

November 14, 2001

Chignecto-Central Regional School Board

Organizational Meeting

11-01 Minutes

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The annual organizational meeting of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2001, in the Board Room at Central Office, Truro, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Kaaren Barkhouse
Robin Bourque
Jim Grue
John Henderson
Mark Lavers
Mary Macaulay
Lawrence MacKinnon
Ron Marks

Marilyn Murray
David Myles
Robert Parker
Mackie Ross
Marilyn Thompson
Trudy Thompson
Raymond Tynes

In Attendance:

Doug Benedict
Larry Elchuck
Valerie Gauthier
Ann Hamilton-Wood

Gary Miller
Brian Murphy
Bruce MacIntosh

Absent:

Bernie Knockwood, with regrets
Cheryl Samson, with regrets

In accordance with the Education Act, Superintendent Gary Miller assumed the chair for the first portion of the organizational meeting. Mr. Miller indicated that the agenda as circulated had listed the report from the Committee-of-the-Whole and an in-camera session at the start of the meeting. However, in order to be in accordance with the Education Act, and upon recommendation of the Board's solicitor, those items would be addressed after the election of board officials.

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Election of Board Chair

The Superintendent outlined the procedure, as described in the Education Act, to be followed for the election of the Board Chair and asked Ann Hamilton-Wood and solicitor Bruce MacIntosh to serve as scrutineers.

Ballots were circulated to each Board member to be used to nominate an individual for the position of Board Chair. The ballots were collected, counted and a report was brought back to the meeting. Five members were nominated for Board Chair – John Henderson, Ron Marks, Robert Parker, Trudy Thompson and Raymond Tynes. All nominees with the exception of Robert Parker declined to let their name stand for election and accordingly, Mr. Parker was declared elected by acclamation.

Mr. Parker assumed the chair and thanked the Board for the confidence and support shown in him. He reported that he had considered not letting his name stand for election if he were nominated primarily due to the time commitment that is required. He reminded Board members that their spouses and families deserve special credit when someone is involved in school board activities as the amount of time required to do the job goes well beyond the monthly meetings.

Mr. Parker indicated that at this time when school boards are under scrutiny it is important for the Board to continue to work together to ensure the best results for students. He also reminded the other Board members that the process of rebuilding trust and respect must continue between the Board and the senior management team and he made the commitment to work hard with everyone involved to help restore that trust and respect.

Election of Vice-Chair

In a procedure similar to the election for board chair, ballots were circulated to board members and then collected and counted. Four individuals were nominated for vice-chair – Mary Macaulay, Marilyn Thompson, Trudy Thompson and Raymond Tynes. Only Trudy Thompson agreed to let her name stand for election and Ms. Thompson was also elected by acclamation.

Ms. Thompson thanked everyone for their support and trust and asked that all Board members continue to work together to do the best for students.

It was agreed to proceed with the business portion of the agenda and to address the standing committee selections later in the meeting.

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REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE:

Vice-Chair Trudy Thompson reported on a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on November 7, 2001.

Middle School Education

Doug Benedict, Assistant Superintendent of Programs and Student Services, had welcomed and introduced the principals of five schools in the region where a middle school program is provided for students. Scott Milner, E. B. Chandler Junior High in Amherst, Allan Kennedy, Redcliff Middle School in Bible Hill, Chris Murray, Riverside Education Center in Milford, Eileen English, Stellarton Middle/High School and Donna Spacek, Truro Junior High, each made a brief presentation to the Board. The information included a brief overview of the programs offered and the unique opportunities and challenges encountered in providing a middle school education in their various facilities.

Student Travel

The Board Vice-Chair had welcomed parent Elaine Waugh representing both the Home and School and School Advisory Council from Pugwash District High School. Ms. Waugh was accompanied by SAC Chair Gerald Hoganson and SAC member Dan Crest. Ms. Waugh had requested to make a presentation to the Board regarding the proposed cancellation of student travel in light of recent terrorist activities and the impact it had on the participation of a group of students from PDHS in the CBC sponsored Smart Ask competition. Ms. Waugh had outlined for the Board the process and competition the students had been involved in to date. She indicated that due to the uncertainty regarding the pending Board decision, CBC had withdrawn their support of the student's participation but had subsequently agreed to await final Board decision. Based on the discussions and advice from the Board's solicitor from that meeting,

