



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

### **Regular Meeting**

**06-00 Minutes**

**May 10, 2000**

The regular monthly meeting of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2000 at the E. B. Chandler School in Amherst commencing at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Present**

Kaaren Barkhouse  
George Bruce  
John English  
Lloyd Gibbs  
Jim Grue  
John Henderson  
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  
Gary Miller  
Brian Murphy  
Robert Renouf

Dale Sabean  
Nancy Mosher  
Helene Smith  
Elizabeth vanden Eynden

### **Absent**

Cheryl Cutler, with regrets

Chair Mary Stevenson called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. She thanked the principal of the school, Scott Milner, for accommodating the School Board meeting. She also thanked Gary Clarke, Family of Schools Supervisor for Chignecto, Stephen Blum, Principal of the Amherst Regional High School and Jack Hill from Knowledge House for arranging a tour of the new Amherst Regional High School prior to the meeting.

### **Agenda**

Prior to approval of the agenda, Chair Stevenson asked to place the "In Camera" session of the meeting at the end of the public meeting and also noted that a presentation would be given by Dave Fulton, Family of Schools Supervisor, from the Study Action Committee looking at a request from Cobequid Consolidated to retain their Grade 6 students at the school.

Moved by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Marilyn Murray  
**THAT THE AGENDA BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.  
MOTION CARRIED**

### **Minutes**

April 12, 2000 School Board Meeting:

George Bruce asked that it be noted on page 7 of the minutes that he arrived at the meeting just prior to the second Correspondence Item, "Nova Scotia School Boards Association".

Moved by David Myles, seconded by Tina Hurley

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BE  
APPROVED AS AMENDED.  
MOTION CARRIED**

April 19, 2000 Emergency School Board Meeting:

Moved by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Marilyn Thompson

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> EMERGENCY SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.  
MOTION CARRIED**

## Presentation

Family of School Supervisor for the Nova Family, Dave Fulton, gave a presentation to the School Board on behalf of the Study Action Committee looking at a request to retain the Grade 6 students at Cobequid Consolidated Elementary School.

The final copy of the Study Action Committee Report was distributed and Mr. Fulton proceeded to highlight the contents. He noted that the final report was very similar to the draft report distributed to School Board members on May 3<sup>rd</sup> with the exception of the notes from the last public meeting and a letter from a North River parent.

Mr. Fulton outlined the strengths of both Cobequid Consolidated's request and also a request to maintain the Grade 6's at Central Colchester and indicated that the one thing everyone agreed on was the fact that the educational program of the two schools would be comparable. In concluding his report, Mr. Fulton cited the three possible decisions, as discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting, for the Board to consider:

- i. Retain the Grade 6's at Cobequid Consolidated [a change]
- ii. Leave the Grade 6's at Central Colchester [no change]
- iii. Conduct a more complete study in the fall of 2000, which would include Central Colchester and all of its feeder schools [Chiganois, Cobequid Consolidated, Debert and North River].

Chair Stevenson thanked Mr. Fulton and the members of the Study Action Committee, indicating that a motion would be coming forth later in the meeting.

## Business Arising From the Minutes

Policy #HR-07, "Criminal Reference Checks (New Employees)

Moved by Ron Marks, seconded by Bernie Knockwood

**THAT POLICY #HR-07, "CRIMINAL REFERENCE CHECKS (NEW EMPLOYEES) BE APPROVED.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## Correspondence

Correspondence was reviewed as followed:

- Correspondence received from a number of people expressing concern with the recent budget cuts; namely,
  - OPP Students from the Truro Class
  - Adult High School Students from New Glasgow and Amherst
  - Jennifer Berghuis and Pamela MacCormick on behalf of Canadian Parents for

French regarding French Immersion

- Nancy and David Gillam, Truro, in support of the Early French Immersion Program
- Cyril MacLeod, Truro, expressing issues as he sees them and the impact on our schools
- Springhill Elementary Schools Advisory Council.
  - Correspondence from students, Clayton MacDonald and Blair Williams, thanking the School Board for sponsorship to attend the Forum for Young Canadians.
  - Correspondence from student Erin Tomlinson, thanking the School Board for funding a recent trip to Cornwall, Ontario to attend the National Student Forum, *Student Voices on Learning in the New Millennium*.
  - Correspondence from Sandra Himmelman, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations, along with registration forms for their annual general meeting that had been forwarded earlier to school board members.

