

Eastern School Board

December 7, 2005

1. OPENING

A meeting of the Eastern School Board took place on Wednesday, December 07, 2005, at the District Conference Centre, St. John's. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by the Chairperson, Mr. Peach.

Members present: Mr. Milton Peach, Chair
Dr. Jim Hearn, Vice Chair
Mr. Ken Best
Dr. Ed Brown
Mr. Chris Hammond
Mr. Melvin Lambe
Mr. Rick Martin
Ms. Rosalind Robere
Mr. George Sheppard
Mr. Eric A. Snow
Mr. Derek Winsor

Absent with regrets: Dr. David Dibbon
Mr. Jack Murphy
Mr. Jerry Rice

Also in attendance: Dr. Darin T. King, CEO/Director of Education
Mr. Richard Harvey, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Mr. Darrin Pike, Assistant Director, Programs
Mr. Eric C. Snow, Assistant Director, Finance
Ms. Mary Tucker, Manager of Communications
Ms. Gwen Hurley, Executive/Corporate Assistant

The Chair brought forward regrets from three Trustees, advising that Trustee Murphy is ill in hospital in coronary care. Mr. Peach also advised that the Minister was unavailable due to a prior commitment, but will visit at the nearest possible date.

The Chair welcomed the public to the meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Chris Hammond, that the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

The Chair advised that the minutes circulated first were not as clear as necessary regarding the *Multi Year Plan Development Process* No. 5, therefore clarification approved by the mover and seconder allowed the word changes in the newly distributed minutes.

Motion: Moved by George Sheppard seconded by Eric A. Snow, that the minutes of the School Board meeting of November 9, 2005, with clarification as agreed by mover and seconder on the *Multi Year Plan Development Process* No. 5 regarding “the closed meeting of the Board” be adopted Carried.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

5.1 **Chair to Minister re Trustee Vacancy.** This correspondence was distributed for information purposes.

5.2 **Minister of Education re Trustee Vacancy to Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association (NLSBA).** This correspondence was distributed for information purposes only.

5.3 **Flynn Family.** The Chair read a response to the Board’s expression of condolences by the Flynn Family.

6. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

6.1 **Programs – November 23, 2005**

Motion: Moved by Ed Brown, seconded by Ken Best, that the Chair write the Minister to request that the allocation of student assistant hours include provision for additional hours to cover student assistant leave and ask the Minister to bring this forward during the budgetary process and that the Chair raise this issue through the NLSBA as a provincial concern. Carried.

6.2 **Finance – November 28, 2005**

Motion: Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Board accept the proposal as presented to refinance the Energy Performance Contracts

for Avalon West and Vista regions and thereby achieve interest savings of approximately \$90,000.00. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Melvin Lambe, that the Board approve the purchase of six 70 passenger school buses for the Burin Region and seek approval to borrow sufficient funds to finance this purchase. Carried.

The Chair of the Finance Committee noted that the third recommendation should not come forward at this time, but will come forward when the work on the policy is completed.

The Finance Committee was asked to discuss the use of personal names in minutes. It is not a practice the Board wished to endorse.

6.3 **Executive – November 28, 2005.** This report was circulated for information purposes. The Chair advised that he has met with Minister of Education re the issues noted. Mr. Peach also noted that, although the Executive directed the Director and Chair to present to both the private and public pre-budget consultation sessions, ESD has not been able to secure a place to present in the public session. However, if a vacancy becomes available, the Board will be notified and the Chair will present.

The next meeting of the Executive is set for Monday, January 9, 2005.

Concern was expressed that the closed Board session held to receive a briefing from the Consultants did not include the written document and that the Executive changed a decision of the Board. The Chair explained that the Executive recommended to the Board that the paper not be distributed. It was noted that this was agreed by consensus in the full Board closed session.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 School Council Protocol Agreements:

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Eric A. Snow, that the School Council Protocol Agreements for the following schools be approved by the Board:

Bishop White School	Goulds Elementary
Leary's Brook Junior High	Virginia Park Elementary
Coley's Point Primary	St. Bernard's Elementary
Holy Cross Junior High	St. Kevin's Junior High

Carried.

7.2 **Report from NLSBA Meeting.** The Chair provided a written report on the meeting of NLSBA held on November 23, 2005. Mr. Peach highlighted several points. Trustees

were asked to advise the Office of the Director if they wished to attend the ASBA conference in January 2006.

Concern was expressed over the implementation of the smoke-free policy in a consistent fashion throughout the district.

- 7.3 **Annual Report 2004-05 with Audited Financial Statements.** The report and audited statements had been circulated previously. The Director advised that the Report is not public until the Minister of Education has received it and approved the format. The Board would be asked to endorse the report, so the legislated process may be followed and ministerial approval sought. If the Minister requires changes to the content of the report, it will come back to the Board for approval before it is printed and made public.

Dr. King gave a synopsis of the report and the statements.

Motion: Moved by Eric A. Snow, seconded by Rick Martin, that the Annual Report 2004-05 and the audited financial statements up to June 30, 2005, be adopted as presented. Carried.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT.** Dr. King distributed his report for the past month, noting highlights for that period. The Director's report included tabling correspondence on an operational issue and the response to same.

Dr. King tabled the final copy from PRA Consultants' Report on a school organization plan for the Eastern School District. It was noted that the report will be made public through the media and the Chair asked that the document be kept confidential until the media briefing on December 8, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. The Director advised that he will be meeting with school councils and principals throughout the district, commencing Thursday, December 8, 2005. The Director would hold information sessions in the four regions over the next two days.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Derek Winsor, that the PRA Consultants' Report be received to allow the Director to move forward as per process adopted. Carried.

9. **ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. on a motion by Ken Best.