

Eastern School Board

November 3, 2004

1. **OPENING**

A meeting of the Eastern School District took place on Wednesday, November 3, 2004, 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
Ron Ellsworth
Joan Marie Gatherall
Angus Gilbert
Cyril Hayden
Jim Hearn
Joe Keating
Rick Martin
Vi Parsons
Brendan White

Absent with regrets: Mel Hong

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 Cyril Hayden, seconded by Ron Ellsworth, that the agenda be accepted with item 5.2 being moved to privileged session following the regular meeting. Carried.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Motion: Moved by Ron Ellsworth, seconded by Angus Gilbert, that the minutes of the School Board meeting of October 6, 2004, be adopted. Carried.

The issue of Board involvement in NLSBA was raised. After discussion the Chair advised that he would represent the whole board at the next meeting of NLSBA. Mr. Peckford stated that he will bring back a report to the next meeting. The Chair noted that no decisions will be made on behalf of this Board before a full discussion is held at the next Eastern School Board meeting.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 **Board Committees 2004-05.** In accordance with preferences submitted, a recommendation was put forward for the Board Committees 2004-05.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Angus Gilbert, that the Board Committees 2004-05 be accepted as presented. Carried.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 **Belle & Calvin Butt.** The Board accepted the acknowledgement of its sympathy to the Butt family.

5.2 **Assistant Directors re contracts.** This item was referred to privileged session.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 **ESDNL E-mail.** Information was provided for Trustees to use the new FirstClass e-mail system. The Director asked that his office be notified individually by each Trustee which e-mail address they would prefer for District Office use. It was noted that Board packages will be e-mailed to individual Trustees who deem that to be acceptable.

6.2 **School Lunch Program.** Trustee Hayden informed the Board that the School Lunch Program is accommodated at one of our schools. It services eleven schools and has a large budget. Mr. Hayden advised that rent is being charged by the Board annually.

Motion: Moved by Cyril Hayden, seconded by Ron Ellsworth, that the Board forgive the rent of \$8000 annually for the School Lunch Program.

After lengthy discussion on the rent, and the possibility of this being a repayment of a loan, it was agreed that more information is needed.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Ron Ellsworth, that this matter be referred to the Finance Committee for further analysis. Carried.

- 6.3 **Purchase of Buses.** Dr. Sheppard advised that, at no cost to the board, but in keeping within the Schools Act, board approval is required to fund the purchase of school buses, to be financed over 12 years. The Department of Education will provide grants to cover the cost.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Ron Ellsworth, that approval be given by the Board to secure a loan for these buses, understanding that government funding would be provided to cover that cost over a period of twelve years. Carried.

- 6.4 **Retirement Banquet for former AESB employees.** The Assistant Director of Personnel presented the program for the retirement banquet being held for the AESB retiring personnel for 2003-04. It was noted that Trustees from the former Avalon East School Board, as well as the Trustees from Eastern School District, are to be invited to the event.

- 6.5 **Board/Staff Christmas Dinner/Dance(s).** The Director raised this question as a personnel issue. Previous practice of the four regions was discussed. After lengthy discussion, the following resulted:

Motion: Moved by Cyril Hayden, that a get together at individual cost for Trustees and executive staff be held. Motion withdrawn.

Motion: Moved by Ron Ellsworth, seconded by Joan Marie Gatherall, to not have a school board funded Christmas social, but encourage regions to have their own. With a vote 4 in favour, 5 against, the motion was defeated.

Motion: Moved by Brendan White, seconded by Angus Gilbert, that Trustees and district office staff have a Christmas social, sponsored by the Board. Latitude would be given to the senior staff to develop a suitable plan. Vote: 4 in favour, 4 against. Motion defeated.

Motion: Moved by Earl Elliott to have one trustee/staff Christmas party, hosted on a rotational basis coinciding with the December Board meeting. There was no discussion and no seconder.

Chair concluded that this has been discussed and there is no conclusion. Therefore there will be

no board expenditure for a Christmas social for Trustees & staff.

6.6 **Director-s Report.** The Director asked Dr. King, Assistant Director, Programs, to share the provincial assessment results.

(i) **Provincial Assessment.** Dr. King gave an overview of the June 2004 public exam results.

Concern was raised over the mathematics results over the past years and the discussions with MUN regarding their requirements for admission.

(ii) **Report from Board Retreat.** A summary of discussions from the retreat was circulated, as well as the attendee summary on governance and administration.

It was agreed that a review of the attendee summary could be discussed at a later date.

6.7 **Other.** It was noted that exception was taken by a trustee to the notice given to Trustees regarding hotel accommodations.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Ron Ellsworth, that the meeting adjourn to privileged session at 10:00 p.m.