

City of Kenora
Minutes
Of a Special Committee of the Whole of Council
April 2, 2012
10:30 a.m.
Kenora Catholic District School Board
1292 Heenan Place, Kenora

City Representatives Present:

Mayor D. Canfield, Councillor C. Drinkwalter, Councillor R. McKay, Councillor R. McMillan, Councillor S. Smith, Karen Brown, CAO, Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk

Regrets:

Councillor R. Lunny, Councillor L. Roussin

School Board Representatives Present:

Phyllis Eikre, Alexa McKinnon, Mary Cunningham, Brenda Bye, Mike Favreau, Paul Landry, Tina Sinclair, Craig Debbo, Andrew Poirier, Trina Henley, Frank Bastone

A. Public Information Notices

N/A

B. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature thereof

1) On Today's Agenda

2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance

None Declared.

1. Catholic School Update

The Chair of the Catholic School Board, Frank Bastone, welcomed the City delegates and thanked Council for their time commitment in meeting with them. Frank advised that they wished to review what Catholic schools make in contributions to education and our community and what projects that the Board currently has underway.

Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education then reviewed the history of Catholic Education in the Kenora area since 1881. Further, she reviewed the current student enrollment for the 5 Catholic schools under the Board. St Louis has 146 students, St. Johns (Red Lake) 107 students, Pope John Paul II 395 students, SMB 308 students and St. Thomas Aquinas High School with 628 students. Phyllis emphasized that there is a strong focus on student success in all schools and under the Board they employ 220 full time staff people and 100 casual staff. There is a high percentage of new staff in the Board at 12.5%.

Mary Cunningham and Alexa McKinnon, Superintendent of Instructional Services, reviewed the various highlights and achievements of the schools. There are many successes within all of the schools and they are extremely proud of many aspects including the Aboriginal education program which includes the Northern Studies Program that is for all students. Further, that in grade 10 96% of their students have already completed their 40 hours of community volunteer time and keep building on

the volunteer time until graduation. They are one of 15 Boards in the Province to be involved with the new mental health initiative and are the only Board in Northwestern Ontario with K-12 French Immersion west of Thunder Bay. They are also one of the first Boards in the Province to have self-ID policy and they pioneered the process with the KPDSB. Their full day kindergarten program that was piloted in St. Louis has been featured in numerous Ministry publications with huge success and recognition. They also had the only student from Northwestern Ontario on the Circle of Light student panel which is a conference that attracts International attendance and had more than 1,000 delegates. The Board and schools have great partnerships in the community and look forward to continuing to build those relationships.

The group then toured St. Thomas Aquinas School Multi-Purpose Centre and was provided with information from several teachers on the programs and the successes of the programs in that Centre.

Moved by R. McMillan, Seconded by C. Drinkwalter & Carried:-

That this meeting now be declared closed at 1:00 p.m.