

School District #5: Baie Verte, Central, Connaigre
Regular School Board Meeting
April 23, 2002
MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

Terry Brown, Chair
Carolyn Andrews
Clarence Brown
Randy Edison
Robert Elliott
Raymond Gray
Albert Hodder
Gail Hoskins
Sharon Mayne
David Morrow
Sean Power
Gregory Roberts

Debbie Armstrong, Director of Education
Terry Hillier, Assistant Director (Finance & Administration)
Bonnie Lane-McCarthy, Assistant Director (Human Resources)
Frank Norman, Assistant Director (Programs)
Beverly Wells, Recorder

OBSERVERS AND PRESENTERS

10 People from Bay d'Espoir

ABSENT

Mabrey Winsor and Winston Keeping sent regrets.

1. Invocation

The Chair opened the meeting with invocation.

A moment of silence was observed for Cecil Penney. Mr. Penney, a teacher at Green Bay South Academy, passed away suddenly on March 28, 2002.

2. PRESENTATIONS

Liz Organ made a presentation as to why Holy Cross School, St. Alban's, should be redeveloped and used as the K-12 School in Bay d'Espoir. Copies of her presentation were circulated to School Board trustees.

Colleen Kelley made a presentation on behalf of the parent committee of Milltown, Head of Bay d'Espoir and Morrisville stating why they think Greenwood Academy, Milltown, should be redeveloped as the K-12 School in Bay d'Espoir. Copies of that presentation were also circulated to Board trustees.

3. Program PRESENTATION

There were no program presentations at this meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion the Agenda was approved. (Power/Hoskins) Carried.

91-01/02

5. MINUTES OF March 20, 2002

On motion the Minutes of the March 20, 2002, Regular School Board Meeting were approved. (Andrews/Gray) Carried.

92-01/02

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1. School Review Committee

School review reports were tabled regarding the education of K-12 students in Botwood and the education of K-12 students in Bishop's Falls. A report dealing with the education of K-12 students in Springdale will be forthcoming. It is expected that all reports will be discussed at the May 21 School Board meeting.

6.2. Leo Burke Academy, Ventilation System

Terry Hillier, Assistant Director (Finance & Administration), said that an engineering report has been received from Crosbie Engineering Ltd. regarding the air quality in Leo Burke Academy, Bishop's Falls. Mr. Hillier drew trustees' attention to the conclusions and the project costs contained in the report. He said only one recommendation can be handled by Board maintenance staff and the biggest problem right now is the cost factor to complete the other recommendations. Mr. Hillier said \$395,000 has already been spent and \$99,700 is needed to complete the job. Mr. Hillier said the Board has no choice but to apply for money from the Education Investment Corporation to complete the project.

On motion it was agreed to make application to the Education Investment Corporation to fund the complete remediation of air quality issues at Leo Burke Academy, Bishop 's Falls, as identified in an engineering report dated April 9, 2002. This will include immediate improvements, system enhancements, additional improvements and engineering costs at an estimated cost of \$99,700. (Roberts/Mayne) Carried. 93-01/02

The Report will be sent to the school and school council.

In response to Gail Hoskins question as to whether or not \$100,000 would complete the project, Terry Hillier said that it would.

Terry Hillier responded to Robert Elliott's question as to who did the mechanical engineering on the ventilation system at Leo Burke Academy advising that Works, Services and Transportation had completed it.

Gregory Roberts said if the Government refuses to grant the money to complete this project, the Board should go back to them and say that the problem lies with them and they have no choice but to remediate it.

The Director said when the engineering report is released to the School Council, parents in Bishop's Falls will want action.

6.3. School Facilities in Bay d'Espoir

Chair Terry Brown drew attention to the document entitled "Issues Relating to School Reorganization in Bay d'Espoir". The senior staff at the School Board Office prepared that document for School Board trustees at an information meeting held on April 16, 2002. Mr. Brown said the Board needs to make a decision regarding school facilities in Bay d'Espoir. He gave a short preamble to the trustees as to the format that would have to be followed following a motion to renovate one of the schools.

Robert Elliott said he went to St. John's on another matter and met with the MHA Oliver Langdon and the Premier and talked about the school situation in Bay d'Espoir. Mr. Elliott reported that Oliver Langdon said for the School Board to make a decision and he will fight to get the extra money needed. Mr. Elliott said he had also discussed the situation with the Premier and the Premier said to make the decision and he would see that the funding is available. He felt the conversations were positive towards securing needed funding.

David Morrow said either building, Greenwood Academy or Holy Cross School, is perfectly viable to educate students. He said he would support either option.

On motion it was agreed that the Board apply for extra funds to upgrade Holy Cross School, St. Alban's, with the intention to close Greenwood Academy, Milltown. (Power/Edison) Carried. (7 of 12 trustees present voted positively) 94-01/02

Clarence Brown said he would support the motion.

An earlier motion (Morrow/Mayne) to vote by secret ballot was defeated.

