

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #27

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2014-2018 Rainy River District School Board on June 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Education Centre, Fort Frances, Ontario.

Board Members Present Dianne McCormack, Raymond Roy, David Kircher, Ralph Hill, Don McBride, Michael Lewis,

Student Trustee Chloe Machura

Regrets Will Windigo

In Attendance Heather Campbell, Wendy Tilbury, Laura Mills, Al McManaman, Casey Slack, Travis Enge, Stephen Danielson

RESOLUTIONS

Res. #340 ROY-LEWIS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for the June 6, 2017 Regular Board meeting. CARRIED

Res. #341 LEWIS-ROY 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, May 2, 2017
- Personnel
- Negotiations
- Procurement

And that this meeting shall not be open to the public pursuant to Section 207(2) of the Education Act. CARRIED

Res. #342 ROY-LEWIS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole – In-Camera Session Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting May 2, 2017. CARRIED

Res. #343 LEWIS-ROY That the Rainy River District School Board approve the award of RFT-RRDSB-2017-159 to renovate Fort Frances High School to Finn Way General Contractor in the amount of \$1,864,000.00 + HST using School Condition Improvement, Renewal and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding. CARRIED

Res. #344 ROY-LEWIS - That the Rainy River District School Board approve for consultation, the Executive Compensation Plan for Superintendents effective September 5, 2017, subject to government approval. CARRIED

Res. #345 LEWIS-ROY - That the Rainy River District School Board approve for consultation, the Executive Compensation Plan for the Director of Education effective September 5, 2017, subject to government approval. CARRIED

Res. #346 ROY-LEWIS That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting May 2, 2017 (Session 26) having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED

Res. #347 LEWIS-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board approve the updated Special Education Plan 2016-17. CARRIED

The Board did rise and report from the In Camera, Committee of the Whole session to approve for consultation, the Executive Compensation Plan for the Director of Education effective September 5, 2017, subject to government approval. (resolution #345)

SILENT REFLECTION

The Chair called for a moment of silent reflection.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There was no conflict of interest declared.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Employee Recognition - Retirees

Director of Education, Heather Campbell noted that there are several staff members marking major milestones in their careers that were present at the meeting.

Travis Enge, Manager, Plant Operations and Maintenance spoke to the careers of two Custodians retiring from Fort Frances High School, Kim Basaraba and Gregory Scott.

The Assistant Manager, Plant Operations and Maintenance Peter Gardiman, joined Travis Enge in speaking to the career of Gary Broman, Maintenance Carpenter, and offered congratulations on his retirement.

Director of Education, Heather Campbell, acknowledged Ann Cox for retirement and provided a brief history on her career.

Director of Education, Heather Campbell acknowledged four staff members that are also retiring this year, and were unable to attend. They included Lloyd Lovelace, Purchasing Clerk; Cam Keast, Vice-Principal at Donald Young School; Rod Enns, Teacher at Donald Young School; and Paul Elliott, OSSTF Secondary Teacher.

Chair McCormack and Vice Chair Lewis thanked all for their support to the Board and extended best wishes in retirement.

Volunteer of the Year Award

Kendall Olsen, Principal of Riverview School, via videoconference, spoke about the important role of volunteers within the schools and the essential role they play each day. Selena Vanasse, a volunteer at Riverview School in Rainy River, was selected as a recipient of the 2016-2017 Volunteer Award. Selena is an active supporter of the hot lunch program at Riverview School and assists with many events. Mr. Olsen presented Selena with a certificate and gift card in appreciation of her many hours of volunteerism at the school.

Jimmy Warren was also selected as a recipient of the 2016-2017 Volunteer Award. Mr. Warren was unable to attend. Vice-Chair Lewis commented that Mr. Warren has been an integral part of the Outers Winter Program for over five years.

Chair Dianne McCormack thanked both recipients for supporting students in our schools.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting May 2, 2017 (Session 26) (resolution #346).

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Board received a copy of the letter sent to the Honourable Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, supporting the Thames Valley District School Board's letter, requesting reduction of class size requirements for Indigenous Language courses.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

SYSTEM – PROGRAM/CURRICULUM SUCCESS

Speech Contest

Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education, introduced Erica Lemelin, Grade 8 student at Crossroads School who is the winner of the Rainy River District Speech Contest. Erica presented her speech entitled "The Hill" to the Trustees.

Chair McCormack thanked Erica for her very entertaining speech.

