

Eastern School Board

April 11, 2005

1. OPENING

A meeting of the Eastern School Board took place on Monday, April 11 2005, in the Burin Regional Office, Burin. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by the Chair, Bruce Peckford.

Members present: Bruce Peckford, Chair
Danny Button
Earl Elliott
Cyril Hayden
Jim Hearn
Joe Keating
Rick Martin
Brendan White

Absent with regrets: Ron Ellsworth
Joan Marie Gatherall
Angus Gilbert
Mel Hong
Vi Parsons

Also in attendance: Dr. Bruce Sheppard, Director of Education
Mr. Richard Harvey, Assistant Director, Personnel
Mr. Eric Snow, Assistant Director, Finance & Administration
Mr. Albert Trask, Assistant Director, Rural Issues
Ms. Gwen Hurley, Executive Assistant
Ms. Mary Tucker, Communications Officer

The Chair welcomed the public and invited them, at a future date, to arrange a meeting with the Chair or Administration for an opportunity to discuss any local issues.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Motion: Moved by Rick Martin, seconded by Cyril Hayden, that the agenda be accepted. Carried.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the minutes of the

School Board meeting of March 2, 2005, be adopted as presented. Carried.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

- 4.1 **NLSBA.** A revised Constitution and By-Laws for NLSBA was distributed. The Chair advised that this document had been changed following an informal meeting of some delegates to CSBA with the Executive Director of NLSBA. Mr. Peckford noted that this is not the document with which the Board had agreed to move at its March meeting. Mr. Peckford expressed concern over the significance of the changes which did not represent what the Board had agreed was a starting point to move forward with participation in NLSBA.

It was noted that the new document is an interim one only. The Constitution & By-Laws would be revised at the AGM of NLSBA set for June 3 & 4 in Gander.

Motion: Moved by Earl Elliott, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Board rescind its March 2 approval of the interim NLSBA Constitution, with the intent to have the new model, as presented, approved. Carried. 5-2

Motion: Moved by Earl Elliott, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Eastern School Board accepts the proposed NLSBA Constitution & By-Laws as a means of going forward for discussion at the AGM. This does not imply approval of the document. Carried.

The highlights of the new document would see a board of governors of 5, with a chair elected at the AGM, who would not have a vote and therefore neutral. The revised model allowed all trustees to have a vote at the AGM as opposed to just one per board.

Motion: Moved by Jim Hearn, seconded by Danny Button, that Eastern School Board advance NLSBA \$10,000. Carried.

The Board was advised that no response had been received from the Minister of Education regarding the Board's expressed concerns on contracts, etc., per the March 2 Board meeting directive.

Motion: Moved by Cyril Hayden that the minister be asked to respond to the previous correspondence. NOT SECONDED.

Mr. Peckford agreed to check with the Minister's office regarding the status of the expressed concerns, especially regarding contract issues.

- 6.3 Mr. Keating expressed concern regarding the relationship between the Board and school councils. He noted that protocol agreements in place state that politically the trustees speak on behalf of the schools. This is not a school council mandate.

The Board was advised that the Programs Committee will be revising the template for Protocol Agreements and will present to the Board in the near future.

5. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

5.1 **Finance & Properties - March 21, 2005.**

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the Board Chair write the Minister of Education, and this letter be copied to the Minister of Transportation and Works, asking his assistance in bringing about an expedient resolution to the issue of deficiencies at Baccalieu Collegiate. There should also be notification in the letter of the Board's concern surrounding the larger issue of school construction. Carried.

5.2 **Education Foundation - March 23, 2005.** This report was distributed for information purposes. The Chair informed the public in attendance of the purpose and use of the foundation. It was noted that the charity golf tournament is set for June 10 at The Wilds.

5.3 **Programs - March 16, 2005**

Motion: Moved by Brendan White, seconded by Rick Martin, that the Board approve the Teacher Leave Policy. Carried.

Mr. Harvey reviewed the process and principles for staffing in ESD and the impact of the provincial budget on staffing. It was noted that ESD staffing is program driven for 2005-06.

5.4 **Executive - March 22, 2005.**

Motion: Moved by Bruce Peckford, seconded by Brendan White, that the School Board zoning for St. John's be adjusted in order to mirror the City Wards. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Bruce Peckford, seconded by Brendan White, that the staff proceed with a Request for Proposals and engage in consulting services accordingly to assist in the development of a multi-year plan. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Bruce Peckford, seconded by Brendan White, that the Policy on Respectful Working and Learning Environments be approved. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Jim Hearn, that the NISEP By-Laws be amended to change the title before Item 2 to Membership/ Governance and the title before Item 4 to Management Committee. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Bruce Peckford, seconded by Joe Keating, that the Board approve the NISEP By-Laws as amended. Carried.

It was noted that the Education Foundation By-Laws must be separate from the School Board according to federal legislation. The Director advised that the intent of NISEP was to have a two year pilot, this being the second year. It was also noted that if NISEP becomes provincial, the by-laws will have to be revisited.

Trustees were advised that travel insurance was in place, with \$200,000 blanket insurance for trustees, while travelling on board business only.

It was noted that in the Board By-Laws distributed, per page 3 of executive minutes, the final point was omitted *If a Chair should leave office during a term, the Vice-Chair should take over and a new Vice Chair be appointed.*@

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 **NLSBA to Minister of Education.** Distributed for information purposes.

6.2 **Morris Academy.** A letter from parents was distributed for information purposes. The Director reviewed the issue, noted that the request was to reconfigure Morris Academy to a K-4 school for next year. A discussion was held on the former AESB decision. It was agreed that the minutes of the AESB meeting dealing with this issue would be reviewed and provided to Mr. Hayden. However, it was agreed that no changes to school configurations would take place until the multi-year plan is approved by the Board in the fall.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 **Director's Report.** The April report was circulated. The Director provided verbal highlights.

7.2 **Teacher Retirement.** A lengthy discussion was held on the appropriate celebration for retirees throughout the district. Previous practice was discussed. It was agreed that the token of appreciation presented would be the same for all regions.

Motion: Moved by Cyril Hayden, seconded by Danny Button, that retirement of all personnel be recognized by the Board, on a regional basis, similar to past practice. The timing of the events would be done regionally. Carried.

It was noted that all personnel, support and teaching staff, would be honoured in this way.

7.3 **Congratulations.** The Chair congratulated Albert Trask on the successful completion his doctoral program.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10: 20 p.m. on a motion by Brendan White.