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# Chignecto-Central Regional School Board

## Special Meeting

November 21, 2001

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A special meeting of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, November 21, 2001, in the Board Room at Central Office, Truro, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

### **Present:**

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

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

### **In Attendance:**

Doug Benedict  
Larry Elchuck  
Valerie Gauthier  
Ann Hamilton-Wood

Gary Miller  
Brian Murphy  
**Dave White**  
Bruce MacIntosh

### **Absent:**

Jim Grue, with regrets  
Bernie Knockwood, with regrets  
Cheryl Samson, with regrets  
Raymond Tynes, with regrets

Board Chair Robert Parker called the meeting to order.

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### **Approval of Agenda:**

Mr. Parker indicated that in addition to the agenda as circulated, there were two items of information to be shared with the Board. Those items were:

- Announcement re: site selection for new Pictou East School
- Purchase of video conferencing equipment.

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Marilyn Murray  
**TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITIONS.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Announcement – Site Selection**

The Board Chair reported that the Department of Education had advised that a decision had been reached on the site for the new high school to serve the Pictou East area. The site located in Parkdale had been chosen and Mr. Parker indicated that the province hopes to proceed with calling tenders for construction of the school as quickly as possible.

### **Purchase of Video Conferencing Equipment**

The Board Chair reported that Board member Cheryl Samson had advised that she would be unable to attend meetings in person until after the birth of her child in December but would like to participate through the video conferencing facilities at Riverside Education Center. Mr. Parker indicated that at the last meeting there had been discussion regarding the purchase of video conferencing equipment that would allow members to participate in meetings when they were unable to travel to the meeting site. While there had been support for the initiative at that time, Ms. Samson had indicated to the Chair that she felt uncomfortable with the result of those discussions and wanted to be certain that the Board was indeed supportive of the expenditure.

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by Trudy Thompson  
**THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE AN EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$8000 TO PURCHASE VIDEO CONFERENCING EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY BOARD MEMBERS WHEN THEY ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND MEETINGS DUE TO EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.**

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During discussion, questions were raised regarding the possibility of leasing or renting equipment. Larry Elchuck, Assistant Superintendent of Planning, Research and Technology, indicated that since the events of September 11, many more organizations are utilizing video conferencing technology and the availability of equipment on a short-term basis was quite unlikely.

**At the Operations and Planning, Research and Technology Committee meeting on October 17, 2001, it was agreed to proceed with the purchase of video conferencing equipment.**

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by Trudy Thompson  
**THAT THE BOARD CONCURRED WITH THE EXPENDITURE OF \$8,000 FOR VIDEO CONFERENCING EQUIPMENT AS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE.**

The Board solicitor suggested that the Board might want to consider adopting a change to the by-laws that would approve participation in meetings through video conferencing, under appropriate circumstances. The Board Chair indicated that a motion to change by-laws would require additional discussion and should come forward at a later date.

### **In-Camera**

It was MOVED by Kaaren Barkhouse, seconded by Marilyn Murray  
**THAT THE MEETING MOVE TO IN-CAMERA SESSION.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

It was MOVED by Marilyn Murray, seconded by Mark Lavers  
**THAT THE MEETING MOVE BACK INTO PUBLIC SESSION.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Proposal for Audit Review Services**

It was MOVED by Lawrence MacKinnon, seconded by Marilyn Thompson  
**THAT THE BOARD ACCEPT A PROPOSAL FROM GRANT, THORNTON CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS TO PROVIDE AUDIT REVIEW SERVICES AND TO EXAMINE THE BOARD'S FINANCIAL REPORTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**Adjournment:**

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

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Robert Parker, Board Chair

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Date

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Ann Hamilton-Wood  
Recording Secretary

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Date