

Eastern School Board

April 18, 2007

1. **OPENING**

A meeting of Eastern School Board took place on Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at Sacred Heart Academy, Marystown. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 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. Jack Murphy
Mr. Jerry Rice
Ms. Rosalind Robere
Mr. Eric A. Snow
Mr. Derek Winsor

Absent with regrets: Mr. Don Blackmore
Mr. George Sheppard
Mr. Rick Martin

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
Mr. Charles Penwell, Regional Education Officer
Ms. Mary Tucker, Manager of Communications
Ms. Maureen Sheppard, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Peach opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and welcomed the members of the public who were in attendance.

2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Out of respect for Private Kevin Kennedy, a soldier from the area recently killed in Afghanistan, one minute of silence was observed.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: It was moved and seconded C. Hammond/J. Rice that the agenda be adopted with the following additions under Correspondence:

- Item 6.4 – Correspondence from an employee Ms. Shannon Fraser
- Item 6.5 – Correspondence from Right to Life Association
- Item 6.6 – Correspondence from Minister Burke to the Mayor of Carbonear.
Carried.

It was also agreed that the Correspondence section would be moved forward on the agenda.

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 7, 2007

Motion: It was moved and seconded D. Winsor/J. Rice, that the minutes of the School Board Meeting of March 7, 2007, be adopted as presented.
Carried.

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

6. CORREPENDENCE

6.1 - Request to Speak to the Board – Roots of Empathy

Motion: It was moved and seconded K. Best/J. Murphy that this request from Roots of Empathy be referred to the Programs Committee. Carried.

J. Rice asked that all trustees be notified when this meeting is scheduled. Out of consideration for those living far from the meeting location, it was suggested that the option of video conferencing be investigated with the regional offices when such presentations are requested and held. Such requests would be accommodated subject to availability of the conferencing equipment.

6.2 – Request to speak to the Board - Mrs. Margaret Hynes

Motion: It was moved and seconded (D. Winsor/R. Robere) that the request from Mrs. Margaret Hynes to speak to the topic of proposed changes to Policy IHAM: *School-Based Sexuality Education Program and Condom Dispensing* be forwarded to the Programs Committee. Carried.

6.3 - Correspondence from Minister of Education – School Insurance

Government has advised it is moving forward with the purchase of liability insurance for our schools. Mr. Snow is presently dealing with the Department of Education and Treasury Board on clarifying details with respect to sporting events and playgrounds.

6.4 – Request to Speak to the Board - Shannon Fraser

An employee has asked to address the Board regarding our substitute teacher policy. This is a direct request to the Board by a staff member.

Motion: It was moved and seconded J. Hearn/E. Snow that the request be referred to the Director of Education for follow up. Carried

6.5 – Request to Speak to the Board - Right to Life Association

A letter from the Provincial Right to Life Association has been received requesting permission to speak to the Board on Policy IHAM: *School-Based Sexuality Education Program and Condom Dispensing*. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to trustees. Dr. King noted that the Association should be made aware that the Board is proposing a revision to its current policy, and not the establishment of a new policy.

Motion: It was moved and seconded D. Winsor/J. Rice that that request from the Right to Life Association be referred to the Programs Committee for follow-up. Carried

6.6 – Letter of April 5th from the Minister of Education to the Mayor of the Town of Harbour Grace.

Motion: It was moved and seconded K. Best/M. Lambe – that the Chair write Mayor Don Coombs of Harbour Grace, with a copy to trustees, the Minister of Education, and the Director of Education, strongly affirming that senior staff had kept trustees fully informed of all issues prior to reorganization decisions being made in the Carbonear/Harbour Grace area. Amended.

Following discussion, it was agreed by both the mover and seconder that the motion be amended as follows:

Motion: That the Chair write the Minister of Education, with a copy to the Mayor of Harbour Grace, strongly affirming that senior staff had kept trustees fully informed of all issues prior to reorganization decisions being made in the Carbonear/Harbour Grace area, and asserting that trustees were fully informed when the decision was made. Carried.

7. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

7.1 Executive – March 29, 2007

a) Constitution - Amendments to the Constitution & By-Laws were presented for consideration and discussion and first reading. C. Hammond indicated that in accordance with the Constitution, ten days written notice including the proposed changes is required.

Motion: It was moved and seconded (E. Snow/C. Hammond) that discussion on the Constitution be deferred to the next School Board meeting. Carried with one negative vote (D. Winsor).

K. Best suggested that the topic be deferred pending a discussion by all trustees. It was agreed that trustees could review the proposed changes and bring forth suggestions to the May meeting for first reading. Any changes agreed to would be incorporated and brought forward to the June meeting for approval.

b) Standing Rules Governing Operations

Motion It was moved and seconded D. Winsor/K. Best that first reading of the Standing Rules Governing Operations to replace the current By-laws be approved. Deferred.

