School Board Meeting Minutes: January 26, 2015

Category : School Board Meeting - Minutes
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Sherwood Park Education Center
Sydney, N.S.
January 26, 2015

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

(1) CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board was called to order today beginning at 6:00 p.m.

(2) RECORD OF ATTENDANCE:

Present:  Lorne Green, Chair  Sandra Margettie  Steve Parsons
          John Berk  Darren Googoo  Charlotte Shaw
          Joan Currie  Gary Fraser  Yvonne Kennedy
          Barb MercerStewart Matheson  Joyce Lind
          Kevin RuellandJack Toomey

Absent (with regret):  Jackie Organ  Fred Tilley

Also, Present:  Beth MacIsaac, Superintendent
                George Boudreau, Director of Financial Services
                Susan Kelley, Director of Programs & Student Services
                Paul Oldford, Director of Operational Services
                Wendy King, Director of Human Resources
                John Astephen, Regional Educational Officer
                Michelle MacLeod, Board Recording Secretary

(3) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:  (a)  Deletions:  There were no deletions.  (b)

New Business/Additions:
(4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Moved by Commissioner Fraser Seconded by Commissioner Margettie that the minutes for the following meetings be approved by the Board.

- Annual Meeting - November 24, 2014
- Regular Public Board Meeting - November 24, 2014
- Special Board Meeting - December 9, 2014
- Special Board Meeting - January 5, 2015
- Special Board Meeting - January 12, 2015

Motion carried 2015-01-11

(5) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:** n/a

(6) **CORRESPONDENCE:** n/a

(7) **DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Students of Sherwood Education Center provided the Board with a display of their Art work.

(8) **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Mrs. Beth MacIsaac, Superintendent presented her report. In the spring of 2013, the Cape Breton Victoria Regional School Board began a planning process for long term facility and system sustainability. Potential grade level configuration as it is related to service provision was also a planned reflection in the process. Moving forward to January 2015, our board approved a plan for reconfiguration that would envision P-5 elementary schools, 6-8 middle schools and 9-12 high schools. This reconfiguration gives us an opportunity to focus on a review of grade 9. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has identified grade 9 as a critical transition year for students. This movement will provide our students with access to larger programming spaces, more specialist teachers as well as an exploration to strengthen connections between what is taught in the classroom and what can be experienced in the community. A second opportunity in this grade level configuration is to move from a junior version of high school to a model that offers a unique approach to education. Our administrators and staff will be working collaboratively to implement the best practices for middle school teaching and learning. There is a need to look at relationships first for this age group, to build a sense of belonging and working together to achieve academic success. The many physical and neurological changes that are occurring in young adolescents are more adequately addressed by a middle school learning environment. Our planning for these changes in September 2015 is underway as schools begin work on their individual transition plans. The fundamental elements of these plans include: 

- Best practice in middle school education
- An inventory of materials and resources
- Consideration of physical spaces
- Development of an extensive communications plan for the students, parents and staff
- Comprehensive planning for student transitions

She thanked our directors for their leadership in this plan and our staff in all divisions for their dedicated assistance to us. Coincident with the transition to grade level configuration, administrative staff will be preparing a long range outlook for our Board’s consideration. Under the department’s School Review policy, school boards are required to present information annually to the public about the current and developing situations of their schools and the delivery of education programs and services.

The purpose of this outlook, which is to be provided no later than April 30, is to provide both the board and community an opportunity to discuss the future of education delivery for a group of schools. Information which is to be contained in this long range outlook will include any identified need for a review of a group of schools as well as a rationale for the review. On another note, one of the overarching goals of our board is to prepare our students for the 21st century. To this end, many schools in our district enthusiastically participated in the Hour of Code during
Computer Science Week, Dec. 8-14. The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching millions of students in over 180 countries. The purpose of the Hour of Code is to provide a one hour introduction to coding and computer science. Reports from our IT team indicate that students were so engaged in the exercise that they were upset when the bell rang! Many schools have continued their instruction in programming and our IT team is hoping this will be a year round endeavor. As reported from the grade 4™s at Baddeck Academy: â€œIt was really fun and you really had to think hardâ€â€œ It was fun but challengingâ€â€œ It was cool to get a certificateâ€ She asked everyone to review our school websites and also our school board website that highlight the achievements of many students across our system. Moved by Commissioner Googoo

