
CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
13-06 MINUTES
OCTOBER 11, 2006

The regular monthly meeting of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2006, in the Hants North Rural High School, Kennetcook beginning at 7:15 p.m.

PRESENT:

Gordon Anderson
Kaaren Barkhouse
Alex Cope
Jim Grue
Keith MacKenzie
Ron Marks
Wendy Matheson-Withrow
Marilyn Murray

David Myles
Elizabeth Paris
Mackie Ross
Marilyn Thompson
Trudy Thompson
Jeff Williams
Bert Young

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Clarke
Valerie Gauthier
Noel Hurley
Allison McGrath
Herb Steeves

Terri Mingo
Linda Campbell, Board Secretary
Alan Lowe, Regional Education Officer (Acting)
Elizabeth Van den Eynden, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Vivian Farrell, with regrets

Jamie Stevens, with regrets

Board Chair Trudy Thompson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked Principal Trish MacKinnon and her staff for hosting the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

At the request of Board Member Gordon Anderson, it was agreed to add one item to the agenda under the section devoted to New Business:

- Microphones

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

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was MOVED by David Myles, seconded by Marilyn Thompson
THAT THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 13,
2006 BE APPROVED.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There was no business arising from the minutes.

PRESENTATION:

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD):

Chair Trudy Thompson welcomed and introduced representatives from the non-profit organization ***Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)***. Kathleen Foster-Alfred, President, and Margaret Miller, Vice-President of the Cobequid chapter of MADD, provided an informative presentation on the organization's multi-media production "Mind Control" through the viewing of a promotional DVD.

Ms. Foster-Alfred noted that the "Mind Control" presentation addresses the inaccurate perceptions or false impressions young people have about alcohol and drugs and driving. She reported on the cost associated with bringing the show to individual high schools and outlined the challenges encountered in locating sponsors for schools in rural communities. Since no private sponsors are available to undertake this project in the Hants North area Ms. Foster-Alfred requested that the Board consider sponsoring the production at Hants North Rural High School.

Ms. Foster-Alfred and Ms. Miller addressed questions for clarification following which it was **agreed** that the request be referred to the Education Services Committee and the Financial Services Committee for consideration and subsequent recommendation to the Board prior to the end of the year.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No items of correspondence were brought forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE:

Vice-Chair Keith MacKenzie read a report from a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on October 4th, 2006.

Highlights from Standing Committees:

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

2006-2007 Business Plan:

Nova Family of Schools Supervisor Gaye Rawding presented an update on the Board's draft Business Plan which highlighted changes that reflect the Board's Budget. There was agreement to incorporate suggestions and amendments made during the Committee-of-the-Whole discussion and to bring forward the following recommendation:

It was MOVED by Keith MacKenzie, seconded by Marilyn Murray

THAT THE CCRSB 2006-07 BUSINESS PLAN BE APPROVED AS AMENDED BASED ON COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE DISCUSSION AND SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS.

MOTION CARRIED

Standing Committee Structure:

Following discussion regarding reorganization of the Board's Standing Committees Structure to parallel the new Administrative Structure, it was agreed that the Board Chair and Vice-Chair, in consultation with the Superintendent, prepare a recommendation for Board consideration. Subsequent to their discussion on the various options, the Board Chair, Vice-Chair and Superintendent recommended the following motion be considered. Accordingly,

It was MOVED by Keith MacKenzie, seconded by Gordon Anderson

THAT THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE BE REORGANIZED TO FOUR (4) STANDING COMMITTEES; EACH COMMITTEE TO BE COMPRISED OF (4) BOARD MEMBERS WITH THE BOARD CHAIR OR VICE-CHAIR ALSO SERVING AS A VOTING MEMBER. OTHER BOARD MEMBERS WILL SERVE AS ALTERNATES AS REQUIRED.

MOTION CARRIED

It was MOVED by Keith MacKenzie, seconded by Ron Marks

THAT THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE REPORT FROM A MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 4TH, 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 September 19th.

Thank You Notes – Summer Academy at St. Francis Xavier University:

Numerous cards and letters were received from students who attended the 2006 St. F. X. Summer Academy extending their gratitude to the Board for their support which enabled them to participate in this year's summer academy.

Proposed Changes to Policy *ES-G-13 Administering Medication to Students* Guidelines:

Changes were made to the guidelines of Policy *ES-G-13 ~ Administering Medication to Students*, with the assistance of Joan Westoll, Coordinator of Student Services. Updated guidelines and forms will be distributed to the schools in the near future.

At-Risk Students ~ \$400,000 Allocation:

Various suggestions were discussed on how to adequately distribute the \$400,000 to best meet the needs of At-Risk students in our Board. Following discussion, the matter was referred to the Director of Education Services and the Family of Schools Supervisors. Together they will develop options for consideration at the October 17th Education Services Committee Meeting regarding the allocation of the \$400,000 for At-Risk students.

In response to a question from Board Member Ron Marks, it was clarified that the Education Services Committee will present resulting option(s) for Board consideration.

Responding to a query raised by Board Member Marilyn Thompson, Director of Education Services Gary Clarke advised that there will be a plan to measure the progress of the initiative, whichever option is chosen.

