

APPROVED
2003 April 22



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
2003 March 31

Present:

Board Members

Nancy Whittaker, Chair
Robie Atkinson
Janice Francis
Donna Tidd

Faye Haley, Vice Chair
Andy Baxter
Anne Moses
Ron Hines

Staff

Phil Landry, Director of Education (joined the meeting via telephone at 6:50 p.m.)
F. Heather Burlingham, Board Secretary/Communications Officer

Regrets:

Alvin Comeau
Karen Mattatall

Ada Fells

A special meeting of the Tri-County District School Board was held on Monday, March 31, 2003, at Lockeport Elementary School.

The sole purpose of the meeting was to hear presentations from the community concerning the possible permanent closure of Ragged Islands Consolidated School. There were approximately 16 members of the public present.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Whittaker called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and asked Board Member Atkinson to lead everyone in singing the national anthem.

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

The Board Secretary/Communications Officer took attendance noting that there were eight members present. Board Members Comeau, Fells and Mattatall had sent their regrets.

PRESENTATIONS

Bonnie Williams-Lloyd representing the LES Home and School

Ms. Williams-Lloyd gave an overview of the process they used to get input from the parents. They developed a questionnaire for the parents to complete. Their presentation is attached to these minutes.

PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

Jeff Chetwynd

Mr. Chetwynd expressed concern that money is not being spent to maintain the schools that are there. He said that in 5 years time they could all be meeting concerning the possibility of closing Lockeport Elementary School because of poor maintenance of the building.

The students are currently using an inadequate playground that fronts on the harbour and a street on the other side. Safety is a concern.

He said that he pointed out last fall to SWRSB that siding is missing from one end of the building and should be replaced. This was not done and now the area is black and he questioned if this might be mould. He said that no one at Southwest seems to listen. The Chair responded by saying that she would pass on his concerns once again to the Southwest.

Darren Lloyd

Mr. Lloyd said he does not want to see the same thing happen to Lockeport Elementary School as did at Ragged Islands. He asked why there was no one from the Southwest at the meeting since they are in charge of the buildings. Chair Whittaker responded that the decision was a Tri-County one as far as closing a school. Mr. Lloyd said that if things are not done, people will be unhappy and will keep their children home.

Mr. Chetwynd suggested that possibly the board should recommend that Ragged Islands should stay open and then the Southwest would have to go in and fix it. This way if Ragged Islands is closed and nothing is done at Lockeport Elementary School, then it's a two way lose.

SPEC02-03 Moved by Ron Hines, seconded by Board Member Haley, that the Tri-County District School Board contact the Southwest Regional School Board concerning the maintenance problems at Lockeport Elementary School and the plans for the future.

MOTION CARRIED

Jewel Townsend

She asked if the board could tell them what the modifications would be to Lockeport Elementary School if Ragged Islands is closed permanently. What does the board see as the option? The Chair replied that this discussion would take place on the April 14th when the Board meets to make a decision on the future of Ragged Islands.

The parents indicated that they did not want portables. Coming from the current annex the children get wet on days like that day had been. The playground equipment is not in good shape. The elementary students can only use the gym at the decision of the high school. Quite often the gym is cancelled on the elementary especially for extra-curricular. Currently there is no resource room at Lockeport Elementary School. One parent said they are being short-changed in many ways. The parents commended the teachers on making a difficult situation work.

PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

In response to the question of whether the community would get a copy of the recommendation that is sent to the SW, chair Whittaker replied in the affirmative.

Danielle McCauley-Williams

Ms. McCauley-Williams said that closing Ragged Islands might be an option if the situation is resolved. Currently there is an extra bus.

When it was suggested by a Board Member that the parents should possibly lobby their Member of the Legislative Assembly, the parents' response was that they pay taxes and why should they have to do that.

Jewel Townsend asked if the costs of fixing Ragged Islands would be compared to putting an addition on Lockeport Elementary School.

Board Chair Whittaker thanked the community for coming to the meeting. As well she commented on their knowledge of the pilot project which governs the Tri-County District School Board and the Southwest Regional School Board.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Board Member Hines made the motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

F. Heather Burlingham
Board Secretary/Communications Officer

Nancy Whittaker
Chair

fhb 03Apr11