



## **Chignecto-Central Regional School Board**

### **Regular Meeting**

**08-00 Minutes**

**June 14, 2000**

The regular monthly meeting of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2000 at the Scotsburn Elementary School commencing at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Present**

Kaaren Barkhouse  
George Bruce  
John English  
Lloyd Gibbs  
Jim Grue  
Tina Hurley  
Bernie Knockwood  
Ron Marks  
Marilyn Murray  
David Myles  
Robert Parker  
Mary Stevenson  
Marilyn Thompson  
Trudy Thompson

#### **In Attendance**

Ann Hamilton-Wood  
Elmer MacDonald  
Karen Casey  
Gary Miller  
Brian Murphy  
Robert Renouf  
Dale Sabeau  
Nancy Mosher  
Helene Smith  
Harry Munroe

#### **Absent**

Cheryl Cutler, with regrets  
John Henderson, with regrets

Chair Mary Stevenson called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. She thanked the principal of the school, Gerry Punke, for accommodating the school board meeting.

Prior to approving the agenda for the meeting, Chair Mary Stevenson, welcomed and introduced Frank Barteaux, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association and newly-elected Chair, Lavinia Parrish-Zwicker.

Ms. Parrish-Zwicker, in thanking the Board for the opportunity to speak, stated that the goals of the newly-elected executive of the NSSBA are to increase and improve communications from a provincial perspective. A document

outlining the initiatives of the NSSBA was distributed and it was stressed that the organization represents all the member boards.

In responding to a question regarding the Southwest pilot project and how the NSSBA is planning to provide leadership with regard to this, it was noted that an ad hoc committee has been struck to develop terms of reference as well as a strategy and give feedback to the board. This committee will be ongoing for the next four years. Also, a series of meetings between the Deputy Minister and Frank Barteaux have begun.

Mr. Barteaux spoke about the tremendous amount of work that has been done by our own Superintendent, Elmer MacDonald, in providing leadership for the provincial superintendents in dealing with the proposed cuts to education.

Lavinia Parrish-Zwicker thanked all school board members for their dedication and commitment to the students over the years and she expressed 'good luck' to those who will be running again in the fall. Handouts from NSSBA were left with the Board Secretary for distribution to school board members.

Mary Stevenson thanked both Frank Barteaux and Lavinia Parrish-Zwicker for their input.

### **Agenda**

Lloyd Gibbs asked to have an item added to the agenda. Chair Mary Stevenson reminded board members that additions to the agenda must be requested prior to the meeting via the board secretary.

**Moved by Robert Parker, seconded by Trudy Thompson  
THAT THE AGENDA BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.  
MOTION CARRIED**

### **Presentation**

Assistant Superintendent of Planning, Research and Technology, Karen Casey, introduced Frank MacCormick had been hired independently to conduct an assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board Regional Plan.

In his presentation, Mr. MacCormick commended the board for having a regional plan that is alive and well. [copy of report distributed and on file]

Mr. MacCormick highlighted the report format, overview, observations/conclusions and recommendations. He also stated that the principals' comments indicated a great deal of support for the work being done.

In concluding, Mr. MacCormick indicated that the regional plan must be connected with, and have some relation to, the school improvement plans and in addition to that, the school improvement plans be connected with and have some relation to the regional plan (top down/bottom up). He also encouraged staff to continue the implementation, within the resources available.

Chair Mary Stevenson thanked Mr. MacCormick on behalf of the board, stating that it is encouraging to hear positive comments about the work being done.

### **Minutes**

#### **May 10, 2000 School Board Meeting:**

Tina Hurley referred to page 7 of the minutes wherein she was cited as having voted 'nay' to the approval of the staffing formula. She asked to have included in the minutes that the reason for her vote was because she was unaware of the impact on individual schools.

**Moved by Tina Hurley, seconded by Trudy Thompson  
THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 10TH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS  
AMENDED.  
MOTION CARRIED**

#### **May 24, 2000 Special School Board Meeting:**

**Moved by Marilyn Murray, seconded by Marilyn Thompson  
THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 24TH SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED  
AS CIRCULATED.  
MOTION CARRIED**

### **Business Arising From the Minutes**

Policy #EP-07, "Assessment/Evaluation/Reporting of Student Learning"

**Moved by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Marilyn Murray  
THAT POLICY #EP-07, "ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION/REPORTING OF STUDENT LEARNING" BE  
APPROVED.  
MOTION CARRIED**

In responding to a question about accreditation, Mr. Miller pointed out that the matter is covered in the guidelines and that it would be addressed under the report of the Programs and Student Services Committee.