Seconded by Commissioner Fraser To accept the report as presented. . . Motion carried 2015-01-12

(9) BOARD CHAIR REPORT: Mr. Lorne Green, Board Chair introduced Mrs. Charlotte Shaw, newly elected Board member for District 10.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

(10) REPORT FROM COMMITTEE: Moved by Commissioner Toomey

Seconded by Commissioner Googoo that the Board approve the minutes of the Education Committee Meeting of Monday, January 12, 2015. . . Motion carried 2015-01-13

a. MS. SUSAN KELLEY, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES:

Moved by Commissioner Toomey

Seconded by Commissioner Berk That the Board approve the PSS Report as presented by the Director of Programs and Student Services, Mrs. Susan Kelley at the Education Committee meeting. . . Motion carried 2015-01-14

b. MRS. WENDY KING, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES: Moved by Commissioner Toomey

Seconded by Commissioner Parsons That the Board approve the Human Resources Report as presented by the Director of Human Resources, Mrs. Wendy King at the Education Committee meeting. . . Motion carried 2015-01-15

c. For Your Information: Seven Policies Reviewed and for Removal â· Arts Education PSS201 Â· Assistive Technology PSS253 Â· Dress for Physical Education Class PSS202 Â· Electronic Mail PSS 254 Â· Non-Participation in Physical Education Class PSS 205 Â· School Web Sites PSS 256 Â· Programming for Students with Special Needs PSS 206

d. Three Policies for Removal: Moved by Commissioner Toomey
Seconded by Commissioner Berk That the Board approve the following policies for removal.

· Trespass Notices Policy PSS 250 (Adopted Oct 25/99; Revised Jan/05)
· Advertising “Yearbook PSS 215 (Adopted Oct 25/99; Revised Jan/05)
· Pupil Walk-Outs PSS 234 (Adopted Oct 25/99; Revised Jan/2005) Motion carried 2015-01-16

e. Three Policies for final approval: Moved by Commissioner Toomey
Seconded by Commissioner Matheson That the Board grant final approval for the following policies.

· External Partnerships Policy (New PSS)
· Confidentiality Policy (New HR Policy)
· Reference Checks “Revised” (HR 308) Motion carried 2015-01-17

f. One Policy at Stakeholders Stage: (For Your Information)

· Parent-Teacher Days PSS 228 (Adopted Oct 25/99; Revised January 2005)

g. Four Policies -Reviewed (No Changes Made by Committee) -All Previously Adopted:

Moved by Commissioner Toomey
Seconded by Commissioner Berk That the Board grant final approval for the following policies.

· Head Lice (Pediculus Humanus) PSS 226 Adopted Oct 24/11
· Political Candidates PSS 232 Adopted Oct 25/99; Revised Jan/05
· Processing Public Concerns PSS 233 Adopted Oct 25/99; Revised Jan/05
· Students Missing Examinations PSS 243 Adopted Oct 25/99; Revised Jan/05 Motion carried 2015-01-18

h. Change in EAP Provider:

Moved by Commissioner Toomey
Seconded by Commissioner Googoo That the Board approve a change in EAP provider to Medivie Blue Cross. effective April 1, 2015 Motion carried 2015-01-19

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

i. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE:

Moved by Commissioner Berk
Seconded by Commissioner Currie that the Board approve the minutes of the Management Committee Meeting of Monday, January 19, 2015 Motion carried 2015-01-20

j. Mr. George Boudreau - Report of the Director of Financial Services:

Moved by Commissioner Berk
Seconded by Commissioner Googoo That the Board accept the Director of Financial Services report. Motion carried 2015-01-21

k. Legal Services:

