

**CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD**

**EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING**

**06-06 MINUTES**

**MARCH 29, 2006**

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An emergency meeting of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, March 29, 2006, in the Central Office Board Room, 60 Lorne Street, Truro beginning at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:**

Kaaren Barkhouse  
Jim Grue  
Ron Marks  
Marilyn Murray  
Elizabeth Paris

Mackie Ross  
Jamie Stevens  
Marilyn Thompson  
Trudy Thompson  
Bert Young

**In Attendance:**

Doug Benedict  
Valerie Gauthier  
Allison McGrath  
Gary Miller

Terri Mingo-MacNeill  
Herb Steeves  
Linda Campbell, Board Secretary  
Gerald Green, Legal Counsel

**Absent:**

Gordon Anderson, with regrets  
Alex Cope, with regrets  
Vivian Farrell, with regrets  
Keith MacKenzie, with regrets

Wendy Matheson-Withrow, with regrets  
David Myles, with regrets  
Jeff Williams, with regrets

Board Chair Trudy Thompson called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending the meeting on such short notice. She explained the meeting was convened in accordance with Board by-law 3.01 (c) to address a request received from the Minister of Education at 1:15 p.m. today.

Chair Thompson reviewed the contents of correspondence outlining the Minister's request that the Board put a hold on the school review processes currently underway.

Earlier in the day, Dr. Muir had announced the formation of a two-member team to review the sections of the Education Act and Regulations which set out the process and procedures to be followed in considering schools for possible permanent closure. The team will conduct public hearings and receive written comments from School Board Members, administrators and members of the public throughout the Province.

In light of this review and possible changes in legislation, the Minister of Education had requested that the Board suspend school reviews.

*Several Members expressed disappointment with the unfortunate timing of the request, particularly in view of the extensive number of hours and hard work devoted to the process by Study Committee members, members of the community, staff and Board Members.*

*In response to a query from Board Member Jim Grue, Superintendent Gary Miller indicated that the Department of Education had advised the “reviews” mentioned in the Minister’s correspondence would also include consolidation studies.*

Mr. Gerald Green, Legal Counsel, explained that if Board Members agreed to consider the Minister’s request, the required procedure to officially suspend the school review processes would be through the introduction of a Motion to Reconsider the motion(s) of October 12, 2005. A notice of reconsideration, however, requires that a Notice of Motion be introduced at the preceding regular meeting of the Board as set out in by-law 5.30. Mr. Green advised this notice requirement could be waived with the unanimous consent of **all** Board Members.

Following further discussion,

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by Marilyn Murray

**THAT THE BOARD CONSIDER THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION’S REQUEST AS OUTLINED IN THE CORRESPONDENCE READ EARLIER IN THE MEETING.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Having indicated his intent,

It was MOVED by Jim Grue, seconded by Marilyn Thompson

**THAT A REQUEST FOR FUNDING TO COVER THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH KEEPING THE SCHOOLS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW FOR CLOSURE OR CONSOLIDATION OPEN, BE SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTER.**

During discussion on the motion Board Member Jamie Stevens voiced concern with suggesting to the Minister of Education that the Board's support came with a condition attached. Instead he proposed that the Board suggest that funding be based on the additional burden the Board will encounter by having more buildings and schools open than it might have had if the school review/closure processes had proceeded.

**MOTION DEFEATED**

Board Member Ron Marks concurred with Jamie Stevens' comments and indicated he would support such a motion. Accordingly,

It was MOVED by Jamie Stevens, seconded by Ron Marks

**THAT THE BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION INCLUDE A SUGGESTION THAT FUNDING BE BASED ON THE ADDITIONAL BURDEN THE BOARD WILL ENCOUNTER BY HAVING MORE BUILDINGS AND SCHOOLS OPEN THAN IT MIGHT HAVE HAD IF THE SCHOOL REVIEW/CLOSURE PROCESSES HAD PROCEEDED.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

During debate possible procedural alternatives for suspending the school closure processes were discussed. However it was subsequently agreed to follow the advice presented by Legal Counsel Gerald Green. Accordingly,

Board Member Ron Marks provided *notice of intention* to make a motion to reconsider the motions made on October 12, 2005 regarding school closures and consolidations and request any action arising from the October 12, 2005 motions be delayed until reconsideration is made.

Mr. Green reminded the Board of the requirement to have unanimous consent to waive the prerequisite that a Notice of Motion be made at a preceding regular Board meeting.

Board Members in attendance, individually polled, waived the requirement that Notice of Motion be introduced at a preceding regular meeting of the Board. It was clarified that those members not present would be contacted in an effort to obtain the unanimous consent of all Board Members.

In light of the previous decision, it was agreed that the public meeting scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at Springhill Jr./Sr. High School to receive public input from the communities of Wentworth and River Hebert be cancelled pending a formal

decision. The Special Board Meeting scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the school closure/consolidation reports was also cancelled.

Board Members **agreed** to schedule a Special Board Meeting for Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., in advance of the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, at which time formal decisions relating to the motion of reconsideration and the motions of October 12, 2005 to initiate the studies would be made.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion of Marilyn Murray and Jamie Stevens, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Trudy Thompson, Board Chair

April 12, 2006  
Date

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Linda Campbell, Board Secretary

April 12, 2006  
Date