

Eastern School Board

March 2, 2005

1. **OPENING**

A meeting of the Eastern School Board took place on Wednesday, March 2, 2005, in the Vista Regional Office, Clarendville. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by the Chair, Bruce Peckford.

Members present: Bruce Peckford, Chair
Danny Button
Earl Elliott
Joan Marie Gatherall
Cyril Hayden
Jim Hearn
Mel Hong
Joe Keating
Rick Martin
Vi Parsons

Absent with regrets: Ron Ellsworth
Angus Gilbert
Brendan White

Also in attendance: Dr. Bruce Sheppard, Director of Education
Mr. Richard Harvey, Assistant Director, Personnel
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 Danny Button, seconded by Cyril Hayden, that the agenda be accepted. Carried.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Rick Martin, that the minutes of the School Board meeting of February 2, 2005, be adopted as presented. Carried.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

- 4.1 **NLSBA.** A very thorough discussion was held on the participation of ESD in a new Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, the mandate of the new NLSBA as seen by ESD Board, and the budget presented.

Legal counsel advised that the old NLSBA has been defunct since the restructuring of school boards in September 2005 and that *The existing constitution can be considered by all remaining School Boards as effectively suspended based on the legislated restructuring of the previous 11 Boards. The provincial government effectively dissolved the predecessor boards, established five new boards and substituted interim governance until new elections in September 2005 by interim appointed chairs who were not existing previously elected trustees and appointed some previously elected trustees as interim appointed trustees of the new Boards with new constituencies.* The new Board of Governors would consist of the present chairs of the five School Boards, and they, along with the Directors of Education, would prepare a budget for NLSBA that would reflect the goals and objectives of the new NLSBA. When the budget is prepared, it would be brought to individual board for consideration. An ad hoc committee of ESD Board would review the draft NLSBA constitution and bring recommendations/changes to the Board to provide direction to the Chair for discussions at the provincial level

The first annual meeting of the new NLSBA will be held under the new governance model and constitution within 90 days of formal approval of all boards of the governance structure.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Cyril Hayden, that ESD Board accept the governance model for a new NLSBA as presented. The new Board of Governors would revise the budget to reflect funding for advocacy and trustee development, the stated objectives of the new NLSBA. Carried. 7-2

It was agreed that NLSBA will be discussed at each meeting on a continuing basis.

- 4.2 **Constitution.** The second reading of the constitution was held.

Motion: Moved by Vi Parsons, seconded by Rick Martin that Article V(c) be amended to see one Executive member be elected from each area represented by the geographic regions. Motion defeated on a 4-5 vote.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Earl Elliott to amend Article IV to add Planning & Priorities Committee to the standing committees. Motion defeated on a 5-4 vote.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Joe Keating that the Constitution be accept

as presented. Carried.

- 4.3 **School Board Election - Zoning Reconsideration.** Mr. Button asked that the zoning approved on February 2, 2005, be reconsidered. It was suggested that the Board ask the Minister of Education to approve 18 Trustees for Eastern School Board, given that ESD has 56% of the student population and the other 44% of the student population is represented by 45 trustees on the other 3 school boards.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Joe Keating, that the Board reconsider the motion regarding Board Zones approved on February 2, 2005. Motion defeated on a 6-3 vote.

5. REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

5.1 Finance & Property - February 21, 2005

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Board write the R.C. Episcopal Corporation for St. John's stating the Board's position that the Mary Queen of Peace property is considered by the Board to be property used for the purpose of education prior to 1997 and that this claim may impact legally on any impending sale or lease of the property. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Jim Hearn, that senior staff request the Mary Queen of Peace School Council to provide the evidence required to pursue the school's right to the educational use of the land on a go-forward basis. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Board allow the Kelly's Lane area students to catch the bus at Karon Drive commencing September 2005 as long as they get to that stop on their own. The parents would have to be aware that this is being done as long as space on the bus permits and as long as it does not incur extra cost for either the District or the Department of Education.

If this is not acceptable to the Kelly's Road area parents, the Board would maintain its current position requiring all students to attend the school within the defined zone commencing September 2005, with the exception of the French Immersion students. Parents would be required to provide transportation for their children as per provincial guidelines for French Immersion programs, unless courtesy seats were available.

Carried. 8-1 with Mr. Hayden against.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Board approve the policy FF: Naming, Renaming and Official Opening of School Facilities. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Board approve policy EHAA: Acceptable Use of Information and Communication Technology. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Board approve the financial statements for the former Avalon West, Burin and Vista school districts. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Board accept the rates and requirements for travel for staff as outlined in the Minister of Education's correspondence of January 19, 2005. Carried.

5.2 **Education Foundation - February 16, 2005.** This report was distributed for information purposes. Members were asked to note the Education Foundation golf tournament is set for June 10, 2006.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 **Minister of Education - Response to ESD Concerns.** This correspondence was distributed for information purposes. Concern was expressed regarding the Minister's response to the Board's letter of January 25, 2005. Of particular concern were the comments relating to the Director's contract, the HAY Scales for senior and non management staff. The Director noted that all positions have been accepted pending salary scales to be set.

Motion: Moved by Cyril Hayden, seconded by Danny Button, that the Chair write the Minister of Education pointing out the inaccuracies in the Minister's response of February 2, 2005, and noting that the Hay Scales, Director's contract and legislation surrounding same is causing concern for ESD. The Minister should be asked to provide salary scales, if they are set. Carried.

6.2 **Tanya Noseworthy.** This correspondence was distributed for information purposes. It was noted that the Annual Report of the School Board could be presented at its AGM, in public, but not distributed publically until it gets ministerial approval and is presented to the House of

Assembly.

- 6.3 **Chair to Minister of Education - Pre-Budget Consultation.** This correspondence was distributed for information purposes. This was a summary of things previously submitted to the Minister to reinforce the Board's position.

Concern that process and protocol was not followed in the recent media blitz regarding advocacy for public education and that the coalition of school councils is making appeals to Government over the maintenance issues in schools. The Director advised that he had encouraged the media to visit schools, the principals to allow their visits and the school council chairs to voice their concerns, in an effort to bring attention to the need for funding for public education.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Cyril Hayden, that the board support the direction taken by the Director of Education in recent public advocacy on behalf of public education. Carried.

Concern was also expressed regarding trustees speaking on behalf of the Board, and not following policy adopted by the Board on October 6, 2004. It was noted that individuals may speak as individuals only and not as representatives of the Board.

It was asked that the issue of relationship between the Board and School Councils be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1 **Retreat Discussion.** This item was tabled.

- 7.2 **CSBA Delegates.** The Chair advised that he would not be attending CSBA as well as Trustee Gilbert and Trustee Hong. The three Trustees (White, Hearn and Hayden), who had indicated that CSBA was their first choice for professional development, were offered the opportunity to attend.

- 7.3 **April Board Meeting Date.** It was agreed that the April meeting would be moved to the second Wednesday, April 13 in Burin.

- 7.4 **National Post Article February 11, 2005.** The Chair advised that these articles be distributed for information purposes in order to draw attention to the need for definitive action and engagement of the legal process in personnel matters that may contravene the law.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m. on a motion by Jim Hearn.