Moved by Commissioner Berk
Seconded by Commissioner Margettie That the Board approve the extension of the legal
services contract for an additional year. Motion carried

2015-01-22

i. REPORT à¢€“ DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS à¢€“ MR. PAUL OLDFORD: Moved by Commissioner Berk
   Seconded by Commissioner Matheson That the Board approve the report presented by the Director of Operational Services at the Management Committee meeting. Motion carried

2015-01-23

m. CORRESPONDENCE: Moved by Commissioner Berk
   Seconded by Commissioner Currie That the Board approve the correspondence report presented at the Management Committee meeting re: Returning Office regarding District 10 bi-election invoicing. Motion carried

2015-01-24

n. Eight Revised Policies Returning from Stakeholders Review: Moved by Commissioner Berk
   Seconded by Commissioner Fraser That the Board approve the following policy. -> Network Security OST 429 Motion carried
   2015-01-25

   Moved by Commissioner Berk
   Seconded by Commissioner Margettie That the Board approve the following policy. -> School Review OST 424 Motion carried
   2015-01-26

   Moved by Commissioner Berk
   Seconded by Commissioner Currie That the Board approve the following policy -> Transportation of Students with Special Needs OST 419 Motion carried
   2015-01-27

   Moved by Commissioner Berk
   Seconded by Commissioner Margettie That the Board approve the following policy. -> Dual Bussing OST 405 Motion carried
   2015-01-28

   Moved by Commissioner Berk
   Seconded by Commissioner Shaw That the Board approve the following policy. -> Student Bussing Eligibility OST 403 Motion carried
   2015-01-29

   Moved by Commissioner Berk
   Seconded by Commissioner Fraser That the Board approve the following policy. -> Bus Stops OST 402 Motion carried
   2015-01-30

   Moved by Commissioner Berk
   Seconded by Commissioner Margettie That the Board approve the following policy. -> Billing Schools for Use of School Board Owned Vehicles OST 401 "formerly ë€ œBilling

Moved by Commissioner Berk
Seconded by Commissioner Googoo

That the Board approve the following policy...

Installation of Hardware or Software on Networks OST426

Motion carried

2015-01-31

NSSBA REPORT: Mrs. Barb Mercer, NSSBA Representative: The NSSBA Education Committee and Board of Directors meetings were held on December 4-5, 2014. Key topics follow:

New NSSBA Executive Director

The Board of Directors approved a motion to hire the new NSSBA Executive Director. Congratulations are extended to Nancy Pynch-Worthylake who assumed the position on January, 2015.

Nova Scotia Alliance for Healthy Eating & Physical Activity

A presentation regarding the Nova Scotia Alliance for Healthy Eating & Physical Activity was facilitated by Sherry Jarvis, Dr. Sara Kirk and Dr. Jessie-Lee McIsaac. They began with an overview of the Alliance. Following this, they discussed the Add It Up! Campaign from 2012, a summary of evidence which links student health and learning and why we should focus on healthy eating and physical activity to enhance academic achievement. They indicated that a revised Food and Nutrition Policy for Nova Scotia Schools will be released in 2015. They also discussed the Alliance’s alignment with the Education Review.

Schools Plus Resolution

An update on the SchoolsPlus Resolution was given by Dave Jones, Programs and Student Services Director from AVRSB. This update is based on recent discussions with his counterparts from School Boards across the province. SchoolsPlus has been a valuable and critical resource to bring together service providers to better support students and families and is making a difference. Leadership for SchoolsPlus at the DOEED Director level is very strong. However, provincial funding has not increased since the program started, making it challenging to cover cost increases moving forward. Also, the program needs to be expanded as there are still many students and families who require support. An interagency consent form has been created making it possible to share information between departments which may expedite support to students and families. Interagency cooperation is good, but there is still room for improvement. The effectiveness of a SchoolsPlus model relies on strong partnerships and relationships.

