

School Board Meeting

August 17, 2005

1. OPENING

A meeting of Eastern School Board took place on Wednesday, August 17, 2005, in the Avalon Room, Avalon West Regional Office, Spaniard's Bay. The meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m. by the Chair, Bruce Peckford.

Members present: Mr. Bruce Peckford, Chair
Mr. Joe Keating, Vice Chair
Mr. Danny Button
Mr. Earl Elliott
Ms. Joan Marie Gatherall
Mr. Angus Gilbert
Mr. Cyril Hayden
Mr. Brendan White

Absent with regrets: Mr. Ron Ellsworth
Dr. Jim Hearn
Mr. Mel Hong
Mr. Rick Martin
Ms. Vi Parsons

Also in attendance: Dr. Bruce Sheppard, Director of Education
Mr. Richard Harvey, Assistant Director, Personnel
Dr. Darin King, Assistant Director, Programs
Mr. Eric Snow, Assistant Director, Finance & Administration
Dr. Albert Trask, Assistant Director, Rural Schools
Ms. Glenda Riteff, Senior Education Officer
Ms. Mary Tucker, Manager of Communications
Ms. Gwen Hurley, Executive Assistant

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Motion: Moved by Joe Keating seconded by Angus Gilbert, that the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Brendan White, seconded by Joe Keating, that the minutes of the School Board meeting of May 24, 2005, be adopted as presented. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Joe Keating, seconded by Cyril Hayden, that the minutes of the School Board meeting of June 8, 2005, be adopted as presented. Carried.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Brendan White, that the minutes of the School Board meeting of July 12, 2005, be adopted as presented. Carried.

The Chair advised the Board that contract for the new Director was being completed to finalize the recruitment process. At that point Mr. Peckford officially welcomed and congratulated Dr. King as the Director designate.

Dr. King thanked the Board for its vote of confidence, he acknowledged his colleagues around the table and thanked them for the vote of confidence they have given him since his selection. He acknowledged Dr. Sheppard's significant contribution over the past year, and advised that he will continue to lead the district in the direction it has taken over the past year.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING**

4.1 **ESD By-Laws** It was noted that the changes to the By-Laws recommended from the first reading in June were incorporated. This was the second reading of the By-Laws.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Joe Keating, that the circulated By-Laws be adopted by the Board. Carried.

5. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEES**

5.1 **Finance - August 8, 2005**

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by Angus Gilbert, that the Board approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to appoint Byron Smith as the Eastern School Board's auditors. Carried.

It was noted that hiring of professional services is not subject to the Public Tendering Act.

The length of the contract was discussed and it will be reconsidered if there is any issue with the length of the term. However, investigation into this matter did not reveal any time limitations.

Motion: Moved by Danny Button, seconded by that the Board establish a policy on

school trustee protocol.

It was noted that this issue was covered in the By-Laws previously adopted. It was also noted that it was the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to ensure the communication protocol is enforced.

The need for a Code of Ethics for Trustees was raised. The Director was asked to review previous boards' code of ethics and to bring forward a recommendation to the next board meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 **Leary's Brook Junior High School Council.** A copy of a letter to the Premier from the Chair of Leary's Brook Junior High School Council was distributed for information purposes.
- 6.2 **NLSBA - Request for funding.** The Director advised that the funding approved by ESD for NLSBA for 2004-05 has been forwarded. This request is for payment of fees for 2005-06 by usual government deduction on a monthly basis.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding NLSBA's lack of response to the motion of the May 24 ESD Board meeting. The information requested would provide a detailed budget clearly and adequately identifying sufficient funding for advocacy of education issues and professional development for trustees. These are the stated objectives approved by ESD for the new NLSBA. Concern was expressed that NLSBA has not provided this information to date.

Further discussion ensued. Mr. Peckford was asked to call the Chair of NLSBA to advise that the information received from NLSBA to date does not meet the needs of ESD. When the information in the requested format is received, ESD will review and make a decision.

- 6.3 **Minister of Education - Constitution approval.** This correspondence was distributed for information purposes only.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1 **Capital Approvals.** A list of capital project approvals was distributed for information purposes. It was noted that the issue of the roof deficiencies at Baccalieu Collegiate is being pursued legally by Government.

The Director gave background on issues that may cause difficulty on school opening.

- i. **Bishop's College** - handicap lift will not be in place for September.
- ii. **Paradise Elementary** - mould and rot have been discovered in the gym walls and roof. Testing being done throughout the building. This means that the 600 students will need to be accommodated in another venue for the first term. At the very least, we should expect some disruption to the beginning of the school year at this school.
- iii. **St. Peter's Elementary and Cowan Heights Elementary** - roofing projects will begin in September. The roofs are metal which means that there will be considerable noise during the completion of the project.
- iv. **St. Bernard's** - gymnasium will not be completed until September 12. This will create challenges for set up for September opening.

- 7.2 **Policies for Approval** A list of 48 policies were presented for consideration. Dr. Sheppard noted that legal advise suggested a preference to have one set of policies in place throughout the district. Administration recommended interim approval, with the appropriate Board committee conducting a complete review over the next two years, or as the need arises.

The Director noted that the Nutrition Policy was prepared, however direction from Government is needed before it should be considered for approval.

Motion: Moved by Brendan White, seconded by Cyril Hayden, that the list of policies (attached), excluding Nutrition Policy, be adopted on an interim basis. Carried.

7.3 **Other**

- i. **Next Meeting** It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board will take place on Wednesday, September 21. Members will be advised the location when the rotation is reviewed.
- ii. **Assistant Director, Programs, Position.** The Board advised that the advertisement for the Assistant Director, Programs, will be placed in the August 20 and 27 editions of The Telegram, with the closing date of August 29. The same committee of the Board will be responsible for the recruitment process for this position and will bring the recommendation to the Board for consideration.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on a motion by Danny Button.