



**Tri-County Regional School Board**  
Nova Scotia, Canada

**Students First**

**MINUTES**  
January 8, 2008

**APPROVED**  
**February 13, 2008**

**Present:**

***Board Members***

Faye Haley, Chair	Alvin Comeau
Ron Hines, Vice-Chair	Anne Moses
Robie Atkinson	Nick Pippy
Joan Brewer	Winnie Surette

***Staff***

Phil Landry, Superintendent of Schools  
Richard Smith, Director of Human Resources  
Bill Curry, Director of Programs & Student Services  
Steve Stoddart, Director of Operations  
Joe Hazelton, Communications Officer  
Tanya Forrest, Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary

***Other***

Stephen Amirault, Regional Education Officer

**Regrets:**

Alden Fells  
Janice Francis  
Donna Tidd

A meeting of the Tri-County Regional School Board was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2008. The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MOTION** by Board Member Atkinson, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the meeting move in committee of the whole at 5:34 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Surette, that the meeting move in-camera at 5:34 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Board Member Atkinson, seconded by Board Member Surette, that the meeting move out of in-camera at 6:55 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Board Member Brewer, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the meeting move out of committee of the whole at 6:55 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **CALL TO ORDER & NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Board Chair Haley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and asked Board Member Brewer to lead those present in the singing of the National Anthem.

## **RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

Attendance was taken noting that eight Board Members were present which constituted a quorum. Board Members Fells, Francis and Tidd sent regrets.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Atkinson, that the agenda be approved with the following additions:

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes of Special Board Meeting on December 13, 2007

### **Business Arising**

- Risk Management Committee

### **New Business**

- Joe Bishara
- Minister's Report
- St. Mary's Bay Academy Trivia
- External Credentialing
- Technology Plan
- Literacy Support/PISA
- NSSBA – Resignation of Halifax Regional School Board

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Board Member Moses, seconded by Board Member Hines, that the minutes of the Board Meeting held on December 11, 2007 be approved as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held by conference call on December 13, 2007 be approved as amended.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

### CLM11

Board Member Pippy advised that at a recent meeting of the NSSBA, discussion ensued regarding the future of the CLM11 course. Information that was distributed to the NSSBA was provided for Board Members. This item will be brought forward at the next Board Meeting.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING ...continued**

### Risk Management Committee

Steve Stoddart advised that in April 2007 the Board passed a motion to strike a Risk Management Committee and selected members to sit on that Committee. SIP representatives will be asked to attend a Board Meeting to discuss the composition of the committee. Board Member Moses will inform SIP of dates of upcoming Board Meetings.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

### Lease Agreement with Municipality of Digby

No further information has been received.

### Microphones and Speakers

Steve Stoddart advised that he has not yet received a price from the first contractor for the cost of microphones and speakers for the Boardroom and the second contractor will be in on Friday, January 11, 2008 to view the Boardroom and cost out a price.

## **REPORT FROM MEETING IN COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE, IN-CAMERA**

Vice-Chair Hines gave the following report from the committee of the whole, in-camera session:

**BD01-08** **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Atkinson, that Report No. 01-08, Appointments to Staff, be approved as follows:

Administrators:

- HR01-08:01 Theresa Nickerson, Barton Consolidated, Principal, 100% Term, from February 1 to July 31, 2008

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BD02-08** **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Brewer, that Report No. 02-08, Requests from Staff, be approved as follows:

Teachers:

- HR02-08:01 Carol Mahaney, Hillcrest Academy, retirement, effective June 2008

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BD03-08** **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Pippy, that Report No. 04-08, Appointments to Staff, be approved as follows:

Teachers:

- HR04-08:01 David Sweeney, Barrington Municipal High, 100% Term, Senior High Science, from January 3 to July 31, 2008
- HR04-08:02 Maria Locke, Hillcrest Academy, 100% Long-Term Substitute, Grade 2, from January 4 to June 27, 2008

**REPORT FROM MEETING IN COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE, IN-CAMERA**  
**...continued**

Others:

- HR04-08:03 Owen Manzer, Spare Custodian, Digby Co., effective January 14, 2008
- HR04-08:04 Beverly Doane, Spare Custodian, Shelburne Co., effective January 14, 2008
- HR04-08:05 Vivian Lynn Nickerson, Spare Custodian, Shelburne Co., effective January 14, 2008

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BD04-08** **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Pippy, that Report No. 05-08, Requests from Staff, be approved as follows:

Others:

- HR05-08:01 Evelyn Mullen, Bus Driver, Digby Co., retirement, effective January 11, 2008
- HR05-08:02 Terry Penney, Bus Driver, Shelburne Co., resignation, effective December 20, 2007

**MOTION CARRIED**

Board Member Moses withdrew from voting on the following motion due to a conflict of interest.

**BD05-08** **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Pippy, that the Collective Agreement between the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU) and the Tri-County Regional School Board for the period April 1 2006 to March 31, 2009 be approved.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**MOTION** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Brewer, that the following correspondence be received:

- Jennifer and Bruce Greene

**MOTION CARRIED**

Jennifer and Bruce Greene

Jennifer and Bruce Greene submitted a letter to the Board in support of the pre-primary program at Carleton Consolidated School.

Board Member Moses stated that the pre-primary program at Carleton has provided opportunities for students in the Carleton area which had not been available to them in the past. She asked the Board to consider looking at alternatives in the event that the province eliminates the pre-primary program, i.e. a program similar to South Centennial's pre-primary program which is governed by a Board of Directors, or a partnership with Health Promotion and Community Services, etc. Staff members were asked to look into possible alternatives and bring forward a report to a future Board meeting.

## DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS

There were none.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Suspension Report for December 2007

**MOTION** by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Hines, that the suspension report for December, 2007 be received.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### Heather Taylor – Request for Survey

Heather Taylor, a teacher at Shelburne Regional High School, submitted a request to the Board for approval for students in grades 7-9 in three Tri-County schools to complete a survey at home on parent-adolescent relationships. Ms. Taylor stated that the research, which is part of her thesis, points to the importance of parents spending time in activities with their children.

**BD06-08** **MOVED** by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the request from Heather Taylor to send home a survey with grades 7 to 9 students in three Tri-County Schools be approved.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### Joe Bishara

The Board was advised that Joe Bishara, teacher at Maple Grove Education Centre, was awarded Reader's Digest 2007 Education Hero of the Year.

Mr. Bishara has been teaching at Maple Grove Education Centre for the past 30 years and is well known for his dedication and leadership of the school's Memorial Club.

**BD07-08** **MOVED** by Board Member Moses, seconded by Board Member Surette, that a letter of congratulations be sent to Joe Bishara for be awarded the Reader's Digest 2007 Education Hero Award.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### Minister's Report

Joe Hazelton, Communications Officer advised that each year for the Minister's Report, Boards are asked to submit success stories. This year, Boards were given a number of topics to choose from. Bill Curry advised that he and the Communications Officer met with Coordinators to choose a topic which was subsequently approved by the Department. The topic this year is: "Telling Our Stories, Using our Assessment to Approve Student Learning". The submission is in the process of being formulated and will be brought forward at the January 22, 2008 Board meeting for the Board's perusal.

## **NEW BUSINESS ...continued**

### St. Mary's Bay Trivia

St. Mary's Bay Academy will be holding its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Trivia Challenge on Saturday, February 9, 2008. Trivia starts at 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 6:00 p.m. with rapure pie for sale at that time. The Board is putting in a team again this year with Board Members Alvin Comeau, Winnie Surette, Joan Brewer, Donna Tidd and Faye Haley. As the teams consist of 6 players, there is one spot left for a staff member.

### External Credentialing

The NSSBA has requested all Boards to submit their respective positions on the Department of Education's draft policy on External Credentialing to the NSSBA by February 8, 2008.

