

Eastern School Board

January 10, 2007

1. OPENING

A meeting of Eastern School Board took place on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, at Newtown Elementary, Mount Pearl. 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. 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 King, CEO/Director of Education
Mr. Allister Dyke, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Mr. Darrin Pike, Assistant Director, Programs
Mr. Eric C. Snow, Assistant Director, Finance
Mr. Ed Walsh, Assistant Director, Rural Schools
Ms. Mary Tucker, Manager of Communications
Ms. Gwen Hurley, Executive/Corporate Assistant

The Chair welcomed the public to the meeting. Trustees and staff were introduced.

Mr. Peach announced that an Education Foundation meeting will follow the Board meeting this evening.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Chair asked that a privileged session be held following the meeting, to deal with a personnel issue.

Motion: Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Chris Hammond, that the agenda be adopted as presented, with the addition of privileged session. Carried.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Motion: Moved by Melvin Lambe seconded by Rick Martin, that the minutes of the School Board Meeting of December 6, 2006, be adopted as presented. Carried.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING.** There was no business arising.

5. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

5.1 **Planning & Priorities – December 8, 2006.** Dr. Hearn reported that the committee heard the presentation by the concerned parents of Paradise. A copy of the presentation was distributed for information purposes.

5.2 **Executive – January 8, 2007.**

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Rick Martin, that the Board hold a retreat on Strategic Planning on January 19 & 20, 2007, in St. John's. Carried.

The Director advised that Department of Education officials will help facilitate the strategic planning retreat. Agenda and details will be forwarded prior to the session.

Mr. Peach advised that the Board will be pursuing meetings with the District MHAs. The Director's office will coordinate these meetings at the earliest possible date.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 **Community Youth Network.** This was referred to the Programs Committee for consideration.

Motion: Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Eric A. Snow to refer this matter to the Programs Committee for consideration. Carried.

6.2 **Paradise Elementary School Council .** A request was tabled from this group seeking to make a presentation to the Board. The Chair suggested this be referred to the Planning & Priorities Committee, in keep with precedent.

Motion: Moved by Jerry Rice, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Planning and Priorities Committee review the request.

Amendment: Moved by Ken Best, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Planning and Priorities committee review the request *with Mr. George Sheppard being part of the meeting.* Carried.

Amended Motion: Moved by Jerry Rice, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Planning & Priorities Committee review the request, with Mr. George Sheppard in attendance. Carried with Melvin Lambe and Ken Best voting against.

7. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT.** The Director gave an overview of the issues for the past month. Congratulations were extended to Jessica Webb, teacher at St. Paul's Junior High, who received the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

Dr. King noted that the Sheppard/Case Report on Virginia Park School was available to Trustees. The Director advised that the Rand report on Paradise Elementary is expected to be available in the very near future and will be circulated to the school community when received.

The Director also noted that in the last Government budget funds were allocated to supplement administrative staffing at district offices. The decision makers decided that ESD would receive less than 1/3 of the budget. The Director has responded to that, noting dissatisfaction in the allocation.

The Chair reported that he had met with the Minister of Education today and again advised of the displeasure of the Board with the inaction of Government to address this issue. Mr. Peach advised that he felt the Minister would be addressing this issue in the near future.

Motion: Moved by Ken Best, seconded by Melvin Lambe, that the Chair, on behalf of the Board, immediately write the Minister reiterating the Board's dissatisfaction with this issue and seeking resolution. Carried.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. to a privileged session on a motion by Jim Hearn, seconded by Derek Winsor.