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Jim Grue
**THAT THE BOARD APPROVE, IN PRINCIPLE, THE TRIP FOR STUDENTS
FROM PUGWASH DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL TO TORONTO TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE CBC'S SMART ASK NATIONAL COMPETITION
SUBJECT TO ALL NECESSARY CAUTIONS AND ADVISEMENTS.**

It was noted that a reference was not included in the report from the Committee-of-the-Whole related to the cautions coming from the Board's insurance providers which had precipitated the Programs and Student Services Committee review of student travel following the events of September 11th. The Board was assured that reference would be included in the detailed minutes of the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

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It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by John Henderson
THAT THE BOARD APPROVE, IN PRINCIPLE, THE REINSTATEMENT OF ALL OTHER STUDENT TRIPS PROVIDED THE DETAILS REGARDING DESTINATION AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS ARE REVIEWED BY THE PROGRAM AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THAT PARENTS RECEIVE APPROPRIATE ADVICE AND INFORMATION.

It was noted the reference to “appropriate advice and information” would include each parent whose child is traveling receiving a copy of a form letter drafted by the Board’s solicitor warning of the issues surrounding liability insurance that may arise as the result of incidents involving acts of war or terrorist activities.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance and Human Resources Committee

In the absence of Committee Chair, Ron Marks, Committee Vice-Chair Mary Macaulay had reported on a meeting held on October 24, 2001. With regards to discussions held related to unapproved capital expenditures, there had been considerable discussion on the issue of equity and whether or not it was appropriate to allow additional expenditures and as part of the debate, a revised document outlining the details of the previous expenditures was circulated. As the result of those discussions,

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Jim Grue,
THAT \$100,000 BE ALLOCATED TO THE NORTHUMBERLAND FAMILY OF SCHOOLS TO ACHIEVE SOME DEGREE OF EQUITY WITH REGARD TO THE RECENT EXPENDITURES.

Questions were raised regarding how the allocation of the funds would be addressed at the family level. The Superintendent reported that the Assistant Superintendent of Programs and Student Services and the Family of Schools Supervisor would hold discussions with principals in order to properly address the needs at the individual schools. There was also some discussion surrounding the number of photocopier leases that had been paid off as part of the previous unapproved expenditures.

Some Board members suggested that under these unique circumstances it might be appropriate for the Board to review the list of items once it was developed. After some discussion,

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It was agreed that staff would report back to the Board with a list of requested items from the Northumberland Family of Schools based on the discussions held between the principals, the Family of Schools Supervisor and the Assistant Superintendent of Programs and Student Services.

The question was called,

MOTION CARRIED

Operations and Planning, Research and Technology

School Construction Updates

As part of the report from the Operations and Planning, Research and Technology Committee, the Board had received a presentation from the Site Selection Committee for the proposed new Truro Junior High School. Ms. Gloria Upham, Chair of the Alice Street SAC, and Cynthia Murphy, Chair of the Truro Junior High SAC, accompanied by Karen Casey, Committee Chair, had presented the results of the group's deliberations and their recommendation for a site for the new school. It had been stated that there was some urgency with the preferred site on Young Street as there is a great deal of development in that area at the present time. It had been agreed that the recommendation would come forward to the Board meeting on November 14 as part of the Operations and P/R/T report. Based on the understanding that the meeting on November 14 was the annual organizational meeting and no committee reports would be coming forward, the following motion was brought forward on behalf of the Operations and P/R/T committee:

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Mary Macaulay
TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF THE SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW TRURO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND ACCORDINGLY SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING THREE SITES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR CONSIDERATION AS LOCATIONS FOR THE NEW FACILITY: YOUNG STREET (ranked as number one), CURTIS DRIVE AND UPHAM DRIVE (sites not ranked but submitted as alternates).

MOTION CARRIED

Karen Casey had also presented a report on behalf of the School Steering Team for the new high school to serve South Colchester and in doing so gave a brief overview of the public and committee meetings held to date. It had been indicated that the community does have some concerns with the placement of the new facility on the available property.

