCESS

Rainy River District School Board Mental Health and Addictions Strategy

Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education introduced Sarah Irwin-Gardner, Mental Health Leader.

Sarah Irwin-Gardner provided a power point presentation for student mental health and well-being and noted that well-being is the foundation for success in school. Sarah explained that the Rainy River District School Board uses a tiered approach as a mental health and well-being strategy. Highlights from the 2015-2016 school year and the focus for the 2016-2017 Mental Health and Addictions Strategy were included in the presentation.

Chair Dianne McCormack thanked Sarah Irwin-Gardner for her presentation and Vice-Chair Mike Lewis thanked Sarah for her leadership.

BOARD REPORTS

Special Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held October 12, 2016. *(Refer to minutes p. 18-21 of the agenda)*

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 October 17, 2016. The FNMI newsletter was also included. *(Refer to minutes p. 22-30 of the agenda)*

Parent Involvement Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting held October 24, 2016. The Parent Involvement Committee newsletter was also included. *(Refer to minutes p. 31-38 of the agenda)*

Policy Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held October 25, 2016. *(Refer to minutes p. 39-47 of the agenda)*

The Board approved the following policy: (resolution #277)

1.70 Director's Performance Appraisal

7.22 Emergency Response

7.75 Workplace Harassment and Violence Prevention

The Board approved the following policies for stakeholder consultation: (resolution #278)

8.32 Budget Process

Finance Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held October 25, 2016. *(Refer to minutes p. 48-51 of the agenda)*

The Board agreed to apply to the Ministry of Education for funding for a consolidated K-12 school within a renovated Rainy River High School. (resolution #279)

The Board approved a budget of \$3,888,241 to renew the existing Donald Young School Gym using School Condition Improvement and Renewal funding. (resolution #280)

The Board approved that Community Use of Schools facilities and grounds rates remain unchanged. (resolution #281)

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

There will be an OPSBA Board of Directors meeting the first weekend in December and Trustee McBride noted he will be attending. The Vice-President for Northern Boards has asked for an agenda item regarding graduation rates. The Vice-President has forwarded a list of questions to Trustee McBride and he will be looking for assistance from administration to collect Board graduation data prior to the next OPSBA Board of Director's meeting.

Trustee Don McBride attended the Northern Regional meeting held in Thunder Bay on October 14 to 15, 2016. Trustees McBride and Roy, as well as Chair Dianne McCormack and Director of Education, Heather Campbell also attended. Trustee McBride noted there were numerous informational presentations from various Board's including a presentation from Director Heather Campbell and Chair Dianne McCormack on the Connected North Program at Mine Centre School.

Student Trustee Report

Chloe Machura, Student Trustee, reported on the following activities/events for the month of October at the secondary schools:

Atikokan High School

The Halloween Dance was held on October 27th, with 139 students in attendance. Drug Awareness Week is next week and the Student Leadership Council is looking at ways to support drug prevention. The Council is beginning its preparations for Christmas festivities including participating in the Shoe Box Charity Program. A Remembrance Day presentation from the Legion will be held on November 9th.

Fort Frances High School

The Student Leadership Council held a successful Homecoming Week, with various fun competitions and a pep rally. The Fall Play was held last week. To celebrate Halloween, Period 2 classes participated in a pumpkin carving competition. As well, the Student Leadership Council organized a We Scare Hunger food drive on Halloween, with approximately 20 students who covered all of the west end of Town and most of the east end. In November, a Remembrance Day ceremony is planned for November 11th during Period 1 and on the 17th and 18th of November, 31 students are attending We Day in Winnipeg. A MADD presentation is being planned for November 23rd. In addition, the Student Leadership Council is busy organizing intramurals and planning the Winter Semi-Formal and a Christmas-themed week.

Rainy River High School

A Halloween Dance was held on Thursday, October 27, 2016.

Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program

A spirit week is being planned where students dress up each day of the week according to the daily theme. A Remembrance Day service with attendance at the Emo Cenotaph is being planned. The Christmas banquet will be held on December 10th.

Chair Report

Chair Dianne McCormack noted that negotiations with all bargaining groups is now complete and she thanked all individuals involved in this round of bargaining for working to reach successful conclusion.

On October 20th Chair McCormack attended the Fall Feast at Crossroads school, which kicked off the year-long celebration of their 20 year anniversary.

Chair McCormack, along with two other trustees and the Director of Education, attended the OPSBA Northern Regional meeting in Thunder Bay in October. Effective practices and current issues affecting boards, including labour relations, equity, indigenous education and student well-being were discussed. Chair McCormack noted that herself, and Director Campbell made a presentation on behalf of the Rainy River District School Board for the Connected North Program at Mine Centre School.

Chair McCormack mentioned an article in last week's Fort Frances Times where Gordon Porter of Inclusive Education Canada and Kimberly Gavan of Community Living Ontario, had very positive things to say about inclusive education within the Rainy River District School Board.

