

School Board Meeting Minutes: June 15, 2015

Category : School Board Meeting - Minutes

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Sydney Mines Jr. High
Sydney Mines, N.S.
June 15, 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 Gary Fraser
Yvonne Kennedy Joyce Lind Steve Parsons
John Berk Jackie Organ Barb Mercer
Joan CurrieCharlotte Shaw Darren Googoo

Absent (with regret): Stewart Matheson Fred Tilley Kevin Ruelland
Jack Toomey

Also, Present: Beth MacIsaac, Superintendent
Cathy Viva, Acting Director of Programs & Student Services
Paul Oldford, Director of Operational Services
George Boudreau, Director of Financial Services
John Astephen, Regional Educational Officer
Michelle MacLeod, Board Recording Secretary

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

New Business/Additions: i. Commissioner Googoo’s advisement

(4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** Moved by Commissioner Parsons
Seconded by Commissioner Margettie that the minutes for the following meetings be approved by the Board. . . Regular Public Board Meeting -May 25, 2015
Special Board Meeting -June 8, 2015 **Motion carried**
2015-06-35

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

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

(7) **DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Presenting students from Sydney Mines Jr. High were Miss Mackayla Williams and Miss Victoria Garnier member of the GSA group. The students spoke of their GSA’s Gender & Sexuality Alliance group at their school. They noted it is the heart of their school and provides a comfortable environment. They had a pride week. They recognized Travis Price who showed support for no tolerance for bullying. They then recognized Jeremy Dias who sued his school district for no action when he was being bullied for his sexual orientation. Ms. Madonna Doucette, the LGBT Recourse Coordinator presented at the school. Mental Health & Wellness Day occurred at their school and they did this in cooperation with students from Riverview Rural High school. Youth Project’s GSM Conference was recognized as another event. They travelled to Dartmouth to join other schools across the province for the Outstanding 2014 GSA Conference. Pride Week at Sydney Mines Junior High is improved upon from one year to the next. Several other events were held at the school. They noted that all these events bring pride to the school while bringing awareness and a comfort level not only to fellow students but also to the school community. In conclusion; they recognized Matthew Bond for his recent awards.

(8) **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Mrs. Beth MacIsaac, Superintendent presented her report in a power-point form. Her power-point was a review of the year for 2014-2015. It included a full year of pictures identifying various events throughout the Board. Accolades were given to Cruz Wilson and the students of Sydney River elementary for the music provided to coincide with the power-point.

(9) **BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** n/a

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

(10) **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE:** Moved by Commissioner Currie
Seconded by Commissioner Mercer that the Board approve the minutes of the Education Committee Meeting of Monday, June 1, 2015. . . **Motion carried**
2015-06-36

a. **NSTU FLEX PENSION OPTION:** Moved by Commissioner Currie
Seconded by Commissioner Fraser That the Board approve the following requests for participation in a Flex Pension Option. . . .

Employee #

Name

School

Effective

430322 40014824 Gail MacDougall Glace Bay Elem February 22/16 to
March 11/16 **Motion carried**
2015-06-37

b. **NSTU TERM Recommendation:** Moved by Commissioner Currie
Seconded by Commissioner Margettie That the Board approve the following term recommendation. . . .

Employee #

Name

School

New Term

639211 Sub #: 40038062 Term #: 40052788 Mark Inglis Seton Elem
TERM: May 4, 2015 to July 31, 2015 **Motion carried**
2015-06-38

c. **Human Resources Reports:** Moved by Commissioner Currie
Seconded by Commissioner Berk That the Board approve the report as presented by Ms.
Wendy King, Director of Human Resources. . . **Motion carried**
2015-06-39

d. **PSS REPORT:** Moved by Commissioner Currie
Seconded by Commissioner Mercer That the Board approve the PSS Report presented by Ms.
Cathy Viva, Acting Director of Student Services. . . **Motion carried**
2015-06-40

e. **Correspondence NSTU (Milton Bonnar):** Moved by Commissioner Currie
Seconded by Commissioner Berk That the Board recommend acceptance of the correspondence.
. . **Motion carried**
2015-06-41

f. **SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2015-2016:** Moved by Commissioner Currie
Seconded by Commissioner Googoo That the Board accept the School Calendar for the
2015-2016 school year as presented. . . **Motion carried**
2015-06-42

g. **SCHOOL REVIEW:** Moved by Commissioner Currie
Seconded by Commissioner Fraser that the Board approve the proposed outlined schedule which
includes a Special Board meeting scheduled for August 24th to address the issue of School
Review. . . **Motion carried**
2015-06-43

h. **CREATING A RECIPE FOR HEALTH IN NOVA SCOTIA:** Moved by Commissioner
Currie
Seconded by Commissioner Organ that the Board forward a letter of support to our local
Members of Parliament supporting Creating a Recipe for health in Nova Scotia Schools program
initiated by Dr. Sara Kirk and Dr. Jessie-Lee McIsaac. . . **Motion carried**
2015-06-44

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

i. **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE:** Moved by Commissioner Berk
Seconded by Commissioner Organ that the Board approve the minutes of the Management

Committee Meeting of Monday, June 8, 2015 **Motion carried**
2015-06-45

j. **DESTRUCTION OF BOARD RECORDS:** Moved by Commissioner Berk
Seconded by Commissioner Margettie that the Board approve the destruction of the following
Board records. . . Accounts Payable - 2006-2007 files
Purchasing - 2006-2007 files
Finance Files -older than 7 years **Motion carried**
2015-06-46

k. **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**
2015-06-47

l. **CUPE Retirement(s)/Resignation(s):** Moved by Commissioner Berk
Seconded by Commissioner Organ That the Board accept with regret and thanks for years of
service the following Retirement(s)/Resignation(s). . .

