



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

**Students First**

**MINUTES**  
**February 20, 2007**

**APPROVED**  
**March 20, 2007**

**Present:**

***Board Members***

Faye Haley, Chair

Ron Hines, Vice-Chair

Joan Brewer

Alvin Comeau

Nick Pippy

Donna Tidd

Anne Moses

Winnie Surette

***Regrets***

Robie Atkinson

Alden Fells

Janice Francis

***Staff***

Richard Smith, Director of Human Resources

Steve Stoddart, Director of Operations

Bill Curry, Director of Programs & Student Services

Joe Hazelton, Communications Officer

Tanya Forrest, Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary

***Regrets***

Phil Landry, Superintendent of Schools

A meeting of the Tri-County Regional School Board was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2007. The Board Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MOTION** by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the meeting move in committee of the whole at 5:40 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the meeting move in-camera at 5:40 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that the meeting move out of in-camera at 6:40 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Surette, that the meeting move out of committee of the whole at 6:40 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 Atkinson, Fells, and Francis sent regrets.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **Business Arising from the Previous Meeting**

- AGM Resolutions

### **Correspondence**

- Cindy and Sherm Embree
- Dan Earl
- Honourable Rodney MacDonald and Angus MacIsaac

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the minutes of the Board meeting held on January 30, 2007 be approved.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **ORDER OF THE DAY**

### Lisa Doucet, Coordinator of Student Services

Ms. Doucet reviewed for the Board the following highlights from Student Services:

Review of Program Support Assistant Services – a Student Services team is in the process of attending each school to review Program Support Assistant Services to review PSA schedules, Resource Teacher schedules, Resource service delivery model, and student program plans. The team also completes observations of students currently receiving program support assistance. These reviews have been completed in 13 schools to date and will be visiting remaining schools by the end of May 2007.

Pilot Projects – *Co-Teaching* Pilot at Shelburne Regional High School, *Strategies for Teaching Based on Autism Research (STAR)* Program Pilot presently with one student at Meadowfields Community School, *Promoting Academics and Enhancing Self-Esteem for Students with Identified Behavioural Challenges* Programs at Digby Regional High School and Barrington Municipal High School.

## **ORDER OF THE DAY**

Lisa Doucet, Coordinator of Student Services ...continued

Individual Program Plan (IPP) Reviews – each school administrator submitted a signed copy of each student's IPP which is reviewed by the Student Services Team.

Richard Smith asked if Professional Development gaps are identified by PSAs. Ms. Doucet stated that she does get some positive feedback from PSAs stating that they feel more included as part of the staff.

Board Member Pippy advised that the NSSBA has been recommending and requesting more support for PSAs for in-servicing, professional development, etc.

On behalf of the Board, Board Chair Haley thanked Mrs. Doucet for her presentation.

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

### Resolutions

Board Chair Haley brought forward the following resolutions for consideration to be forwarded to the NSSBA:

- A telecommunication system/model for use in consultation and in-servicing of board and teaching staff

**BD17-07** **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Pippy, that the following resolutions be forwarded to the NSSBA:

WHEREAS in-servicing of board and teaching staff on curriculum initiatives and developments is very important, and

WHEREAS the delivery of such in-servicing currently results in having personnel on the roads under uncertain and/or dangerous driving conditions, creates long periods of downtime traveling to and from sessions, and causes extensive costs for travel, food and accommodation, and

WHEREAS the technology is readily available, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the NSSBA strongly encourage the Department of Education to develop a telecommunication system/model for use in consultation and in-servicing of board and teaching staff.

- That the Department of Education include in its budget process funding to provide appropriate educational and social support especially for suspended students and others transitioning into the regular education system.

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

### Resolutions...continued

WHEREAS there is continuing concern around the issue of out-of-school suspensions and;

WHEREAS many students have behavioural problems beyond the current capacity of the system to handle, and

WHEREAS youth from residential and other facilities access the regular educational system, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSSBA strongly encourage the Department of Education to include in it budget process funding to provide appropriate educational and social support specifically for suspended students and others transitioning into the regular education system.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### Risk Management Committee

Superintendent Landry is looking into this issue and will bring information forward at the next meeting.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

### Draft Business Plan

The Draft Business Plan will be brought forward at the next meeting.