It was agreed to also defer this item to the next Board meeting.

7.2 Planning & Priorities – March 29, 2007

a) Phase 2 Planning *Proposed Implementation Timeline*:

Dr. King noted that the Planning & Priorities Committee should be adjusted as there were two recommendations rather than motions arising from the March 29, 2007 meeting.

Motion: It was moved and seconded J. Hearn/K. Best that the Board approve the following Phase 2 Planning *Proposed Implementation Timeline*. Carried

Phase 2 Planning Implementation Timeline	
April – June, 2007	Internal research on demographics and enrolment trends. Meet with school principals and school council representatives
September – October, 2007	Finalizing of options, supporting documentation and consultation dates for Board consideration.

November 2007	Internal research completed and options compiled
December 2007	Board review and discussion Public circulation
January – February, 2008	Public consultations
March 2008	Tabling of Draft Plan – Phase 2: Board consideration
March 2008	Implementation

b) Strategic Plan

The Director reminded trustees to provide feedback on the draft document distributed at the Governance Retreat within the next few weeks to the Office of the Director.

7.3 Programs – March 20, 2007

Motion: It was moved and seconded E. Brown/K. Best that the Board approve Policy JLP: *Guidance* as presented. Carried.

Motion: It was moved and seconded by E. Brown/J. Rice that the Board approve Policy IHAM: *School-Based Sexuality Education Program and Condom Dispensing*. Deferred.

An amendment was moved and seconded by D. Winsor/C. Hammond that in light of the number of requests to speak to this policy, consideration be deferred to allow input as requested. This amendment was agreed to by the mover and seconder Dr. Brown & Mr. Rice.

8 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 NLSBA Report – March 15, 2007

Dr. King provided an overview of the written report distributed. Mr. Peach agreed to circulate feedback on the Constitution to trustees. The N.L.S.B.A. Budget report for 2007-08 will be brought back to the School Board at its May meeting.

8.2 NLSBA Delegates – AGM.

All school boards have 5 voting delegates. However, all trustees are encouraged to attend. Trustees indicating their interest in serving as one of the 5 voting delegate were: -

Ken Best
Derek Winsor
Melvin Lamb
Jerry Rice
Jack Murphy

Dr. Hearn indicated that he would be in attendance, as well as C. Hammond. Other trustees wishing to attend as non-voting delegates were asked to submit their names to the Director's Office.

8.3 Air Quality – 12 month plan for District.

As requested at the December 6, 2006 meeting by motion of Dr. D. Dibbon:

that the Board direct professional staff to develop a 12 month plan for environmental assessment of all schools in district, beginning with oldest buildings and identified issues, and bring plan back for April meeting for approval. This plan to be presented to government with a demand for full funding by government.

a template was distributed for review listing buildings in order of age, as well as with a priority ranking. Testing in five buildings has been undertaken on a pilot basis in collaboration with the Department of Education, Occupational Health & Safety, and the Department of Health & Community Services. The heavy cost associated with this plan will have to be negotiated with the Department of Education and the decision to proceed further dependent on appropriate funding being obtained.

Motion: It was moved and seconded D. Winsor/D. Dibbon that the plan as presented be approved subject to the financial conditions outlined in the original motion. Carried.

8.4 Protocol Agreements

Motion: It was moved and seconded C. Hammond/J. Rice that the Protocol Agreements for the following schools be approved:

- i. Frank Roberts Junior High
- ii. Macdonald Drive Junior High
- iii. Mount Pearl Intermediate School
- iv. St. Paul's Junior High School Carried.

9. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Director gave an overview of the issues for the past month, highlighting issues of major concern.

- ✓ K. Best expressed strong concerns with respect to the organization of the appeals committee on student assistant allocations.
- ✓ An update on the staffing allocations was provided by A. Dyke. It was agreed that once schools have been notified of the changes for the 2007-08 year, trustees will be provided an information copy.
- ✓ Bussing Incident - Dr. King noted that with respect to the recent incident involving a bus driver, an internal investigation conducted by staff did not provide any evidence that policies or procedures were violated. Allegations of complaints being received but not acted upon were unable to be verified. A complaints/recognition process has been established whereby complaints can be more easily documented and tracked. He stressed that any documented complaints received by the Board will be investigated.
- ✓ The Minister has agreed to speak to School trustees, and regretted that she was unavailable during its recent meeting with M.H.A.'s.
- ✓ Special appreciation was extended to trustees for their volunteer efforts.

10. **EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Mr. Rice sought the cooperation of trustees in completing and returning at their earliest convenience questionnaires which were distributed by the Foundation.

11. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Finance and Properties – Monday, April 23rd at 5:30 p.m.
Education Foundation – Monday, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. on a motion by C. Hammond.