Comments by Trustees

Trustee Raymond Roy noted that he attended the OPSBA Northern Regional meeting in Thunder Bay and that the Board presentations were very informative. Trustee Roy thanked Chair Dianne McCormack and Director of Education for their presentation on the Connected North Program.

Vice Chair Lewis noted trustee learned that the Ministry of Education has reinforced its commitment to force Boards to close under-utilized school buildings by enhancing the school condition funding dollars that have been awarded to school boards. In the case of the Rainy River District School Board those dollars amount to nearly 11 million.

Vice Chair Lewis stated "Three years ago, we looked at two concepts that would consolidate the two schools in Rainy River, and the two schools in Atikokan. At that time the funding model worked well for Rainy River, but not for Atikokan. As a Board we moved ahead with the plan to create a single school in Rainy River, encompassing the Early Learners to Grade 12 students. But in Atikokan we put a similar plan on hold, as the dollars available to the board at that time were not sufficient to create a single school setting that would make sense for all the students, and for the delivery of good programs in a school setting suitable for students from early years, (Junior Kindergarten) to Grade 12. Those conditions have changed, where it is now feasible to look to creating a single consolidated school in Atikokan to serve the 280 students who are projected to be the total Atikokan enrollment 3 years from now."

Vice Chair Lewis also stated that "as a result of the new funding, and the continuing pressure from the Ministry of Education to get school boards to consolidate schools, trustees have asked the administration to bring forward plans that would facilitate such a consolidation. Plans would

include where such a consolidation should take place, at Atikokan High School, or North Star Community School, as well as perhaps to include an architect's concept of what a new consolidated school would look like, and what it would cost."

It was requested that such a presentation be made to the Finance Committee, and then to the Board, early in the new year, or sooner. The plan, or plans, would be subject to preliminary approval from the Ministry of Education. At that point the Board would then enter into a community consultation venture to get input and feedback from parents and community members in Atikokan.

Vice Chair Lewis stated, "I make these comments to put on record that the Board has to respond to the need to upgrade the Atikokan High School, and to address the steadily declining enrolment not only in Atikokan, but across the whole of the Rainy River District School Board jurisdiction."

Vice Chair Lewis concluded that "the Ministry of Education has put forward a significant financial carrot to force school boards to look into school consolidation. We will be doing that throughout our jurisdiction. Once that has happened the board will then determine the future steps and processes to be taken as set out in Ministry of Education guidelines that address any school consolidation plans."

Scrutineers

The Board Trustees appointed Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education, and Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business, as scrutineers for the election at the December 2016 Annual Board Meeting. (resolution #282)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

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

- Fall Harvest – Dagwaaginimaawindoosijigewin - was held on October 5th and 6th at the Nanicost grounds. This annual event, hosted by Seven Generations Education Institute, offers students in Grade 5 and Grade 10 the opportunity to learn about a variety of traditional activities, including storytelling, drum teachings, fishnet making, wild rice preparation, fish preparation, bird preparation, medicines and teas, hide preparation, moccasin making, traditional foods and traditional crafts.
- OSSTF-OT negotiations took place on October 11th and 12th. The Director of Education recognized and thanked Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education, and Ann Cox, Manager of Human Resources, for all of their work to arrive at this agreement.
- The annual Cross Country Run was held on October 14th at Crossroads School. This is one of the various annual sport events held as part of the Rainy River District Athletic Association. Throughout September and October, administration has been supporting the Rainy River District Athletic Association (RRDAA) in the updating of their policies and practices with the goal to achieve greater equity across the District. This work includes the design of a webpage to hold all necessary forms, a calendar of events, and results of tournaments.

- A Principal/Vice Principal Mentoring Session took place on the afternoon and evening of October 18th, with 14 administrators in attendance. The session focused on the Personal Leadership Resources as well as school improvement planning.
- The Math for Young Children initiative began for the 2016-17 school year during the week of October 24th, with professional development sessions occurring at Donald Young School and Robert Moore School. These sessions involved co-design of a math lesson and then delivery of that lesson within a classroom, allowing all educators attending the opportunity to observe and reflect on the lesson. Additional teacher professional development was offered at North Star Community School.
- On October 13th, the Rainy River District School Board became another member of the Northern Oral Language and Writing through Play Action Research Initiative that looks to assessing and supporting children's oral language and writing development through play in classrooms, daycares and homes in northern communities. Early Childhood Educators and primary teachers who are participating have volunteered to be part of this action research that
 - supports students' oral language and writing and play-based learning,
 - incorporates Indigenous knowledge and ways of teaching and learning into the provincial curriculum, and
 - allows educators to network with other educators and researchers across Canada.

Trustee Professional Development 2016-2017

The Director of Education provided a report to trustees with suggestions for professional development in 2016-2017. All were in favour of moving ahead with scheduling the suggested sessions. Chair McCormack also indicated interest in Mental Health training for trustees. Strategic planning is an ongoing process. The current plan has been in place for almost 5 years and the Director of Education recommended beginning the process to develop a new plan this year. Timelines were provided and all were in favour that the Director of Education should proceed to contact Marilyn Gouthro and determine her availability to facilitate the process.