BOARD REPORTS

Special Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held May 24, 2017. *(Refer to minutes p. 17-24 of the agenda)*

The Board approved the updated Special Education Plan 2016-17 (resolution #347)

Policy Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held May 29, 2017. *(Refer to minutes p. 25-34 of the agenda)*

The Board approved the following policies: (resolution #348)

4.16 Safe Schools

8.22 Expense Claims

1.40 Policy Development and Review

The Board approved the following policies for stakeholder consultation: (resolution #349)

7.00 Occupational Health and Safety

1.06 Role of the Director of Education

Finance Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held May 29, 2017. *(Refer to minutes p. 35-38 of the agenda)*

The Board approved the procurement of Chromebooks up to \$470,000 to CDW. *(resolution #350).*

Audit Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held May 29, 2017. *(Refer to minutes p. 39-41 of the agenda)*

Parent Involvement Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting held June 1, 2017. *(handout)*

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee McBride noted that Rusty Hick, previously the Director of Education for Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, is the new Executive Director at the Ontario Public School Boards Association. It was also noted that elections will take place in Collingwood June 9-10 at the Annual General Meeting to fill positions for which individuals have not already been acclaimed. Trustees were informed that there are currently 3 vacant positions in the Northern Region-Northwest.

Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee, Chloe Machura, reported that the Student Senate met via videoconference Tuesday June 6, 2017. Director of Education, Heather Campbell provided the Senate with Strategic Plan and Budget updates.

The following activities/events occurred during the month of May or are being planned for June at the secondary schools:

Atikokan High School

- Prom that occurred in May, with 87 tickets sold.
- Students are preparing for examinations, the Spring Outers trip, and graduation.

Fort Frances High School

- Fort Frances High School hosted a Mini We Day with transition activities being planned for Grade 6 students entering the High School next fall. The Gr. 6 Day included a scavenger hunt and activities such as How to Open a Locker.
- Student Leadership Council is winding down the year, with a BBQ planned for Thursday June 8, 2017.
- Saturday June 10, 2017 is Prom.

Chair Report

Director's Performance Appraisal

Chair McCormack noted that the Director Performance Appraisal Committee met and reviewed the summarized results of the Trustee surveys. The Chair provided a written report for receipt to the Trustees during In-Camera session and it was reviewed with the Trustees and Director Heather Campbell.

Comments by Trustees

Vice-Chair Lewis thanked the Capital Planning Committee, which has lead the investigation for a consolidated school in Atikokan and put some aspects in context from his point of view.

Vice-Chair Lewis noted that as a Board, we began this process in 2015, when it became obvious that because of a continuing decline in enrollment and unused spaces in the two buildings in Atikokan, the Board was going to lose significant funding from the Ministry of Education beginning in 2016. This in turn would have negative impacts on preserving, and enhancing student programming.

To that end, Vice-Chair Lewis noted that in September 2015 the Board met with the Atikokan Town Council to lay out the enrollment and financial facts and the Atikokan Progress wrote follow up articles in both 2015 and 2016 about the fact that changes to the school configuration in Atikokan may be coming. Vice Chair Lewis continued to layout out a timeline of events as follows:

- Early in 2016 the Board received the Master Facility Plan.
- In early 2017 the Board made a decision that it was time to develop a plan.
- The Board opted for a modified Accommodation Review process, which would include community consultation.
- In early April 2017 a letter was sent to parents in Atikokan to outline what the possibilities were for a new configuration.
- Next was the creation of the Accommodation Review Committee, and a process through which it could get feedback from the public, and present a recommendation to the Board. This process was transparent and public. It was also made available to the public through live streaming of the meetings.
- The responses received from the public and parents was quite limited, with more responses received from teachers, primarily high school teachers.
- The vast majority of the responses dealt with the actual design of a consolidated building, and not so much the concept of a K -12 consolidated school.
- Feedback received noted that enhanced spaces for, gymnasium activities, elementary student play spaces, special education programs, theatre arts, music, and other special programs that are currently offered are important considerations.

Vice-Chair Lewis commented that we also heard that this process was rushed, which is why he provided the timeline information in order to clarify the beginning of the consolidation concept, first made public in 2015, to a possible approval and completion date that will most likely, at best, be well into 2019.

Vice-Chair Lewis noted that members of the public will have an opportunity to present to the Board any thoughts they have about the Staff Administration recommendation, and report, on June 19, 2017 in Atikokan. Vice-Chair Lewis further noted that this will be a Special Committee of the Whole meeting, and that presentations must be in writing and forwarded to the Board office by June 12, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. to be included in the Board package. Each presenter, or representative of a group, will have ten minutes to make that presentation to the Board.

Vice-Chair Lewis thanked the Accommodation Review Committee, and to the Administration Capital Planning team for the work they have done.

