



REPORT

Trustee Professional Development 2016-2017

- The Rainy River District School Board received a Trustee Professional Development 2016-17 Report.



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Date: November 1, 2016
To: Rainy River District School Board Trustees
From: Heather Campbell, Director of Education
Subject: **Trustee Professional Development 2016-17**

PURPOSE

To support you in your role of trustee, I have outlined possible professional development opportunities for your consideration and provided a draft outline of the strategic planning process.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

One of the four pillars of the strategic plan is capacity building. Professional development for trustees supports you in your role, providing you with further knowledge about the school system, initiatives, and school board governance.

SUMMARY

Trustee Professional Development:

An online survey was administered to trustees in December 2015. From the results, two professional development sessions for trustees were planned in February and April 2016: one session on technology and one session on First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education. The feedback from the survey has also been used to inform presentations to trustees at regular Board meetings. Please also note that I will continue to bring any other opportunities for professional development, as they arise, to your attention.

For 2016-17, I suggest the following professional development for trustees:

- **Governance/Robert's Rules of Order training**
This training is suggested as it was last provided in 2011. A basic parliamentary procedure workshop tailored to our Board and its bylaw, specifically its order of business, could be offered. This would include making motions, amending motions, understanding what debate looks like as opposed to requests for information, etc. This would be a full-day workshop providing an overview of procedural rules and roles and responsibilities of individuals in the morning, with mock meetings using the proper form of the most commonly used motions occurring in the afternoon.
 - **Technology Training**
Technology training was held last year. Feedback received indicated that further training would be welcomed. Another session could highlight some best practices with respect to file
-



management, emails, and Altus, and could provide an overview of software and devices used by students and teachers across the system, including Edusight, the software currently being implemented for student assessment and reporting.

- Health and Safety

Health and Safety is an area of enhanced priority within our system this year. A session where trustees view and complete the Wellnet session on Health and Safety and the Law could be offered prior to a Board meeting.

- Indigenous Education

The Indigenous Education Leaders are looking at an opportunity to involve trustees in a professional development session that focuses on the work being done to integrate the history and impact of residential schools within the Ontario curriculum.

Strategic Planning:

Strategic planning is another area that should be a focus for the 2016-17 school year. The development of the current Strategic Plan began in October 2011, with consultation sessions taking place from February to April 2012. The strategic plan was adopted by resolution in the fall of 2012. As such, the potential timelines for the new strategic plan are as follows:

- October – December 2016 – planning of the process
- February – April 2017 – hold strategic planning sessions/gather feedback on draft plan
- April – May 2017 – review feedback and draft statements
- June or September 2017 – approve new strategic plan

CONCLUSION

If you are in agreement with the recommendations for trustee professional development, I will begin making arrangements for this training. As strategic planning is an ongoing process and our current Plan has been in place for approximately 5 years, I recommend that the Strategic Planning process begin this year. Based on your initial feedback, I will contact Marilyn Gouthro, facilitator, about her availability, the proposed timelines, and your initial feedback.
