



Tri-County Regional School Board
Nova Scotia, Canada

Students First

MINUTES
October 17, 2006

APPROVED
November 7, 2006

Present:

Board Members

Faye Haley, Chair

Ron Hines, Vice-Chair

Robie Atkinson

Joan Brewer

Alvin Comeau

Nick Pippy

Alden Fells

Janice Francis

Donna Tidd

Anne Moses

Winnie Surette

Staff

Phil Landry, Superintendent of Schools

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

A meeting of the Tri-County Regional School Board was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2006. The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Atkinson, that the meeting move in committee of the whole at 6:05 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Board Member Haley, seconded by Board Member Hines, that the meeting move in-camera at 6:05 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Board Member Moses, seconded by Board Member Atkinson, that the meeting move out of in-camera at 6:45 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that the meeting move out of committee of the whole at 6:45 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 Fells to lead those present in the singing of the National Anthem.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken noting that all Board Members were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

New Business

- Board Office Lease
- Community Use Appointment of Chair
- Holidays
- Crosswalk at Forest Ridge Academy

Unfinished Business

- Letter from Jim Burrill

MOTION CARRIED

ORDER OF THE DAY

Bill Curry, Director of Programs and Student Services, presented information to the Board on the new Food and Nutrition Policy. An outline of implementation dates and activities for 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 was distributed. It was noted that the aim of the Food and Nutrition Policy is to make healthy foods easy and accessible to the students. In 2006-07, schools should work to increase access to foods and beverages on the Maximum and Moderate Nutrition lists with an emphasis on fruits and vegetables and whole grains and to decrease access to foods on the Minimum Nutrition list. Also, effective January 2007, all schools will have removed foods items listed in the Baked Goods, Snacks or Processed Foods, and Frozen Novelties sections of the Minimum Nutrition list of the Good and Beverage standards. By June 2009, all schools will have fully implemented the entire food standards of the Food and Beverage Standards for Nova Scotia Public Schools, and will have implemented all policy directives identified within the School Food and Nutrition Policy for Nova Scotia Public Schools.

Mr. Curry noted that the most controversial directive is that fundraising with food and beverages organized by and through schools will centre only on healthy items as defined by the standards, i.e. chocolate bar campaigns are no more.

Board Member Hines stated that he likes the concept behind the policy and students have outside school hours to eat other foods.

Board Member Surette noted her concern regarding fundraising and how it will hurt the students.

Board Chair Haley asked if a list of the healthy food choices can be sent home with students to provide parents with an official list of healthy items to assist them when packing lunches for their children.

ORDER OF THE DAY ...continued

Mr. Curry spoke on Positive Effective Behaviour Support (PEBS) which is now in place in about 1/3 of Tri-County schools. It is hoped that it will be in 2/3 of Tri-County schools by the end of this school year. PEBS is a broad range of systemic and individualized strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behaviour with all students. It provides a matrix for how students should behave in schools and the consequences for students who decide not to act according to the matrix. Also, it gives clarity to teachers for which behaviours are office managed and which behaviours are classroom managed. Ways of communicating behaviour expectations will be posted in specific areas of the school; staff, parent, and supervisor handbooks; student agenda or planner books; and discussions with school and community. It was noted that PEBS can help schools enhance student achievement and success, become a more efficient, effective and relevant learning environment, and create proactive, unified efforts involving the school, family and community.

The Board thanked Mr. Curry for the presentations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Pippy, that the minutes of the Board meeting held on October 2, 2006 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There was none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

RCH Committee

At a previous Board Meeting, staff members were asked to bring back a revised RCH Committee report based on earlier discussions. Board Member Surette suggested that under the mandate, the statement should read: concerns regarding individual students or staff will not be discussed The Board was in agreement to the change.

BD202-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the Board establish an RCH Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

The following Board Members agreed to serve on the committee:

- Nick Pippy, with Robie Atkinson as alternate
- Winnie Surette, with Anne Moses as alternate
- Alvin Comeau, with Faye Haley as alternate

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING ...continued

DALA Request

Further to a presentation from DALA at the last Board Meeting regarding a request for an expansion to the Digby Area Learning facility, the request was approved. It was noted that the Board's Operations Department will oversee the project.

BD203-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Moses, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that the Board approve the proposal presented by the Digby Area Learning Association (DALA).

MOTION CARRIED

Suspension Report for September 2006

At the last Board Meeting, a motion had not been made to receive the suspension report for September 2006.

