

Eastern School Board
September 1, 2004

1. **OPENING**

The first official meeting of Eastern School District took place on Wednesday, September 1, 2004, in the Avalon Room, Regional Office, Spaniard's Bay. The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by the Chair, Bruce Peckford.

Members present: Bruce Peckford (Chair)
Danny Button
Earl Elliott
Ron Ellsworth
Joan Marie Gatherall
Cyril Hayden
Jim Hearn
Joe Keating
Vi Parsons
Brendan White

Absent with regrets: Angus Gilbert
Mel Hong
Rick Martin

Also in attendance: Dr. Bruce Sheppard, Director of Education, Eastern
Mr. Richard Harvey, Assistant Director, Personnel
Dr. Darin King, Assistant Director, Programs
Mr. Albert Trask, Assistant Director, Rural
Mr. Eric C. Snow, Assistant Director, Finance & Administration
Ms. Gwen Hurley, Executive Assistant
Mr. Barry Roberts (Burin)
Mr. Brian Shortall (AESB)

The Chair asked the Board, in light of correspondence under agenda item 6.2, to ratify his position as Chair for the Eastern School District.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Cyril Hayden, that the Board confirm Bruce Peckford as Chair of Eastern School Board. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Brendan White, seconded by Ron Ellsworth, that the Chair/Vice Chair of the previous boards continue to act as an Executive Committee for ESD until the Board elects an Executive. Carried.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The following items were tabled for discussion at the next Board meeting:

- i. Letter to Assistant Directors, AESB, re Step 33
- ii. Letter from AESD to Board re Step 33 for Assistant Directors
- iii. Telegram article - Dr. Bruce Sheppard
- iv. Trustee correspondence.

A discussion was held on a timeframe for board packages being distributed to Trustees prior to board meetings and also on items being added to the agenda at the Board table. It was agreed that when the notice of meeting is distributed, any items for the agenda should be forwarded to the Office of the Director for inclusion. The Director noted that under the Schools Act, information for a board package must be distributed to members at least 4 days prior to the meeting. The agenda will be prepared by the Chair and Director.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Cyril Hayden, that the agenda be accepted. Carried.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Earl Elliott, that the minutes of the July 26, 2004, Eastern School District Transitional Team be adopted. Carried.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

- 4.1 **Strategy for Committee Meetings.** A discussion was held on the formation of committees for ESD. It was agreed that the Chair and Director would develop a recommendation regarding committee structure for consideration at the next board meeting. Once the structure has been determined, a form will be circulated to trustees defining committees and seeking their participation preference. A recommendation will be compiled by the Director and the Chair and a recommendation presented to the November meeting

A discussion was also held on video conferencing for committee meetings. It was agreed that this method may be used for committee meetings, but Board meetings would continue in person.

- 4.2 **School Board Orientation.** The Director advised that the Board Retreat is set for the afternoon of October 22 and all day on October 23, at The Wilds in Salmonier. Trustees requested information on this session in advance.

- 4.3 **Transition Agreement.** The Director advised that the four previous boards had signed the agreement and when the signed union agreements are received, the official signing will take place, expectedly at the next Board meeting.
- 4.4 **Chair Correspondence to NLSBA.** A copy of correspondence that had been forwarded to the Chairs of the new school boards was distributed. Mr. Peckford noted that he had only had contact with Nada Borden since the correspondence.

The Board was informed that NLSBA will be convening a meeting of the five Chairs with NLSBA. It was also announced that Brian Shortall has been appointed as the new Executive Director of NLSBA.

5. REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

- 5.1 **Finance Committee - August 16, 2004** The Chair acknowledged the considerable effort by Mr. Snow and Dr. Sheppard to prepare the Budget in such a short time period and for their intense discussion with Department of Education officials regarding funding needed.

The Director noted that thanks to the intervention of the Chair, Government has made a commitment of the \$400,000 for the regional offices and the additional \$248,000 that was a shortfall in the support staff hours of work previously committed to AESB. These are additional funds will allow flexibility in the very tight budget.

A discussion was held on areas for consideration for the extra funding. Administration was asked to give favorable attention to ensuring equities throughout the district for schools with low enrolments. The items of legal fees and travel for administration to give the necessary presence in the regions would be considered.

It was requested that the square footage of our buildings and a consolidated balance sheet from the four boards would be brought back to the next meeting.

Concerns were expressed regarding only one maintenance person each in the Vista and the Burin regions.

It was noted that a discussion will be held at a later date regarding this district's involvement in NLSBA.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Vi Parsons, that the budget be approved as presented. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Vi Parsons, that the Director and the Assistant Director, Finance & Administration, be approved as signing authorities for the District. Carried.

A policy on signing authority would come forward at the next meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 **Minister of Education re Fire Safety & Inspection.** This was distributed for information purposes.

6.2 **Minister of Education re Chair appointment.** This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

6.3 **Wade Sheppard, CDLI.** The Director advised that CDLI would not be hiring per the recommendation submitted by the Board.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 **Staffing Update.** The Chair commended the assistant directors of Programs and Personnel for the efficient staffing of schools.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Brendan White, that the staffing update be accepted by the Board. Carried.

7.2 **Regular Monthly Meeting Date.** It was agreed that the first Wednesday of each month would be set as the regular date for the monthly meetings. It was also agreed that the meetings would rotate to the regional offices: St. John's in October, then Clarenville, Burin, Spaniard's Bay.

It was agreed that those trustees currently serving on the SSP committees would continue until the SSP's are reconfigured. Therefore, Danny Button, Cyril Hayden, Jim Hearn, Joe Keating, and Vi Parsons would continue as district representatives.

The Board, as well as the Director, thanked the former directors for their input and support during the transition period.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Joe Keating, seconded by Vi Parsons, that the meeting adjourn at

10:30 p.m. Carried.