



Tri-County Regional School Board
Nova Scotia, Canada

Students First

APPROVED
November 15, 2005

MINUTES
2005 November 01

Present:

Board Members

Faye Haley, Chair

Robie Atkinson

Alvin Comeau (5:25 p.m.)

Nick Pippy

Winnie Surette

M. Alden Fells (5:03 p.m.)

Donna Tidd, Vice Chair

Joan Brewer

Ron Hines

Janice Francis

Anne Moses

Staff

Phil Landry, Superintendent of Schools

Richard Smith, Director of Human Resources

F. Heather Burlingham, Board Secretary/Communications Officer

Others

Leroy Legere, REO, Department of Education

A meeting of the Tri-County Regional School Board was held on November 1, 2005. The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Atkinson, that the meeting move in committee of the whole at 4:40 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Board Member Moses, seconded by Board Member Hines, that the meeting move in camera at 4:40 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Board Member Fells, seconded by Board Member Surette, that the meeting move out of in-camera at 5:35 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Board Member Atkinson, seconded by Board Member Tidd, that the meeting move out of committee of the whole at 5:35 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

The Chair gave a recess at 5:50. During the recess the annual general meeting of the Board was held.

CALL TO ORDER & NATIONAL ANTHEM

Board Chair Haley called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 all Board Members were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Under New Business

f) Boundaries

g) First meeting of the Policy Committee

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Board Member Comeau, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the minutes of the meeting held on October 18, 2005, be approved as corrected.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Policy No. 400.7, Enhanced French Programs

MOTION by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Moses that Policy No. 400.7, Enhanced French Programs be referred to the Policy Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy No. 203.4, Smoking

MOTION by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Hines, that Policy No. 203.4, Smoking, be referred to the Policy Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

Policy No. 703.20, Head Lice

MOTION by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Brewer, that the Department of Health be contacted and asked to provide information on head lice and that input be sought from the Principals' group as well.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (cont'd)

Out of Province Trip Request – Barrington High

The Superintendent required additional information so this item was moved forward to the November 15th meeting of the Board.

Out of Province Trip Request – Yarmouth High

The Superintendent required additional information so this item was moved forward to the November 15th meeting of the Board.

Revision to Board's by-laws (Art. 5.01 and 6.01)

BD243-05 Moved by Board Member Haley, seconded by Board Member Moses, that By-Law Article 5.01(a), *Regular Meetings of the Board*, and other appropriate articles, be changed to reflect the structure of board meetings to twice a month and the committee meetings.

MOTION CARRIED

BD244-05 Moved by Board Member Haley, seconded by Board Member Moses, that Article 6.01, *Quorum*, of the Board's by-laws be changed from 50% + 1 which is seven members to a simple majority which is six members.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Board Member Hines asked if the letter has gone to the Department of Education yet regarding transportation and the Board Secretary/Communications Officer answered that it had not been done yet. He also asked about Ragged Island School and whether or not this matter had been clarified. The Superintendent said that he has not done so yet.

Board Member Brewer asked about the size of the new Barrington Municipal High School and whether this was satisfactory. The Superintendent replied that it was fine.

RISE AND REPORT FROM MEETING IN COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE, IN-CAMERA

Board Member Chair Tidd gave the following report from the committee of the whole, in-camera session.

BD245-05 Moved by Board Member Tidd, seconded by Board Member Moses, that Report No. 190-05, Requests from Staff, be approved as follows:

- Kevin Spencer, teacher, Islands Consolidated School, resigning effective November 3, 2005.

MOTION CARRIED

RISE AND REPORT FROM MEETING IN COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE, IN-CAMERA (cont'd)

BD246-05 Moved by Board Member Tidd, Seconded by Board Member Moses, that Report No. 194-05, Requests from Staff (as amended) be approved as follows:

- Bill Crosby, teacher, Lockeport Regional High School, resigning effective November 23, 2005;
- Gregory Jamieson, teacher, Digby Regional High School, resignation for retirement purposes effective February 3, 2005;
- Lynne Melanson, Program Support Assistant, resigning effective November 10, 2005.

MOTION CARRIED

BD247-05 Moved by Board Member Tidd, seconded by Board Member Brewer, that Report No. 193-05, Appointments to Staff, be approved as follows:

- Bonita Townsend, custodian, Hillcrest Academy, be made term effective November 7, 2005 (promotion by competition)

MOTION CARRIED

BD248-05 Moved by Board Member Tidd, seconded by Board Member Moses, that a severance package for Employee No. TC02-05 be approved

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Patrick Keeler, student, request for donation

MOTION CARRIED

Letter from Patrick Keeler

BD249-05 Moved by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Hines that a donation of up to \$250 be made to students Patrick Keeler for his participation in Encounters with Canada and that he be asked to make a presentation to the Board on his experiences during the trip.

MOTION CARRIED

COORDINATORS' MONTHLY REPORTS

MOTION by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Surette that the monthly reports from the Coordinators, as listed, be received for information purposes:

- Amirault, Stephen, Coordinator of Monitoring & Evaluation, No. 183-05
- Chisholm, Jane, Math Consultant, No. 187-05
- Cullen, Stephen, Active Healthy Living Consultant, No. 179-05
- Cunningham, Trevor, Coordinator of Programs 7-12, No.180-05
- Doucet, Lisa, Coordinator of Student Services, No. 177-05
- Gaudet, Steve, Coordinator of FSL, No. 191-05
- Fulton, Jude, Coordinator of RCH, No. 182-05
- Hazelton, Susan, Coordinator of Curriculum P-6, No. 178-05
- Heffernan, Barry, Coordinator of Technology, No.185-05
- Pitman, Gerry, Coordinator of Community Learning, No. 184-05
- Stockman, Kathy, Literacy Consultant, No. 188-05

MOTION CARRIED

It was decided that in the future the Coordinators' Monthly Reports would be placed on the agenda for the second Board meeting of the month but that they would be distributed to the Board Members at the first meeting. This would give the members a chance to peruse the reports and should they want additional information or have questions then the Director of Programs and Student Services would be able to arrange for the appropriate staff members to attend the meeting.