MOTION by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the suspension report for September 2006 be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Letter from Jim Burrill

Jim Burrill submitted a letter to the Board at the last meeting regarding Board Policy 500.9 and staff were asked to send the letter and policy to SIP for their interpretation. Superintendent Landry advised that a response has not yet been received from SIP.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, IN-CAMERA SESSION

BD204-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Atkinson, that Report 186-06, Appointments to Staff, be approved as follows:

Teachers:

- **HR186-06:01 Linda Coakley**, Drumlin Heights Consolidated, Grade 12 English/Global Geography/Canadian Families, Long-Term Substitute/Term, from October 10, 2006 to February 2, 2007(LTS)/February 3 to July 31, 2007(Term)
- **HR186-06:02 Amy McCormack**, South Centennial Elementary, 100% Term, Upper Elementary, from October 16, 2006 to July 31, 2007

MOTION CARRIED

BD205-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Surette, that Report 187-06, Requests from Staff, be approved as follows:

- **HR187-06:01 Heather Burlingham**, Board Secretary/Communications Officer, resignation effective November 8, 2006

MOTION CARRIED

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

BD206-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that Report 193-06, Appointments to Staff, be approved as follows:

- **HR193-06:01 Darlene Nickerson**, Custodian, Milton Education Centre/Yarmouth Bus Garage, Permanent, effective October 16, 2006
- **HR193-06:02 Lloyd Sweeney**, Bus Driver, Yarmouth County, Permanent, effective October 16, 2006

MOTION CARRIED

BD207-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that Report No. 185-06 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the following correspondence be received for information purposes:

- Digby Area Recreation Commission (DARC) re snow removal

MOTION CARRIED

Digby Area Recreation Commission (DARC)

Last year, the Board provided up to \$2000.00 to the Digby Area Recreation Commission (DARC) for snow removal and in turn, DARC applied a portion of the money from the Board towards ice time for students. DARC plans to do this again, providing they receive financial support from the Board. They noted that a tender had gone out for snow plowing, with the closing date of October 5, 2006.

Superintendent Landry was asked by the Board to verify the tender amount that DARC awarded and bring the information to the next board meeting.

DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS

There were none.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

MOTION by Board Member Haley, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that Report No. 191-06, Report from the Board Chair, be received.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS FROM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of Schools

MOTION by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Moses, that Report No. 188-06, Report from the Superintendent, be received.

MOTION CARRIED

Superintendent Landry commended the Director of Operations and his staff for their excellent work in getting the schools ready for the opening in September.

Director of Programs and Student Services

MOTION by Board Member Atkinson, seconded by Board Member Pippy, that Report No. 192-06, Report from the Director of Programs and Student Services, be received.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

School Advisory Council Committee

A report was not available at this time.

It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for November 28 at 3:00 p.m., Yarmouth Board Office.

Dates and locations of upcoming SAC workshops are as follows:

- October 23, 2006 – Hillcrest Academy
- October 30, 2006 – Digby Regional High School
- November 6, 2006 – Yarmouth Junior High School

REPORTS FROM AD HOC/OTHER COMMITTEES

Boundary Committee Meeting

There was no report from the Boundary Committee.

The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2006 at 5:30 p.m., Yarmouth Board Office.

Suspension Committee

Board Member Brewer advised that there will be a meeting with various departments/agencies dealing with at-risk students on November 14, 2006. This meeting will not open to the public as different suspension issues will be discussed.

REPORTS FROM AD HOC/OTHER COMMITTEES ...continued

Staff Recognition Committee

The first meeting is scheduled for October 26 at 2:00 p.m. at the Board Office.

REPORTS FROM THE NSSBA

Board of Directors

Board Member Tidd noted that the CSBA Atlantic Conference is scheduled for January 25, 26, and 27, 2007 in Prince Edward Island.

Communications

Joe Hazelton, Acting Communications Officer, noted that he attended his first NSSBA Communications meeting by conference call on September 21, 2006. He noted that the NSSBA AGM is scheduled for May 31 to June 2, 2007 hosted by the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board at Pictou Lodge.

MOTION by Board Member Tidd, seconded by Board Member Surette, to receive the report from the NSSBA Communications Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Education Committee

Board Member Pippy advised that he attended the first meeting of the NSSBA Education Committee on September 20, 2006 and the highlight of the meeting was the presentation from Mr. Curry pertaining to all the good things going on in Tri-County. He further noted that there was a presentation from Bill Youden and John Fahie on the proposed new computerized student information system.

MOTION by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Moses, to receive the report from the NSSBA Education Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Out-of-Province Trip Request from Shelburne Regional High School

Shelburne Regional High School submitted a request for a trip to Europe from March 8 to 17, 2007 for approximately 8 grade 11 & 12 students. It was noted that substitute costs are not provided by the Board.