Strategic Plan

Board members received a report regarding the new Strategic Plan and approved the Strategic Plan for 2017-2022. (*Refer to minutes p. 42-63 of the agenda*) (*resolution #351*)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

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

- Members of the senior team attended the Northern Ontario Education Leaders sessions as well as the Strong Districts presentation in Thunder Bay on May 9th and 10th. As well, Al McManaman, Superintendent of Education, and the Director of Education attended a Strong Districts session in Niagara-on-the-lake on May 25th. The Strong Districts sessions focus on the conditions and supports necessary to develop the nine characteristics of Strong Districts in their organizations.
- Director Campbell extended congratulations to several of our educators who presented at the recent Ontario Association for Mathematics Educators (OAME) conference in Kingston, Ontario. Brad Oster, Elementary Numeracy Coordinator, Jason Jones, Ojibwe Language Coordinator, Tena Enge and Hue Eldridge, Primary Teachers at Robert Moore School, and Andrea Domanski, Primary Teacher at J. W. Walker School presented on their work within the Math for Young Children Project, with Jason Jones presenting at the special first ever OAME FNMI day which showcased Indigenous Knowledge and Mathematics Education.
- Congratulations is also extended to Angie Redford, Fort Frances High School student, who was named to the 2017-18 Minister's Student Advisory Council.
- On May 19th, the Minister of Education announced an additional \$22 million annually in special education supports through the new Northern Supports Initiative, with these increases taking effect in the Special Education Grant beginning in the 2017-18 school year. Over \$13 million of this amount is being provided to the 16 Northern school boards within Northeastern and Northwestern Ontario. Part of this funding includes \$6 million in Special Education Grant funding which represents a 3 per cent increase from 2016-17. The funding is provided to separate regions within Northern Ontario, with the NOEL boards working together to identify specific areas of need for our region, including supports such as psychoeducational services, mental health supports, speech language pathology services, and other paraprofessional services
- On May 12th, Fort Frances High School participated in the launch of a Toronto District School Board school as part of the Connected North Program.
- On May 18th and 19th, Challenge 2017 took place, with 30 male students participating from schools across the District. The Director of Education thanked Greg Ste. Croix, FFHS teacher, Pam King, FMNI Collaborative Inquiry Lead, Jason Jones, Ojibwe Language Coordinator, Sarah Irwin-Gardiner, Mental Health Leader, and community partners, Bryan Gustafson, Lake of the Woods Sports Headquarters, and Andrew Jourdain and Andrew Heerschap, Ministry of Natural Resources, for facilitating sessions for the students. As well, a thank was extended to the chaperones and all staff who assisted in planning and supervising the event.
- The Young Women's Conference also occurred in May, on the 16th and 17th, with 34 young women participating from Grades 7 to 12. The Director of Education thanked

presenters/facilitators, Catherine Bruyere, Sherree Denby, Greg Ste. Croix, and Shelley Fairbrother, FFHS teachers, Lana Puumula, AHS teacher, Char Bliss, Special Education Administrator, and Pam King, FNMI Collaborative Inquiry Lead, and community partner Jillian Langtry from Firefly. The Director of Education also extended appreciation to all staff who helped to plan and/or chaperone the event.

- On May 29th, 30th, and June 1st, members of school and system administration and members of the OSSTF Local 5B Executive and the Provincial Representative for OSSTF Local 5B participated in a dispute/conflict resolution session, facilitated by the Ministry of Labor, Labour Solutions Division.
- The Director of Education acknowledged the work of all staff, in support of students, parents/guardians, trustees, and community partners and also thanked all retiring staff for their dedication to students and wished them the best as they enter a new chapter in their lives.
- To trustees, Director Campbell noted that it continues to be a privilege to work together with them in support of our students across the District.
- Educating our students for a successful future is important and influential work and Director Campbell recognized everyone's daily contributions in providing the richest experience possible for students, and wished everyone a safe, restful summer vacation.

Personnel Report

The Board received the Personnel Report dated June, 2017. *(Refer to report pages 64-65 of the agenda)*

The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Eric Arner, .33 FTE Secondary Teacher, AHS to 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, AHS effective August 28, 2017.

Heather Bridgeman, 1.0 FTE Early Years Primary Coordinator, SSS to 1.0 FTE Vice Principal, DYS effective, June 26, 2017.

Sherree Denby, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, FHS to 1.0 FTE Secondary Numeracy Coordinator, SSS, effective August 28, 2017.

RobRoy Donaldson, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, FHS, to 0.5 FTE Secondary Curriculum Coordinator, SSS and .5 FTE Secondary Teacher FHS, effective August 28, 2017.

Tyson Grinsell, 0.5 FTE Secondary Teacher, AHS to 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, AHS, effective August 28, 2017.

Andrew Harris, 1.0 FTE Superintendent of Education, Education Centre, effective July 17, 2017.

Kevin Knutsen, 1.0 FTE Principal, JWS, to 1.0 FTE Executive Officer of Employee and Labour Relations, Ed. Centre effective June 26, 2017.

Tanya Kroocmo, 1.0 FTE STEM Coordinator, SSS to 1.0 FTE Numeracy Coordinator, SSS, effective August 28, 2017.

