

# Chignecto-Central Regional School Board

## Regular Meeting

02-02 Minutes

February 13, 2002

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The regular monthly meeting of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2002, in the Board Room of the Administration Offices, 60 Lorne Street, Truro commencing at 7:00 p.m.

### Present:

Kaaren Barkhouse  
Robin Bourque  
Jim Grue  
John Henderson  
Mark Lavers  
Mary Macaulay  
Lawrence MacKinnon  
Ron Marks [8:40 arrival]

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

### In Attendance:

Gary Miller  
Doug Benedict  
Larry Elchuck  
Valerie Gauthier  
Clare Keating

Brian Murphy  
Dale Sabeau  
Bruce MacIntosh  
David White  
Linda Campbell

### Absent:

Bernie Knockwood, with regrets

Marilyn Thompson, with regrets

Board Chair Robert Parker called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the public in attendance. He also extended a welcome to Linda Campbell, newly appointed Board Secretary.

### Approval of Agenda:

It was MOVED by Mackie Ross, seconded by David Myles  
**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### PRESENTATIONS:

### **East River St. Mary's School Closure Study Committee:**

Dale Sabean, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, introduced Mr. Jim Fraser, Chair of the East River St. Mary's School Closure Study Committee, who was in attendance to report on the Committee's findings. Janette Sears, Consultant – English Program Services, who had also served as a member of the Committee, accompanied Mr. Fraser.

Mr. Fraser presented an overview of the information contained in the East River St. Mary's School Closure Study Committee Report and indicated that the Committee had reviewed aspects including student educational progress, social development, school board finances, transportation requirements and maintenance/facility requirements. The Committee focused on the educational and financial consequences for both East River St. Mary's and Thorburn Consolidated if East River St. Mary's were to remain open. Recommendations to the Board were:

- that East River St. Mary's School be closed permanently effective September 2002; and,
- that the elementary children residing in the area formerly served by East River St. Mary's School be provided transportation to Thorburn Consolidated School with routes not exceeding one hour under normal circumstances.

It was further recommended that any change impacting on the relocation or bus transportation travel time for the East River St. Mary's Grade Primary – Grade 3 students be referred for parental input and consideration.

Marilyn Murray thanked Mr. Fraser for attending the meeting and for the informative report. She also expressed appreciation to all Committee members for the many hours spent while reviewing the subject in preparation for the report.

Robert Parker reminded Board Members that a public meeting in the community to review the report recommendations will be held on March 20, 2002 at Thorburn Consolidated School. A decision on the report will follow at the April public session.

**It was agreed** to receive the East River St. Mary's Closure Committee Report.

### **Grant Thornton Report**

Board Chair Robert Parker welcomed Glenn Williams and Anna-Marie Stuart, representatives from the chartered accountant firm Grant Thornton LLP. The Board had retained Grant Thornton to review the current Board financial governance model and to provide advice and recommendations for enhancing operations.

Mr. Williams and Ms. Stuart provided an overview of the key issues which included information on the external audit and thirteen recommendations for structuring appropriate governance.

It was **MOVED** by John Henderson and seconded by Jim Grue

**TO RECEIVE THE BOARD GOVERNANCE REPORT AS PREPARED BY GRANT THORNTON AND THAT THE REPORT BE REFERRED TO THE FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND SUBSEQUENT RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Robert Parker thanked Mr. Williams and Ms. Stuart for compiling a thorough report indicating the detailed information will prove to be of great benefit to the Board.

**Organizational Review:**

Mr. Lloyd Gillis, who had been engaged by the Board to conduct an Organizational Review, provided Board members with an informative interim report. He outlined the mandate and process, which will include interviews with Board members, staff, educational partners, MLA's, municipal councilors and school advisory council members, as well as the examination of relevant documents and a questionnaire to be completed and returned by February 22, 2002. Mr. Gillis indicated the final report will speak about the health of the organization, will identify concerns, will respond to those concerns and will suggest a timetable for organizational change.

Board Chair Robert Parker thanked Mr. Gillis for presenting an update on the organizational review. Mr. Parker indicated the Board looked forward to receiving the final report that will undoubtedly include much valuable information.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The following changes were noted concerning the minutes:

- Page 3 – Correspondence – J. K. Langille, CAO, Town of Truro – that the last sentence read: Mary Macaulay requested that **she and Raymond Tynes** provide input and receive copies of the Board submission.
- Page 4 – Finance/Human Resources Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph, last sentence: that *fiscal* year be replaced with **current school year**.

It was MOVED by David Myles, seconded by Trudy Thompson

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2002 BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Robin Bourque

**THAT THE BOARD APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO BY-LAW 2.01 BY ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW PARAGRAPH:**

**Attendance at and participation in any meeting of the Board, or any of its Committees, shall be deemed to occur if a member participates by means**

**of a two-way teleconferencing facility, whether oral or video, or both. For any such attendance and participation in a private or in-camera session of Board or Committee proceedings, both the Chair or designate, and the participating member, shall provide appropriate assurances to the Board that all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure privacy and confidentiality in the use of such teleconferencing facilities.**

*Raymond Tynes asked for clarification on the steps that will be taken to provide appropriate assurance that privacy and confidentiality are ensured. Robert Parker indicated it would be a matter of asking the participating member if he/she is in a secure area.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

It was noted there were no correspondence items to report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE:**

Vice-Chair Trudy Thompson reported on a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on February 6, 2002.

