
CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

08-06 MINUTES

APRIL 12, 2006

The regular monthly meeting of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2006, in the South Colchester Academy, Brookfield beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

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

In Attendance:

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

Absent:

Alex Cope, with regrets	Bert Young, with regrets
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Board Chair Trudy Thompson called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. She thanked Principal Jim Burns and his staff for hosting the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was MOVED by Gordon Anderson, seconded by Marilyn Murray
THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was MOVED by Elizabeth Paris, seconded by Jamie Stevens
THAT THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETINGS HELD ON

- **MARCH 8TH, 2006;**
- **MARCH 29TH, 2006 (EMERGENCY); AND,**
- **APRIL 5TH, 2006 (SPECIAL) BE APPROVED.**

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Policy #B-11, Internet and E-Mail Use (Employees / Board Members):

It was MOVED by Mackie Ross, seconded by Vivian Farrell

THAT THE BOARD ADOPT POLICY #B-11, *INTERNET AND E-MAIL USE (EMPLOYEES / BOARD MEMBERS)* AS PRESENTED.

MOTION CARRIED

STUDENT PRESENTATION:

Skills Nova Scotia Competition:

During his introductory comments, Principal *Jim Burns* indicated he and his staff were pleased to provide the accommodations for tonight's Board meeting. Mr. Burns introduced *South Colchester Academy* students *Scott George* and *Robert O'Brien* who were in attendance to provide the Board with an opportunity to observe first-hand their award-winning entry in the *Skills Nova Scotia Competition*. Robert and Scott presented a viewing of their public service announcement video promoting a trade in digital media at the Nova Scotia Community College. This project earned them second place in the *Film and Video category*.

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Scott and Robert addressed questions regarding their project following which Chair Trudy Thompson congratulated the students on their impressive project and thanked them for their entertaining presentation. Board Member *Kaaren Barkhouse*, who represents the Brookfield area, presented them each with a token of appreciation on the Board's behalf.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No items of correspondence were brought forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE:

Board Member Jamie Stevens, who had served as Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting Chair in the absence of Vice-Chair Keith MacKenzie, read a report from the meeting held on April 5th.

Presentations:

The Board enjoyed hearing a delightful musical performance by *Jonathan Munro*, a talented *Truro Junior High School* student and recent winner of the *Portia White Protégé Prize*.

Dr. Michael Corbett from Acadia University presented a summary of a report commissioned by the Municipality of the County of Cumberland to explore the validity and the value of small schools. A copy of the document "*Education on a human scale: Small rural schools in a modern context*" and co-authored by *Dr. Dennis Mulcahy*, of Memorial University, is on file for future reference.

Businessman and former Board Chair *Robert Parker* provided an informative presentation promoting the concept of developing *Community Service Centres* in small rural schools as a way of making a number of small schools viable. This proposal encourages the development of partnerships to make use of excess square footage in underutilized buildings.

Highlights from Standing Committees:

The Chairs of each Standing Committee highlighted items from the minutes of their March committee meetings. More detailed reports will be presented at the regular monthly meeting on April 12th.

Discussion / Information / Decision Items:

NSSBA Representation:

In response to a request from the NSSBA, *David Myles* accepted the nomination to continue serving on the association's Board of Directors as the Board's representative. *Kaaren Barkhouse* agreed to serve as alternate representative.

It was MOVED by Jamie Stevens, seconded by Vivian Farrell

THAT THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE REPORT FROM A MEETING HELD ON APRIL 5TH, 2006 BE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

MOTION CARRIED

EDUCATION SERVICES:

Gordon Anderson, Committee Chair, provided a report on the Education Services Committee meeting held on March 21st.

Youth Apprenticeship:

Jennifer Thorne, Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator with the Department of Education, along with *Melissa Dorion*, Master of Public Administration Intern at Dalhousie University, provided information on skilled trades opportunities for youth. They described the apprenticeship program and the many career opportunities offered to students by skilled trades. (*Copies of presentation handouts were provided to Board Members for information.*)

Director of Education Services Doug Benedict addressed a number of questions for clarification. He advised the presenters had indicated that there is a significant demand for skilled trades and that many of the trades offered through the apprenticeship program are recognized nationally.