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

**BD18-07** **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that Report No. 26-07, Appointments to Staff, be approved as follows:

Others:

- **HR26-07:01 Gary Melanson**, IT Support Specialist, Permanent, effective February 26, 2007, upon the successful completion of 120 day probationary period
- **HR26-07:02 Ricky Doucette**, IT Support Specialist, 100% Term, from February 26 to November 30, 2007

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BD19-07** **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Surette, that Report No. 27-07, Requests from Staff, be approved as follows:

Recommend acceptance:

- **HR27-07:01 Luanne Doyle**, Clark's Harbour Elementary, leave of absence for the 2007/2008 school year

## REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, IN-CAMERA SESSION ...continued

Recommend to deny:

Administrator:

- **HR27-07:02 Grant Dunn**, Principal, Plymouth School, leave of absence for the 2007/2008 school year.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BD20-07** **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the following schools be included in the Medic Alert Students First Program Response: Arcadia, Digby Elementary, Evelyn Richardson Memorial Elementary School, Forest Ridge Academy, and Port Maitland.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BD21-07** **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Pippy, that an additional FTE for Speech Language Pathology be hired for the balance of this school year.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## CORRESPONDENCE

**MOTION** by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that the following correspondence be received for information purposes:

- Response from Minister re Inequities in Funding
- Susan Gould re Pre-Primary Program
- Cindy and Sherm Embree re school cancellations/closures
- Dan Earle re Gulf of Maine
- Invitation from Honourable Rodney MacDonald and Angus MacIsaac

**MOTION CARRIED**

### Minister of Education

Minister Casey responded to the Board's request for a meeting with the Minister regarding inequities in funding stating that the specific points raised by the Board would be better explored in a meeting with the Deputy Minister and the Senior Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Board Member Brewer said: "I am disappointed that the Minister won't attend. I think that it is important that she understands some of the issues and I hope that we could have very detailed minutes that we could send to her and to the MLAs as well so that they are made aware of the issues in detail."

### Susan Gould

Mrs. Gould submitted a letter to the Board stating that the pre-primary pilot program at Carleton School is an excellent program and has been a great benefit to the students. She requested that the Board do their best to keep the program available. Board Chair Haley advised that the Department of Education is presently reviewing the pilot.

## **CORRESPONDENCE ...continued**

### Cindy and Sherm Embree

Sherm Embree submitted a letter to the Board regarding school cancellations and closures stating that the Board should review its process to determine that a general closure is not ordered when a more limited one would apply. He stated that when some roads are not closed to private vehicles, schools could be open for those students who could get there without school buses.

Mr. Embree also noted an issue relating to make up days of instruction and class time for days lost to school closures. He stated that parents and the public paying the taxes are wary of lost instruction time as much as of jealousy of teacher time off due to school closures.

Mr. Embree further commented on permanent closure of schools and stated that the provincial government just received a report resulting from a fairly public review of the process. He stated that the Board would be easing public concern about permanent closures if it advertised, explained and made available the process before a particular school was being considered for closure.

Board Chair Haley stated that school cancellations due to inclement weather has been a bone of contention for many years but the safety of students has to be the Board's primary consideration. She stated that as weather conditions can vary within ½ a km and when running buses over a great distance, it is more complicated than the public realizes. It was noted that the Coordinator of Transportation makes every effort to check with various people in each county i.e. highway depots, RCMP, etc. before a decision is made.

Board Chair Haley stated that further to Mr. Embree's comments about make up days, some schools that have had PD days planned have rescheduled them.

Board Member Comeau stated that one big problem with bussing and days lost is that a lot of side roads are solid ice and dangerous for buses and he would rather close schools than to have even one child injured.

Steve Stoddart stated there is only one factor with transportation and that is getting the students to and from school, and the Board and Transportation staff will always air on the side of caution for the safety of students.

### Dan Earle

Dan Earle, Gulf of Maine Institute, advised that the Nova Scotia Program is looking promising for this year. He advised that the Barrington team is continuing work on dune restoration and anticipates adding an adopt-a-stream project on the West Branch of the Barrington River; three schools in Yarmouth are interested in adopt-a-stream projects on Broad Brook; the youth environmental group in Bear River is now active; and the Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre Association has expressed interest in working with Islands Consolidated School on the Northeast Cove watershed. Mr. Earle provided a DVD of the 2006 Community Based Initiative Summer Workshop that was held at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre.

