

Eastern School Board

October 10, 2007

1. OPENING

A meeting of Eastern School Board took place on Wednesday, October 10, 2007, at Donald C. Jamieson Academy, Burin Bay Arm. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by the Chairperson, Mr. Peach.

Members present: Mr. Milton Peach, Chair
Dr. Jim Hearn, Vice Chair
Mr. Ken Best
Mr. Chris Hammond
Mr. Melvin Lambe
Mr. Jack Murphy
Mr. Jerry Rice
Ms. Rosalind Robere
Mr. Eric A. Snow
Mr. Derek Winsor

Absent with regrets: Dr. David Dibbon
Mr. Rick Martin
Mr. George Sheppard

Also in attendance: Dr. Darin King, CEO/Director of Education (*on leave*)
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. Eric C. Snow, Assistant Director, Finance & Administration
Ms. Mary Tucker, Manager of Communications
Ms. Gwen Hurley, Executive/Corporate Assistant

Chair Milton informed the Board that Trustee Dibbon wished to join the meeting by telephone. Following discussion on the earlier legal opinion advising that it is not legal for teleconference participation, the Chair asked for unanimous consent from the group for Trustee Dibbon to listen via telephone, to not be recorded as present, and to not participate. Unanimous consent was not given. Mr. Peach directed the administration to seek legal clarification on this issue for future requests.

Mr. Peach welcomed Dr. King to the meeting, and offered congratulations on his recent election as MHA for the Grand Bank district.

The Chair recommended that Dr. King's leave be extended to the end of the meeting and that Mr. Pike continue as CEO/Director of Education for that period as well. This was agreed. Mr. Peach asked all to attend a closed session at the end of the meeting to hear from Dr. King regarding his employment intentions.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion: Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Rosalind Robere, that the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

3. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Motion: Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Ken Best, that the minutes of the School Board Meeting of September 5, 2007, be adopted as presented. Carried.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

4.1 **Constitution Review – Second Reading** The amendments to the Constitution, as discussed at the September meeting, were distributed.

Motion: Moved by Ken Best, seconded by Eric A. Snow, that the amended Constitution be approved, as discussed in September 5, 2007. Carried.

The revised Constitution will be forwarded to the Minister of Education for approval at the earliest date.

5. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

5.1 **Executive - September 26, 2007**

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Melvin Lambe, that the Board approve the Strategic Plan 2006-08. Carried, with Trustee Best voting against.

Concern was raised over the completion of the strategic plan, however the document was based on the input received from the Board over the past year and the template provided by Government, was used. It was noted that the strategic plan for 2008-2010 will be prepared beginning with the retreat in November 2007.

5.2 Finance & Property – September 25, 2007

- Motion:** Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Ken Best, that the Board adopt the amended Policy KF – *Community Use of Schools*. Carried.
- Motion:** Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Eric A. Snow, that the Board approve the easement requested by Aliant at Brother Rice School for a one-time fee of \$5000. *Chris Hammond declared a conflict, as an employee of Aliant and therefore did not vote.* Carried.
- Motion:** Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Jerry Rice, that the Board approve conveyance to the Town of Conception Bay South the 15-20 meters of roadway near the entrance of Upper Gullies Elementary School and that staff be authorized to negotiate the details as requested. Carried.
- Motion:** Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Jerry Rice, that the Board approve for staff to negotiate the details for the easement bordering on the Clarenville property as requested. Carried.
- Motion:** Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Eric A. Snow, that the Board approve staff negotiate the sale of the property adjacent to Carbonear Collegiate, with all legal and survey costs being borne by the purchaser. Carried.
- Motion:** Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Melvin Lambe, that, should no other bids or expressions of interest be received, the Board approve the transfer of St. Thomas School, Grand LePierre, to the Town of Grand LePierre for the sum of \$1.00, subject to the approval of the Minister of Education. Carried.
- Motion:** Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the in accordance with Policy FF *Naming, Re-naming and official opening of school facilities*, the Board approve the change of signage over the entrance of the Holy Heart of Mary Auditorium to Holy Heart Theatre. Carried.
- Motion:** Moved by Derek Winsor, seconded by Chris Hammond, that the Board accept the process of site selection which would see an independent consultant hired to streamline the site selection process and provide recommendations to the School Board. Carried.

5.3 Programs – October 2, 2007

- Motion:** Moved by Ken Best, seconded by Derek Winsor, that the Board approve the amended Policy ECAA *Video/Electronic Surveillance*. Carried.

The Chair of the Programs Committee highlighted the priorities for the present year, which would include bullying and internet violence, as well as a full-day Kindergarten.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 **Minister of Education re Zone 4 vacancy.** This document was distributed for information purposes.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1 **School Councils: Fundraising/Political Activity.** The Director noted that a request had been received from a school council to use school-raised funds for a political sign, to be put on school property. It was felt that this was not a proper use of school funds. It was noted that there are two policies relating to the use school funds that could be revised to ensure policy is in place to prevent this type of action. It was not felt that funds were raised for the purpose of political messages.

Motion: Moved by Ken Best, and seconded by Jerry Rice, that the appropriate Board committees review the policies for fundraising and distribution of materials as they relate to political activity and to bring back a recommendation for amendment. Carried.

- 7.2 **Education Foundation.** There was unanimous agreement to add this to the agenda.

The Chair of the Foundation, Jerry Rice, raised a concern regarding the lack of scholarship applications. He suggested Trustees encourage high school students in their local schools to participate.

Mr. Rice also advised the Board that the annual fundraising Education Foundation golf tournament is set for Clovelly Golf Course, St. John's, for June 17, 2008.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

The Director's monthly report was distributed. Mr. Pike provided highlights. The Director advised that the district will be involved in anti-aggression education and will be involved with public groups regarding this type of behaviour. He has noted, and will continue to reiterate, that the type of behaviour is not only a school issue and the district will not accept sole responsibility for it. The District will develop policy for schools to provide mechanisms to protect students and also providing a guideline for school and district reaction and what the level of response should be.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned to privileged session at 9:00 p.m. on a motion by Ken Best.