**Vocational Technical Initiative Update**

Cecil Smith, Consultant, Vocational/Technical Initiative, made a presentation to the Board on the current program being offered throughout the Board. The presentation included information on the current status and proposed future plans for the Board program.

**Business Plan**

Larry Elchuck, Assistant Superintendent of Planning, Research and Technology, reviewed the draft Business Plan of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board for members.

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**School Board Member Recognition Award**

It was agreed that Jim Grue be nominated to receive the NSSBA School Board Member Recognition Award.

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**Reports from Standing Committees**

*Operations and Planning, Research and Technology Committee* – Lawrence MacKinnon gave the Operations and Planning, Research and Technology report. The highlighted items were:

- ✓ School Capital Construction Priorities
- ✓ Reconfiguration of Pictou County Schools
- ✓ East River St. Mary's Closure Study Report
- ✓ Enhancement Funding

- ✓ Truro and Area Occupational Preparation Program Site
- ✓ International Student Program
- ✓ New Hires – Casual Workers for IEI Unit

*Programs and Student Services Committee* – Marilyn Thompson reported on the French Special Projects.

*Finance and Human Resources Committee* – Ron Marks updated the Board on the NSGEU negotiations and the newest edition of the IDMP newsletter was circulated to Board members.

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Cheryl Samson

**TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES:**

Committee Chair Ron Marks reported on a meeting held on January 30, 2002 as follows:

Among items discussed was a revised report of revenues and expenditures, along with variance changes, from the Finance Department.

The committee reviewed various Human Resources issues, including sensitivity training and the Conflict of Interest Policy. The committee agreed to proceed to review/revamp the proposed Conflict of Interest Policy to fit Chignecto-Central Regional School Board's needs.

With respect to the centralization of legal services, Board Chair Robert Parker suggested that the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board should go on public record as being opposed to centralized legal services.

*In response to a question from Raymond Tynes, Board Chair Robert Parker confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Deputy Minister of Education expressing the Board's opposition to the Department of Education's proposal for a centralized Human Resources and Legal Services Unit.*

Information has been received from Doug Taylor of Welton Beauchamp Atlantic Inc. on a proposed list of steps required to complete the Pension Plan updates.

It was MOVED by Robert Parker, seconded by Trudy Thompson

**TO ENGAGE DOUG TAYLOR OF WELTON BEAUCHAMP ATLANTIC INC. TO DO WORK ON THE PENSION PLAN ISSUE WITH A CEILING LEVEL OF \$5,000.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by John Henderson

**TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OPERATIONS AND PLANNING, RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY:**

Lawrence MacKinnon, Committee Chair provided a report on a meeting held on January 30, 2002.

**International Student Program / Leases**

Paul Millman had provided a presentation on the International Student Program with information on various projects throughout the program. The value of these projects totaled \$889,236.00 and the profit to the Board was \$116,478.00 with an additional \$151,645. in special funding to the participating schools. He then presented a mandate for the International Student Program which had been approved by the Committee.

He also provided the committee information on the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board Leases. A handout outlined the five leases currently held showing the revenue and expenses for each building for the 2000/2001 school year. The leases showed a profit of \$359,120.

**New Hires – Casual Workers for IEI**

Larry Elchuck had provided an information sheet outlining the names and start dates of the four teams of electricians/wirers who were hired through IEI Funding to complete the 2001-02 wiring for this project. These positions will end on March 31, 2002.

**School Capital Construction Priorities**

Dale Sabeau had outlined a memo detailing the October 2001 Board submissions to the Department of Education for School Capital Construction Priorities. He also included a revised January 2002 list of suggestions from the Department and a recommended list for Board consideration to be completed and returned to the Department by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Reconfiguration of Pictou County Schools**

Dale Sabeau shared with the Committee a report on Options for the Reconfiguration of Pictou County Feeder Schools to Support the New High Schools. These are options for the Board to consider and to initiate discussions within the various communities.

### **Enhancement Financing**

The Committee recommended the Board not act as the “banker” for any community enhancements to new school construction.

### **Truro OPP Location**

The Committee agreed to seek permission from the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (CSAP) for the OPP to remain at the Residential Centre for one more year.

It was MOVED by Lawrence MacKinnon, seconded by Mackie Ross

**TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS AND PLANNING, RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE.**

Following discussion on the report -

**the Board agreed** with Chair Lawrence MacKinnon’s suggestion that the *Options for the Reconfiguration of Pictou County Feeder Schools* return to the Operations and Planning, Research and Technology Committee for further study, with recommendations brought forward to the Board at a future meeting.

Dr. MacKinnon asked board members to forward their suggestions/concerns/recommendations to the Committee.

