

Chignecto-Central Regional School Board

Regular Meeting

01-02 Minutes

January 23, 2002

The regular monthly meeting of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2002, in the Board Room of the Administration Offices, 60 Lorne Street, Truro commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Kaaren Barkhouse

Robin Bourque

Mark Lavers

Mary Macaulay

Lawrence MacKinnon

Ron Marks

Marilyn Murray

David Myles

Robert Parker

Mackie Ross

Marilyn Thompson

Trudy Thompson

In Attendance:

Gary Miller

Brian Murphy

Dale Sabean

David White

Valerie Gauthier

Doug Benedict

Harry Munro

Valerie Tucker

Absent:

Bernie Knockwood, with regrets

Jim Grue, with regrets

Raymond Tynes, with regrets

John Henderson, with regrets

Cheryl Samson, with regrets

Board Chair Robert Parker called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the public in attendance.

Approval of Agenda:

It was MOVED by David Myles, seconded by Trudy Thompson
THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

MOTION CARRIED

Presentation – International Student Program (ISP):

A presentation was made by David White, Paul Millman, Steve Blum and Augustin Roddall Rodriguez concerning the International Student Program (ISP) throughout the system. David White spoke on ISP from the perspective of the Department of Education. Paul Millman highlighted the success of the Program throughout the Province as well as within our Board. He also gave information on the number of students enrolled, the countries and schools involved in this very worthwhile venture. For the 2001-02 school year, the Board has sixty-eight students enrolled in fifteen schools from ten countries. Steve Blum advised of the positive impact the ISP students have had at the Amherst Regional High School. Augustin Roddall Rodriguez is a student at Amherst Regional High School and he outlined to the Board his positive experiences as a student in the Program.

Robert Parker thanked the group for the informative presentation.

Pictou County Occupational Preparation Program (OPP):

Preston Lockhart, Principal and Maureen Murphy, OPP Coordinator at the Westville High School gave a presentation on the Occupational Preparation Program (OPP) offered at the Westville High School. The Program is designed for high school aged students who are interested in courses that combine academics with occupational skills training and on the job experience. Details on current enrolment figures and program outlines were given during the presentation.

Marilyn Murray indicated the offering of this program would keep more students in school and would be beneficial both to the Board and to the students. She commended Maureen Murphy for her involvement and successes with the program. There was agreement that the Programs and Student Services Committee review the OPP on a system wide basis.

It was MOVED by Marilyn Murray, seconded by Ron Marks
**THAT THE OPP PROGRAM BE OFFERED IN BOTH THE NEW PICTOU EAST
AND PICTOU WEST SCHOOLS.**

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

The following changes were noted concerning the minutes:

- Page 1 –David Miles be changed to David Myles
- Page 9 – That the voting on the two motions be changed to reflect Robin Bourque rather than Mary Macaulay.

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Mary Macaulay
**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 12, 2001 BE
APPROVED AS AMENDED.**

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

It was MOVED by Marilyn Thompson, seconded by Mark Lavers

THAT THE BOARD ADOPT POLICY EP-08 – ADMINISTERING MEDICATION TO STUDENTS.

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was reviewed:

A letter dated December 20, 2001 from *Jane Purves, Minister of Education* which attached a copy of the report from the review committee of the Chignecto-Central and Strait Regional School Boards.

A letter dated December 14, 2001 from *Ann Hamilton-Wood* thanking the Board for the special time held in her honour.

Correspondence from *Linda MacDonald and Jeanne Sarson* dated January 8, 2002 thanking the Board for making a copy of the Sampson Report available to them. They provided further details in reference to their November 27, 2001 letter.