Albert Hodder said the only thing he would support is a new school.

Gregory Roberts said people are tired of trying to get a new school. Sean Power disagreed with that statement. Robert Elliott said Mr. Roberts was out of order.

The Director reiterated the process to follow to close a school. She said it would take 45 days to get information to people in Bay d'Espoir. Therefore, it was agreed to have public consultations in Milltown and St. Alban's on June 11 and a final decision on what school would be renovated would be made at the regular School Board meeting on June 18.

It was agreed that a group of Board trustees would travel to St. John's to meet with the Minister of Education and MHA Oliver Langdon to acquire extra money to renovate Holy Cross School. Robert Elliott, Clarence Brown and Sean Power said they would like to go to such a meeting.

7. Reports

7.1. Director's Report

The Director's Report dated April 23, 2002, was circulated to Board trustees. She highlighted her report.

On motion it was agreed to approve the staffing appointments listed in the Director's Report dated April 23, 2002. (Brown/Mayne) Carried. 95-01/02

On motion it was agreed to approve the leaves as listed in the Director's Report dated April 23, 2002. (Hoskins/Andrews) Carried. 96-01/02

On motion it was agreed to approve the resignations as listed in the Director's Report dated April 23, 2002. (Gray/Mayne) Carried. 97-01/02

Terry Hillier reminded the Board trustees that the District's Retirement Banquet will be held on June 7. Invitations will be forthcoming.

On motion it was agreed to accept the Director's Report dated April 23, 2002. (Andrews/Brown) Carried. 98-01/02

7.2. Executive Report

The Executive Committee of the Board met on April 11, 2002. As a result, the following action was taken:

On motion it was agreed that the May 2002 Regular School Board meeting be held in Springdale and that School Councils in the Emerald Zone Area be invited to make presentations to the School Board at that meeting. (Andrews/Edison) Carried. 99-01/02

On motion it was agreed that committee minutes be called "Proceedings". Actions and recommendations at committee meetings be made by agreement without movers and seconders. Copies of the proceedings be circulated to Board trustees ten days prior to the regular Board meeting. Chairs of the committees would present the recommendations at the regular meeting and the floor would be opened for motions and discussion at that time. (Brown/Gray) Carried. 100-01/02

On motion it was agreed that the Protocol Agreement and Constitution of MSB Regional Academy School Council, Middle Arm, be approved. (Power/Mayne) Carried. 101-01/02

7.3. Financial Report

The Assistant Director (Finance and Administration) presented the Financial Statements to March 31, 2002. Mr. Hillier said he expects a surplus at the end of the school year.

On motion it was agreed to accept the Financial Statements of the Board to March 31, 2002. (Power/Andrews) Carried. 102-01/02

7.4. Finance & Properties Report

The Finance and Properties Committee met on April 16, 2002. As a result of that meeting, the following recommendations were approved:

It was noted that the Director and Assistant Director (Finance and Administration) had met with Gary Hatcher, Senior Director with the Department of Education, and discussed the issue of moving the School Board Office to Windsor Academy. Mr. Hatcher made no commitment other than to review this issue again. The Board has the option of renting or leasing part of Windsor Academy and also the present office building on St. Catherine Street.

On motion it was agreed that the Board re-list the sale of the School Board Office on St. Catherine Street with real estate agents. (Roberts/Brown) Carried. 103-01/02

On motion it was agreed that the Board write to the R. C. Episcopal Corporation offering La Rochelle Academy, Brent's Cove, back to the Corporation. (Brown/Hoskins) Carried. 104-01/02

On motion it was agreed that the Board's Preliminary Budget for the 2003 fiscal year be accepted. (Roberts/ Morrow) Carried. 105-01/02

On motion it was agreed that the Board undertake a review to develop a new smoking policy. (Hoskins/ Roberts) Carried. 106-01/02

Parents at Helen Tulk Elementary School, Bishop's Falls, had implemented a user-pay-service to provide lunch hour bussing. A problem had arisen because some users were not paying the fee and the parents committee was requesting that the Board deny these non-payers be refused access to the service. Ms. Armstrong stated that earlier discussions had resulted and the Board's legal advisers recommended that such a policy not be adopted. It was noted that the school administration has a responsibility to provide supervision to any children who stay behind and do not avail of the bussing service.

Albert Hodder had met with the Helen Tulk Elementary School parents and they had requested that the committee have the authority to refuse students whose parents did not pay. He said other boards have this option and the parents in Bishop's Falls would like the same. Terry Hillier said it was illegal to do that and this Board had already checked it out earlier and had refused the parents permission to do so.

