

---

**CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**10-06 MINUTES**  
**JUNE 14, 2006**

---

The regular monthly meeting of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2006, in Spring Street Academy, 59 Spring Street, Amherst 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   |
| 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     | Wendy Matheson-Withrow, with regrets |
| Jeff Williams, with regrets | Bert Young, with regrets             |

Board Chair Trudy Thompson called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Ms. Thompson thanked Principal Barry Kelly and his staff for hosting the meeting and for providing a tour of the new facility earlier in the evening.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

It was MOVED by Marilyn Murray, seconded by Jamie Stevens

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**STUDENT PRESENTATION:**

During his introductory comments, Principal *Barry Kelly* advised that he and his staff considered it a pleasure to provide accommodations for tonight's Board meeting. Mr. Kelly introduced a group of *Spring Street Academy* students who were in attendance to perform musical highlights from their production of "*Annie Jr.*". Board Members enjoyed hearing their delightful renditions of several selections from the play.

Chair *Trudy Thompson* thanked the presenters for sharing their musical talent with the Board. Board Member *David Myles*, who represents the Amherst area, presented the school with a token of appreciation on the Board's behalf.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

It was MOVED by Vivian Farrell, seconded by David Myles

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON MAY 10, 2006  
BE APPROVED.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

**Notice of Reconsideration:**

A delay in acquiring land for the new elementary school to be built in the west end of Truro had resulted in the Department of Education asking the Board if it would also prefer to delay construction of the new elementary school for the east end (Harmony Road site) in order to maintain concurrent opening dates for the two schools. The Board had passed a series of motions at the June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004 meeting approving a recommendation that the two new elementary schools scheduled to be built in Truro be constructed and opened at the same time.

Following in-depth discussion at the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 Committee of the Whole Meeting and the May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Board Meeting regarding this matter, Vice-Chair Keith MacKenzie gave Notice of Motion to Reconsider the motions carried at the June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004 meeting. This notice is a prerequisite for any Motion to Rescind.

Keith MacKenzie reminded the Board of his reasons for putting a motion of reconsideration on the floor. He reiterated that Board Members had agreed in principle that it would be best to separate the construction schedules of the two new elementary school projects in order to prevent further delays. Accordingly,

It was MOVED by Keith MacKenzie, seconded by Gordon Anderson

**THAT THE MOTIONS CARRIED ON JUNE 9, 2004 DEALING WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF P-5 SCHOOLS BE RECONSIDERED:**

- **THAT THE TWO NEW SCHOOLS BE BUILT AND OPENED AT THE SAME TIME**
- **THAT THE TWO NEW SCHOOLS BE CONSTRUCTED AND OPENED IN 2007.**

**MOTION TO RECONSIDER CARRIED**

It was MOVED by Keith MacKenzie, seconded by Gordon Anderson

**THAT THE RECONSIDERED MOTIONS BE RESCINDED AND THAT THE TWO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BE CONSTRUCTED AND OPENED AS DIRECTED BY THE CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE.**

Following an expression of concern regarding possible misinterpretation of the motion,

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by Gordon Anderson

**THAT THE MOTION BE AMENDED BY REPLACING THE PHRASE “AS DIRECTED BY THE CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE” WITH “AS DIRECTED BY THE BOARD”.**

**MOTION CARRIED ON THE AMENDMENT**

Vice-Chair Keith MacKenzie reviewed the main motion as amended.

**THAT THE RECONSIDERED MOTIONS BE RESCINDED AND THAT THE TWO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BE CONSTRUCTED AND OPENED AS DIRECTED BY THE BOARD.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

No items of correspondence were brought forward.