**Correspondence**

**Correspondence was reviewed as followed:**

- Correspondence received from the School Naming Committee for the new elementary school in Pictou had been sent out to all school board members in their board package.

**MOVED BY GEORGE BRUCE, SECONDED BY BERNIE KNOCKWOOD  
THAT THE NAME, 'PICTOU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL' BE ADOPTED.**

Robert Parker stated that he had asked that the committee reconsider its recommendation and, although disappointed that another public meeting had not been called, he would be supporting the motion. He further asked that in future the Board review the restriction in the policy for naming a school.

It was noted that a letter would be sent to Sharon Gauthier, expressing appreciation to the School Naming Committee on behalf of the Board.

**MOTION CARRIED**

- Correspondence received from several parents in the Parrsboro area expressing concern about the teacher assistant positions was referred to the Programs and Student Services Department.

In response to a question about teacher assistant assignments, Assistant Superintendent of Programs and Student Services, Gary Miller, indicated that well over 90% of the teacher assistant assignments have been completed at the school level. (Of 1,146 hours, 1,081 hours have been assigned and the teacher assistants told of their assignment equating to 94.4%)

It was further noted that Sam Matheson has or will be contacting each of the parents of the autistic children requiring teacher assistants.

- Correspondence received from the Nova Scotia Schools Boards Association stated:

At the NSSBA Annual General Meeting on June 2, 2000 the following motion was passed:

"that the NSSBA strike an ad hoc committee with representation from all school boards throughout the province to study articles in Bill 47 pertaining to the Southwest Regional School Board and the implications of those articles for school boards in Nova Scotia, and to report to the NSSBA Board of Directors by September, 2000; and further, that each board pay the expenses for their representative to participate on the committee."

Trudy Thompson was nominated and agreed to serve on the ad hoc committee.

## Reports from Standing Committees

### **Committee of the Whole**

Vice-Chair Robert Parker gave a report from a Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 7, 2000 as follows:

- The Principal and students gave a very interesting and noteworthy presentation from Parrsboro High School and by the Principal and students from Advocate High School via video on the five-week Problem-based Learning Project, "Teamwise", sponsored by Knowledge House and Intel Canada.

This was a very positive and exciting project for all involved and proved to be an excellent learning experience in terms of research, collaboration, teamwork and the experience of working independently.

Other benefits to the school board were professional development for teachers and equipment donated to the board by Knowledge House and Intel Canada.

On a personal note, Mr. Parker stated that board members got a real treat hearing this very timely and positive presentation on teamwork and technology.

In response to a question, Mr. MacDonald noted that a similar project is being investigated by Gary Miller and Karen Casey for the Springhill and Oxford Schools and further noted that this project has a great deal of potential to be extremely valuable for all our schools.

•A budget document was distributed and outlined using overheads. In presenting the budget, Mr. Parker cited two statements:

- o All people (board and staff) did not want to make the cuts at all but they worked together to make the most effective cuts.
- o You don't cut \$2.9 Million without causing pain; classrooms are affected by these cuts.

In reviewing the Basic Assumptions and Parameters for budget deliberations, Mr. Parker stressed that Chignecto-Central is the only Board in the Province to bring in a balanced budget on a continual basis.

It was also noted that the board made a conscious effort to increase expenditures for special education despite the lack of dollars from the province.

A question was raised as to whether we should be looking at supplementary funding from municipal councils in light of the cuts in the educational system.

In response to a question, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Dale Sabeau, detailed the reductions made to the Operations Department. One of these cuts related to noon-hour bussing in the Town of Stellarton. It was noted that circumstances surrounding the proposal have changed resulting in considerably less savings than originally anticipated.

**Moved by Ron Marks, seconded by Lloyd Gibbs**

**THAT THE BOARD RETAIN THE NOON-HOUR BUSSING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE TOWN OF STELLARTON.**

**MOVED BY GEORGE BRUCE, SECONDED BY MARILYN THOMPSON**

**TO REFER THIS ISSUE TO THE OPERATIONS AND PLANNING/RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE.**

**MOTION DEFEATED**

It was pointed out that a number of parents in the Town of Truro pay for a similar service. Following lengthy discussion,

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Robert Parker, seconded by Jim Grue  
THAT THE BUDGET BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.  
MOTION CARRIED**

**[Nay votes cast by Tina Hurley and Marilyn Thompson]**

**Moved by Robert Parker, seconded by Lloyd Gibbs  
TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.  
MOTION CARRIED**

**Finance/Human Resources Committee**

Committee Chair Ron Marks reported on a meeting held on June 6, 2000 as follows:

**1. Budget Update**

The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed Provincial Profile Sheets and draft Board Budget and agreed that the budget would be presented to the next Committee of the Whole meeting on June 7, 2000.

