



**Consultation/Facility Partnership Minutes, Public Session  
North Star Community School, Atikokan  
November 6, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.**

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**PRESENT:** Julie Slack, Northwestern Health Unit; Chris Ladouceur, Atikokan Youth Initiatives; Beth Fairfield, Atikokan High School; Jody Labossiere, North Star Community School

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

**STAFF:** Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business; Sherri Belluz, Recording Secretary

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### 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

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.

- The migration of families from New Gold is not expected to significantly impact enrolment.
- 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.
- Intergenerational learning, i.e. long term care within an elementary setting.
- The positives of amalgamating elementary and secondary, i.e. Early Years to Grade 12.
- The Municipal Library, policing, long term care partners, Friendship Centre, Health Unit, Family Health Team, and Recreation Centre were all felt to be a good fit with the School Board and could be explored further.

#### **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 11:10 a.m.