

Chignecto-Central Regional School Board

Special Board Meeting

Minutes

April 8, 2002

The special meeting of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Monday, April 8, 2002, in the Board Room at Central Office, Truro, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Ron Marks
Marilyn Murray
Robert Parker
Mackie Ross
Cheryl Samson
Marilyn Thompson
Trudy Thompson

In Attendance:

Doug Benedict
Larry Elchuck
Valerie Gauthier
Clare Keating

Gary Miller
Brian Murphy
Dale Sabeau
Linda Campbell

Absent:

Bernie Knockwood, with regrets
David Myles, with regrets

Raymond Tynes, with regrets

Board Chair Robert Parker called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for being in attendance at this special meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was MOVED by Marilyn Murray, seconded by Trudy Thompson

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion – Organizational Review Report:

Robert Parker, Board Chair, indicated the meeting was being held to provide Board members with an opportunity to discuss in detail the major implications of the Organizational Review Report which had been presented to the Board by Lloyd Gillis, External Evaluator, on April 3, 2002.

The focus of the discussion centered on the suggestion that the Family of Schools units be reduced from five to four and on the two options presented by Mr. Gillis for reduction in the number of departments from the current five to four or possibly three.

There was lengthy discussion on these matters with Board members contributing thoughts and points of view on the issues at hand. Some issues raised included: rationale for proposed reconfiguration of Families of Schools units, location of Families of Schools Offices, varying size of proposed Families of Schools units, distribution of workloads, declining enrollments, impact on schools/staff, cost pressures, funding and accountability.

At the conclusion of the discussion there was agreement to ask the Superintendent of Schools to bring forward his recommendations to the meeting scheduled for April 10, 2002.

Board Chairs and NSSBA Board of Directors Meeting Update:

Board Chair Robert Parker provided an update on a meeting of Board Chairs and NSSBA Board of Directors held earlier in the day with representatives from the Department of Education. Mr. Parker stated that discussion at the meeting focused on the implications of the Minister of Education's recent announcement regarding the removal of certain governance responsibilities of the elected members of the Strait Regional School Board.

Concerns were expressed during the meeting with regard to: governance instability; the need for an improved working relationship with the Department of Education; clarification re situation at the Southwest Board; loss of trust and credibility in the Department of Education; and the future of School Boards in Nova Scotia. Mr. Parker indicated these concerns would be conveyed to the Minister of Education along with the clear message that elected School Boards are accountable and reliable.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion by Jim Grue the meeting adjourned.

Robert Parker, Board Chair

Date

Linda Campbell, Board Secretary

Date