

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #19

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the 2014-2018 Rainy River District School Board on October 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rainy River High School in Rainy River.

Board Members Present Dianne McCormack, Raymond Roy, David Kircher, Ralph Hill, Don McBride, Will Windigo, Michael Lewis (videoconference), Chloe Machura (videoconference)

In Attendance Heather Campbell, Laura Mills, Casey Slack, Al McManaman, Ann Cox, Travis Enge, Stephen Danielson

RESOLUTIONS

- Res. #260 KIRCHER-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for October 4, 2016 Regular Board meeting. CARRIED
- Res. #261 HILL-KIRCHER 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, September 6, 2016.
- Personnel CARRIED
- Res. #262 KIRCHER-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board rise and report to the regular meeting with the following recommendation therein:
- “That the Rainy River District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole – In-Camera Session Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting September 6, 2016.” CARRIED
- Res. #263 HILL-MCBRIDE That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting September 6, 2016 (Session 18) having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED
- Res. #264 HILL-MCBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies:
3.04 Succession Planning CARRIED
- Res. #265 HILL-MCBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies for stakeholder consultation:
1.70 Director’s Performance Appraisal
7.22 Emergency Response
7.75 Workplace Harassment and Violence Prevention CARRIED
- Res. #266 MCBRIDE-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board rescind the following policies:
3.05 Principal and Vice Principal Transfer
3.06 Principal and Vice Principal Appointment CARRIED
- Res. #267 MCBRIDE-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board approve the proposed amendments to the St. Francis Sports Fields Joint Use Agreement. CARRIED

- Res. #268 MCBRIDE-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board mileage rate remain at .48 cents/kilometer. CARRIED
- Res. #269 MCBRIDE-HILL That the Rainy River District School Board approve Bylaw #173 for the approval to issue 2017 Education Taxes within the Board's jurisdiction, in the unorganized areas as indicated in Section 257.7 of the *Education Act*. CARRIED
- Res. #270 LEWIS-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board direct the Director of Education to write a letter to the Minister of Transportation regarding highway safety concerns. CARRIED
- Res. #271 HILL-MCBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board adjourn at 8:30 p.m. CARRIED

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dianne McCormack called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the October 4, 2016 Regular Board meeting was approved. (resolution #260)

IN-CAMERA SESSION

The Board met In Camera, in Committee of the Whole Board, to consider confirmation of Committee of the Whole minutes for the Regular Board meeting held September 6, 2016. Board members met to discuss Personnel matters. (resolution #261)

RISE AND REPORT

The Board did rise and report from the In Camera, Committee of the Whole session to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole, In Camera Session meeting held September 6, 2016. (resolution #262)

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

Ann Cox, Manager, Human Resources, recognized Beverly Arpin for her contributions to the Board and achievement of 25 years of service with the Board. Kendall Olsen, Principal, Riverview School, provided a brief overview of Beverly's career with the Board thus far. Kendall shared fond memories that staff have of Beverly and thanked Beverly for her service to the Board. Chair, Dianne McCormack offered her thanks for Beverly's years of service on behalf of the Board.

Rainy River High School Indigenous Education

Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education, introduced Michelle Mosbeck, Vice-Principal, Rainy River High School, who, with the help of teacher Wendy Orchard and student Danier Andy conducted a smudging ceremony with all those present at the meeting. Following the ceremony, Wendy Orchard provided examples of how Rainy River High School incorporates Indigenous traditions into everyday activities. Examples of drums that students made at a workshop were passed around and a slide show presentation highlighting trips taken to the Mounds and photos of the June 2016 High School graduation ceremony were shown.

Chair McCormack presented a Recognition of Excellence certificate for the work of the school in promoting Indigenous Education. Chair McCormack also thanked Danier Andy for his student leadership and his participation on the Rainy River District School Board Student Senate.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the Regular Board meeting September 6, 2016 (Session 18). (resolution #263)

SYSTEM – PROGRAM/CURRICULUM SUCCESS

2015 – 2016 EQAO Results

Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education introduced Peg Keffer, Principal, School Support Services who was assisted by Brad Oster, Elementary/Numeracy Coordinator and Alison Simpson, Reading Recovery Coordinator, in presenting EQAO data results for the School Board, compared to the provincial results for Math and Literacy.

Discussion followed the presentation regarding next steps in helping to improve individual student achievement. It was noted that extra funding has been received to focus on closing the gap for students in Grades 7 to 12, and teachers will be supported with professional development. There will be a focus on incorporating technology into the curriculum to help engage students.