**CONFERENCE REPORT:**

***CAPSLE 2006 Conference:***

Board Members Jamie Stevens and Marilyn Murray reported on their attendance at the *Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education (CAPSLE) Conference* held in Montreal, Quebec from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. This year's conference theme was *Civil Rights in Education*. They shared information from a number of assemblies including highlights from Senator Landon Pearson's keynote speech as well as information from several breakout sessions: *Limiting Freedom of Expression (Teachers, Students and Parents)*; *Parents' Right to be Heard and Who is a Parent*; *Managing Parental Harassment*; *Reasonable Accommodation of Special Needs: Data-based Advocacy in the Age of Accountability*; *Legal Context of Parent-Teacher Interactions in Schools*; *Investigating Cyber-Bullying from a Legal Perspective*; *Workplace Harassment Panel*; *The Secret You Keep – Dealing with Sensitive Personal Issues Relating to Students*; *Openness and Accountability vs. Privacy and Confidentiality: Which is the Greater Good*; *Inclusive Education and Safe Schools: Policy Connections*; and, *Inclusive Post-Secondary Education for Students with Significant Developmental Disabilities*.

Mr. Stevens encouraged his fellow members to consider attending the 2007 Capsle Conference being held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Following a suggestion from Ms. Murray, it was determined the subject of "cyber bullying" would be addressed during the Education Services Committee's regular review of policies and procedures.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Vice-Chair Keith MacKenzie, read a report from the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

**Presentation:**

Professor *David Divine*, *James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies* at Dalhousie University, who had been retained by the Education Services Committee to explore the role of the student support worker, presented a summary of his findings. The report entitled "***Outcome of Exploratory Interviews Pertaining to the Student Support Worker Role in the CCRSB***" details key themes that emerged from

a series of twenty-seven interviews and a discussion with thirteen students, a number of whom were African-Nova Scotian. Professor Divine recommended the emerging themes be studied in greater detail. (A copy of the report is on file.)

Following discussion, it was determined that the following motion be brought forward for Board consideration. Therefore,

It was MOVED by Keith MacKenzie, seconded by Marilyn Murray

**THAT THE FINDINGS IN PROFESSOR DAVID DIVINE'S REPORT ENTITLED "OUTCOME OF EXPLORATORY INTERVIEWS PERTAINING TO THE STUDENT SUPPORT WORKER ROLE IN THE CCRSB" BE REFERRED TO THE EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**

- **TO DETERMINE THE ACTION NOW REQUIRED;**
- **TO PROCEED WITH THE ACTION AS DEEMED WARRANTED; AND,**
- **TO PROVIDE A SUBSEQUENT REPORT TO THE BOARD ON THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION AT THE AUGUST 2006 BOARD MEETING.**

*Prior to the vote being called, Doug Benedict, Director of Education Services, clarified that the report to the Board in August 2006 will provide details on the Committee's decision regarding a more detailed study as well as any proposed action concerning an implementation process.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Highlights from Standing Committees:**

The Chairs of each Standing Committee briefly highlighted items from the minutes of their May committee meetings. More detailed reports will be presented at the regular monthly meeting.

Allison McGrath, Director of Human Resources Services, circulated a document detailing recent administrative appointments and provided a staffing process chronology for the 2006-07 school year.

It was MOVED by Keith MacKenzie, seconded by Vivian Farrell

**THAT THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE REPORT FROM A MEETING HELD ON JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>, 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 May 16, 2006.

**Presentation ~ RespectED:**

Stephanie Rae-Cameron, teacher at Northumberland Regional High School, along with students Cody Alderson, Adriana Beaver and Adam Stacey gave an excellent presentation on the *RespectED Program*, a program aimed at preventing abuse, violence and harassment. A team consisting of teachers and students from Northumberland Regional High School initiated this program in March 2006 to draw awareness to bullying problems at school and in the community.

**Outcome of Exploratory Interviews Re the Student Support Worker Role:**

Professor *David Divine, James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies*, completed interviews in April 2006 with various teachers and students pertaining to the Student Support Worker role. Doug Benedict was asked to invite Professor Divine to the June 7<sup>th</sup> Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to present his report to Board Members.

