

## **Eastern School Board**

*May 3, 2006*

### **1. OPENING**

A meeting of Eastern School Board took place on Wednesday, May 3, 2006 at Clarendville Regional office. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by the Chairperson, Mr. Milton Peach.

Members present: Mr. Milton Peach, Chair  
Dr. Jim Hearn, Vice Chair  
Mr. Ken Best  
Dr. Ed Brown  
Dr. David Dibbon  
Mr. Chris Hammond  
Mr. Melvin Lambe  
Mr. Rick Martin  
Mr. Jack Murphy  
Mr. Jerry Rice  
Mr. Eric A. Snow  
Mr. Derek Winsor

Absent with regrets: Mr. Don Blackmore  
Ms. Rosalind Robere  
Mr. George Sheppard

Also in attendance: Dr. Darin T. King, CEO/Director of Education  
Mr. Darrin Pike, Asst. Director of Education - Programs  
Mr. Eric C. Snow, Asst. Director of Education – Finance/Admin  
Mr. Richard Harvey, Asst. Director of Education – Personnel  
Ms. Mary Tucker, Manager - Communications  
Ms. Maureen Sheppard, Administrative Assistant

### **1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Lambe, that the presentation on Math (Item 7.1) be moved forward on the agenda and the agenda as amended be adopted. Carried unanimously.

### **2. PROGRAMS PRESENTATION – MATH**

The Assistant Director of Programs, Darrin Pike, introduced Susan Ryan – Program Specialist – Math. The main focus of her presentation was to provide information on the current math curriculum focusing primarily at the K-6 level. Ms. Ryan provided a detailed report on issues related to Math reform. This program was initiated six years ago at the kindergarten level, and is now in the sixth year.

Following the presentation, a handout was distributed, and questions entertained from trustees. Ms. Ryan was thanked for her presentation and left the meeting.

### 3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

**Motion:** It was moved by Ken Best, seconded by Jack Murphy, that the minutes of the School Board meeting of April 10, 2006, be adopted with the following adjustments: [Carried unanimously]

#### 1. Wording Change - Page 7

The statement “*that the motion be amended to have Roncalli a 6-~~23~~ school effective June 2006*” be changed to read: “*that the motion be amended to have Roncalli a 6 - TO LEVEL 3 school effective June 2006*”

#### 2. Order of Business

In order to reflect the way business was transacted, Dr. King agreed to renumber the minutes to show that the motions on restructuring were voted on in reverse order. The amended minutes would then be re-circulated.

### 4. BUSINESS ARISING

**Item 5.1 Allocation of Student Assistant Support:** The Director indicated that while he did have an unofficial answer, he would prefer to await the Minister’s response. This will be brought forward to the next meeting.

### 5. STAFFING REPORT

Dr. King provided a verbal report. He asked to go on record in expressing the District’s disappointment that despite serving in excess of 60% of the province’s student population, it will receive only 64 of the 151 units retained provincially as part of the recent budget announcement.

The Board expressed its concern over what it felt was an inequitable distribution of resources. The requirements that primary class sizes must be capped at 25, and that 14 positions must be returned to music and fine arts are creating severe challenges for the district. This is unique to Eastern District in that it is the only area dealing with primary classes above 25, as well as increasing class sizes and growth areas.

**Motion:** It was moved by Ken Best/seconded by Derek Winsor that the Chair write the Minister of Education raising Eastern School District’s concerns regarding staffing. Carried unanimously.

Dr. King agreed to provide a copy of the guiding principles for staff allocations to Dr. Dibbon. He also agreed to provide the breakdown in actual figures of what the District requires to follow through on Department of Education commitments without having to reduce teaching units in rural schools, as well as provide, on a confidential basis, information on the allocation of

units per school. Trustees were asked to contact district office for clarification as needed, since the numbers may not elaborate on special identified needs at individual schools.

While it was agreed that the role of district staff is to administer the staffing process in line with the District's guiding principles, some trustees felt a conflicting trustee role in representing the concerns of their individual zone and the needs of the entire district. It was acknowledged that the role of the School Board lies in supporting the district's attempt to resolve staffing issues and to advocate for additional teachers and resources.