BD208-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that the trip request from Shelburne Regional High School to Paris and France from March 8 to 17, 2007 be approved, with no substitutes provided by the Board.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS ...continued

Out-of-Province Trip Request from Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School

Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High travel club submitted a request for an out-of-province trip to Europe from March 8 to 19, 2007. It was noted that substitute costs are not provided by the Board.

BD209-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Hines, that the trip request from Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School to Europe from March 8 to 19, 2007 be approved, with no substitutes provided by the Board.

MOTION CARRIED

Out-of-Province Trip Request from Barrington Municipal High School

BD210-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that the trip request from Barrington Municipal High School to London, Paris, and Rome in March 9 to 18, 2007 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

Remembrance Day

Board Chair Haley reminded Board Members that if they wish to lay a wreath at the Remembrance Day Services, some businesses will direct bill and if not, Board Members can be reimbursed for the cost of the wreath.

Policies

Board Chair Haley stated that there are often referrals to the policy committee from the Board or Committees and the Board is looking for clarification as to who ensures those referrals go to the Policy Committee. It was noted that the person taking the minutes from the Board or Committee will refer the Policy to the person taking minutes of the Policy Committee.

Board Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Board has been tentatively scheduled for November 7, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. The in-camera session of the regular Board Meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the regular session will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Motions to the Board

Board Chair Haley stated that the current system of motions coming from committees to the Board are awkward and suggested that a template be devised for all committee motions. Motions from a committee that have been tabled will be left unnumbered until ready for Board approval and will be included in the Committee Report as information only.

NEW BUSINESS ...continued

New Board Office Lease

Superintendent Landry advised that after a meeting with YAIC, it was advised that they are on target to complete the building by the end of October. A date for the Board to occupy the building has not been defined; however, with agreement from YAIC, the lease will begin on December 1, 2006.

BD211-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Moses, to accept the lease for the new Board Office effective December 1, 2006.

MOTION CARRIED

Community Use of School Committee for Shelburne

Board Member Atkinson advised that the Board needs to appoint a chair to the Shelburne Regional High School Community Use of Schools Committee.

BD212-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Atkinson, that the Board appoint Bernice Goodick as Chair of the Shelburne Regional High School Community Use of Schools Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Holidays

Board Member Moses advised that several parents have contacted her stating they heard that Christmas Concerts will now be called Holiday Concerts. Board Member Moses stated that as December 25 is the birth of Jesus Christ, Christmas should be recognized as other holidays are and called Christmas.

Board Member Moses also asked that Christmas items be on display in the Board room as other special observances are displayed.

BD213-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Surette, that as the Board celebrates a number of special observances that staff and schools also refer to the Christmas Holiday as Christmas.

MOTION CARRIED

Forest Ridge Academy Crosswalk

Steve Stoddart, Director of Operations, advised that he received a call from a community member regarding installing a crosswalk at Forest Ridge Academy. Mr. Stoddart asked the Board for permission to contact Transportation and Public works to put a crosswalk at Forest Ridge.

Direction was given to Mr. Stoddart to contact Transportation and Public Works regarding this issue and will bring information back to the Board at a future meeting.

INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS FROM SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Hines stated that the Board has expressed concern in person to the Minister and Deputy as well as the NSSBA regarding inequities in funding but have not put the concerns in writing.

BD214-06 **MOVED** by Board Member Brewer, seconded by Board Member Hines, that the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding the inequities in funding and copy to Tri-County MLAs and Education Critics.

MOTION CARRIED

INQUIRIES AND RESPONSES FROM THE PUBLIC

Tina Comeau

Ms. Comeau asked: “In Bill’s representation on PEBS, he said it was in place in about 1/3 of schools so far – is that evenly split among the 3 counties?”

Bill Curry advised that it is evenly split among the Tri-County schools.

Ms. Comeau asked: “In Phil’s report, he spoke of attending meetings with Nova Learning over flooding at some residential homes on Goodwin Drive – is Meadowfields school causing or contributing to a flooding issue?”

Superintendent Landry advised that it is undetermined if Meadowfields school is contributing to the problem but the situation is being investigated and monitored.

Ms. Comeau asked: “Referring to the funding issue that Ron raised this evening under Board comments; what reaction did the Board get from the Minister of Education when you raised the subject with her at your recent meeting?”

Board Chair Haley advised that there was not a lot of reaction from the Minister as the Board made a formal presentation. However, the Deputy Minister did indicate that they would revisit the funding to see if any errors were made.

Don Berry

Mr. Berry asked: “Is the Board going to provide funds to schools to help with rewards that are given daily to students in the PEBS program. Candy is small and low cost; other things cost a lot.”

Bill Curry advised that the Food and Nutrition Committee will look at what kind of awards can be offered. Board Chair Haley advised that the Board will also look at this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tanya Forrest
Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary

/tf

N. Faye Haley
Chair of the Board