It was MOVED by Gordon Anderson, seconded by Elizabeth Paris

THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT FROM A MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2006 FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

MOTION CARRIED

CORPORATE SERVICES:

Committee Chair Mackie Ross read a report from the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on September 20th.

Town of Pictou – Pictou Academy Parking Lot:

Correspondence was received from a Pictou Town Councilor regarding the status of the Pictou Academy parking lot.

The Corporate Services Committee agreed that Herb Steeves, Director of Operational Services, would reply to the Councilor's concerns in writing. Mr. Steeves was asked to include in his correspondence criteria and categories used in compiling the major maintenance repair list and that the Board approved priorities for 2006-07 did not include any major paving projects.

SAP Implications for Human Resources Services and Operational Services:

The Directors of Human Resources Services and Operational Services expressed concerns with the increased workload for staff members as a result of training prior to the implementation of SAP in January, 2007. The Directors advised the Committee that the

Board may need to hire additional casual staff to assist with the resulting workload due to absences for training and the implementation.

It was MOVED by Mackie Ross, seconded by Marilyn Murray

THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT FROM A MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2006 FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

MOTION CARRIED

FINANCIAL SERVICES:

Committee Chair Ron Marks read a report from the September 27th Financial Services Committee meeting.

Financial Statements to August 31, 2006:

The Committee reviewed the Financial Statements to August 31, 2006.

Retroactive Metrage to Board Members and Non-Teaching Staff:

Based on Financial Services Committee recommendation,

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by Jim Grue

THAT BOARD MEMBERS AND NON-TEACHING EMPLOYEES BE PAID MILEAGE RATE INCREASES RETROACTIVE TO APRIL 1, 2004.

Mr. Marks clarified that legal counsel had advised that the Board is obligated to reimburse Board Members for travel expenses using the Provincial vehicle allowance rate and are therefore entitled to retroactive metrage rate increases to April 1, 2004. He noted that non-teaching employees have historically been paid the "Board rate" and have already been paid retroactively to April 1, 2006. Following discussion, the Financial Services Committee had agreed to recommend further retroactive payment to April 1, 2004 for non-teaching employees.

Following an expression of concern introduced by Board Member Mackie Ross regarding the use of the word "mileage" in the motion,

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by Marilyn Thompson

THAT THE MOTION BE AMENDED BY REPLACING THE WORD "MILEAGE" WITH "METRAGE".

MOTION CARRIED ON THE AMENDMENT

The vote was called on the main motion as amended:

THAT BOARD MEMBERS AND NON-TEACHING EMPLOYEES BE PAID METRAGE RATE INCREASES RETROACTIVE TO APRIL 1, 2004.

MOTION CARRIED

Financial Services Department Reorganization:

The Financial Services Committee agreed to adopt a model comprised of one *Coordinator of Financial Services* position, and replacing the Coordinator of Budget Planning and Control position with a *Budget Manager* and an additional clerical position.

It was MOVED by Ron Marks, seconded by David Myles

THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT FROM A MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2006 FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Noel Hurley highlighted several items from his administrative report to the Board including information on: *Meetings, Presentations, School Visitations, Professional Development, Student Enrollment, and Student Leadership Forum*. Dr. Hurley encouraged members to read the report in detail particularly the sections that are devoted to individual student achievement.

BOARD CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR REPORT:

Board Chair Trudy Thompson advised she had recently participated in a session entitled "*Invest in Youth*" led by the Department of Education and an NSSBA sponsored meeting with Board Chairs regarding various issues including Educational Plan Priorities. Vice-Chair Keith MacKenzie provided an update on a *Nova Scotia House of Assembly Committee on Human Resources* session in which he had represented the Board regarding *Student Learning Assessments*.

NSSBA REPORT:

David Myles, Board representative to the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, advised that planning for the 2007 NSSBA AGM and Conference which is being hosted by CCRSB is underway. He also reminded members of the *"Multiple Pathways to Success Symposium"* scheduled for the evening of November 8th, November 9th and 10th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Microphone System:

Board Member Gordon Anderson expressed that he and a number of other members had been experiencing difficulty hearing clearly during Board Meetings. He suggested that the Board explore purchasing a user-friendly microphonic system that would alleviate this problem. Following discussion,

It was MOVED by Gordon Anderson, seconded by Keith MacKenzie

THAT STAFF INVESTIGATE WIRELESS MICROPHONE SYSTEMS FOR POTENTIAL USE DURING BOARD MEETINGS AND BRING FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION.

MOTION CARRIED

Department of Education - Regional Education Services:

Alan Lowe, Regional Education Officer for the Halifax area, provided the Board with an update on the reorganization of the Regional Education Services Division of the Department of Education. He advised that a replacement for the recently retired David White would soon be announced. Until such time, Dr. Lowe will serve as acting REO for this Region.

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 Jim Grue, seconded by Jeff Williams

THAT THE MEETING MOVE TO IN-CAMERA SESSION REGARDING CONTRACTUAL ISSUES.

MOTION CARRIED

It was MOVED by Wendy Matheson-Withrow, seconded by Jim Grue

THAT THE MEETING RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION.

MOTION CARRIED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The organizational meeting of the Board is scheduled for **November 8, 2006** and 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 8:35 p.m. on motion by Keith MacKenzie.

Trudy Thompson, Board Chair

December 13, 2006
Date

Linda Campbell, Board Secretary

December 13, 2006
Date