



Chignecto-Central Regional School Board

Organizational Meeting

11-00 Minutes

November 8, 2000

The organizational meeting for the newly-elected Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2000, in the Board Room at Central Office in Truro commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Kaaren Barkhouse
Robin Bourque
Cheryl Cutler
Jim Grue
John Henderson
Mark Lavers
Mary Macaulay
Lawrence MacKinnon
Ron Marks
Marilyn Murray
David Myles
Robert Parker
Mackie Ross (7:26 p.m.)
Marilyn Thompson
Trudy Thompson
Raymond Tynes

In Attendance:

Karen Casey
Ann Hamilton-Wood
Elmer MacDonald
Gary Miller
Brian Murphy
Robert Renouf
Dale Sabean
Nancy Mosher
Bruce MacIntosh

Absent:

Bernie Knockwood, with regrets

Superintendent of Schools, Elmer MacDonald, welcomed all those in attendance and stated that, in accordance with the Education Act, the Superintendent chairs the first portion of the organizational meeting until such time as a board chair has been elected. Mr. MacDonald asked that board members and staff in attendance introduce themselves and indicate the area they represent or their position with the Board.

Following introductions, the Superintendent indicated that the swearing in ceremony could be conducted two ways - either as a group or individually.

It was MOVED by David Myles, seconded by Jim Grue

**THAT THE SWEARING IN CEREMONY BE CONDUCTED AS A GROUP.
MOTION CARRIED**

Mr. MacDonald welcomed and introduced Judge David Hubley, Family Court Judge, who was in attendance to swear in the board members. Two members, Bernie Knockwood and Mackie Ross, were not in attendance and it was agreed that they would be sworn in at a future meeting.

Judge Hubley administered the oath of office to the fifteen board members in attendance following which each oath of office document was signed and witnessed. Judge Hubley congratulated the board members and wished them luck in the difficult but important task of making decisions for the education system in the region. On behalf of the Board, the Superintendent presented Judge Hubley with a token of appreciation.

The Superintendent stated that the number of board members has been increased to seventeen with the election of Raymond Tynes to represent the African-Nova Scotian communities across the region and he welcomed Mr. Tynes to the board table. Mr. MacDonald wished all board members "good luck" as they began their term of office.

Election of Board Chair

The Superintendent reviewed the process for the election of a board chair as is outlined in the Education Act and Board By-Laws. Following the established procedures, each board member was given a secret ballot to nominate a person to serve as board chair. The nominations were then scrutinized by the Board Solicitor and Acting Board Secretary who reported back to the meeting the results of the nominations. Five individuals were nominated, two of whom were not in attendance and therefore their names could not be considered for election. The other three were asked if they would let their name stand for election - John Henderson accepted, Ron Marks declined and Robert Parker accepted.

Each of the two candidates gave a brief speech following which board members were given a ballot to vote for board chair. Again the Board Solicitor and Acting Board Secretary reviewed the ballots and the Superintendent announced that Robert Parker had been elected.

Mr. Parker assumed the chair and thanked the Board for placing their trust in him. He also thanked his family for their support and reminded his fellow board members that families are asked to make sacrifices when someone holds public office and asked them to ensure they save time for their families. Mr. Parker recognized the contribution of the outgoing board members, particularly Board Chair Mary Stevenson, and also thanked the administrators for their assistance and support.

Mackie Ross joined the meeting and it was indicated that he could not participate in the business of the board until such time as he was officially sworn in. Raymond Tynes indicated that he knew an individual who was a Justice of the Peace and agreed to call her and ask her to come into the meeting and administer the oath to Mr. Ross.

Election of Board Vice-Chair

Mr. Parker indicated that the election of a vice-chair would follow a similar format as for the chair. Each board member was given a ballot to nominate a vice-chair with four names coming forward following the review by the scrutineers. John Henderson declined, as did Ron Marks and Marilyn Thompson. Trudy Thompson agreed to let her name stand for election and was declared elected as vice-chair by acclamation.

Ms. Thompson gave a brief speech and thanked the Board for their confidence and support.

Standing Committee Structure

The Chair indicated that a decision was required on whether to retain the current standing committee structure or make a change to either Committee of the Whole or a different committee format.

**It was MOVED by Lawrence MacKinnon, seconded by Jim Grue
THAT THE BOARD RETAIN THE CURRENT STANDING COMMITTEE STRUCTURE OF THREE
COMMITTEES - FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, OPERATIONS AND PLANNING,
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY AND PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES.
MOTION CARRIED**

Board members were then asked to indicate, on a form provided, their first, second and third choices for committee participation. A nominating committee consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, member David Myles, Director of Finance, Robert Renouf, and the Acting Board Secretary, Ann Hamilton-Wood, then adjourned to review the requests and prepare a nominating report.

Following a short break, the meeting was recalled at 8:30 p.m. Justice of the Peace, Michelle Collins-Mentis, joined the meeting and according to procedure, administered the oath of office to Mackie Ross. Both the Chair and Mr. Tynes thanked Ms. Collins-Mentis for agreeing on short notice to participate in the meeting.