**2. Website Utilization**

All NSTU job postings are now being advertised on the Web and applicants are being asked to both apply on line and submit a hard copy for the first few postings to ensure everything is running smoothly. There are a few "glitches" that are being worked on.

**3. Staffing Report**

Committee members were given a copy of the Staffing Process Chronology for 2000-2001 (copy on file), Administrative Postings advertised on May 26 and First Round Transfer Postings advertised on June 2.

**4. Mandatory Retirement**

A draft Mandatory Retirement Policy (#HR-06) was distributed to the Committee for review and discussion.

**Moved by Ron Marks,  
THAT AT THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL  
REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD THAT HE WOULD MOVE OR CAUSE TO BE MOVED A MOTION  
TO ADOPT POLICY #HR-06 - MANDATORY RETIREMENT.**

**Moved by Ron Marks, seconded by Bernie Knockwood  
THAT THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE/HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE BE RECEIVED.  
MOTION CARRIED.**

**Operations and Planning, Research and Technology Committee**

Committee Chair, George Bruce, reported on the Committee meeting held on May 24, 2000 as follows:

**1) CCRSB Vacant Buildings**

Dale Sabeau gave an update on the status of vacant buildings or soon to be vacant buildings with the following recommendations coming forth for specific buildings:

- a) That Sir William Dawson and Patterson Elementary Schools be declared surplus by the Board and provide notice of return to the Town of Pictou.
- b) That the E. H. Horne School be declared surplus to the needs of the Board and to offer its return to the Municipality of East Hants.
- c) That the old Hilden School be declared surplus to the needs of the Board and offered for return to the Municipality of Colchester.
- d) That staff enter into discussions with the groups expressing interest in the Enfield District School to explore the possibility of a tenant taking it over and being responsible for the operating costs on behalf of the Board.

**Moved by George Bruce, seconded by Kaaren Barkhouse  
THAT THE ABOVE-NOTED RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VACANT OR SOON TO BE  
VACANT BUILDINGS BE ADOPTED.  
MOTION CARRIED.**

## **2) Community-based Neighborhood Project - Old Brown**

A proposal from Career Connections was shared with the Committee in which they propose to accent the character and heritage of the Old Brown School with the "greening" of the grounds in four different phases over the next couple of years. They will raise their own funds and involve others such as youth groups, school groups (Adult High School, Agriculture Class at WPDHS), and seniors as they feel it is important that as many as possible take "ownership" of this project to make it work. The Committee agreed to endorse the project.

## **3) Site Selections**

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Board the identification of sites for the new Elmsdale School as Site 2, Site 3 and Site 1 in that order.

**Moved by George Bruce, seconded by Trudy Thompson**

**THAT THE CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD IDENTIFY THE SITES FOR THE NEW ELMSDALE SCHOOL AS SITE 2, SITE 3 AND SITE 1 IN THAT ORDER.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Notification was received from the Department thanking us for submitting three approved sites for both Pictou East and Pictou West Schools. A detailed assessment of the sites for both schools will be conducted and returned to us for our final recommended site.

The Operations Department has requested from the Department of Education an update on the status of the three proposed sites submitted some time ago for the new high school in Brookfield.

## **4) Polling Districts**

The Committee received information from the Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board that provided us with the decisions from the Municipality of Cumberland, Municipality of Colchester, and Municipality of East Hants that amended some of the polling districts in each Municipality and requested us to consider these changes and amend our application accordingly.

Staff will review the proposed changes to see where the changes might impact on the areas currently being served by some of our Board members.

In response to a question about the school board boundary changes (involving Old Barns being in Jim Grue's or Kaaren Barkhouse's area), Mr. Sabeau indicated that a hearing has been scheduled for June 28th in our Board Room commencing at 10:30 a.m.

## **5) East River St. Mary's/Thorburn**

The Committee was informed that it is proposed that the four students attending East River St. Mary's next year will be transported by car freeing up the bus to go into Thorburn to reduce the travel time for those students. Mr. Sabeau will arrange for a meeting with the parents to review this arrangement.

