

CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

07-06 MINUTES

APRIL 5, 2006

A special meeting of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, in the Central Office Board Room, 60 Lorne Street, Truro beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Gordon Anderson	Marilyn Murray
Kaaren Barkhouse	David Myles
Alex Cope	Elizabeth Paris
Vivian Farrell	Mackie Ross
Jim Grue	Jamie Stevens
Ron Marks	Marilyn Thompson
Wendy Matheson-Withrow	Trudy Thompson

In Attendance:

Doug Benedict	Herb Steeves
Valerie Gauthier	Linda Campbell, Board Secretary
Allison McGrath	David White, Regional Education Officer
Gary Miller	Bruce MacIntosh, Legal Counsel
Terri Mingo-MacNeill	

Absent:

Keith MacKenzie, with regrets	Jeff Williams, with regrets
Bert Young, with regrets	

The special meeting was called to order by Board Chair Trudy Thompson who welcomed everyone in attendance.

Superintendent Gary Miller recapped information pertaining to the March 29th, 2006 emergency meeting of the Board which had been called to discuss the request received by the Board from the Honourable Jamie Muir, Minister of Education, to put in abeyance the school review processes that were currently underway.

This request relates to two consolidation studies and three closure studies initiated by the Board pursuant to motions carried at the October 12th, 2005 Board Meeting.

At the emergency meeting the Board agreed to consider the Minister's request. A Notice of Motion to Reconsider the motions carried on October 12, 2005 relating to school reviews was provided by Board Member Ron Marks who also requested that any action arising from the October 12th motions be delayed until such reconsideration took place.

All Members present at the emergency meeting waived the prerequisite that such Notice be made at a preceding regular meeting of the Board. Written consent of those members who were not present at that meeting were subsequently obtained and are on file.

A special meeting of the Board was scheduled for this evening, April 5, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. to address the Notice of Reconsideration. Notice of the time, place and purpose of this special meeting was duly provided to all Board Members.

Ron Marks reminded his fellow Board Members of his reasons for putting a motion of reconsideration on the floor. He indicated his support for the Minister's request especially in light of recent pleas throughout the Province from municipal councilors, members of the public, and others for the Department of Education and School Boards to examine and improve the entire process surrounding school closures and consolidations. Mr. Marks stated his belief that the Minister's formation of a team to review this process will ultimately benefit all involved, particularly students. Accordingly,

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by Gordon Anderson

THAT THE MOTIONS CARRIED AT THE OCTOBER 12TH, 2005 MEETING OF THE CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD DEALING WITH SCHOOL CLOSURES AND CONSOLIDATIONS BE RECONSIDERED.

MOTION CARRIED

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by Mackie Ross

THAT THE BOARD RESCIND THE MOTIONS MADE AT THE PUBLIC MEETING OF OCTOBER 12TH, 2005 BY WHICH CONSOLIDATION STUDIES WERE COMMENCED FOR RIVER JOHN CONSOLIDATED AND THORBURN CONSOLIDATED AND CLOSURE STUDIES FOR TRENTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WENTWORTH CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND RIVER HEBERT DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL.

Following an indication of her intent,

It was MOVED by Marilyn Thompson, seconded by Vivian Farrell

THAT THE MAIN MOTION BE AMENDED BY DELETING THE WORDS “WENTWORTH CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL”.

Legal Counsel Bruce MacIntosh clarified that should the amendment to exclude Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School from the main motion pass, it would be necessary for the Board to reactivate the school closure process prior to the April 15th deadline in order to meet all required statutory and regulatory procedures.

Several members expressed opposition to the amendment. The vote on the amendment was called.

MOTION DEFEATED

Chair Thompson reviewed the original motion.

MOTION CARRIED ON THE MAIN MOTION

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion Jamie Stevens, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Trudy Thompson, Board Chair

April 12, 2006
Date

Linda Campbell, Board Secretary

April 12, 2006
Date