This correspondence was circulated around the table. Jim Grue requested that Cyril MacLeod's letter and attachments be sent to all School Board members for further review and information.

### **Reports from Standing Committees**

#### **Committee of the Whole**

Vice-Chair Robert Parker gave a report on a Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 3, 2000 as follows:

- Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Dale Sabeau, distributed copies of the School Naming Committee Report for the new elementary school in Pictou and walked through the report with School Board members. He further noted that Board Policy #OG-12 was followed by the Committee.

Moved by Robert Parker, seconded by John English

**THAT THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN PICTOU BE NAMED, "PICTOU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL".**

Points raised during discussion on this motion included:

- While there was no particular opposition to the recommended name or the Committee's work, there is a problem with the process in that utilizing a person's name does not fit the criteria. It was noted that a number of individual's names had been submitted for consideration by various members/groups in Pictou who were unaware of the actual criteria and limitations, which did, in fact, eliminate

considering a person's name.

- Although inadvertently, the name "Pictou Elementary School" went up on the school two months prior to receiving approval of said name.
- Guidelines for naming a school had been passed previously by the Board.
- The new elementary school in Pictou had been built to replace two former schools, both named after people, and the name, "Pictou Elementary School" was very appropriate.
- The policy should be revisited in the future.

## **MOTION DEFEATED**

Moved by Robert Parker, seconded by Ron Marks

**THAT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR NAMING THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PICTOU BE SENT BACK TO THE COMMITTEE TO RECONSIDER WITHOUT LIMITATIONS.**

## **MOTION CARRIED**

- Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Dale Sabean, gave a presentation on playgrounds that had been postponed from the regular Operations and Planning/Research/Technology Committee meeting.

Mr. Sabean summarized the memorandum that had been sent to all school principals with regard to playground upgrades and/or needed changes. He further noted that school principals were asked to discuss the memorandum with their respective school advisory councils and come up with a proposal and whatever ability the school may have to fund (or help fund) the corrective action. At the request of a Board Member, and for the information of those who did not hear this report at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting, Mr. Sabean indicated that assessments of all school playgrounds had been carried out and costed. These findings were outlined in letters to the school principals.

An excerpt from the memorandum was quoted as follows:

*On the attached estimate some pieces of equipment are listed as needing repair. This may mean that there are minor deviations from the standard which will need correcting and/or that the ground cover must be brought up to standard requirements. If the repair cost of an item is quite high, removal and/or replacement may be a preferred option for you to consider. If the estimate indicates removal, then the piece of equipment cannot reasonably be brought into compliance with the CSA standard.*

*If the school makes a commitment to correct a condition or upgrade a piece of equipment to standard requirements, then a proposal (including possible sources of funding) should be submitted...*

*Recognizing that schools, like our own Operations Department, have very limited budgets, playground improvements will be a gradual process. Accordingly, our department will concentrate its resources on the removal of equipment, provision of ground cover and, where*

*possible, support toward repair or replacement of existing equipment. Principals are asked to respond to this memo once you have had a chance to review this information with your School Advisory Council and/or Parent Teacher Group.*

In response to questions from the floor, Mr. Sabeau noted that all submissions will be looked at and the ones with the most serious need will be given first consideration.

It was noted by a Board Member that schools should be treated fairly, particularly the small schools.

- Family of School Supervisor, Dave Fulton, presented the report of the Study Action Committee looking at the request from the Cobequid Consolidated Parent Association to retain the Grade 6's at Cobequid Consolidated.

Having heard the final presentation this evening it was

Moved by Robert Parker, seconded by David Myles

**THAT OPTION 2 BE APPROVED; THAT IS, LEAVE THE GRADE 6'S AT CENTRAL COLCHESTER [NO CHANGE].**

Discussion included the following points/questions:

- Are we or are we not going to follow the Middle School concept?