School Resource Officer:

The Education Services Committee received an update on the *School Resource Officer Program*. Information was reviewed from the Halifax Regional Police, including a job description for the School Resource Officer position that the Halifax Regional Municipality has implemented.

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Code Cost Summary Report:

Committee Members were provided with an updated summary for the period September 2005 to February 24, 2006 listing teacher days claimed for professional development as well as the number of substitute days and substitute costs associated with these in-service days. It was suggested that a summary report be sent to the Nova Scotia School Boards Association in support of the resolution submitted for consideration at the Association's Annual General Meeting. [A copy of the document was attached to the Education Services Committee Report to the Board.]

Education Services Committee Presentation Request:

It was agreed that Mr. Benedict contact Wayne MacKay, Vice-Chair of the International Human Rights and Democracy Board and Professor of Law at Dalhousie University, inviting him to speak at an upcoming Education Services Committee Meeting about expectations of public education.

Committee Chair Anderson indicated further information would be forthcoming once details are finalized.

Timetable for Board Policies and Procedures to be Reviewed:

The necessity of reviewing board policies and procedures was considered. Following discussion, it was suggested and agreed that Committee Members be provided with a Policy Review Schedule highlighting policies to be re-evaluated each month.

It was MOVED by Gordon Anderson , seconded by Keith MacKenzie

THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT FROM A MEETING HELD ON MARCH 21, 2006 FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

MOTION CARRIED

CORPORATE SERVICES:

Committee Chair Mackie Ross read a report from the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on March 22nd.

Boundary Study – Amherst Area:

Corporate Services Committee members discussed several options from the Boundary Study of the Amherst area schools.

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Herb Steeves, Director of Operational Services, was requested to consult with Board Legal Counsel to find out if the option of moving the location of the French Immersion Program for students would require a consolidation and/or reorganization study.

The Committee also asked that Board staff provide a timetable for a preliminary investigation according to the Administrative Guidelines of Policy #B-02, School Consolidation and Reorganization to the Corporate Services Committee in May 2006.

2006-07 Major Maintenance Repair Projects and Student Services Projects Plan:

The Corporate Services Committee received proposals from Herb Steeves, Director of Operational Services, on major repair projects and Student Services projects for 2006-2007.

Based on discussion and recommendation of the Corporate Services Committee and with the support of the Finance Services Committee:

It was Moved by Mackie Ross, seconded by Marilyn Thompson

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE OPERATIONAL SERVICES TO BEGIN THE DESIGN, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND AWARD COMMITMENT FOR MAJOR REPAIR PROJECTS FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000. AND \$195,000. FOR STUDENT SERVICES PROJECTS, BASED ON THE PRIORITIZED MAINTENANCE AND STUDENT SERVICES MAJOR PROJECTS LIST FOR 2006-2007.

MOTION CARRIED

Copies of the relevant lists were provided to members for information at the April 12th Board Meeting.

Continuing Records Check Policy and Procedures – Draft:

Corporate Services Committee members reviewed recommendations on policy and procedure changes from Allison McGrath, Director of Human Resources Services, for *Child Abuse Registry Checks, Criminal Records Checks* and *Use of Volunteers in Schools*.

The Committee requested Ms. McGrath provide additional information on how to implement the new process, as well as a “Question and Answer” sheet on what the Board is looking for on a *Police Records Check* including what type of issues would be considered to determine whether or not employment with the Board would be appropriate.

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Ms. McGrath will provide that information at the next Corporate Services Committee meeting. The Committee will then provide the amended policies and procedures for Board consideration at a future Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

In addition to his written account, Mr. Ross reported on one additional item:

Laidlaw Steelworkers/Bus Drivers Settlement Update:

The three-member arbitration panel deliberating the *Laidlaw Steelworkers/Bus Drivers* settlement has issued a unanimous ruling in favour of Laidlaw.

