

**Eastern School Board**  
*September 5, 2007*

1. **OPENING**

A meeting of Eastern School Board took place on Wednesday, September 5, 2007, at the District Conference Centre, St. John's. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chairperson, Mr. Peach.

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

Absent with regrets: Ms. Rosalind Robere

Also in attendance: Mr. Darrin Pike, CEO/Director of Education (*Acting*)  
Mr. Allister Dyke, Assistant Director, Human Resources  
Mr. Ed Walsh, Assistant Director, Programs (*Acting*)  
Dr. Albert Trask, Assistant Director,  
Rural Schools & Corporate Services  
Mr. Pat Royle, Manager of Facilities  
Ms. Mary Tucker, Manager of Communications  
Ms. Gwen Hurley, Executive/Corporate Assistant

The Chair welcomed all to the first meeting of the year. Mr. Peach noted that the Board has had two resignations since last year. Mr. Peach welcomed Dr. Trask back to the district and he also acknowledged Darrin Pike as the acting CEO and welcomed him to his first meeting in the new role.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Moved by Jack Murphy, seconded by Melvin Lambe, that the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** Moved by Jerry Rice, seconded by George Sheppard, that the minutes of the School Board Meeting of June 13, 2007, be adopted as presented. Carried.

A discussion of the dates for the Board schedule for 2007-08 was held.

**Motion:** Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Ken Best, to move the October meeting one week ahead to October 10. Carried.

The Corporate Assistant would distribute an updated list of all meetings.

**Motion:** Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Chris Hammond, that the minutes of the School Board Meeting of June 15, 2007, be adopted as presented. Carried.

**Motion:** Moved by Jerry Rice, seconded by Eric A. Snow, that the minutes of the School Board Meeting of June 16 2007, be adopted as presented. Carried.

A discussion was held on the *Political Activity* guidelines. It was suggested that a policy be put in place regarding political activity leave, as concern was expressed regarding providing extended leave for top management positions. There was consensus that leave would be granted from the Board, and not from a particular top management position.

**Motion:** Moved by Eric A. Snow, and seconded by Dave Dibbon, to amend the Political Activity guidelines to have #5 to read "...a period of leave *from the Board* not to exceed...." Carried.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

**Constitution Review** – The Chair cited the amendments previously discussed in June for changes for the Constitution.

- i. Page 5, Article IV 1(a) taking out Past Chair. Trustee Winsor was opposed to this change.
- ii. Page 6 Article V 1(s) – change month of AGM to *November* instead of October, in keeping with the Schools Act.

**Motion** Moved by Melvin Lambe, seconded by Jerry Rice, that the second reading of amendments to the Constitution be held at the October 10 meeting. Carried.

5. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

- 5.1 **Executive – July 27, 2007.** This report was circulated for information purposes only. It was noted that Dr. King will be returning to his position as CEO/Director of Education on October 10, 2007, and if he requests leave, it will be considered at that time.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Don Blackmore.** Mr. Blackmore's resignation, due to his relocation, was distributed for information purposes. Also a copy of the Chair's request to the Minister of Education to fill this vacancy was distributed as well.

**Motion:** Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Jack Murphy, that the Board accept the resignation from Don Blackmore. Carried.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 **Board sponsored socials – Retirements Banquets**

**Motion:** Moved by Dave Dibbon, seconded by Chris Hammond, that the Board sponsor retirement banquets in each region for the 2007-08 school year retirees. Carried.

- 7.2 **Update on Capital Projects** Mr. Pike provided an update on the recent events causing school opening delays this year, including St. Joseph's All Grade, Terrenceville; Swift Current Academy; Cabot Academy, Western Bay; and St. Peter's Elementary, Upper Island Cove. Mr. Royle provided details on the various projects. The Director outlined the scenarios on the placement of the students while work is being carried out. Mr. Pike reported to the Board the communication process followed with the stakeholders.

The local trustee for Bay Roberts, Eric A. Snow, complimented the CEO for getting the work done efficiently and effectively, and for working collaboratively with the school community.

The Director was thanked by the local trustee for Vista, Rick Martin, for keeping him informed on the Swift Current problem.

Mr. Pike complimented the staff for the extra work undertaken in relation to these issues. The Chair also thanked the staff for their dedication and commitment.

Mr. Pike reported that \$10million for a new Paradise Elementary, to replace the existing Paradise Elementary School, had been announced by the Minister of Education. That means that the old Paradise Elementary will not re-open, but be replaced. The size of the

school, based on enrolments and projected enrolments, will be discussed when the preliminary discussions are held with the Department of Education.

Several trustees raised concern over the lack of communication by Government prior to the announcement regarding this school, not providing rationale for the decision. Trustees expressed feelings of being devalued.

It was agreed that the Board would write the Minister of Education to seek response to the other requests regarding Paradise students, while thanking the Minister for the \$10 million already approved.

A Trustee asked to have any correspondence relevant to Board business provided with the Board package for information purposes.

7.3 **NLSBA Meeting Report** Mr. Peach provided a verbal report on August 27 Board of Governors meeting. The Chair noted that CSBA 2008 will be held in Saskatchewan next year and that ASBA will be held in Halifax in January 2008. It was suggested that recommended changes to the NLSBA constitution would see rotating the chair throughout the boards. Trustees asked to have the minutes from the NLSBA AGM and other meetings circulated when available.

7.4 **Education Foundation Report.** Mr. Rice, Chair of the Foundation, reported on the foundation activities.

7.5 **Final Board Retreat – Brenda Kelleher-Flight.** It was agreed that the final session would be held September 21 & 22 in St. John's. Details will be circulated when finalized.

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting would be held on November 7, replacing the regular monthly meeting, and a retreat to begin Phase II Multi Year Planning will be held on November 23 & 24 in St. John's

7.6 **Strategic Plan.** A draft copy of the strategic plan, resulting from three meetings held during the 2006-07 year, was distributed. It was agreed that the Executive would review the document, accepting feedback from Trustees. The document would come forward at the October meeting for debate and voting.

## 8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT.**

Mr. Pike gave the Director's monthly report, which was distributed, providing highlights since the last report.

## 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. on a motion by Jim Hearn.