In response to a question about retaining the Grade 3 students, Mr. Sabeau indicated that he would look into this.

## **6) Letters of Agreement**

**Moved by George Bruce, seconded by Kaaren Barkhouse**

**THAT THE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR WALLACE CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BE ACCEPTED.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **7) Parrsboro/Advocate Project**

It was noted that this item had already been dealt with.

## **8) Regional Plan Evaluation**

It was noted that this item had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

## **9) School Uniforms**

Information on school uniforms had been distributed to school board members and was discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on June 7, 2000.

**Moved by George Bruce, seconded by Tina Hurley**

**THAT THE INFORMATION ON SCHOOL UNIFORMS BE FORWARDED TO EACH SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL OR PARENT TEACHER GROUP TO REVIEW AND SUBMIT COMMENTS TO THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF PLANNING/RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by George Bruce, seconded by Lloyd Gibbs  
THAT THE REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS AND PLANNING, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY  
COMMITTEE BE RECEIVED.  
MOTION CARRIED**

**Programs and Student Services**

Committee Chair Trudy Thompson reported on a meeting held on May 17, 2000 as follows:

**1. French Immersion**

Parent representatives of students applying for Late French Immersion (LFI) at Redcliff presented a concern regarding student selection for the program. This Regional program, housed at Redcliff, serves students from several elementary feeder schools. Not all students who would attend Redcliff have been able to gain admission. These parents requested that a draw not be used to determine admission, but that additional staff be added to accommodate all students.

While acknowledging the concern about "draws", the Committee - in the absence of funding for additional staff - agreed that the selection procedures, known by parents when students applied, should be implemented. However, the Committee has requested staff to reactivate the Region's Second Language Planning Group to consider possible alternatives to a "draw" system of selection and to make recommendations to the Committee.

**2. Guidelines for Policy #EP-07: Assessment/Evaluation/Reporting of Student Learning**

The Committee reviewed and discussed guidelines supporting Policy #EP-07. (These were distributed at the June 7th Committee of the Whole meeting.) In particular, the issue of accreditation was discussed at length. It was agreed that the guidelines as presented be accepted. It was also agreed that staff should meet, as required, with those School Advisory Councils expressing concern about discontinuing school-based accreditation procedures. The purpose for the meeting will be to discuss alternatives to accreditation that will motivate student learning. In response to some comments and questions, Mr. Miller indicated that the majority of high school principals were in favor of abolishing accreditation and that provincially, students must be either under instruction or writing examinations during designated examination periods.

**3. Provincial/Regional Priorities for English and French Program Services: 2000-01**

Information received from Margelaine Holding, Executive Director, Acadian & French Program Branch and Tom Rich, Executive Director, Program Branch at the Department of Education, described in detail the reduction in the number of provincial program implementation initiatives for the 2000-01 school year. The Committee will be addressing this information in greater detail at the June meeting.

**Moved by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Marilyn Murray  
TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE.  
MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Marilyn Thompson  
TO CONTINUE WITH THE MEETING UNTIL 10:20 P.M.  
MOTION CARRIED.**

**Superintendent's Report**

In presenting his report, Mr. MacDonald noted that, "With the current year's budget now in place, we will begin immediately to identify the next fiscal year's cost pressures and expect to have a preliminary projection done in August."

Mr. MacDonald expressed his appreciation to senior staff and to board members for their commitment and hard work during the past year, particularly during the budget process. He noted that it is now up to the board to give direction as to the administrative structure.

**Other comments/discussion following the Administration Report were:**

•Short (4-day) examination period in January was discussed and it was suggested that the Department might be pushing for semestering. Nancy Mosher indicated that the Department of Education is not advocating semestering at this time.

### **Nova Scotia School Boards Association**

Ron Marks indicated that the annual general meeting had been held at the Old Orchard Inn in New Minas and he was present for a portion of that meeting. In noting the challenges ahead for NSSBA, Mr. Marks expressed his belief that the new President and Executive will meet the challenges.

He also thanked George Bruce for filling in for him at the Saturday meeting. From George Bruce's attendance at the Saturday session, he felt that the school calendar would become an issue with the other school boards.

Mr. Marks also noted that the Month in Review for May had been distributed to school board members.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on August 23, 2000 in a Nova Family School.

### **Adjournment**

On motion from Trudy Thompson, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Helene C. Smith,  
Secretary to the Board  
Date

Mary Stevenson,  
Chair

### **Return to Governance**