Sharla MacKinnon, 1.0 FTE Acting Vice Principal, CRS to 1.0 FTE Vice Principal, CRS, effective June 26, 2017

Greg McKay, 1.0 FTE Caretaker, RMS to 1.0 FTE Head Caretaker, FHS, effective June 5, 2017.

Change in Assignment

Heather Algie, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, AHS to 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, RHS effective August 28, 2017.

Keira Chowan, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher, JWS to 0.5 FTE Elementary Teacher, JWS, effective August 28, 2017.

Alyssa Faragher, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, RHS, to 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, FHS, effective August 28, 17
Pegeen Keffer, 1.0 FTE Principal, SSS to 1.0 FTE Principal, JWS, effective June 26, 2017
Kristine Kerber, 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, RHS to 1.0 FTE Secondary Teacher, FHS, effective August 28, 2017

Leave of Absence

Monica Armour, 1.0 FTE Federation Leave to 1.0 FTE Federation Leave effective July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019.
Elisabeth Husser, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher, SCAP to 0.2 FTE General Leave of Absence effective August 28, 2017 to August 31, 2018.
Mara Whitfield, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher, NFS to 1.0 FTE Maternity Leave August 19, 2017 to August 18, 2018.

Resignation

Advent, Becky, 0.5 FTE School Secretary, MCT and 0.2 FTE School Secretary, RHS, effective August 18, 2017.
Sarah Irwin-Gardner, 1.0 FTE Mental Health Leader, Ed. Centre, effective July 7, 2017.

Retirement

Kim Basaraba, 1.0 FTE Caretaker, FHS, effective August 31, 2017.
Rod Enns, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher, DYS, effective June 30, 2017.
Cameron Keast, 1.0 FTE Vice Principal, DYS & SCAP effective June 30, 2017.

Joint Health and Safety Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Joint Health and Safety Committee meeting held June 1, 2017. *(Refer to p. 66-69 of the agenda)*

Annual Operational Plan

Director of Education, Heather Campbell, spoke about the Director's Annual Operational Plan and its support of activities and accomplishments within the Board's Strategic Plan and highlighted the activities that supported each of the four pillars for 2016-17. *(Refer to report p. 70-92 in the agenda)*

Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education and Al McManaman, Superintendent of Education, provided an update to trustees, highlighting the Director's Annual Operational Plan since the last report to Board on February 7, 2017.

Student Accommodation Review Update

Trustees were provided with all the pertinent information from the Modified Student Accommodation Review that has taken place in Atikokan. Copies of all the reports, meeting minutes, school information profiles, public consultation documents, question and answers and feedback were included. Director of Education, Heather Campbell also noted that all the information is located on the Board website, with a quick link to the Atikokan Accommodation Review.

Heather Campbell, Director of Education, Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business and

Travis Enge, Manager of Plant Operations & Maintenance reviewed the Final Administrative Student Accommodation Report – Modified Student Accommodation Review of Atikokan High School and North Star Community School.

Director of Education, Heather Campbell explained that this Final Administrative Report was provided at this time to allow for community input, through public delegations at the June 19, 2017, Committee of the Whole meeting to be held in Atikokan, Ontario. An updated Final Administrative Report will include a summary of the June 19th public delegations and any additional community input and will be presented at a special Board meeting in mid to late September 2017. Director of Education, Heather Campbell also noted that trustees are scheduled to make a decision at that time.

Correspondence

Board members received correspondence from Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board, sent to Deputy Minister of Education, Bruce Rodrigues, supporting OPSBA's Recommendation #3 in the OPSBA discussion paper regarding EQAO and Large Scale Testing in Ontario as it relates to realigning the sequencing of the OSSLT and OSSLC.

Board members received a letter from Canadian Parents for French regarding new literature available on the "Impact of Second-Language Learning" for students.

Board members received a letter from Waterloo District School Board to the Honourable, Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, in support of correspondence from the Bluewater District School Board requesting the scope for the Special Education Funding Work Group be expanded.

Board members received correspondence from the Honourable, Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, regarding the Northern Supports Initiative providing funding for students with special education needs in the North.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting –September 5, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Education Centre, Fort Frances.

Finance Committee - June 13, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre, Fort Frances.

Special Education Advisory Committee –, June 14, 2017, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Committee of the Whole and Special Board Meeting – June 19, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Atikokan High School

Policy Committee – June 20, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

2017-18 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association

2017 Northern Region Meeting and Program, October 13 – 14, 2017
Delta by Marriott, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario

Public Education Symposium 2018 – January 26-27, 2018
Sheraton, Toronto, Ontario

Education Labour Relations and Human Resources 2018 –
April 26-27, 2018, Sheraton, Toronto, Ontario

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 9:20 p.m. (resolution #352)

Director/Secretary

Chair