BOARD REPORTS

First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee meeting held September 12, 2016. (*Refer to minutes p. 20-23 of the agenda*)

Special Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held September 14, 2016. *(Refer to minutes p. 24-28 of the agenda)*

Audit Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held June 14, 2016 and the meeting held September 20, 2016. *(Refer to minutes p. 29-32 of the agenda and handout for June 14, 2016)*

Parent Involvement Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting held September 26, 2016. In addition the Board received the 2015-2016 Annual Report. *(Refer to minutes p. 33-39 of the agenda)*

Policy Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held September 27, 2016. *(Refer to minutes p. 40-51 of the agenda)*

The Board approved the following policy: (resolution #264)
3.05 Succession Planning

The Board approved the following policies for stakeholder consultation: (resolution #265)
1.70 Director's Performance Appraisal
7.22 Emergency Response
7.75 Workplace Harassment and Violence Prevention

The Board rescinded the following policies: (resolution #266)
3.06 Principal and Vice Principal Transfer
3.07 Principal and Vice Principal Appointment

Finance Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held October 4, 2016. *(Refer to handout)*

The Board approved the proposed amendments to the St. Francis Sports Fields Joint Use Agreement. (resolution #267)

The Board approved keeping the mileage rate remain at .48 cents/kilometer. (resolution #268)

The Board approved Bylaw #173 for the approval to issue 2017 Education Taxes within the Board's jurisdiction, in the unorganized areas as indicated in Section 257.7 of the *Education Act*. (resolution #269)

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Don McBride attended the OPSBA Director's meeting at the end of September. The new Minister of Education, Mitzie Hunter spoke to the group.

The Executive Director for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association will be retiring at the end of the school year and a replacement is being sought, with hopes of having someone in place by March or April. A template for feedback on the Executive Director's job description was provided at the meeting and Don McBride will provide that to the trustees.

A document outlining the major priorities for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association was provided to attendees.

The Northern Regional meeting will be held in Thunder Bay on October 14 to 15, 2016. Trustees McBride and Roy will be attending as well as Chair Dianne McCormack and Director of Education, Heather Campbell.

Student Trustee Report

Chloe Machura, Student Trustee, reported on the following activities/events for the month of September at the secondary schools:

Atikokan High School

This week is Frosh Week, with several theme days throughout the week: PJ Day was on Monday; Tuesday is Spirit Day with a pep rally held in first period; Wednesday is Twin Day; Thursday is Formal Day with a fashion show planned; and Friday is 80's day with a karaoke contest planned. The 27th of October will be the Halloween Dance.

Rainy River High School

The Student Leadership Council began planning for its first pow-wow to be held in May. The Terry Fox Run was held last week, with a dunk tank activity. Overall, \$600 was raised.

Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program

SCAP also held a Terry Fox Run. Secondary students assisted in the recent elementary soccer tournaments by refereeing the games. Buddy Day is on Friday.

Fort Frances High School

On the 19th of September, the school had a great turnout for its Terry Fox Run. Last week was Frosh Week, with a lip sync dance battle being one of the activities. The Student Leadership Council is planning their Halloween activities, including a pumpkin carving contest and We Scare Hunger.

Chair Report

Chair Dianne McCormack noted that after almost 100 years, the *Rainy River Record* newspaper ceased publication at the end of September. Chair McCormack expressed appreciation for the many Board related events the *Rainy River Record* reported on over the years. It was also noted that the *Rainy River Record* provided opportunities for students to take leadership roles and write their own columns or news items related to school events. Chair McCormack stated that “*the Record* is also greatly appreciated, and must be recognized for providing bursaries to our graduates who decided to pursue post-secondary education in writing, communication and/or the media. In the words of a former RRHS student who wrote to *the Record* to thank them for the writing opportunity they provided him for the past two years, ... the end for *the Record* is truly a sad event”.

Comments by Trustees

Vice Chair Lewis noted that recently there were a couple of items related to road and bus safety that have come to light that should be once again brought to the attention of the Ministry of Transportation to review.

The first item relates to the speed limit on Highway 613 on the approach to Crossroads School, where the current speed limit is 80 Kms/ hr. Vice Chair Lewis suggested that the Ministry once again consider reducing that stretch of road to 60 Kms/ hr for the short distance on highway 613. This would make the whole approach to the school much safer, particularly when there are parents and community members parked adjacent to the school grounds. Trustee Ralph Hill also noted that since the previous request to the Ministry of Transportation, Charles Road has opened up and there are a considerable number of pulp trucks now using Highway 613.

