

Eastern School Board

March 4, 2009

1. OPENING

A meeting of Eastern School Board took place on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at the District Conference Centre, St. John's. The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m. by the Chairperson, Mr. Peach.

Members present: Mr. Milton Peach, Chair
Dr. Jim Hearn, Vice Chair
Dr. David Dibbon
Mr. Ken Best
Ms. Anne Marie Furlong
Mr. Chris Hammond
Mr. Jeff King
Mr. Melvin Lambe
Mr. Jerry Rice
Mr. Eric A. Snow
Mr. Derek Winsor

Absent with regrets: Mr. Rick Martin
Mr. Jack Murphy
Ms. Rosalind Robere
Mr. George Sheppard

Also in attendance: Mr. Darrin Pike, CEO/Director of Education
Mr. Ford Rice, Assistant Director, Programs
Dr. Albert Trask, Assistant Director,
Rural Education & Corporate Services
Mr. Eric C. Snow, Assistant Director, Finance & Administration
Mr. Ed Walsh, Senior Education Officer, Human Resources
Ms. Mary Tucker, Manager, Communications
Ms. Gwen Hurley, Executive/Corporate Assistant

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA.

Motion: Moved by Jerry Rice, seconded by Derek Winsor, that the agenda be accepted. Carried.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded Ken Best, by that the minutes of the Board meeting of February 4, 2008, be adopted as presented. Carried.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

4.1 No business arising.

5. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE**

5.1 **Executive – March 3, 2009**

The Director noted that a request from the Minister of Education to incorporate the suspension and appeal processes in the By-Laws had been received. The Director reviewed the changes being recommended to the By-Laws.

A recommendation was made to review the Constitution as well as the By-Laws at the same time but was not pursued.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Derek Winsor, that the Board approve changes to the By-Laws excluding Article 2:02 relating to participation in Board meetings by tele/video-conferencing. Carried.

A discussion was held on Article 2.02 which would include a Board meeting being called, with Trustees to participate fully (for quorum and voting) in the meetings by video and/or teleconferencing. The intent was not to replace regular meetings with this format.

Motion: Moved by Jerry Rice, seconded by Dave Dibbon, that the Board approve Article 2:02 which would have trustees allowed to participate fully (for quorum and voting) in the meetings by video and/or teleconferencing and changes be made to the numbering of the articles following. Defeated.

5.2 **Planning & Priorities – March 2, 2009**

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Derek Winsor, that the Board replace the portable classrooms at St. Mary's Elementary, per the request of the School Council, with modern modular classrooms. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Derek Winsor, that the Board contact the Department of Education seeking funding for the requested extension to Villanova Junior High and, as a temporary measure, secure 3 modern

modular classrooms for September 2009, per the request of the School Council. Carried – two opposed, Mr. Best and Mr. Hammond.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Melvin Lambe, that the Board offer support, in the form of a letter of approval in principle, to allow the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philips to further investigate the feasibility of a recreation complex outlined. Carried.

5.3 Programs – February 24, 2009.

Mr. Best advised that Mr. Gerald White, MUN, would be making a presentation on bullying at the Programs Committee meeting on March 25, 2009.

Motion: Moved by Ken Best, seconded by Melvin Lambe, that the Board approve Policy IKB Homework as presented. Carried.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 **Minister of Education.** The Minister's response to the Board regarding school facility repairs and maintenance, major renovations, capacity issues and new school construction projects was circulated for information purposes. The Chair reviewed the positive response.

The Director noted that Eastern School District has been proactive and a leader in the province on the issues outlined. The Chair was thanked for the approach taken to affect the positive outcomes to the issues raised.

6.2 Other

Other pieces of correspondence were distributed for information purposes.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1 **Eastern Education Foundation.** Mr. Rice updated members on the activities of the Foundation, reminding Trustees of the annual golf tournament.

7.2 Membership – Programs and Finance & Properties Committee.

Motion: Moved by Ken Best, seconded by Jerry Rice, that Jack Murphy be moved to the Finance & Properties Committee and that Melvin Lambe be moved to the Programs Committee for 2009. Carried unanimously.

- 7.3 **Briefing on Recent Infrastructure Announcement.** A summary of the infrastructure projects approved by Government on February 19, 2009, for Eastern School District was

distributed for information purposes. The Director provided highlights, noting that \$150m was outlined in approved projects.

Concern was expressed that all projects, except one, were approved for Avalon East and Avalon West, with the other two regions not being supported. The Director advised that the extensions addressed were capacity issues.

- 7.4 West End High School.** The Chair provided the pre-budget consultation paper submitted by ESD. The Chair noted that he had highlighted, in his address to the Minister of Finance, the necessity of funding from this year's budget for a site and design process for the West End High School, as well as funding for the extension to Clarendville Middle School or a recommendation for an alternate solution.

It was noted that the West End High School was the number one priority submitted by ESD to Government.

7.5 Delegates for NLSBA – AGM.

The Chair noted that ESD has 5 voting delegates. At this time Jerry Rice, Chris Hammond, Melvin Lambe, and Anne Marie Furlong, and Derek Winsor have expressed an interest in attending. If it is possible to attend electronically, Dr. Dibbon would be interested in participating.

Motion: Moved by Eric A. Snow, seconded by Dave Dibbon, that Jerry, Chris, Melvin, Anne Marie, Derek Winsor, be selected as voting delegates from Eastern School Board for the Annual General Meeting of Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association being held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay June 5 & 6, 2009. Carried.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Pike distributed his monthly report highlighting a provincial award received by the District today for its support of reservists and student activities, etc. The Director noted that the district will also receive a national award in June from this group.

The Board viewed a video presentation the Director will be using during his address to the Rotary Club at its meeting on March 5. This will be used for generating discussion at the principal meetings and as a teaching tool.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m. on regular motion by Eric A. Snow.