



**Consultation/Facility Partnership Minutes, Public Session  
Rainy River High School, Rainy River  
November 5, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Elaine Jourdain, Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing; Lynn Indian, Big Grassy; Daryl Ellis, New Gold; Keith Hamilton, Rainy River First Nations Economic Development Corporation; Pat White, Town of Rainy River; Gordon Armstrong, Town of Rainy River; James Chorney, Rainy River High School; Michelle Mosbeck, Rainy River High School; , Lucinda Meyers, Riverview School

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

**STAFF:** 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.
- New Gold migration of approximately 60 employees that will remain in the area and appropriately 30% of total employees commuting.
- Partnerships are encouraged by the Ministry to reduce capital and operating costs, and enhance learning opportunities for students.
- School property is valued as community hubs as the population ages and the tax base shrinks.
- Look to library, recreation facility, municipal partners to identify any savings that could be achieved to congregate services on a school site.

#### **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](mailto:laura.mills@mail.rrdsb.com) or phone: (807) 274-9855 extension 4978.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.