J.K. Langille, CAO, Town of Truro sent a letter dated January 8, 2002 advising that the Town will be conducting a Strategic Planning Session. The Board was asked to submit comments or suggestions to Council for their consideration during the development of their short and long term objectives. *This letter was referred to the Superintendent and staff for review.* Mary Macaulay requested that she and **Raymond Tynes** provide input and receive copies of the Board submission.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

Committee of the Whole

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Marilyn Thompson

THAT THE PROPOSED OUTLINE BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED AND

✓ **A STEERING COMMITTEE BE ESTABLISHED TO GUIDE THE PROJECT COMPRISED OF TRUDY THOMPSON, MARK LAVERS JOHN HENDERSON AND MARILYN MURRAY AND**

✓ **LLOYD GILLIS BE HIRED TO ACT AS THE EVALUATOR.**

An amendment to the motion was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by David Myles

AT THE EXPECTED FEE OF \$15,000 PLUS EXPENSES.

MOTION CARRIED ON THE AMENDMENT

The vote was then called on the original motion as amended:

THAT THE PROPOSED OUTLINE BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED AND

✓ **A STEERING COMMITTEE BE ESTABLISHED TO GUIDE THE PROJECT COMPRISED OF TRUDY THOMPSON, MARK LAVERS JOHN HENDERSON AND MARILYN MURRAY AND**

✓ **LLOYD GILLIS BE HIRED TO ACT AS THE EVALUATOR AT THE**

EXPECTED FEE OF \$15,000 PLUS EXPENSES.

MOTION CARRIED

Finance/Human Resources Committee

Ron Marks read the following report:

The Student Support Worker Proposal submitted by the Human Resources Department and the Race Relations Coordinator was presented. The partnership between Chignecto-Central Regional School Board and HRDC will expire February 25, 2002. It is the intention that the program continue to the end of the **current school** year.

A report was given regarding the procedures for financing for the new bus garage. The proposed facility is estimated to cost approximately 2 million dollars. We have been requested by the Department of Education to prepare a Business Case to support the project. Upon receipt of this Business Case, the Department will review and recommend ministerial approval, which is required in order to obtain debt financing for the remaining one million dollars.

Ron Marks indicated that the remaining funds include a grant of \$500,000 from the Department and \$500,000 to be provided by the Board from its 2002-03 allocation of Capital funds from the Province. More information was required on this item so Ron Marks advised it would be taken back to the Finance/Human Resources Committee.

The Finance/Human Resources Committee approved the Expense Guidelines Proposals presented by the Superintendent. [Guidelines are attached to the Finance/Human Resources minutes]

A detailed report of revenues and expenditures for November, 2001 was presented along with a forecast to March 31, 2002. At this time we are still predicting a balanced budget.

An information package was distributed regarding advertising for non-licensed substitutes. Approval was given by the Finance/HR Committee to run the advertisement for non-licensed substitutes as presented by Brian Murphy, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

The Committee agreed that the selection/search committee for the new Director of Finance will be comprised of Board members, the Superintendent, the Senior Executive Director of Corporate Services with the Department of Education, and a representative from Grant Thornton.

Robert Parker indicated the members of this Committee would be Ron Marks, Jim Grue, Darrell Youden, Anna Stewart and himself.

It was **MOVED** by Ron Marks, seconded by Lawrence MacKinnon

THAT THE PERSONS SO NAMED WILL COMPRISE THE SELECTION/SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.

MOTION CARRIED

It was **MOVED** by Ron Marks, seconded by Lawrence MacKinnon

THAT THE BOARD ACCEPT THIS REPORT FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

Operations and Planning/Research/Technology Committee

Lawrence MacKinnon read the following report:

Stellarton Middle/High

It was MOVED by Lawrence MacKinnon, seconded by Kaaren Barkhouse

THAT THE BOARD CALL A MEETING WITH THE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCILS OF STELLARTON MIDDLE/HIGH, G. R. SAUNDERS ELEMENTARY, AND W.A. MACLEOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INITIATING A STUDY TO DETERMINE WHAT GRADES WILL BE HOUSED AT STELLARTON MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL AS WELL AS THE LEVEL OF INTEREST IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION.