## **CORRESPONDENCE ...continued**

### Nova Scotia Government

The Honourable Rodney MacDonald, Premier of Nova Scotia and Angus MacIsaac, Chair of Treasury and Policy Board invited interested parties to attend an information session on a new corporate orientation program for government agencies on February 27, 2007 at the Westin Hotel in Halifax from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

## **DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS**

There were none.

## **REPORTS FROM COORDINATORS/CONSULTANTS**

**MOTION** by Board Member Tidd, seconded by Board Member Surette, that the reports from Coordinators and Consultants be received.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR**

**MOTION** by Board Member Haley, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that the Report from the Board Chair be received.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **REPORTS FROM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION**

### Superintendent of Schools

A report was not available at this time.

### Director of Programs and Student Services

**MOTION** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Moses, that Report No. 30-07, Report from the Director of Programs and Student Services, be received.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

### Finance & Operations

There was no report.

### School Advisory Council Committee

There was no report.

## REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES ...continued

### Policy Committee

A meeting of the Policy Committee was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2007.

**BD22-07**      **MOVED** by Board Member Moses, seconded by Board Member Brewer, that Policy 301.01 *School Based Funds* be approved by the Board.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BD23-07**      **MOVED** by Board Member Moses, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that Policy 500.01 *Student Transportation Discipline* be approved by the Board.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BD24-07**      **MOVED** by Board Member Moses, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that Policy 810.01 *Network Access and Use* be approved by the Board.

**MOTION CARRIED**

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

## REPORTS FROM AD HOC/OTHER COMMITTEES

### Boundary Committee Meeting

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the revised boundaries. Some concern was expressed regarding grandfathering. However, it was noted that grandfathering is a separate issue from the boundaries and will be discussed at a special board meeting.

**BD25-07**      **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Brewer, that the Board approve the Draft Revised School Boundaries.

**A recorded vote was requested:**

**Voting in the Affirmative**

Donna Tidd      Nick Pippy  
Winnie Surette      Anne Moses  
Faye Haley      Joan Brewer  
Ron Hines

**Voting in the Negative**

Alvin Comeau

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BD26-07**      **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that due to the unique circumstances in Clare, the Board will consider opening its boundaries in that area if the government funds the transportation costs.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Board Member Hines thanked the committee members who put up with a lot of issues and sometimes negative criticism. He noted that it was very tedious and time consuming.

## **REPORTS FROM AD HOC/OTHER COMMITTEES**

### Suspension Committee

A meeting of the Suspension Committee was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2007.

Board Member Brewer noted that the Suspension Committee directed the Director of Programs and Student Services to contact his counterparts across Nova Scotia School Boards to gather information on partnerships with government agencies. This information will be used to formulate a strategy on how to best approach government agencies in the Tri-Counties for the purpose of forming partnerships. The goal in forming these partnerships is to make use of a collaborative approach to addressing the causes of, and formulating possible alternatives to, suspensions.

The next Suspension Committee meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

### Professional Development (PD) Committee

It was noted that the Chair of the P.D. Committee changes every six months, from Board Representative to NSTU Member. Board Member Moses is PD Committee Chair for the next six months.

### Staff Recognition Committee

There was no report. The next meeting is February 22, 2007, 2:00 p.m.

## **REPORTS FROM THE NSSBA**

### Board of Directors

Board Member Tidd advised that the Directors are meeting on February 22 and 23, 2007.

### Communications

Joe Hazleton, Communications Officer, advised that the next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 9:00 a.m. which he will be attending by conference call.

### Education Committee

Board Member Pippy advised that the Education Committee met on February 16, 2007 and discussed the following:

A presentation was made by Mary Lou Donnelley and Bruce Calloway of the NSTU. Education Committee Members posed questions to the NSTU President as to what is happening with Guidance and the requirements for a Master's Degree. The President advised that the Union is concerned about the situation.

