



Joint Transportation Policy Committee
Rainy River District School Board, Conference Room A
Microsoft Teams
November 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.



MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair, John Fuhrer, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Committee members and staff were introduced:

RRDSB Trustee, Jeff Lehman
RRDSB Trustee, John Fuhrer
RRDSB Trustee, Sarah Creed

TNCDSB Trustee, Andrea Maggrah
TNCDSB Trustee, Cathy Piotrowski
TNCDSB Trustee, David Sharp

Manager of Rainy River District Transportation Services, Nikki Armstrong
RRDSB Superintendent of Business, Meghan Cox
RRDSB Director of Education, Heather Campbell
TNCDSB Director of Education, Jackie Robinson

Recording Secretary: Tracy Grennier, Executive Assistant, RRDSB

Observer: Kathryn Pierroz, Trustee

Regrets: TNCDSB Superintendent of Business, Laura Mills

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

No Committee members declared a conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended to reflect Jackie Robinson, TNCDSB Director of Education, to present on Item 6.c). Joint Transportation Policy Submission - TNCDSB.

The agenda was approved as amended.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The November 10, 2022 Joint Transportation Policy Committee minutes were precirculated and approved electronically on November 18, 2022. No additional revisions were noted.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) JTPC Meeting Frequency and Policy Review Follow-up

RRDSB Superintendent of Business, Meghan Cox, provided a verbal update on the Joint Policy Review items discussed at the November 10, 2022. Items included:

- Electronic circulation and approval of minutes within 30 days of meeting
- Committee member names, meeting minutes and dates posted on the Consortium website
- Communication released on the Consortium website regarding the Ministry of Education's transportation funding model

These items were completed as prescribed with input from member boards regarding the communication that was circulated. It was mutually agreed to continue with this practice.

As the Ministry funding model has now been updated, the Joint Transportation Policy will go out for stakeholder consultation.

6. New Business

a) 2023-2024 Ride Time Update

The Committee reviewed a report on the expected ride times for 2023-2024, with the longest ride times for all students being due to geography/rural location or courtesy ridership. The Consortium is seeing a return to pre-pandemic ridership numbers causing an overall increase in averages.

There has been an increase in ride times for students in Grades 4-8 from McCrossen-Tovell School, as the students have been relocated to Riverview School due to staffing shortages at McCrossen-Tovell School.

Some students continue to experience longer ride times with the construction detours and delays in the Fort Frances and Alberton areas.

All Consortium ride times are within Joint Transportation Policy guidelines.

b) 2022-2023 Year in Review

The Committee received a report on the accomplishments of the Rainy River District Transportation Services for the 2022-23 school year.

c) Joint Transportation Policy Submission - TNCD SB

The Committee reviewed a report from the TNCD SB to update the Joint Transportation Policy to *accommodate bussing of all students between a school-based daycare and the school of choice for the family*. The recommendation was moved by TNCD SB Trustee Piotrowski, seconded by RRDSB Trustee Lehman. The discussion focused on the reason for the proposed policy change within the Town of Atikokan, the current walking distances, applying the policy consistently for all students, and the implications of any walk distance changes for ridership. After discussion, the Committee voted on the recommendation with a tied vote; therefore, the motion was defeated.

There was support from member boards for administration to explore possible resolutions to the issue.

d) Joint Transportation Policy Review

The Joint Transportation Policy continues to be supportive of the delivery of a safe and efficient transportation system. The Committee received an overview of the Ministry of Education's new transportation funding model. Despite the recent changes in the funding model, it was recommended that the current distances in policy remain status quo as aligning walk distances with the Ministry of Education model would not result in any savings/efficiencies and would result in a reduction of service delivery. No policy language changes were recommended by the Management Committee.

7. Future Meeting

The next Joint Transportation Policy Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2024 to review policy feedback from Stakeholder consultation.

Date to be determined.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.