External Credentialing would permit students to complete the course or program through an organization that is external to the high school system. Some examples of organizations that are listed in the current draft include approved language schools, Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia, Canadian Cadet Organization, 4-H Leadership Program, St. John Ambulance, Royal Conservatory of Music, Dance Nova Scotia and Neptune Theatre Youth Performance Company. In recognizing an organization, the Department of Education ensures that the courses or programs offered are high quality, support provincial *Principles of Learning*, do not duplicate courses that are part of the public school program for Nova Scotia high schools, and allow students to work toward achieving Nova Scotia's *Essential Graduation Learnings* (EGLs).

Under the proposed policy, students in grade ten, eleven or twelve may have an external credit recognized on their high school transcript when they are able to provide evidence of successfully completing a recognized course or program.

**BD08-08**      **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Atkinson, that the Board support the concept of External Credentialing and advise the NSSBA of its support.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### Technology Plan

Bill Curry advised that the Manager of Technology will make a presentation at a February Board meeting on technology refresh in the schools.

### Literacy/PISA

Bill Curry spoke on Literacy Support in the Board over the past 3 years. It was noted that there is one Literacy Support person in each County for grades 7, 8 & 9 and will include grade 10, 11 next year. Mr. Curry advised that staff is looking at a model for next year in which the schools that now have literacy support will be assigned a partial FTE for a literacy support person.

Bill Curry distributed information on PISA Results for 2006.

## **NEW BUSINESS ...continued**

### NSSBA

Board Member Surette asked if the Board received any information from the NSSBA on the resignation of Halifax Regional School Board from the NSSBA.

It was noted that other than an initial press release, no information has been received from the NSSBA.

## **INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS FROM SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

### Board Member Pippy

Board Member Pippy stated that he was made aware of a pilot project at Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School (YCMHS) on restorative justice and noted that any time there is a pilot program in the province it seems to go to the larger schools when some smaller schools would benefit from this type of program. He further stated that he would like the Board to steer matters like this to smaller schools when the Board becomes aware of it happening.

Bill Curry noted that Emma Halpern, a Dalhousie Law Student who lives in Yarmouth, has been working with YCMHS and Yarmouth Junior High School on a restorative justice program. This program is one where students who get in trouble go through a restorative justice procedure with senior high students assisting the junior high students in understanding the repercussions for their actions. This program has been very successful at Yarmouth Junior High School.

### Board Member Hines

Board Member Hines noted that the Drumlin Heights Robotics Team was very appreciative of the financial support received from the Board.

## **INQUIRIES AND RESPONSES FROM THE PUBLIC**

### Ken Langille

Further to the discussion regarding the Restorative Justice pilot project at YCMHS, Ken Langille stated the following: "The Restorative Justice project started in Yarmouth merely due to the merging of key players in one location: Emma Halpern, a lawyer with NS Legal Aid, an innovative law program at Yarmouth High School, Community Justice Centre in Yarmouth and a successful alternative measures/restorative justice program running in the area. The merging of these individuals and groups set the foundation for a pilot program two years ago. I commend Bill Curry and Phil Landry for their support throughout this time. The Restorative Justice project is now in the final stages and we hope to start the actual sessions in February at Yarmouth Junior High and Yarmouth High. Certain disciplinary matters that warrant a suspension will be forwarded to this group. Students (and their parents) will be offered a choice of either a suspension or the restorative justice route. It is essential that the student "buy in" to the process."

## **INQUIRIES AND RESPONSES FROM THE PUBLIC ...continued**

Mr. Langille further stated that there are 12 teachers at Yarmouth High and two at Yarmouth Junior High trained as facilitators and eight student facilitators. Mr. Langille will be training another 10 student facilitators at the end of the month.

On a final note, Mr. Langille stated that “it is the goal of our program to set in place the mechanisms and supports to establish similar programs at schools throughout the Tri County Regional School Board. I am sure that Emma Halpern and I would be thrilled to present to the Board upon request.”

## **NOTICE OF MOTION**

There was none.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tanya Forrest  
Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary

N. Faye Haley  
Chair of the Board

/tf