

Eastern School Board

December 1, 2004

1. OPENING

A meeting of the Eastern School District took place on Wednesday, December 1, 2004, in the Burin Regional Office, Burin. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chair, Bruce Peckford.

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

Absent with regrets: Mel Hong
Rick Martin

Also in attendance: Dr. Bruce Sheppard, Director of Education
Dr. Darin King, Assistant Director, Programs
Mr. Eric Snow, Assistant Director, Finance & Administration
Mr. Albert Trask, Assistant Director, Rural Issues
Ms. Gwen Hurley, Executive Assistant
Ms. Mary Tucker, Communications Officer

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Motion: Moved by Ron Ellsworth, seconded by Cyril Hayden, that the agenda be accepted. Carried.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Cyril Hayden, seconded by Ron Ellsworth, that the minutes of the School Board meeting of November 3, 2004, be adopted. Carried.

It was noted that Joe Keating was not in attendance at the November 3, 2004, meeting.

6.1 **ESDNL e-mail.** It was agreed that Board packages would be e-mailed in future; however, files larger than 6 pages will be available in hard copy at the applicable Board meeting, upon prior request to the Office of the Director. Trustees would use the esdnl address for board packages.

6.5 **Christmas Social.** Concern was raised over no social for Trustees and District-level staff during the Christmas season.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Ron Ellsworth, that a social would be sponsored by the Board for District-level staff in each region (wine and cheese); and a similar social for all Trustees would be held in St. John's. Carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 **EDS involvement in NLSBA.** A lengthy discussion was held on the benefits of NLSBA, ESD willingness to participate in the provincial organization and the costs associated with participation.

Eastern School Board will request a detailed operating budget for NLSBA, including all liabilities for which boards would ultimately have responsibility.

The consensus of the meeting was that ESD would like to see a provincial organization of Trustees to provide professional development and to act as an advocate for quality of education for all students. The redefined organization must have a very streamlined management system.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Cyril Hayden, that Eastern School Board recommend to the Board of Governors of NLSBA that an Annual General Meeting be held before February 15, 2005. Carried with a vote of 6-1.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Joe Keating, that Eastern School Board support in principle NLSBA for the purposes of growth & development for Trustees and advocacy for public education, pursuant to a streamlined structure and budget. Carried.

The Chair was asked to bring this message forward.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Danny Button, that Eastern School District provide a second payment of \$5000 to NLSBA to provide funding until the Annual General Meeting, provided a budget for NLSBA showing the income and expenditure, as well as a plan for reduced costs up to the AGM is presented to Eastern School Board at its January meeting. Carried with a vote

of 6-4.

A discussion was held regarding the flyer (distributed for information purposes) advertising the Atlantic Conference for CSBA for January. It was agreed that this item would be placed on the agenda for the January meeting.

- 4.2 **Discussion Retreat Summary.** The summary of comments from the Trustee retreat will be discussed at a later date due to the lengthy discussion surrounding other issues on the agenda.

5. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

- 5.1 **Finance & Property - November 22, 2004.** Mr. Ellsworth reported on the meeting

Motion: Moved by Ron Ellsworth, as a recommendation from the Finance & Property Committee, that the replacement of the Grade 7-12 school for Placentia would be the Board's number one new school construction priority followed by the Carbonear project. Due to its special circumstances, the Clarenville project would stand alone. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Ron Ellsworth, as a recommendation from the Finance & Properties Committee that Government be reminded of 2003-04 projects that were approved, but placed on hold in the provincial budget of March 2004. The board will request that these projects go forward, but not jeopardize this year's Board priorities, as included in the Capital Priorities to be submitted. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Ron Ellsworth, as a recommendation from the Finance & Properties Committee, that the capital priorities and the capital works priorities as presented be approved. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Ron Ellsworth, as a recommendation from the Finance & Properties Committee, that the Board ratify an earlier decision of Avalon East School Board, and write the Minister of Education seeking transfer of title of 153 square meters of land adjacent to Queen Elizabeth High, Foxtrap, to the adjacent property owner. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Ron Ellsworth as a recommendation from the Finance & Properties Committee, that the Board reduce monthly payment for the School Lunch Program to \$225. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Ron Ellsworth, as a recommendation from the Finance & Properties Committee, that the Board discontinue charging the School Lunch Association for utilities costs effective September 1, 2004. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Ron Ellsworth as a recommendation from the Finance & Properties Committee, that the St. John's Hospital School name would change to Janeway Hospital School. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Joe Keating, seconded by Cyril Hayden, that the Board accept the report of Finance & Property Committee of November 22, 2004. Carried.

5.2 Education Foundation - November 3, 2004

The Director advised that at the request of the ad hoc Education Foundation Committee legal advice had been obtained on the incorporation of the education foundations and, in particular, the Avalon East Foundation that is incorporated. Legal counsel advised that the present incorporated body, since it comes under the jurisdiction of the Eastern School Board, could continue with a motion of the Board to change the directors and initiate a change of name to better reflect the boundaries of the district.

Ron Ellsworth and Joan Marie Gatherall withdrew their names from serving on the Avalon East Foundation.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Danny Button, that the Board re-constitute the Avalon East Foundation membership to include present ESD members (Cyril Hayden, Mel Hong, Mary Tucker) and to appoint directors to the resulting vacancies (Rick Martin, Earl Elliott, Brendan White, Bruce Peckford, Eric Snow). Carried.

Motion: Moved by Earl Elliott, seconded by Ron Ellsworth, that the ad hoc Education Foundation Committee presently in place would continue its work to put long term plans in place for the foundation, including terms of reference, membership numbers, name change, etc., and bring recommendations to the Board. Carried.

The present ad hoc Education Foundation Committee consists of Brendan White, Earl Elliott, Rick Martin, Cyril Hayden, Bruce Peckford and staff Dr. Bruce Sheppard, Eric Snow and Mary Tucker.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 **Eastern School District Board Logo**

Motion: Moved by Ron Ellsworth, seconded by Joan Marie Gatherall, that the logo presented be accepted by the Board. Carried.

6.2 **Attendance at School Events.** A recommendation to ensure district representation at school events was presented.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Earl Elliott, that the policy re school events attendance would be accepted, removing reference to religious events. Carried.

Trustees were asked to contact the office of the Director if they were available for any of the events.

6.3 **January Board Meeting**

Motion: Moved by Joe Keating, seconded by Ron Ellsworth, that the regular monthly meeting for January would be moved to the second Wednesday, January 12, 2005. Carried.

6.4 **Director=s Report**

The Director=s oral report to the Board was deferred due to time restraints. A copy of the Director=s report was available upon request.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Moved by Ron seconded by Brendan, that the meeting move to privileged session at 10:45 p.m.