Subsequent to a review and discussion of the School Capital Construction Priorities

it was MOVED by David Myles, seconded by John Henderson

**THAT THE BOARD SCHOOL CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION LIST BE REVISED TO INCLUDE SALMON RIVER ELEMENTARY, BIBLE HILL ELEMENTARY AND SPRINGHILL ELEMENTARY UNDER NEW CONSTRUCTION AS NUMBERS 4, 5 AND 6.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mark Lavers questioned the placement of North River Elementary as to whether it should be an addition or a renovation project. Following discussion about portables recently added –

**it was agreed** to leave the North River project as a renovation project on the School Capital Construction list.

Mary Macaulay expressed concern that the original Board recommendation for three elementary schools and a new junior high school in Truro not be lost; *i.e.* that the Board should continue to support 3 elementary schools in the town of Truro.

**Mary Macaulay asked that the record indicate she had asked for direction from the Board regarding a replacement school for Truro West. She informed the Board**

**that the Willow Street School Advisory Council had polled parents and there was consensus that the existing school building undergo extensive renovation – in fact such extensive renovation that potentially only the facing of the existing school be left intact to preserve the distinct existing streetscape. The Board advised that this extensive type of renovation is equivalent to asking for a new school on the existing Willow Street school site as opposed to an addition or a renovation.**

Raymond Tynes asked that the record indicate that his preference would be to have three new elementary schools in Truro.

It was MOVED by Mary Macaulay, seconded by Ron Marks

**THAT DOUGLAS STREET ELEMENTARY REPLACE ALICE STREET ELEMENTARY AS A RENOVATION PROJECT ON THE BOARD'S SCHOOL CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION LIST.**

**MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE**

**MOTION TO ADOPT REPORT CARRIED**

Cheryl Samson left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

#### **PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE:**

In the absence of Committee Chair Marilyn Thompson, Committee Vice-Chair Mark Lavers provided the following report from a meeting held on January 17, 2002.

#### **Presentation**

Evelyn Bent, Student Services Consultant, Cobequid Family, Peter MacIntosh, Principal, North River Elementary School and Janice Newcombe, Teacher, Valley Elementary School made a presentation to the Committee on the C.A.R.E.S. (Children At Risk Experiencing Success) Program, highlighting successes to date. This is a program for grade primary to six students whom a school feels are in need of some support on self-esteem and other issues. It is available in all elementary schools in the region.

#### **School Insurance Information for Schools**

Mr. Benedict had circulated information received from the School Insurance Program, including a student accident brochure that can be distributed to parents as part of a school trip information package regarding the school insurance program coverage.

#### **Student Travel**

The following student trips had been approved:



- 1) Pugwash District High School, SmartAsk Competition, Toronto, Feb. 12-17, 2002.
- 2) E. B. Chandler Elementary School, Cultural Trip, Quebec City, May 15-18, 2002.
- 3) Amherst Regional High School, Student Exchange, Vitoria, Brazil, April 6-20, 2002.

**French Special Projects- 2002-03**

Anne Curry had distributed copies of and reviewed the French Special Projects recommendations for 2002-03, giving an overview of new and continuing special projects throughout the Region.

The committee recommended that the Board approve the proposed application for French Special Projects for 2002-03 to be submitted to the Department of Education.

**Business Plan – Programs and Student Services**

Committee members had requested that two topics be included: (1) child poverty, and (2) smoking cessation. Mr. Benedict indicated that other additions and changes will be proposed for the Business Plan as well.

It was **MOVED** by Mark Lavers, seconded by Raymond Tynes

**TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF THE PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Due to the lateness of the hour, Superintendent Gary Miller indicated he would not highlight items from his administrative report but would respond to members’ questions. The Superintendent and other staff responded to questions regarding the website, school accreditation, the Leadership initiative and the distribution of information regarding job fairs. It was agreed that Lawrence Ryan, Co-ordinator, would be invited to give a presentation on March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Board Committee-of-the-Whole meeting regarding the Leadership Initiative.

**EXTENSION OF TIME LIMIT:**

It was **MOVED** by Jim Grue, seconded by Raymond Tynes

**THAT THE MEETING EXTEND BEYOND 10:00 P.M. to 10:15 P.M.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**2 NAY VOTES**

**John Henderson, Ron Marks**

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**CHAIR/VICE CHAIR REPORT:**

Robert Parker reported on several issues and initiatives which included provincial funding, the Grant Thornton Report, Capital Construction, the Occupational Preparatory Program, and Board Members' Conference Allocations.

**NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION:**

Board representative to the NSSBA Board of Directors, Ron Marks, advised that the next meetings are scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business to bring forward to the meeting.

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**NOTICES OF MOTION:**

There were no notices of motion brought forward.

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**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:**

There were no questions raised by the public in attendance.

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**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next public Board meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2002 and will be held at Thorburn Consolidated School beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion by Lawrence MacKinnon, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

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Robert Parker, Board Chair

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Date

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Linda Campbell, Board Secretary

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Date