Early Childhood Program

Natalie Blanchet & Denise Stone from the DOEED gave an update on the Early Childhood Program. They explained that the branch offers programs and services for children prior to entering school. The group has been working on an Early Years Framework document that will provide the approach to be taken when developing a program for children from birth to age 5. Early Childhood Development Services is responsible for all regulated child care and early intervention programs. Early intervention programs assist families with children diagnosed or at risk of a developmental delay. These programs help the children transition into school. The presenters have been receiving feedback on how early intervention is progressing and are getting ready to release the results. There are currently four Early Years Centres up and running. An additional four sites were recently announced which will result in a centre being located in each of the eight school boards within the province.

Education Panel Review Report, Disrupting the Status Quo: Nova Scotians Demand a Better Future for Every Student

The NSSBA’s response to the Minister’s Panel on Education Report has been submitted to the DOEED. NSSBA will use the status quo model for dues and fees for the next fiscal year. This will give the new Executive Director and NSSBA President a year to visit individual boards across the province.

AGM Resolutions

The Minister’s response to the 2014 AGM Resolutions was received too late to review at the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) meeting in October and will therefore be discussed at the
next meeting in February. A copy of the Minister’s response was emailed to School Board members and Superintendents on October 9, 2014. A notice requesting resolutions for this year’s AGM was received on January 22. The deadline to accept resolutions is April 2, 2015.

Moved by Commissioner Fraser
Seconded by Commissioner Googoo That the Board approve accept the report as presented.

Motion carried
2015-01-33

(12) MR. JOHN ASTEPHEN, REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REPORT: Mr. John Astephen, presented the following report:

i. Guidelines for Supporting Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students

Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Karen Casey released guidelines on Dec. 10, 2014 to support schools and school boards in protecting and respecting students as they assert their gender identity and right to gender expression. The guidelines complement the amendments made to the Human Rights Act in December 2012 that protect transgender people from discrimination. They will help schools and school boards to create a culture that is safe, respectful and supportive of transgender and gender nonconforming students. The guidelines were developed by a working committee that included members of school boards, Nova Scotia Teachers Union, Human Rights Commission, The Youth Project and the department. Schools need to be safe, welcoming spaces where students of all backgrounds feel comfortable. The department and its partners are committed to implementing guidelines that respect the needs and dignity of transgender students, and all of our students. The guidelines identify seven areas of support that include using the student’s preferred name and pronoun, providing easy access to gender neutral washrooms and private change rooms, and providing all students with full access to physical education classes and extracurricular activities, including competitive sports, in a safe, inclusive and respectful environment. The guidelines also clearly spell out the roles and responsibilities of students, teachers and school boards in creating and providing a supportive environment. They include respecting the rights of all students with regards to their gender identity and gender expression, developing an action plan for transphobic incidents and promoting and celebrating transgender and gender non-conforming communities. The department will work with school boards’ Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding coordinators to implement the guidelines. The guidelines can be found at http://ednet.ns.ca.

ii. Committees/Meetings attended as of January 26, 2015

December 9, 2014- Meeting with Superintendents Beth MacIsaac and Ford Rice
December 9, 2014- CBVRSB Special Board Meeting
January 12, 2015- CBVRSB Education Committee Meeting
January 19, 2015 -CBVRSB Management Committee Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Fraser
Seconded by Commissioner Parsons
That the Board approve the report as presented by the Regional Educational Officer.

Motion carried
2015-01-34

(13) NEW BUSINESS:

(14) NOTICE OF MOTION: Commissioner Fraser advised the Board that at the next public meeting he will be making a motion that all Board members participate in the Criminal Record Checks and Child Abuse Registry Checks to take the lead province wide showing that WE support the importance of this process while also including this in our Board by-laws.

(15) NEXT MEETING DATE: Next Scheduled meeting date - Monday, February 23, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.
Adjournment of the meeting... the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

LORNE GREEN GEORGE BOUDREAU
BOARD CHAIR BOARD SECRETARY

Public Session:

n/a