*It was agreed to pass this question on to the Programs and Student Services Committee for further study.*

- There is a great need for a full-time Vice Principal at Central Colchester.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

[Nay: John Henderson]

- Assistant Superintendent of Planning, Research and Technology, Karen Casey, distributed copies of research done regarding smoke-free policies throughout the school boards in the Province. Mrs. Casey conducted interviews with two superintendents; Jim Gunn from Annapolis Valley where they have designated smoking areas at the high schools and with Jack Sullivan from the Strait Board where they have a totally smoke-free policy. The point was made that it is very difficult to administer a totally smoke-free policy.

It was agreed that additional follow-up be done with other School Boards.

- Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Brian Murphy, reported on a personnel issue.

Moved by Robert Parker, seconded by Jim Grue

**THAT SAID EMPLOYEE BE SUSPENDED FOR JUST CAUSE WITHOUT PAY FOR AN**

**INDEFINITE PERIOD.  
MOTION CARRIED**

- At the May 9th Committee of the Whole meeting, Superintendent of Schools, Elmer MacDonald presented a comprehensive review of the budget process to date with recommendations for balancing the budget. The first phase of the process is to approve a staffing number for schools. The Board will meet on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> to continue the budget preparation including discussion on all other staffing allocations.

Moved by Robert Parker, seconded by Jim Grue

**THAT THE STAFFING FORMULA; THAT IS, THE SCHOOL STAFFING PUPIL TEACHER RATIO IN THE SYSTEM THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, BE APPROVED.**

A lengthy discussion took place, followed the vote.

**MOTION CARRIED**

[Nay votes cast by Tina Hurley, Marilyn Thompson, Ron Marks, Lloyd Gibbs and John Henderson]

*Tina Hurley's 'Nay' vote was because she did know the impact on the schools at the time.*

Moved by Robert Parker, seconded by Jim Grue

**TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Finance/Human Resources Committee

Committee Chair Ron Marks stated that there was nothing to report.

Operations and Planning, Research and Technology Committee

Committee Chair, George Bruce reported on the Committee meeting held on April 19, 2000 and indicated that all but one item have been covered in the Report from the Committee of the Whole.

1. School Advisory Council Letters of Agreement for Stewiacke Valley [Middle and Upper Stewiacke Schools] and Hilden Elementary were attached to the report and Chair George Bruce noted that these letters have been reviewed by staff and are consistent with provincial guidelines.

Moved by George Bruce, seconded by Kaaren Barkhouse

**THAT THE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL LETTERS OF AGREEMENT FOR STEWIACKE VALLEY [MIDDLE AND UPPER STEWIACKE SCHOOLS] AND HILDEN ELEMENTARY BE ACCEPTED.**

**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 April 19, 2000 as follows:

### 1. Presentations to Committee:

- i. Members of the School Advisory Council of West Pictou District High described an accreditation program used in the school for the past two years. The Council urged the Committee to permit continuation of the accreditation program. The Committee agreed to take their suggestions and concerns into consideration during deliberations on the Student Evaluation policy and guidelines.
- ii. Members of the "Smart Rural Community Project" also made a presentation. This initiative is directed by the North Shore Community Development Association, is funded by ACOA and is delivered through the Colchester Regional Development Agency.

The potential exists for a distance education component to this project in partnership with the Board. The initiative has been referred to staff for review and subsequent recommendation to this Committee. Board members will recall that this project was referenced in the Murley Report on Small High Schools.

### 2. NSSBA Ad Hoc Committee Report on the Implementation of the APEF Core Curriculum

The Committee reviewed the report from the NSSBA Ad Hoc Committee on the APEF Core Curriculum. (All School Board Members have received this report.) On behalf of the Board, the Committee accepted the report with the recommendations as presented and would ask our NSSBA representative, Ron Marks, to advise the NSSBA of this decision.

### 3. Teacher's Professional Development Days

The Committee discussed teacher professional development days, particularly those where excellent "teacher leaders" are removed from their regular classes to provide in-service training for other teachers. This has also been a concern for Board staff. The situation is being addressed both regionally and provincially. The number of professional development initiatives being implemented provincially, and therefore, regionally, will be significantly reduced in the coming school year. Mr. Miller will report to Committee in May on the provincial/Regional priorities for next school year.

### 4. Notice of Motion

By way of this report, I am serving notice that I will move or cause to be moved a motion to adopt



Policy #EP-07: Assessment/Evaluation/Reporting of Student Learning (attached) at the June 2000 meeting of the Board.