**Policies / Procedures Reviewed:**

The Education Services Committee reviewed four policies. Suggested changes to administrative guidelines will be made and distributed with the next update of the Policy and Procedure Manual. Following is the list of policies reviewed:

- ES-G-03 ~ Student Transfer
- ES-G-05 ~ Student Behaviour
- ES-G-07 ~ Student Attendance
- ES-G-09 ~ Co-curricular / Extra-curricular Student Travel

*In response to a query raised by Board Member Jamie Stevens, it was clarified that changes required in procedures already in place are brought to the respective Standing Committee for information and support. Mr. Benedict advised that all revisions in the procedures listed above represent minor grammatical changes.*

*At this point in the meeting, Committee Chair Gordon Anderson announced that the next meeting of the Education Services Committee would be held on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. rather than on June 20<sup>th</sup>.*

It was MOVED by Gordon Anderson, seconded by Elizabeth Paris

**THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT FROM A MEETING HELD ON MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2006 FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORPORATE SERVICES:**

Committee Chair Mackie Ross read a report from the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006.

**Truro West Elementary School Site and Board-Owned Curtis Drive Property:**

Representatives from the Departments of Education and Transportation and Public Works provided the Corporate Services Committee with an update on the status of site issues for the construction of the Truro West Elementary School.

In light of negotiation issues surrounding the Kaulback Street site, the Department of Education had requested additional Board input regarding the potential utilization of the Board-owned Curtis Drive property. As a result, additional discussion by the Board did occur at the June Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

At this point in the Board Meeting,

It was MOVED by Mackie Ross, seconded by Jim Grue

**THAT THE BOARD DECLINE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S REQUEST TO UTILIZE THE BOARD-OWNED CURTIS DRIVE PROPERTY AS PART OF THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS IN ACQUIRING THE PROPOSED KAULBACK STREET SITE FOR THE NEW TRURO SOUTH SCHOOL AND THAT THE CURTIS DRIVE SITE REMAIN FOR USE AS A SCHOOL LOCATION.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Director of Operational Services Herb Steeves explained that "Truro South" was identified in the motion rather than "Truro West" in order for the terminology to coincide with the details set down in the Order of Council officially approving the construction of the two new Truro elementary schools.*

**Heelys/Wheeled Sneakers:**

Herb Steeves, Director of Operational Services, advised the Corporate Services Committee that the School Insurance Program (SIP) has indicated that "heelys" are similar to roller blades and should be worn with appropriate protection. The *Canada Safety Council* has recommended that "heelys" be banned in public buildings, malls, school hallways and playgrounds as they represent a safety risk.

As a result, information has been circulated to all schools banning "heelys" from all Board schools and properties.

*Board Member Ron Marks concurred with the Canada Safety Council's recommendation that "heelys" be banned from all CCRSB schools and properties.*

*He suggested the Board act on the recommendation by developing a policy statement to that effect.*

**Major Maintenance Repair Projects List 2006-2007:**

Due to the number of regulatory and health and safety items found on the Major Maintenance Repair Projects List, the Corporate Services Committee recommended to the Finance Committee Board approval for \$750,000 from reserve funds, in addition to major project allocation of \$1 Million within the budget, for a total major maintenance project funding of \$1.75 Million for the 2006-2007 year.

**Police Record Checks & Child Abuse Registry Checks:**

Based on recommendation of the Corporate Services Committee,

It was MOVED by Mackie Ross, seconded by Vivian Farrell

**THAT POLICE RECORD CHECKS AND CHILD ABUSE REGISTRY CHECKS BE IMPLEMENTED AS MANDATORY FOR ALL BOARD MEMBERS, BOARD EMPLOYEES (NSTU, NSGEU, CUPE AND NON-UNION) AND VOLUNTEERS, EFFECTIVE 2007.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Note: Further details will be conveyed to staff through the Human Resources Department in the 2006-07 school year.*

It was MOVED by Mackie Ross, seconded by Jamie Stevens

**THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT FROM A MEETING HELD ON MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2006 FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**FINANCE SERVICES:**

Committee Chair Ron Marks read a report from the May 31<sup>st</sup> Finance Services Committee meeting to which all Board Members had been invited.

**Year-End Update:**

The unaudited financial statements for March 31, 2006 indicate a deficit of \$900,000 for the year.



**Budget 2006-2007:**

The 2006-2007 draft profile sheet provides for funding of \$161,631,600, which is \$757,000 more than the “status quo” budget.

