

Eastern School Board

February 2, 2005

1. **OPENING**

A meeting of the Eastern School Board took place on Wednesday, February 2, 2005, in the District Conference Centre, St. John's. The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by the Chair, Bruce Peckford.

Members present: Bruce Peckford, Chair
Danny Button
Earl Elliott
Joan Marie Gatherall
Cyril Hayden
Jim Hearn
Joe Keating
Brendan White

Absent with regrets: Ron Ellsworth
Angus Gilbert
Mel Hong
Rick Martin
Vi Parsons

Also in attendance: Dr. Bruce Sheppard, Director of Education
Mr. Richard Harvey, Assistant Director, Personnel
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 Earl Elliott, seconded by Brendan White, that the agenda be accepted. Carried.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Motion: Moved by Brendan White, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the minutes of the School Board meeting of January 12, 2005, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

- 4.1 **NLSBA - Involvement & 4.2 NLSBA - Funding.** The Chair and Director updated Trustees on meetings and developments to date. Dr. Sheppard advised that Directors of Education were recommending to individual boards that NLSBA should exist with only two mandates: advocacy for public education and professional development for trustees.

The recommended proposal from Directors of Education included a maximum budget of \$200,000 for NLSBA, with Eastern School District contributing a maximum of \$70,000 per year. It was noted that a detailed budget would be distributed prior to an Annual General Meeting, which would be convened after approval in principle was received from all school boards.

Motion: Moved by Brendan White, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Eastern School Board approve in principle a framework for NLSBA and that ESD move to the next step to become a member of NLSBA with its primary function being Professional Development for Trustees and Advocacy for public education. Approval for a maximum funding of \$70,000 per year from ESD, with a maximum annual budget for NLSBA of \$200,000. ESD would also provide in-kind contributions as the Board sees appropriate. Carried 5-2

It was noted that this conditional approval was given pending ESD Board's approval of the NLSBA annual budget and governance structure that is to be presented before its AGM.

5. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

- 5.1 **Executive - January 25, 2005.**

Motion: Moved by Bruce Peckford, seconded by Brendan White, that the Constitution be accepted for first reading at this meeting, with second reading and discussion at the March meeting. Carried.

It was noted that Article III (2) would include zones as approved by the Board.

It was suggested that any suggested changes should be forwarded to the Office of the Director prior to the March meeting for inclusion in the draft document. The Director advised that approval by the Minister of Education is required for the Constitution. It was noted that the By-laws do not need ministerial approval and therefore it would be advantageous to have items such as the Terms of Reference for committees outlined in the By-Laws instead of the Constitution.

It was noted, however, that if more standing committees are required, they would need to be listed in the Constitution.

Motion: Moved by Bruce Peckford from the Executive Committee, that the Zoning for School Board Elections be approved as recommended. Carried. 6-2. It was noted that Mr. Keating and Mr. Elliott voted against the motion.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the possibility of an increase in membership for trustees. The following resulted:

Motion: Moved by Brendan White, seconded by Earl Elliott, that the Board defer its decision on zones for School Board election and ask the Executive committee to review again after making representation to the Minister of Education for an increase in the number of Trustees, allowing more representation for the rural regions of the district. This recommendation would come back to the Board for consideration. Defeated.

Members from the Burin region advised that the Minister of Education has indicated he may increase the number of Trustees for ESD, by appointing another member from the Burin region on this present Board.

It was agreed, as recommended, that recommendation No. 3 from the January 25 Executive meeting be deferred to Privileged session.

5.2 Program - January 19, 2005.

Dr. King provided a summary report on PISA results to the Board. Mr. White made note that this report indicates significant progress in Newfoundland and Labrador's educational standing in the country and internationally. It shows that our students are now performing at the Canadian average in reading and science and that our mathematics results are greatly improved.

Motion: Moved by Brendan White, seconded by Earl Elliott, that the Policy on Research Studies and Surveys be approved, with changes indicated. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Brendan White, seconded by Earl Elliott, that the Policy on Student Sponsorship be approved with changes indicated. Carried.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 **Torbay bussing.** The Director informed the Board that a letter of request to re-zone the Kelly's Lane area to Holy Trinity High and Elementary schools had been received from a parent. Also, correspondence had been received this afternoon suggesting that this re-zoning would create difficulty for another group of parents. The Director gave an analysis of the bussing in the area. Bussing had been provided for one year only for Holy Trinity, the non-designated school with an understanding that the students would then transfer back to St. Francis of Assisi school, the designated school.

The Director recommended that this issue go to the Finance & Property Committee for further study.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Cyril Hayden, that the Torbay bussing issue go to Finance & Property Committee for study. Carried.

Mr. Peckford advised that the local MHA requested a meeting on this subject with him. The Chair will report back to the Finance & Committee meeting on this meeting.

- 6.2 **Alliance for Tobacco Control.** Correspondence had been received from this group seeking district support for its *Smoke Free School Communities Committee*. It is hoped that the group will help us attain the shared goal of smoke free school communities through the development of responsible programs that will be supportive of our youth. The Director advised that the district does have a member sitting on this committee. The District is currently using or presently initiating programs for educational purposes on tobacco use.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1 **Retreat Discussion.** This item was deferred to the next meeting.
- 7.2 **Circulation of Trustees- e-mail addresses.** It was agreed that trustee e-mail addresses would not be shared with public. Joan Marie Gatherall and Cyril Hayden offered to make their esdnl e-mail addresses public. Mr. Hayden also advised that his address and telephone number may be published as well. It was agreed that any other trustee amenable to publishing his/her e-mail address would contact the Office of the Director.
- 7.3 **Teleconferencing for Board Meetings.** A discussion was held on the use of video-conferencing for Board meetings and the required changes to legislation to allow decision making in this forum. A discussion was also held on the benefits of face-to-face meetings.

Motion: Moved by Joan Marie Gatherall, seconded by Danny Button, that the Board request the Minister of Education to revise legislation to allow video-conferencing for public meetings. Defeated.

7.4 **Director-s Report.** Dr. Sheppard distributed a copy of his report and presented verbal highlights/updates on issues and new initiatives.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. on a motion by Brendan White to proceed to privileged session.