It was MOVED by Mackie Ross, seconded by Marilyn Murray

THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT FROM A MEETING HELD ON MARCH 22ND, 2006 FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

MOTION CARRIED

FINANCE SERVICES:

Committee Chair Ron Marks read a report from the March 29th meeting of the Finance Services Committee.

Financial Statements to February 28th, 2006 and Forecast:

The Committee received the Financial Statements to February 28th, 2006 which includes the forecast to March 2006 year-end.

Mr. Marks noted the second matter in his report had been addressed earlier in the evening through the Corporate Services Committee Report to the Board. The item is included below as a matter of record.

Corporate Services Pre-Budget Requests:

The Finance Services Committee agreed to support a request from the Corporate Services Committee permitting early tendering of major maintenance repair projects totaling \$500,000. and Student Services major maintenance projects totaling \$195,000.

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by Kaaren Barkhouse

THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE FINANCE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT FROM A MEETING HELD ON MARCH 29TH, 2006 FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

During his administrative report to the Board, Superintendent Gary Miller expressed favourable comments regarding the “*Wayne Hulley Workshop*”, a professional development opportunity for school and system leaders and Board Members, on the *Professional Learning Communities* initiative. Mr. Miller indicated the dynamic workshop held on April 10th and 11th provided those in attendance with “*a better understanding that PLCs are a vehicle to school improvement and to improving student achievement. It’s a vehicle characterized by teacher collaboration with a focus on results and an unrelenting commitment to ensuring student success.*” At Mr. Miller’s invitation, several Board Members also shared positive observations on this exceptional event.

Mr. Miller highlighted several items from his printed administrative report including: *School Closures and Consolidations*, *Budget 2006-07*, and *International Student Program*. In referring to the section on *Literacy and Assessment*, he advised his May report to the Board will include information on CCRSB student results of the 2005 *Elementary Literacy Assessment* along with comparable data for the two preceding assessments.

BOARD CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR REPORT:

Board Chair Trudy Thompson reported she had recently participated in a number of meetings and events including a session of *Chairs and Superintendents with representatives of the NSSBA*, and the *Wayne Hulley Workshop*. She encouraged her fellow Board Members to attend the *Historica Fair* scheduled for Friday, May 5th at the Nova Scotia Community College, Truro campus.

Chair Thompson announced that *Gordon Anderson*, *Kaaren Barkhouse*, *Ron Marks*, *Wendy Matheson-Withrow* and *David Myles* had agreed to serve on the Board’s 2007 NSSBA Conference and AGM Planning Team. She suggested that potential conference topics could be shared with one of the team members.

NSSBA REPORT:

Board representative to the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, David Myles, reviewed highlights from the *March 2006 Month in Review* which was provided for information along with the minutes from the *March 2 & 3 Meeting of the Board of Directors*.

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Mr. Myles urged members to attend the *NSSBA AGM and Conference* in Baddeck on May 25th – 27th. He also advised he had been elected to serve as the Chair of the Association's Audit Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business brought forward.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

No notices of motion were presented.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no questions from the public.

IN-CAMERA SESSION:

It was MOVED by Keith MacKenzie, seconded by Elizabeth Paris

THAT THE MEETING MOVE TO IN-CAMERA SESSION REGARDING A PERSONNEL ISSUE.

MOTION CARRIED

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by Gordon Anderson

THAT THE MEETING RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORT TO PUBLIC:

Following in-camera discussion,

It was MOVED by Gordon Anderson, seconded by Mackie Ross

THAT THE BOARD CONFIRM STAFF RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINARY ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE PERSONNEL ISSUE DISCUSSED DURING THE IN-CAMERA SESSION.

MOTION CARRIED

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board, scheduled for **May 10, 2006**, will be held in the **New Glasgow Junior High School** beginning at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Vivian Farrell and Jamie Stevens the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Trudy Thompson, Board Chair

May 10, 2006
Date

Linda Campbell, Board Secretary

May 10, 2006
Date