



**Consultation/Facility Partnership Minutes, Public Session
Education Centre, Fort Frances
November 4, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.**

PRESENT: Christine Jourdain, Couchiching First Nation; Krista Anderson, Northwestern Health Unit; Paul Davis, Ontario Provincial Police; Kendall Olsen, Donald Young School; Kevin Knutsen, J.W. Walker School; Bill Daley, Robert Moore School; Conrad Dueck, Fort Frances High School; Peg Keffer, Fort Frances High School; Alicia Gattoni, Crossroads Public School; Harry Morrissette, Pwi-D-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing Advisory Services; Dennis Allen, Township of LaVallee; Alicia Subnaik Kilgour, Fort Frances Public Library; Jessica Desrosiers, Couchiching First Nation; Rhonda Turner, Confederation College

FACILITATOR: Cynthia Clarke, Vice President, Enterprise Asset Management, Ameresco

STAFF: Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business; Sherri Belluz, Recording Secretary

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Superintendent of Business welcomed everyone to the Rainy River District School Board's consultation session looking at economic development, growths, and trends in developing the Facility Master Plan and potential community partnerships due to the impact of declining enrolment.

Introductions were made.

2. Presentation, Schools for Student-Centered Learning

Cynthia Clarke was introduced. Ameresco is a group of consultants with considerable expertise in demographics, long-term capital planning, asset management planning, business case development, stakeholder consultation, and education/municipal development charge studies, and has been hired by the Rainy River District School Board to facilitate community consultation sessions across the Rainy River District.

The following information was presented:

- Demographic and enrolment trends;
- District enrolment projections;
- School capacity and utilization;
- The impact of loss in top-up funding;
- District educational goals and objectives; challenges and opportunities and options for enhancing the student learning environment; and
- Potential partnerships directed at redevelopment of school buildings.

3. Round Table Discussions

Discussion included:

- The absence of First Nation demographic data from Statistics Canada. It was noted that all Rainy River District School Board enrolment projections include the First Nation school age children data. In order to have complete information for the Rainy River District, the First Nation communities will be asked to provide demographic data with regards to historical population, growth expectations, and any future economic development that may have an impact on community demographics.
- Graduation rates.
- Declining enrolment and the impact this is having on the space in the schools.
- Intergenerational learning, i.e. long term care within an elementary setting.
- Exploring partnerships with local artisans or other groups that require space but do not have the expertise in submitting funding requests.

It was agreed by all that this is a good opportunity and further discussion on developing partnerships within the communities is required as surplus space continues to grow in the schools.

4. Next Steps

A draft long-term Capital Plan/Facilities Master Plan will be prepared for Administration and Trustee to review. Ameresco will also meet with Board staff to establish capital priorities and facilitate the development of future business cases.

All information will be posted on the Board's website under School Accommodations.

5. Adjournment

All were thanked for attending and the Board looks forward to continuing to work with all community partners. If there are any questions, please contact Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business, by email: laura.mills@mail.rrdsb.com or phone: (807) 274-9855 extension 4978.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.