Each Standing Committee Chair presented their priorities as per the draft Business Plan. The total of all priorities presented was \$1.247 million. A lengthy discussion ensued in relation to the various priorities; in particular, Voc/Tech and PEBS (Positive Effective Behaviour Supports).

Staff recommended the following allocation of available dollars: AESOP (Automated Educational Substitute Operator) \$102,000; Library \$100,000; PEBS \$400,000; and, Professional Learning Communities (PLC) \$150,000 totaling \$752,000.

All members present approved the recommendation as presented with the understanding that the Education Services Committee will provide further advice to the Board regarding PEBS in the near future.

It is anticipated that the 2006-07 Budget will be finalized in early fall. In the interim, staff require the authority to implement the “status quo” budget along with the priorities agreed to by the Committee. Accordingly,

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by David Myles

**THAT STAFF BE AUTHORIZED TO IMPLEMENT A “STATUS QUO” BUDGET AS WELL AS PRIORITIES AS IDENTIFIED TOTALING \$752,000.**

*In response to a question raised by Board Member Jim Grue, it was clarified that a decision to expend funds on either pebsCONNECT or an alternative program will be made following further review and subsequent recommendation to the Board by the Education Services Committee.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

Based on a recommendation from the Corporate Services Committee and subsequent agreement by members present at the Finance Services Committee meeting,

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by Kaaren Barkhouse

**THAT \$750,000 BE ALLOCATED FROM THE ACCUMULATED SURPLUS FOR OPERATIONAL SERVICES MAJOR MAINTENANCE PROJECT REPAIRS.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

As a result of agreement by those Board Members in attendance at the Finance Services Committee,

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by David Myles

**TO ALLOCATE \$250,000 FROM THE ACCUMULATED SURPLUS FOR A VOC/TECH BUILDING, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS EXPENDITURE BE DELAYED UNTIL THE FALL AND REVIEWED AGAIN TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE BOARD'S FINANCIAL POSITION AT THAT TIME.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by Elizabeth Paris

**THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE FINANCE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT FROM A MEETING HELD ON MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2006 FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

During his administrative report to the Board, Superintendent Gary Miller expressed favourable comments regarding the “*Professional Learning Communities at Work™ Institute*” he and a number of Board Members attended in Halifax from May 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. Several Board Members concurred with his comments and shared encouraging remarks on the institute. In addition, Mr. Miller presented a video by Rick DuFour, one of the key presenters, called “*Passion and Persistence: How to Develop a Professional Learning Community*”.

Members raised the possibility of conducting a Board Professional Development Session in the fall of 2006 to discuss potential ways the Board might model the PLC concept.

He also highlighted a number of the significant achievements and successes of several students and staff mentioned throughout the report including: *Heritage Fair, Excellence in Teaching Awards, Lieutenant-Governor's Awards, Canada-Wide Science Fair, Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation, and Graduations.*

This being his final administrative report to the Board, Mr. Miller publicly thanked the Board for their advice, direction and support over the past five years during his tenure as Superintendent. Many Board Members individually expressed appreciation to him for his exemplary leadership. Others commented on the integrity, sensitivity and compassion he consistently demonstrates while actively promoting excellence in education.

**BOARD CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR REPORT:**

Chair Trudy Thompson reiterated that a resource library for Board Members had been established in Meeting Room A. She indicated suggestions regarding additional materials would be welcomed.

**NSSBA REPORT:**

Board representative to the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, David Myles, provided an update on the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting and Conference hosted by the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board in Baddeck on May 25<sup>th</sup> –27<sup>th</sup>. He highlighted information on the Association’s executive membership for 2006-07, on the outcome of the resolutions submitted by CCRSB, and on the sessions he attended which focused on this year’s conference theme “*Putting Wellness to Work*”.

**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.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next regular meeting of the Board, scheduled for **August 23, 2006**, will be held in the Central Office Board Room at **60 Lorne Street, Truro** beginning at **7:00 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. on motion by Keith MacKenzie.

---

|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Trudy Thompson, Board Chair     | August 23, 2006<br>Date |
| Linda Campbell, Board Secretary | August 23, 2006<br>Date |