Moved by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Marilyn Murray

**TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES  
COMMITTEE  
MOTION CARRIED**

### **Superintendent's Report**

Prior to giving his report, Superintendent Elmer MacDonald proudly announced that our Transportation Department [mechanics/drivers/supervisors] has won the Nova Scotia Pupil Transportation GOLD Achievement Award for the third consecutive year. Chair Mary Stevenson held the plaque up for all to see while Mr. MacDonald went on to say that the award is based on training, accident record, preventative maintenance, and compliance with the Motor Carrier Act and Regulations and bus cleanliness. Mr. MacDonald further stated that this is reflective of a high quality of service with stringent standards for safety and our staff deserves a strong commendation for their individual and collective efforts in achieving this recognition.

Mr. MacDonald further noted that our contract partner, Laidlaw, was also the recipient of their third consecutive GOLD award.

In presenting his report, Mr. MacDonald stressed that, "Education in this province is in for a fundamental restructuring" and went on to speak on the budget cuts and the implications on all aspects of education [copy on file].

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the remainder of his report highlighting positive activities from the various departments and Families of Schools.

*As an addition to this report it was also noted that an excellent musical performance had been given by Bible Hill Junior High School entitled, "The Mudlarks" written by Barry Stagg and directed by Norman Hines, both of Truro.*

In response to a question it was noted that Gary Miller would report on the B/E/S/T [Behaviour/Education/Support/Treatment] program at the June Committee meeting.

In response to a question about the Staff Development *Covey Workshop*, Mr. MacDonald noted that this was an excellent evening session put on at a very reasonable cost.

In response to a comment regarding the April 3<sup>rd</sup> presentation given in the Nova Family by Lloyd Mallard on Brain Compatible Learning and Learning Styles, it was noted that Gary Miller has been asked to look into having similar presentations done in other areas.

Other comments following the Administration Report were:

- We were very fortunate that School Boards were able to change their original budget and it was certainly due, to a large extent, to the leadership of the Superintendents.
- Concern was expressed about the future of school boards and/or restructuring of same.
- School boards do not have a great public image, thus making it hard to get public support.

There is a need to let the public know the value of School Boards before it is too late.

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

Ron Marks noted that School Board members have received reports/notes from various NSSBA meetings, resolutions for the Annual General meeting, minutes of Board of Directors' Meetings and the Month in Review 2000 and, therefore, he had nothing to add.

He indicated that he would not be at the Annual General Meeting, as he will be in Toronto at that time.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on June 14, 2000 at the Scotsburn Elementary School in Pictou County.

### **Public Question Period**

Warden Ralph Welton, Municipality of Cumberland County, stated that he is pleased to see that teacher reductions for the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board full-time equivalents will be limited to 14.2. He asked about support and maintenance staff as well as 10% cut in administration.

*It was noted that another Committee of the Whole "In Camera" session has been scheduled for Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> as a continuation to the budget deliberations.*

Warden Ralph Welton asked about the playground concerns and the costs involved.

*Mr. Sabeau indicated that these costs are tied in with the budget each year and that it will take a minimum of five years to address the costs.*

Warden Ralph Welton asked to have a copy of the School Improvement Plan.

*Family of Schools Supervisor, Gary Clarke, indicated that each school has their own School Improvement Plan and these are available at the schools.*

Warden Ralph Welton asked to have a copy of the Study Action Report given this evening by Dave Fulton on behalf of the Grade 6 students from Cobequid Consolidated School.

*A copy of the requested report was given to Warden Welton.*

Moved by Tina Hurley, seconded by Marilyn Murray

**TO GO 'IN CAMERA'.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Moved by Tina Hurley, seconded by Marilyn Murray

**TO GO BACK INTO PUBLIC FORUM.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **REPORT FROM 'IN CAMERA' SESSION**

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Brian Murphy, reported to the School Board on the Personnel issue referred to earlier in the meeting, citing additional information on the said incident.

Moved by Ron Marks, seconded by Marilyn Thompson

**TO REAFFIRM THE SUSPENSION OF SAID EMPLOYEE FOR JUST CAUSE FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD WITHOUT PAY.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **Adjournment**

On motion from George Bruce, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Helene C. Smith,  
Secretary to the Board  
May 15, 2000

Mary Stevenson,  
Chair

**[Return to Governance](#)**