REPORT FROM FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee had not met because of weather conditions.

REPORTS FROM AD HOC/OTHER COMMITTEES

It was suggested that some of these committees had not met in some time. It was time to get them reactivated.

Board Member Atkinson reported from the SST in Barrington that things were going well.

REPORTS FROM THE NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors

Board Member Tidd presented a written report. She gave an update on the continuation of the Lead and Achieve project.

Education Committee

Board Member Hines reported that the committee would be discussing distance education at its next meeting. He invited any members who wanted matters brought before this committee to let him know and he would see that it would be done. The correspondence issue has been left for so long that many of them are out of date.

NEW BUSINESS

Report No. 171-05, After School Program

- BD250-05** Moved by Board Member Moses, seconded by Board Member Pippy that the recommendation in Report No. 171-05, After School Program, be approved by the Board as follows:
That the after school program be expanded to Port Maitland Consolidated School on a trial basis until June 30, 2006.

MOTION CARRIED

NSSBA – Train the Trainer

Chair Haley reported that the NSSBA wanted to have a board and staff member from each Board trained so that some of the NSSBA modules could be delivered locally. The Superintendent was asked to find a staff member.

- BD251-05** Moved by Board Member Atkinson, seconded by Board Member Fells that Board Member Donna Tidd be the Board Member trained under the NSSBA Train the Trainer program.

MOTION CARRIED

December meeting

It was decided to hold the board meeting for December on December 6, 2005.

Suspension Report for October 2005: Report No. 189-05

MOTION by Board Member Atkinson, seconded by Board Member Surette, that the Suspension Report for October 2005, Report No. 189-05, be received for information.

MOTION CARRIED

Out of Province Trip Request – Maple Grove Education Centre

- BD252-05** Moved by Board Member Hines, seconded by Board Member Pippy, that the Out of Province Trip Request from Maple Grove Education Centre to travel to Quebec City for the period of June 21 to June 24, 2006 be approved by the Board.

MOTION CARRIED

Boundaries

- BD253-05** Moved by Board Member Surette, seconded by Board Member Hines that for the 2006-2007 school year the Board enforces the existing boundaries and the Boundary Review Committee continue to investigate the possibility of changing the school boundaries.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Policy Committee

MOTION by Board Member Brewer, seconded by Board Member Moses, that the initial meeting of the Policy Committee be held on November 29th starting at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS FROM SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Pippy asked if there was any way to get the deficiencies resolved at Shelburne Regional High School. For example, they were supposed to get 300 bleacher seats and they got 140. The School Steering Team has written departmental officials but have had no response.

BD254-05 Moved by Board Member Pippy, seconded by Board Member Surette, that the Chair write to the Minister of Education strongly recommending that he look into providing the number of seats for the gym as was provided for in the contract; that he expedite the completion of the soccer season and that the sidewalk be reconstructed as it is unacceptable.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Member Surette asked if the Board is able to withhold funds when the contract is near completion to deal with deficiencies. The Superintendent explained that the Board has no authority or control over these matters as the schools are built under the auspices of the provincial Department of Transportation and Public Works.

INQUIRIES AND RESPONSES FROM THE PUBLIC

Tina Comeau, The Vanguard

Ms. Comeau asked, "Re: head lice policy: Are you being asked to amend/change the policy?"

Chair Haley responded in the affirmative and explained that there are opposing views on whether or not children should be removed from the schools when they have lice.

Kathy Colaiacovo

Ms. Colaiacovo asked, "I've heard that the first priority from the December 2004 wish list – combine Central, South and Arcadia into one school was denied. Is this true?"

Since this did not relate to a topic on the agenda, the question was not answered.

Ms. Colaiacovo asked, "Who is on the Policy Committee? Who is Chair?"

The Board Chair gave her the information on these two questions.

INQUIRIES AND RESPONSES FROM THE PUBLIC (cont'd)

Ms. Colaiacovo asked, “What exactly is Lead and Achieve and why would you need public input? Also, Home and School have more parents and regular meetings and could also give input on what you ask us for.”

The Chair gave her a brief overview of what Lead and Achieve is.

Ms. Colaiacovo asked, “Re Motion to enforce existing boundaries for 2006-2007 and take the review to another year. What is the rationale for this delay of another year? These past 6 months have been hard on several families and many are concerned as to how their children will be affected. More delay may be hard on some when will we see the end to this?”

Chair Haley explained that the Board was not necessarily delaying the boundary review but was directing staff to ensure that the existing boundaries are honoured. This was one of the points the Committee heard over and over again when it had the public meetings to discuss boundary review.

Brenda Clarke

Ms. Clarke asked, “Has the procedure changed for Inquiries and Responses from the Public?”

The Chair said that the order had been changed at the request of a member of the public.

Ms. Clarke was referring to the number of questions on an Inquiries and Responses (Public) Form. The Board Secretary/Communications Officer said that the sheet indicated that only one question could be asked per sheet and she would ensure that this is changed on the sheets.

NOTICE OF MOTION

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Surette at 8:17 p.m

Respectfully submitted

F. Heather Burlingham
Board Secretary/Communications Officer

N. Faye Haley
Chair of the Board