Chair McCormack noted that the topic for the pre-symposium session at the OPSBA Public Education Symposium in January, is regarding strategic planning.

Personnel Report

The Board received the Personnel Report dated November, 2016.

The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Dana Allen, 1.0 FTE Educational Assistant, MCS, effective September 27, 2016

Alicia Anderson, .5 FTE Library Assistant, MCT, effective October 3, 2016

Anna Demchuk, .9 FTE Elementary Teacher, NSCS, effective October 24, 2016

Morning Star Tom, .33 FTE Ojibwe Language Teacher, RHS, effective October 17, 2016

Change in Assignment

Laurie Brown, 1.0 FTE Educational Assistant, RMS to 1.0 FTE Medical Educational Assistant, DYS, effective October 6, 2016
Michelle Brunetta, .9 FTE School Secretary, RMS to 1.0 FTE School Secretary, RMS, effective October 17, 2016
Stacey Fuhrer, 1.0 FTE Educational Assistant, FHS to 1.0 FTE Medical Education Assistant, FHS, effective September 26, 2016
Joanne Haney, .75 FTE Educational Assistant, RMS to 1.0 FTE Educational Assistant, RMS, effective October 6, 2016
Grace Hettinga, 1.0 FTE Communication Assistant, RMS to 0.67 FTE Library Assistant, SCS, October 12, 2016
Amber Hughes, 0.2 FTE Teacher, CRS to 1.0 FTE Teacher, CRS, effective October 24, 2016
Jennifer Langtry, 1.0 FTE School Secretary, RMS to 1.0 FTE Accounting Clerk III – Accounts Payable, EDC, effective October 4, 2016
Melissa Nelson, 1.0 FTE Medical Educational Assistant, DYS to 1.0 FTE Communication Assistant, RMS, effective October 12, 2016.

Leave of Absence

Heather Algie, 1.0 FTE Teacher, AHS, to 1.0 FTE Maternity/Parental Leave effective December 29, 2016 to December 28, 2017
Jodie Brown, 1.0 FTE General Leave of Absence, SCS, to 1.0 FTE Maternity/Parental Leave September 9, 2016
Josie McLeod, 1.0 FTE Communication Assistant, RMS to 1.0 FTE General Leave of Absence effective October 31, 2016 to October 30, 2017
Lori Woodgate, 1.0 FTE Education Assistant, CRS to 1.0 FTE General Leave of Absence, effective September 13, 2016

Retirement

Susan Sieders, 1.0 FTE Accounting Clerk III – Accounts Payable, EDC, effective January 19, 2017

Police and School Board Response Protocol

Board members received a report from Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education regarding the feedback received from stakeholders and noted that revisions were made as appropriate. The Protocol will be implemented during the 2016-2017 school year, with appropriate staff training. *(Refer to report p. 57-58 of the agenda)*

The Board passed a resolution to approve the Police and School Board Response Protocol. (resolution #283).

Joint Health and Safety Committee

Travis Enge, Manager of Plant Operations and Maintenance, provided highlights of the Joint Health and Safety Committee meeting held September 22, 2016. *(Refer to report p. 59-62 of the agenda)*

Notice of Motion

Board members received a report from Heather Campbell, Director of Education, recommending the Notice of Intent to amend the Board's procedural bylaw, Section 8.1 (b), Regular Board Meetings, to include an acknowledgement of the traditional territory. A resolution

was moved and seconded by the Board to receive the Notice of Intent. (resolution #284) (*Refer to report p. 63-65 of the agenda*)

A motion to amend the bylaw will be brought to the trustees at the Regular December Board Meeting.

Correspondence

Board members received correspondence from Peel District School Board, sent to the Minister of Education requesting the ministry to consider excluding non-participating (absent and excluded) students from its EQAO reporting to ensure a true and accurate reflection of student achievement.

Correspondence was also received from the Bluewater District School Board, which was sent to the Minister of Education requesting a report on progress made to address a previous request to continue to update relevant school curricula to adequately and meaningfully reflect the true history of Canada's Indigenous Peoples. The Bluewater District School Board also requests that this written report be available for all School Boards at the time of the Public Education Symposium in January 2017.

Correspondence was received from Peel District School Board, sent to the Minister of Education with respect to the discontinuation of Ministry of Education top-up funding that has resulted in the closure of "empty" classrooms.

Correspondence from Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, encouraged school boards to support Treaties Recognition Week the first week in November.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting – December 6, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Education Centre, Fort Frances

Special Education Advisory Committee – November 16, 2016, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Policy Committee – November 29, 2016, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

Finance Committee – November 29, 2016, 1:30 p.m., Education Centre

Joint Health and Safety Committee – December 1, 2016, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

Audit Committee – December 1, 2016, 5:00 p.m., Education Centre

Joint Transportation Policy Committee – December 5, 2016 [TENTATIVE],
5:00 p.m., Education Centre

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

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 8:37 p.m. (resolution #285)

Director/Secretary

Chair