Ron Marks stated that the policy of the Board is that each community will have an elementary school and asked why Board policy is being changed at this time. The Board was advised if the level of interest in an elementary school consolidation is nil, then it will not be done. Marilyn Murray asked if the W.A. MacLeod Elementary School students would be given the option to attend the Stellarton Middle/High School.

An amendment to the motion was then made:

It was MOVED by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Robin Bourque

THAT THE STUDY INCLUDE ALL PICTOU COUNTY SCHOOLS.

Marilyn Murray indicated that a committee will be formed to study the Stellarton Middle/High School.

MOTION CARRIED ON THE AMENDMENT BY MAJORITY VOTE.

The vote was then called on the original motion as amended.

MOTION DEFEATED.

This item was referred back to the Committee for review at their next meeting with a further report to the Board.

Nova Centre

It was MOVED by Lawrence MacKinnon, seconded by Trudy Thompson

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE NAME REFERENCE TO THE OLD ELMSDALE SCHOOL BUILDING BE CHANGED TO ‘NOVA CENTRE’.

MOTION CARRIED.

New Truro Junior High School - The Committee agreed for staff to solicit the interest of the Millbrook Community as well as the Town of Truro for any community enhancement involvement they may wish to have in this new school construction.

It was explained that this process is being followed because there was a very short time line to have the information to the Department of Education.

Board Business Plan - Information was provided to the Committee in regards to the preparation of the first draft of the Board's Business Plan which will be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole.

SAC Letter of Agreement

It was **MOVED** by Lawrence MacKinnon, seconded by Marilyn Murray

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR COBEQUID CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

MOTION CARRIED.

Malaysia Training Agreement - The Committee was informed of an international training opportunity with the Malaysian Government (coordinated by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges), whereby in response to a call for proposals, the local Community College in conjunction with Paul Millman prepared an application offering training for Malaysian Ministry of Education officials as well as principals of secondary and vocational schools in Malaysia. The local Community College was successful in having four of its fifteen applications approved, two of which involve our Board in providing space and technology for the training of twelve visiting educators for an eleven-week period. This program will result in revenue generation for the Board. Planning for this program is still ongoing.

It was **MOVED** by Lawrence MacKinnon, seconded by Kaaren Barkhouse

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Robin Bourque advised she had circulated a paper to all present noting serious concerns regarding the construction of the Pictou East school on the Parkdale site. She is firmly against the decision to build on this site and wanted to go on record as having advised the Board of the safety issues. The Community Schools Coalition group had requested attendance at a meeting. Dale Sabean indicated the request is going to the PRT/Operations Committee and the group will be contacted to make a presentation.

Programs and Student Services Committee

Marilyn Thompson read the following report:

Presentation - Kim Sullivan, Coordinator of Literacy and Assessment made a presentation to the

Committee on recent results from the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) testing that was carried out in the spring of 2000. A copy of the full report is available from Kim Sullivan. *Correspondence* - Correspondence was received from Timothy Daley expressing concern with the assembly of grade five students at A. G. Baillie Elementary School to receive a talk from a representative of the Gideon Society, and the distribution of Bibles to these students. The letter includes Tim Daley's reasoning for his objections.

Doug Benedict indicated that following receipt of the letter, he had met with the Family of Schools Supervisors and it was their decision to direct Principals to inform parents of the date and process prior to any presentation by the Gideon Society. Parents will be invited to contact the school if they do not wish their child to attend the presentation or receive a Bible. The school will make appropriate arrangements to respect parental concern. Committee members agreed with this decision. Doug Benedict will advise Tim Daley of the action taken.

Student Travel - The following student trips were approved:

- 1) East Pictou Rural High School, Old Quebec City and Montreal, May 2002.
- 2) Westville High School, Quebec City and Montreal, May 8-13, 2002.
- 3) Uniacke District School, Quebec City and Montreal, May 27-June 1, 2002.
- 4) Oxford Regional High School, Quebec City and Montreal, June 2-7, 2002.