In a related matter, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Dale Sabeau, had provided the Board with a pictorial view of the property on which the new building will be located in

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relation to the present schools on the site and the Board-owned bus maintenance facilities that are also located there. Mr. Sabeau had indicated that the Board had previously made a request of the Department of Education for financial assistance to relocate the maintenance facilities to a site between Truro and New Glasgow that would serve as a central operations depot. Since it appeared that the Department would not be supporting that project, it was recommended that the Board investigate relocating the Brookfield facilities to another site to allow for better use of the property for the new school and to address safety concerns with the present maintenance garages. Therefore,

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Kaaren Barkhouse
THAT THE BOARD APPROVE, IN PRINCIPLE, THE RELOCATION OF THE BROOKFIELD GARAGES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF A FORMAL FUNDING ARRANGEMENT AND THAT THE FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE BE ASKED TO INVESTIGATE THE BEST FINANCING ARRANGEMENT.

MOTION CARRIED

Sensitivity Training

As a follow-up to the Board's recent planning and priorities session, it had been agreed that sensitivity training would take place as soon as possible. Board members had agreed to advise either the Chair or Vice-Chair as to their preference for the time – either as part of two Committee-of-the-Whole meetings (December and January) or as a separate session for an evening or other appropriate time.

The Board Chair indicated that information coming forward from Board members had indicated that there was a preference to have separate sessions rather than extend the time of Committee-of-the-Whole meetings. It was agreed to look at scheduling a date in January 2002 (beginning on January 7th with later Mondays as alternates)

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Marilyn Murray
TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE.

MOTION CARRIED

IN-CAMERA SESSION

8:10 p.m.

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Jim Grue
THAT THE MEETING MOVE TO IN-CAMERA SESSION.

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9:12 p.m.

It was MOVED by John Henderson, seconded by Robin Bourque
THAT THE MEETING RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION.

MOTION CARRIED

It was agreed that there would be a special Board meeting held on Wednesday, November 21, 2001 to deal with the items left outstanding from the in-camera session.

SELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

There was some discussion on the possibility of changing the standing committee format to allow finance to stand alone rather than being combined with human resources. It was agreed to examine the standing committee structure as part of the upcoming review of the overall management/department structure within the Board.

Each Board member was then given a ballot to select their first, second and third choices for standing committee assignments. A nominating committee consisting of the Chair and Vice-Chair along with Mr. Henderson and Mr. Grue reviewing the ballots and returned the following report to the Board. The Committee reported that in the absence of Bernie Knockwood and Cheryl Samson, the Committee had tried to place them according to their interests and previous experience.

Finance and Human Resources Committee

Jim Grue
John Henderson
Ron Marks
David Myles
Trudy Thomspson

Operations and Planning, Research and Technology Committee

Kaaren Barkhouse
Robin Bourque
Mary Macaulay
Lawrence MacKinnon
Marilyn Murray
Mackie Ross

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Programs and Student Services

Bernie Knockwood
Mark Lavers
Cheryl Samson
Marilyn Thompson
Raymond Tynes

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Jim Grue
TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

MOTION CARRIED

SELECT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

In the interest of time,

It was MOVED by Lawrence MacKinnon, seconded by Trudy Thompson
**THAT THE SELECT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP REMAIN THE SAME
FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.**

MOTION CARRIED

Accordingly, the Select Committee Membership for 2002 is as follows:

ATTENDANCE AND DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE:

John Henderson and Marilyn Murray with the understanding that all Board members are deemed as alternates.

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Raymond Tynes

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE: Mark Lavers
David Myles
Mackie Ross

MANAGEMENT & LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: Trudy Thompson
Marilyn Murray

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REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Jim Grue

REGIONAL PLANNING TEAM:

Marilyn Thompson
Trudy Thompson
Raymond Tynes

STUDENT SERVICES PLACEMENT APPEALS COMMITTEE:

Mark Lavers
Mackie Ross
Marilyn Thompson

SYSTEM PLACEMENT COMMITTEE:

Ron Marks

TEACHER/BOARD COMMITTEE:

Marilyn Thompson
Mary Macaulay

BOARD REPRESENTATION ON:

AMHERST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

David Myles

EAST HANTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Cheryl Samson

NORTH SHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

John Henderson

PARRSBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Mackie Ross

PICTOU COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Robert Parker

SPRINGHILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Marilyn Thompson

TRURO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Kaaren Barkhouse

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Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Robert Parker, Board Chair

Date

Ann Hamilton-Wood
Recording Secretary

Date