On motion it was agreed that the Director write a letter to the Helen Tulk Parents Committee advising them that the user-pay service they now use to provide lunch hour bussing may continue under the same conditions as those at present. (Brown/Roberts) Carried. 107-01/02

On motion it was agreed to allow the Assistant Director (Finance and Administration) to borrow \$394,204 from the Bank of Montreal, Grand Falls-Windsor, to purchase five (5) new 72-passenger school buses. The loan would be amortized over a one hundred and forty-four (144) month period and the principal and interest would be paid from the Department of Education

7.5. Personnel Committee Report

The Personnel Committee met on March 26 and April 10. Sean Power said the main reason for meeting was to deal with teacher allocations. He said the District lost 27 teachers. On April 10 the Committee learned how many programs would be lost throughout the District. Mr. Power said the Board has to bring the problems associated with teacher losses and the lack of educational opportunities to students to light across the province.

On motion it was agreed that the Board would be active in bringing to everybody's attention in the province the problems associated with teacher loses and that before the end of the current school year principals would be asked how the cuts will affect programs in their schools. It was also agreed to ask for a meeting with the Social Policy Committee of Cabinet within 60 days of the new school year. (Morrow/Hoskins) Carried.

109-01/02

The Teacher Allocation Policy of the Board was discussed at length.

7.6. Programming Report

The Programming Committee met on April 9, 2002.

On motion it was agreed that the Programming Committee report back to the Board and the Central Region Steering Committee that it will study in detail over the next four Programming Committee meetings the Regional Position Paper on Early Childhood Enrichment at it relates to the board and that a comprehensive report will follow in approximately six months. (Gray/Power) Carried.

110-01/02

The Board was advised that there will be a School Board-School Council Forum on May 9 at 3 p.m. at the United Church Hall, Grand Falls-Windsor. Clarence Brown suggested that the agenda go out soon. Tuesday, April 30, is the deadline to register for the event.

7.7. CRSC Report

David Morrow's report on the most recent CRSC meeting that he attended was circulated to Board members.

On motion it was agreed to accept David Morrow's Report on the most recent CRSC meeting that he attended. (Morrow/Hoskins) Carried.

111-01/02

7.8. CSBA Atlantic Conference

David Morrow circulated a report on his recent attendance at the Annual Atlantic Conference of the Canadian School Board's Association in Prince Edward Island. Mr. Morrow said he enjoyed the trip and the workshops were very interesting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Student Appeal

An Appeal Committee consisting of Clarence Brown, Robert Elliott and Sharon Mayne had concluded their findings and agreed with Frank Norman's earlier decision that a student should be compelled to complete 14 credits in Level III, thus upholding the decision of the school principal. The parents have threatened to speak to a lawyer.

8.2. Harbour Breton Trustee

Terry Brown said the Minister of Education appointed a person to serve as a School Board trustee in Ward X, Harbour

Breton. However, that person has since denied acceptance. The Minister has asked that the Board submit a person's name for the vacancy. The Board Chair advised that the Town of Harbour Breton said they would send in a recommendation. It was suggested by Board trustees that it be noted in the District Newsletter that there is a vacancy in that area.

8.3. Nomination for Leadership Awards

A memo was received from NLSBA inviting nominees for the Educational Leadership Award to be presented at the NLSBA AGM in July 2003. The deadline for nominations is May 17, 2002.

8.4. NLSBA AGM

NLSBA's AGM will be held in St. John's on July 2 and 3, 2002. Resolutions should be forwarded to the NLSBA office no later than May 17, 2002. This Board can send five delegates plus the Chair. Those interested in attending should notify Beverly Wells at the School Board Office.

8.5. CSBA Conference July 4-6

The CSBA Annual Conference will be held in St. John's from July 4-6. The Board will send two trustees, the Director and the Chair. Persons interested in attending should submit their names to Terry Hillier or Beverly Wells before April 28, 2002. Trustees were reminded that if they were not chosen to attend they could access their \$800.00 professional development fund to help with their expenses to attend.

8.6. Increasing Primary Day to Five Hours

The Director advised the meeting that directors across the province are recommending to their School Boards that the primary day be extended to five hours.

Trustees asked if opening and closing times would change and whether or not bussing costs would increase. Terry Hillier, Assistant Director (Finance & Administration), said bussing may increase in some areas but decrease in others. The District staff will determine this.

<p><i>On motion it was agreed to increase the primary school day to five hours per day in all schools in School District #5 effective September 2002. (Andrews/Mayne) Carried.</i></p>	<p><i>112-01/02</i></p>
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8.7. High School Graduations

Trustees agreed they could attend some high school graduations.

9. Correspondence

There was no correspondence for action at this meeting.

10. Outstanding Business

10.1. Home Schooling Policy (pg. 4, 00/01)

10.2. Sale of Board Office (pg. 23)

10.3. By-Laws

10.4. Renaming Schools (pg. 22, 00/01)

10.5. Policy on Partnerships (pg. 33, 00/01)

10.6. Renovations at Windsor Academy (pg. 42)

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Springdale on May 21, 2002.

12. Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on motion at approximately 9:45 p.m.



Beverly Wells, Recorder

Terry Brown, Chair of the Board