## **REPORTS FROM THE NSSBA ...continued**

### Education Committee ...continued

- Inclusion - the Union advised Education Committee Members that they are advocating to the Department for support in this area.
- Teacher shortage in French, Tech. Ed., Family Studies, etc. – The Union President stated they are aware of these problems.
- Math Assessments - There appears to be a lot of emphasis on literacy versus how much emphasis is being put on math especially in light of the most recent math results.
- Al Gore's Documentary on Global Warming – The Department of Energy obtained rights to a 5 year agreement to receive 7 copies of the documentary. Tri-County already has a copy.
- Playground standards and safety.
- The NSSBA is arranging a one day forum on April 20, 2007 to provide information on what is happening at the Ministerial level, with presentations by Ministers on best practices of school boards. This meeting is open to elected board members and staff.

**MOTION** by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Hines, that the report from the NSSBA Education Committee be received.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### School Insurance Program Committee

There was no report.

### Finance Committee

There was no report. The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2007.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Suspension Report for January 2007

**MOTION** by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the Suspension Report for January 2007 be received.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### Health Promotion & Protection

Health Promotion & Protection, in conjunction with Dalhousie University, will be conducting a province wide Student Drug Use Survey in March and April 2007 and requested Board approval to conduct the survey in three Tri-County High Schools. It was noted that parental approval is required before a student can participate in the survey.

Board Members Moses and Brewer expressed concern relating to some of the explicit sexual related questions in the survey and felt it may be inappropriate for some students, especially in grade 7.

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

### Health Promotion & Protection ...continued

Bill Curry advised that students do not have to answer all questions and that teachers will ensure that students are not traumatized by certain questions in the survey.

**BD27-07** **MOVED** by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that the Board approve the Student Drug Use Survey to be conducted in three Tri-County schools.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

### Special Project Submissions

Steven Gaudet, Coordinator of French Second Language Programs provided a list of special projects to be forwarded to the Department of Education which require Board approval.

**BD28-07** **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the list of special projects to be forwarded to the Department of Education be approved.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

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

Board Chair Haley noted that Board Members were provided with a copy of the floor plans to the Board Office.

Board Chair Haley also noted that Faith Turner-Anderson won the provincial contest for waste reduction and suggested that the Board send her a letter of congratulations.

**BD29-07** **MOVED** by Board Chair Haley, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the Board send a letter of congratulations to Faith Turner-Anderson for winning the provincial contest for waste reduction.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

Board Member Moses asked when the Board would discuss the grandfathering clause pertaining to student transfers. The Board agreed to schedule a Special Board Meeting for March 5, 5:30 p.m. Staff members were asked to bring forward recommendations at that meeting regarding educational ramifications pertaining to grandfathering.

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

### Tina Comeau

Ms. Comeau asked: "In reference to the correspondence you received tonight and the discussion you had on school closures, student safety, school bus transportation and road conditions, do board members have any response to recent concerns raised by parents following a school bus accident that occurred on slippery roads earlier this month that parents were not contacted by board officials in a more timely manner to alert and inform them that their children were involved in an accident and has the board discussed, or will you be discussing, how situations like this are handled in the future, should an unfortunate situation like this occur again?"

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

Board Chair Haley stated that it was a truly unfortunate situation and advised that Superintendent Landry informed the Board of this incident. It was noted that this issue will be on the agenda of the next Finance and Operations Committee meeting.

Ms Comeau asked Mr. Hines to repeat the list of schools approved for the Medic Alert program and to clarify that this stems from the presentation made by Port Maitland parent, Tanya Maillet, to the board.

Board Member Hines advised that the schools approved for the Medic Alert Program are: Arcadia, Digby Elementary, Evelyn Richardson Memorial Elementary School, Forest Ridge Academy, and Port Maitland. It was noted that this program stems from the presentation made to the Board by Tanya Maillet, parent at Port Maitland School.

### Don Berry

Don Berry asked: “As a school, can we say no to the sex survey?”

Bill Curry advised that if the Board approves the survey, then the schools who are chosen must participate, conditional upon parental approval.

Don Berry asked: “Do I need to send a copy of the survey to each parent? Who pays for the paper?”

It was noted that a copy of the survey will be provided to participating schools for each parent, along with parental consent forms.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tanya Forrest  
Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary

N. Faye Haley  
Chair of the Board

/tf