Employee#

Name of Employee

Position Employed in

Resignation/

Retirement

Effective Date

40015961
Juliet Crowell
TA/Glace Bay Elem
Resignation
June 1/15

Motion carried
2015-06-48

m. **REPORT “ DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES ” MR. PAUL OLDFORD:**
Moved by Commissioner Berk
Seconded by Commissioner Margettie That the Board approve the report presented by the

Director of Operational Services at the Management Committee meeting . . . **Motion carried**
2015-06-49

n. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Moved by Commissioner Berk
Seconded by Commissioner Mercer that the Board accept the correspondence report as
presented at the Management Committee meeting. . . **Motion carried**
2015-06-50

(11) **NSSBA REPORT:** Mrs. Sandra Margettie, NSSBA Representative noted that a
meeting has not occurred to date however she wished to advise the Board that the dates for the
AGM for 2016 have been changed to the first weekend in June. Moved by Commissioner
Seconded by Commissioner That the Board accept the NSSBA report as presented by
Commissioner Mercer. . . **Motion carried**
2015-06-51

(12) **MR. JOHN ASTEPHEN, REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REPORT:** Mr. John
Astephen, presented the following report: **1. Official Opening Transportation and
Maintenance Facility** I would like to congratulate the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School
Board on the official opening of the new Transportation and Maintenance Facility. For many years
Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board has advocated for a new bus garage. In
2013-2014 an opportunity to acquire this state of the art facility occurred. The ownership of the
building was transferred by the province to the CB-VRSB and with the assistance of capital
funding from the Nova Scotia Government it was elated to announce the official opening of the
new bus garage on June 10, 2015. This is the culmination of twenty-five years of advocating for a
better facility. Employees in the transportation department can take pride in the facilities in which
they will now be working to ensure that our busses are safe and secure for the students they
serve. "Students and parents value a bus system that is prompt, safe and efficient, and that is
exactly what the board will continue to provide," said Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
Minister Geoff MacLellan, on behalf of Education and Early Childhood Development Minister
Karen Casey. "Preventative maintenance is a big part of that and I am proud to say as a
government, we are able to play a part by providing this centrally located, modern facility that
will enable the school board to house its main busing operation under one roof." Superintendent
Mrs. Beth MacIsaac stated "This day is the culmination of twenty-five years of planning for a
better facility. We would like to thank our Board, the Department of Education and Early
Childhood Development, and our Operations and Transportation staff for their persistence in
pursuing and finally achieving this wonderful facility." • Congratulations one in all. **2. ___**
Committees/Meetings attended as of May 25, 2015 May 28-30/15 - Nova Scotia School Board
Association AGM, Truro, N.S.
June 1/15 - CB-VRSB Education Committee Meeting, Sydney, N.S.
June 8/15 - CB-VRSB Management Committee Meeting, Sydney, N.S.
June 11/15 - REO monthly meeting, EECD, Halifax, N.S. Moved by Commissioner Fraser
Seconded by Commissioner Googoo That the Board approve the report of Mr. John Astephen,
Regional Education Services. . . . **Motion carried**
2015-06-52

(13) **NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Googoo** "Wish to advise the Board
that he has been selected as the new Chair of the Council on Miqmaq Education.
Congratulatory remarks were received from fellow board members and staff.

(14) **NEXT MEETING DATE:** Next Scheduled meeting date - Monday, September 28, 2015 â€“
TBA

(15) **Adjournment of the meeting.** . . the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

LORNE GREEN GEORGE BOUDREAU

BOARD CHAIR BOARD SECRETARY (16)PUBLIC SESSION: Mr. Chris Doucette â€“ Advised that he is representing a group of parents from Mountainview elementary. He further noted that they fully support the new â€œGrade Configurationâ€• curriculum however they have concerns with a Grade 3/4 split. They are petitioning the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development regarding the split at the school. He requested that those in attendance sign their petition. **Ms. Kathy MacLeod, CUPE National Rep** â€“ Questions were asked with regards to the options which were provided to the Board and the reasoning behind the decision made to lay-off fourteen Teacher Assistants â€“ Board Chair Lorne Green noted that at this time he is unable to address some of her questions due to further budget deliberations occurring. He further noted that to date, the budget has not been finalized. Ms. Ellen Cross â€“ Home and School and SAC at George D. Lewis â€“ She advised that they met with the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development on two occasions regarding the status of their school. She further reiterated that they have requested through information regarding Bussing costs for transporting students from George D. Lewis to Riverside Elementary and to date have not received a response. Lastly; she noted that between the first Looking Inward document and the second Looking Inward document a drastic change in the cost of repairs to the school were noted and they were requesting clarification on the figures which were provided. **Ms. Sandra Trenchard** â€“ **CUPE Nova Scotia Sydney area VP** â€“ Questioned the safety of Special needs students. She provided varying scenarios which may happen at the school level that she hopes the Board took into consideration when making their decision.