Trip Request Form, Guidelines and Draft Letter to Parents re School Trips Approved by the Board - Doug Benedict held discussions with Family of Schools Supervisors and it was their decision to direct principals not to collect any money from students or their parents, or raise any money to go out of the Maritimes on an overnight trip, unless the trip has been approved the Board. The Committee supported this decision and the guidelines will be clarified to reflect this.

A draft copy of the *Letter to Parents/Guardians re Student Travel Programs* and the *Parent Consent Form* drawn up by the board solicitor was reviewed. It was agreed that a reference to the possibility of parents getting information about the insurance program from their school should be added to the letter. Doug Benedict will ensure that schools have the appropriate information on hand. With the requested change, the letter will be presented to the Board at the January 16, 2002 Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

Marilyn Thompson, at this time, requested that Mark Lavers complete the remainder of the report.

Springhill High School – Trip to Greece [Cancelled by the School] - A request that the Board reimburse students for money forfeited because of the student trip to Greece by Springhill High School students being cancelled by the school was reviewed. Following lengthy discussion, it was:

Moved by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Mark Lavers

that the committee recommend to the Board that no refunds be given to students involved in school trips that have been cancelled by the school.

Motion carried.

Marilyn Thompson expressed concern that the Board was not giving any refunds to students who had lost monies on student trips. Doug Benedict indicated that he had checked with the travel companies and been advised that the trips could be reinstated at no loss of money to the students. This would be a decision of the School. Approximate monies that would be required to be paid to students could be between \$22,000-\$25,000.

It was MOVED by Mark Lavers, seconded by Trudy Thompson

THAT THE REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE BE ADOPTED.

MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE

Marilyn Thompson voted against the motion.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent, Gary Miller, reviewed his January report. Board members were very pleased with the publication "The Chignecto-Central News". Lawrence MacKinnon requested that more time be given to Board members when the reading of a large document is required.

Chair/Vice Chair Report

Robert Parker reported on several issues and initiatives which included Board sensitivity sessions; the appointment of the Board secretary to be discussed at the next Finance/Human Resources Committee meeting; the pension issue; the Sampson Report; and the 2002-03 budget figures soon to be received from the Province.

Marilyn Thompson left the meeting at this time.

Nova Scotia School Boards Association

Ron Marks, reported on a number of items that were discussed at a recent NSSBA meeting. These included:

- ✓ NSSBA Conference Registration Fee – Direction was needed from the Board on the suggestion that NSSBA conference registration fees be included in the annual dues and fees of all boards which would provide more equity for boards. There was agreement that the Board was not in favour having the registration fees paid in this manner.
- ✓ Terms of Reference for Nova Scotia School Charity Limited – Two volunteers were required from the Board to meet with the development coordinators for the charity. Kaaren Barkhouse and Trudy Thompson agreed to contact the NSSBA to verify meeting scheduling.
- ✓ Individual Board Issues – On Thursday, February 28, 2002, Board Chairs are invited to meet with the NSSBA (either by telephone or in person) to discuss issues pertaining to each Board.
- ✓ NSSBA Resolutions – Board Committees were asked to prepare resolutions for review by the Board and submission to the NSSBA for the Annual General Meeting.

Extension of Time Limit:

It was **MOVED** by Trudy Thompson, seconded by Robin Bourque

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

MOTION CARRIED

Notice of Motion

Trudy Thompson indicated that, as a follow-up to a discussion held at the November 21, 2001 Board meeting, notice is being served that she will move, or cause to be moved, a motion to amend Chignecto-Central Regional School Board bylaw number 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.

Pugwash District High School Update

Doug Benedict gave an update on the internet threats at the Pugwash District High School and advised a meeting had been held at the School earlier in the evening where approximately 300 people were in attendance. The issue of student and staff safety was the main concern. Board staff and RCMP were present at the meeting.

Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

Robert Parker, Board Chair

Date

Valerie Tucker, Acting Board Secretary

Date