

School District #5: Baie Verte, Central, Connaigre
Regular School Board Meeting
May 18, 2004
MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

Terry Brown, Chair
Carolyn Andrews
Clarence Brown
Randy Edison
Raymond Gray
Albert Hodder
Sharon Mayne
David Morrow
Mabrey Winsor

Debbie Armstrong, Director of Education
Terry Hillier, Assistant Director (Finance & Administration)
Bonnie Lane-McCarthy, Assistant Director (Human Resources)
Frank Norman, Assistant Director (Programs)
Marina Hewlett, Associate Assistant Director (Hum. Res./Stud. Supp. Serv.)
Beverly Wells, Recorder

ABSENT

Sean Power and Gregory Roberts. Robert Elliott and Winston Keeping sent regrets.

1. INVOCATION

Board Chair Terry Brown called the meeting to order with the reading of the invocation by those present.

2. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations at this meeting.

3. PROGRAM PRESENTATION

There was no program presentation at this meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion the Agenda was approved with two additions: 8.1 – CSBA Congress 2004 and 9.5 – Letter from Grand Falls-Windsor School Administrators. (Hodder/Brown) Carried.

122-03/04

5. MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2004, REGULAR MEETING

On motion the Minutes of the April 20, 2004, Regular School Board Meeting were approved. (Andrews/Edison) Carried.

123-03/04

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1. HELEN TULK ELEMENTARY, VENTILATION SYSTEM

Following the last Board meeting a letter was written to the Minister of Education advising that the Board had agreed to spend an extra \$12,000 towards the ventilation system at Helen Tulk

Elementary School to be absorbed from special incentives money owing to the Board for 2004-2005. A contract has since been awarded and preliminary work has begun.

6.2. GYM FLOOR, BAIE VERTE HIGH SCHOOL

There was nothing new to report regarding the gym floor at Baie Verte High School. Clarence Brown said he would like to see work begin soon to be finished during the summer season.

6.3. SCHOOL BOARD RESTRUCTURING

Since the last Board meeting there has not been much movement on this issue. The transition committee has been announced but has not met. The headquarters has been announced for Gander and the regional office will be in Grand Falls-Windsor. How this system will operate is not quite clear at this time. Interviews had been held today for the position of Director of Education.

Government has still not announced any termination or redundancy benefits. For employees at the District Office this month has been filled with anxiety and uncertainty. At the rate this transition process is preceding, District Office staff may not know their future jobs until well into the summer months.

7. REPORTS

7.1. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was circulated at the meeting.

On motion it was agreed to accept the Director's Report as circulated. (Brown/Mayne) Carried.

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7.2. EXECUTIVE REPORT

The executive had not met since the last Board meeting.

7.3. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Report shows a deficit of \$18,900 to June 30, 2004.

On motion it was agreed to accept the March 31, 2004, financial statements of the Board. (Gray/Winsor) Carried.

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7.4. FINANCE & PROPERTIES REPORT

The Finance and Properties Committee met on May 4, 2004.

7.4.1. Janitorial Cleaning Assessments

A report based on findings resulting from a visit to each school in the District by F. J. Wadden & Sons Ltd. was circulated to Board trustees for information purposes. Clarence Brown said the evaluation of Baie Verte Middle School appears to be inaccurate. He said the school is very clean. Terry Hillier, Assistant Director (Finance & Administration), said he would talk to Mary Bungay, Operations Manager, regarding the report.

7.4.2. Lockers—Bay d’Espoir

A letter was written by the parents’ association in Bay d’Espoir requesting funding for lockers at Bay d’Espoir Academy. A response has since been sent indicating that the committee should make a formal request to the new school board in September 2004.

7.4.3. Transitional Issues

A list of transitional issues from the Finance and Properties Committee with relation to the restructuring of school boards was circulated to Board trustees. Terry Hillier, Assistant Director (Finance & Administration), asked those who would be serving on the restructured school board to take School District #5 transitional issues into consideration next fall.

On motion it was agreed to accept, with the exception of 3.5 – Springdale Office, the proceedings of the Finance and Properties Committee Meeting, dated May 4, 1004. (Winsor/Hodder) Carried.

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7.5. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

7.5.1. Report on DOE Evaluation Process

The Personnel Committee presented a report on the evaluation of the Director/CEO. Randy Edison said the format used was a good first attempt with very few negative replies. He said this could be a good process for the new board.

On motion it was agreed to accept the report of the Personnel Committee. (Edison/Gray) Carried.

127-03/04

7.6. PROGRAMMING REPORT

The Programming Committee will meet on June 8, 2004.

7.7. CRSC REPORT

There was no report from the CRSC Committee.

7.8. SCHOOL BOARD-TEACHER LIAISON COMMITTEE

The School Board-Teacher Liaison Committee will meet for their final meeting this year on May 26.

7.9. COMMUNICATIONS

There was no report from the Communications Committee.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. CSBA CONGRESS 2004

CSBA Congress 2004 will be held from July 8 – 10, 2004, in Toronto. It is desirable that persons attending Congress will be those trustees who will be serving on the restructured school board in September. If someone is interested in attending, they should contact Beverly Wells by May 28.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1. NLSBA – RESOLUTIONS

It is expected that NLSBA AGM will be held in the fall of 2004 after the restructured school boards are in place. It is expected that any resolutions submitted for the spring meeting will be presented at the fall meeting.

9.2. RESTRUCTURING – BISHOP’S FALLS

Letters were circulated for information purposes to Board trustees from Helen Tulk School Council, Bishop’s Falls, concerning the restructuring of schools in that town. The School Council informed the Board that parents want to keep Bishop’s Falls Academy open as long as possible. The information package contained a letter from the Minister of Education to the School Council outlining how money is available under a special incentives program to allow school boards to retain funds from school closures for a three-year period. He stated that these savings are to be used primarily for one-time capital expenditures and to ease the transition of children from one school to another. It was agreed to acknowledge receipt of the information from Helen Tulk Elementary School Council and to respond to the letter from the Minister of Education. The Minister’s explanation of the special incentives program and the board’s understanding of the program is different.

9.3. TEACHER ALLOCATIONS – H. L. STRONG ACADEMY

Letters were received from parents at H. L. Strong Academy, Little Bay Islands, appealing the Board’s decision to reduce their teacher allocation from 3 units to 2.5 units. Bonnie Lane-McCarthy said that that school presently has 11 students and she will be looking at their programming needs for next year. It was agreed that a letter would be written to the parents following the next Personnel Committee meeting.

9.4. TEACHER ALLOCATIONS – KING ACADEMY

A letter was received from Joanne Pierce, Chair of the King Academy School Council, Harbour Breton, begging the Board not to reduce their teacher allocation further. They were cut .25 of a unit this year and Bonnie Lane-McCarthy explained that that loss will not reduce any of their program options for September. It was agreed that a response be written to the School Council suggesting that they direct their concerns to the decision makers: MHA and other government officials.

9.5. LETTER FROM GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

The Director said the Grand Falls-Windsor School Administrators meet regularly. They are concerned about the number of schools that students in Grand Falls-Windsor-Badger have to attend before graduation in grade 12. The Board said they cannot do much about it now but their concerns should be referred to the restructured board in September 2004.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Regular School Board meeting will be held on June 15 at 5:00 p.m. An appreciation supper will follow the meeting.

11. MOTION TO CONVENE CLOSED SESSION MEETING

On motion it was agreed to convene a closed session meeting of the Board. (Brown/Edison) Carried.

128-03/04

Beverly Wells, Recorder

Terry Brown, Chair of the Board