Report of Nominating Committee

Chair Robert Parker gave the report of the nominating committee as follows:

Finance and Human Resources Committee

Robin Bourque
Jim Grue
Mary Macaulay
Ron Marks
David Myles

Operations and Planning, Research and Technology Committee

Kaaren Barkhouse
Lawrence MacKinnon
Marilyn Murray
Mackie Ross
Marilyn Thompson

Programs and Student Services Committee

Cheryl Cutler
John Henderson
Mark Lavers
Trudy Thompson
Raymond Tynes

Mr. Parker indicated that Bernie Knockwood would be placed on a committee once he has been officially sworn in.

**It was MOVED by David Myles, seconded by Jim Grue
TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.
MOTION CARRIED**

Select Committee Membership

The Chair reported that there are a large number of Board and outside agency committees that board members are asked to serve on and those appointments are made as part of the organizational meeting.

**It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Lawrence MacKinnon
THAT JOHN HENDERSON AND MARILYN MURRAY SERVE ON THE ATTENDANCE AND
DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL BOARD MEMBERS ARE
DEEMED AS ALTERNATES.
MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY JOHN HENDERSON, SECONDED BY JIM GRUE
THAT THE SELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS
COMMITTEE BE REFERRED TO THE FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE FOR
DECISION.
MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY LAWRENCE MACKINNON, SECONDED BY TRUDY THOMPSON
THAT THE MEMBERSHIP ON SELECT COMMITTEES, AS OUTLINED BELOW, BE APPROVED.
MOTION CARRIED**

N.S.S.B.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Ron Marks

MANAGEMENT & LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

Trudy Thompson

Marilyn Murray

SYSTEM PLACEMENT COMMITTEE:

Ron Marks

TEACHER/BOARD COMMITTEE:

Marilyn Thompson

Mary Macaulay

W. G. MACGREGOR TRUST COMMITTEE:

Robin Bourque

Lawrence MacKinnon

Marilyn Murray

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE:

Mark Lavers

David Myles

Mackie Ross

REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM:

Marilyn Thompson

Trudy Thompson

Raymond Tynes

REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Jim Grue

SPECIAL SERVICES PLACEMENT APPEALS COMMITTEE:

Mark Lavers

Mackie Ross

Marilyn Thompson

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Raymond Tynes

SCHOOL INSURANCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Ron Marks

BOARD REPRESENTATION ON:

AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

David Myles

EAST HANTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Cheryl Cutler

PARRSBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Mackie Ross

PICTOU COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Robert Parker

SPRINGHILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Marilyn Thompson

TATAMAGOUCHE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

John Henderson

TRURO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Kaaren Barkhouse

Selection of Board Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

IT WAS MOVED BY MARILYN MURRAY, SECONDED BY MARK LAVERS THAT THE BOARD APPROVE A MEETING SCHEDULE WITH THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6:30 P.M. AND THE REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

During discussion, a concern was raised with the start time of 6:30 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole due to work obligations and distance to be traveled for some board members. The suggestion of having a timekeeper in place to ensure meetings begin and end on time was made.

IT WAS MOVED BY TRUDY THOMPSON, SECONDED BY MACKIE ROSS TO AMEND THE MOTION SO THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETINGS WOULD ALSO BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

MOTION CARRIED

Additional Items Raised

Raymond Tynes indicated that he would like to visit each community in the region where he represents constituents in order to familiarize himself with the communities and issues that may be of concern. He stated that the travel costs incurred would be beyond established guidelines and he requested Board approval for the additional costs.

It was MOVED by Lawrence MacKinnon, seconded by Trudy Thompson THAT RAYMOND TYNES BE GIVEN APPROVAL TO INCUR ADDITIONAL TRAVEL COSTS TO VISIT EACH COMMUNITY IN THE CCRSB REGION WHERE AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN CONSTITUENTS RESIDE (A TOTAL OF 340 MILES) IN ORDER THAT HE FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH THE COMMUNITIES AND ISSUES OF CONCERN.

IT WAS MOVED BY RON MARKS, SECONDED BY CHERYL CUTLER TO AMEND THE MOTION TO EXTEND THE SAME APPROVAL TO BERNIE KNOCKWOOD IN ORDER THAT HE VISIT MI'K MAQ COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE REGION IF HE CHOOSES.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

MOTION CARRIED

It was suggested that everyone prepare a brief "autobiography" to present at the Committee of the Whole meeting on December 6, 2000 in order that everyone may become more familiar with his or her fellow board members. The Superintendent recommended that the information be submitted to the Board Secretary who would compile a document to be shared with everyone.

The Board Chair indicated that it might be necessary to hold additional meetings over the next few weeks to bring new board members "up to speed" on recent activities and also to reacquaint returning members with the large number of initiatives that are currently underway across the region.

Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Robert Parker,
Board Chair

Ann Hamilton-Wood
Communications Officer/Acting Board Secretary

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