



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2016

RRDSB announces a ratified agreement with Local 65 Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

The Rainy River District School Board is pleased to announce that it ratified an agreement with Local 65 Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) at the March 1, 2016 Regular Board Meeting. CUPE Local 65, representing approximately 60 casual and 70 permanent local CUPE members, ratified the tentative agreement on February 25, 2016.

The new CUPE agreement is in effect from September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2017, aligning with the provincial settlements at the central bargaining table. CUPE Education Workers, the Government of Ontario and the Council of Trustees Associations announced a ratified central agreement on December 4, 2015.

The collective bargaining framework for the education sector features a two-tier bargaining process, or central and local bargaining as it is often referred to. This means issues such as salary, benefits, and paid leaves are negotiated on a province-wide basis at a central table. All other issues are then negotiated locally.

Ratification of this agreement by both parties marks the successful completion of this round of bargaining with CUPE Local 65. The Board is pleased that its continued negotiation talks with unions have resulted in three local contract agreements being reached since discussions began in the Fall. "We sincerely appreciate both CUPE's and the Board's negotiating teams for their willingness to negotiate an agreement that respects the rights and responsibilities of both employee and employer. Successfully completed agreements support everyone's ability to maintain the focus on students," said Dianne McCormack, Board Chair.

Supporting student achievement and well-being continues to be the goal of the School Board along with its support staff and educators who, in addition to the contributions of parents, volunteers and community partners, provide a culture of caring and collaboration, as well as a safe, welcoming environment in which our students learn.

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Mission: *"Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream."*

Vision: *"The Rainy River District School Board is an innovative community, nurturing hearts and minds, to build a foundation for tomorrow, today."*

This publication is available in accessible formats upon request.