A second item relates to the position of a school bus loading and unloading sign on Highway 11, west of the crest of the hill on the easterly approach to the junction of Highway 11 and Highway 633, where the buses stop to unload students at the bottom of that hill. Log trucks heading east to Thunder Bay travelling at 100 Kms per hour have very little time to stop for a stopped bus.

The Board was in agreement that a letter should be sent to the Minister of Transportation addressing these concerns and any concerns Nikki Armstrong, Transportation Services Consortium, Transportation Manager, may have.

The Board passed a resolution directing the Director of Education to write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding highway safety concerns. (resolution #270)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

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

- The directors of education within the region met on September 19th to 20th in Thunder Bay; the NOEL (Northern Ontario Education Leaders) meetings involved presentations by post-secondary partners, the Ministry of Education, specifically, the Special Education Branch and the Indigenous Education Branch, as well as investigation into a regional campaign to promote regular student attendance.

- Principals and vice principals met on September 21st to review the Joint Protocol for Student Achievement, with representatives from Weechi-it-te-win Children and Family Services and Kenora Rainy River Children and Family Services in attendance. Shannon Robinson, Manager of Chronic Disease Prevention, presented the various resources and initiatives provided by the Northwestern Health Unit. The remainder of the day focused on Board and school improvement planning.
- On September 22nd and 23rd, the Director of Education attended the Public CODE (Council of Ontario Directors of Education) meetings in Toronto, which featured an update on labor and a presentation by Bruce Rodrigues, past CEO of EQAO and now Deputy Minister of Education.
- On September 28th, the Director of Education met with representatives of the Association for Community Living to look at a possible collaboration to support students with special needs who are transitioning into the community and the world of work.
- September 30th was a Professional Development Day, with half of the day focused on health and safety training. School secretaries met at Fort Frances High School to review voluntary student self-identification, led by Indigenous Education Leader, Angela Mainville, as well as further training on Altus.
- Finally, October marks the national and international recognition of certain employee groups within the Board. October 5th is World Teacher's Day; October 26th is Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day; and, October is National Principals' Month. The Director acknowledged these educators within our system, with appreciation for the work they do daily in support of students.

Personnel Report

The Board received the Personnel Report dated October, 2016.

The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Danielle Jean, .5 FTE Communication Assistant, JWS & 0.5 FTE Education Assistant, DYS effective September 6, 2016 and September 14, 2016

Diana Krukoski, .5 FTE Library Assistant, NFS & 0.5 FTE School Secretary NFS, effective August 31, 2016

Melissa Miller, 1.0 FTE Designated Early Childhood Educator, NSCS, effective October 3, 2016

Change in Assignment

Angela Gill, .5 FTE Library Assistant, MCT & 0.13 FTE Communication Assistant MCT to .83 FTE Library Assistant, RIV, effective August 29, 2016

Greg McKay 1.0 FTE Caretaker, CRS to 1.0 FTE Caretaker, RMS effective September 28, 2016

Laurie Mosley .2 FTE Teacher, NSCS & 0.7 FTE Teacher, ASH-E to 0.3 FTE Teacher, NSCS & 0.7 FTE Teacher AHS-E, effective September 9, 2016

Doug Olson, 1.0 FTE Caretaker, RMS to 1.0 FTE Caretaker, CRS, effective September 26, 2016

Correspondence

Board members received correspondence from Liz Sandals, President of the Treasury Board regarding the Executive Compensation Framework regulation that came into effect September 6, 2016.

Board members also received correspondence from Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, regarding Ontario's renewed math strategy. Attached is Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) No. 160, that addresses protected time for daily mathematics instruction, Grades 1 to 8.

Correspondence from Peel District School Board, sent to the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) regarding the impact of EQAO testing on Syrian newcomer students and concerns being forwarded to the Minister of Education regarding methods of reporting school results data, was also received by Board members.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting – November 1, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Education Centre, Fort Frances

Special Education Advisory Committee – October 12, 2016, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee – October 17, 2016, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Policy Committee – October 25, 2016, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

Finance Committee – October 25, 2016, 1:30 p.m., Education Centre

Audit Committee – November 15, 2016, 5:00 p.m., Education Centre

Joint Health and Safety Committee – December 1, 2016, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

2015-16 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association

2016 Northern Region Meeting and Program, October 2016

October 14-15, 2016, Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay

Public Education Symposium 2017 – January 19-21, 2017
Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

Education Labour Relations and Human Resources 2017 –
March 30 – March 31, 2017, Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

OPSBA Annual General Meeting & Program
June 8-11, 2017, Western Trillium House Blue Mountain, Collingwood

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 8:30 p.m. (resolution #271)

Director/Secretary

Chair