Trustees expressed concern that the Eastern District has not received its proportionate share of funding allocated to schools in the province. It was suggested that they become proactive in advocating for greater fairness and equity.

**Motion:** It was moved by Dr. Hearn, seconded by Mr. Murphy that the Minister also be written indicating how strongly the Board feels about the inequity shown Eastern School District in the allocation of staff and resources. Carried unanimously.

It was agreed that this letter would be copied to trustees for information.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

4.1 There was no business arising

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

5.1 Items distributed included correspondence from Booth Memorial School Council and Amalgamated Academy.

6. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

6.1 The Executive Committee minutes of April 10<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup> were reviewed in a privileged session due to the nature of the personnel issues. No other committee reports were presented.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

8.1 **NLSBA – Board of Governors Apr 26/27, 2006** - The Chair reviewed the report on the recent meeting of the NLSBA Board of Governors, highlighting issues of immediate interest to the trustees. A written report was included in the correspondence folder.

8.2 **NLSBA Annual General Meeting** – The annual meeting of the NLSBA will be held at The Wilds June 9 and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006. While all trustees are invited to attend, there can only be five voting delegates. Trustees were asked to advise the Director's office by Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> if they were interested in attending, if they wished their name placed for random selection as voting delegates, and if accommodations were needed. The following trustees indicated an interest in attending: Dr. David Dibbon; Mr. Rick Martin; Mr. Eric A. Snow; Mr. Ken Best; Dr. Ed Brown; Dr. J. Hearn; Mr. Derek Winsor.

**8.3 Contribution To DARE Program**

**Motion:** It was moved by J. Rice, seconded C. Hammond that the Finance & Properties Committee be asked to review the request that funding be increased to the DARE Program from \$500 to \$1,000 starting September, 2006. Carried unanimously.

**8.4 Education Foundation** - Mr. Rice reported on progress to date with the Education Foundation Golf Tournament. He asked that trustees and staff prepare a list of people who may be prepared to participate or donate to the tournament.

**9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. King provided highlights from his Director's report. A copy is available from our website for public viewing.

He acknowledged with appreciation the contribution the volunteers in the system, employees who volunteer their time, and thanked the trustees for the time and effort which they donate to provide a better education system for our students.

**10. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION – HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Chair extended sincere best wishes for success to Mr. Richard Harvey who will be resigning from his position effective the end of the current school year.

**11. TRAVEL POLICY**

Following reconsideration of the recently approved amendments to the Travel Policy,

**Motion:** It was moved by D. Winsor, seconded by K. Best - That the change to the policy on Trustee Travel be rescinded. {Withdrawn}

On a point of procedure, it was agreed that since trustees felt it inappropriate at this time to change policy without committee approval, a consensus was reached that the Finance Committee will be asked to review the policy and bring forward a motion to rescind the recent changes. The original motion was withdrawn.

**12. UPDATE ON MOBILE SCHOOL**

Work is proceeding on the extension as scheduled. The Department of Education has agreed to the provision of a full size gymnasium, two extra classrooms, and a hot food preparation area.

**Motion:** At 10:00 p.m., it was moved by K. Best, seconded by Dr. Dibbon, that the meeting be extended by ten minutes. Carried unanimously.

13. **ISSUES OF CONCERN**

13.1 **Committee Meetings** - Concern was expressed that there has been difficulty achieving a quorum. It was noted that by Board motion, where possible, 48 hours notice of meetings would be provided trustees. However, this has restricted some issues being brought forward to the Board in a timely manner through the appropriate committee. This was presented for information.

13.2 **School Closures – Burin** - Trustee Lambe advised that he had sent a letter to the Minister of Education, supporting retaining a school in Grand LaPierre. A copy is available upon request. He acknowledged the heated public debate at the last School Board meeting, and expressed his appreciation for the support he received from trustees.

8. **ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m. on a motion by Dr. J. Hearn.