

School District #5: Baie Verte, Central, Connaigre  
Regular School Board Meeting  
June 27, 2002  
**MINUTES**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**OBSERVERS**

Approximately 60 people from the Bay d'Espoir area

**1. INVOCATION**

Those in attendance read the invocation.

**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. (Morrow/Winsor) Carried.*

128-01/02

**5. MINUTES OF May 21, 2002**

*On motion the Minutes of the May 21, 2002, Regular School Board Meeting were approved. (Andrews/Brown) Carried.*

129-01/02

**6. BUSINESS ARISING**

## 6.1. School Review Committee

### 6.1.1. Springdale

Bonnie Lane-McCarthy, Assistant Director (Human Resources) highlighted the report, *A Study and Recommendations for the Education of K-12 Students in Springdale*, which was circulated to Board trustees at the Board meeting in May.

The report recommended the following:

- a. that the Springdale school system be restructured so that there is a K-6 school and a 7-12 school.
- b. that this restructuring would not occur prior to the 2004-2005 school year provided that a level of staffing can be maintained at each school so that programming is not adversely affected.
- c. that during the 2003-2004 school year a further review of the statistics presented in this report be done to verify the projections. If the trends prove true then the recommendation is that Springdale school system be restructure in September 2004.
- d. that the K-6 school would be the present Indian River Primary.
- e. that the 7-12 school would be the present Indian River High.
- f. that the savings realized from the closure of Indian River Middle School be used to address the needs of the schools that are to remain open in Springdale.
- g. that provision be made for a lunchtime environment at Indian River Primary that will allow students to eat in an appropriate meal setting.
- h. that the present practice of lunchtime bussing at Indian River Primary School be reviewed to investigate the feasibility of lunchtime bussing for Indian River Primary when the restructuring occurs.
- i. that a transitional Planning Team be set up by October 2003 comprising of the principal from each school, a teacher from each school, a parent representing each of the school councils, a board trustee and a staff member from District Office.

Gregory Roberts said when the Board receives its priority list from the Department of Education, it will look at lunchroom facilities for Indian River Primary School.

David Morrow said he thought the money saved from closing a school would go back into the school that remained open. By doing this, Mr. Morrow felt that a lunchroom could be provided for Indian River Primary School.

Randy Edison said a cafeteria is a must to make restructuring in Springdale work.

Mabrey Winsor agreed that a cafeteria is a must and Carolyn Andrews said she sees it as a priority but the Board could not commit all of the savings to one item.

There is a priority list at the Department of Education for this District. Randy Edison asked if Springdale Primary School could be moved closer to the top of that list.

Terry Hillier, Assistant Director (Finance & Administration), explained how the Education Investment Committee allocates money to school boards.

David Morrow commented that other schools were restructured without cafeterias. Mr. Hillier said there is no recommendation that a cafeteria be constructed but that lunchtime facilities be provided.

***On motion it was agreed that the report, A Study and Recommendations for the Education of K-12 Students in Springdale, be reviewed by the Finance and Properties Committee for action. (Andrews/Roberts) Carried.***

***130-01/02***

## 6.2. Leo Burke Academy, Ventilation System

Terry Hillier, Assistant Director (Finance & Administration), shared e-mails he and Ingrid Clarke, School Construction Engineer, had exchanged. Ms. Clarke said that \$57,000 has been approved to cover the list of work outlined in the air quality report to enhance the present air ventilation system in Leo Burke Academy, Bishop's Falls. She said the money does not cover the items that were listed outside of the original scope such as the heating controls. Terry Hillier said the \$57,000 would not cover the cost of all the recommendations from government.

## 6.3. School Facilities in Bay d'Espoir

Chair Terry Brown read motion 94-01/02 which agreed that the Board would apply for extra funds to upgrade Holy Cross School, St. Alban's, with the intention to close Greenwood Academy, Milltown. Mr. Brown said public hearings had been held on June 18, 2002, in St. Alban's and Milltown.

***A motion was made that the Board apply for extra funds to upgrade Holy Cross School, St. Alban's, and close Greenwood Academy, Milltown. (Power/Edison) The motion was defeated (3 for/9 against) after Board trustees debated it.***

The Chair asked if trustees would like to vote by secret ballot.

***A motion was made to conduct a vote on the above motion by secret ballot. (Mayne/Winsor) Defeated (7 for/5 against)***

The following is a summary of Board trustees' comments with regard to school facilities in Bay d'Espoir:

Robert Elliott said he was supporting the motion of intent to close the school in Milltown. He said he had read numerous letters, heard presentations, and had many discussions with people who oppose the motion of intent. He said their arguments for Milltown being the site for a school in Bay d'Espoir consist of two factors:

- a. One million dollars is available to refurbish a school in the Bay d'Espoir area. Since Greenwood Academy can be brought up to standard with the one million dollars and it will cost two million to do the school in St. Alban's, the Board should decide to do Milltown.
- b. Students from Morrisville will have to travel 55 minutes on bus if the school is located in St. Alban's.

Mr. Elliott said the first factor is a political game and he doesn't want to be a participant and the second factor he is very sympathetic towards but yet not so much so that he can support the refurbishing of the school in Milltown. He said these two factors came through mostly from people who support the school in Milltown plus the safety issues that were raised about Holy Cross School. He added that he had been satisfied that the safety issues do not exist since they have been rectified by the Board.

Mr. Elliott said there are many reasons why he was supporting the renovation of Holy Cross School. His reasons included: St. Alban's is the larger community; kindergarten enrollment projections indicated that more students will come from St. Alban's rather than Milltown; 70% of the students are from St. Alban's; St. Alban's infrastructure is much larger and diverse than that of Milltown; population dropped more in the Milltown-Head Bay d'Espoir, Morrisville, St. Joseph's Cove and St. Veronica's areas than in St. Alban's since 1996; more students would be bussed in Milltown than in St. Alban's; there are ten groups using the school in St. Alban's while five use it in Milltown; the SipKop Band is a force to be reckoned with since they want their children to be educated in their community and should they remove their children from the Bay d'Espoir school system, it will have grave consequences for education in the region; and, he is convinced extra funding will be made available to refurbish Holy Cross School.

Mr. Elliott finished by saying that anything that has happened between adults should not affect the Board's decision. He said it is the children and only the children that matter.

David Morrow said educationally he thinks students will receive a good education in either school. He said he

believes Government has made its firm decision not to give the Board any more money other than the one million that it has already offered. Mr. Morrow is concerned that lobbying for extra money will consume a lot more time. He said bussing is not a concern to him and infrastructure in both towns will still be used. Mr. Morrow said parents in the Bay d'Espoir area will continue to drive their children to the different facilities as they have done in the past. He said once sufficient funds are provided, an efficient building will be available.

Albert Hodder outlined what he felt were the pros and cons of renovating either of the schools in Bay d'Espoir. The following is a summary of his comments:

#### **Why have the school at St. Alban's renovated?**

About half the population of the Bay d'Espoir area live in St. Albans; less bussing of students; the school would probably get more use outside of school hours because it is located in a fairly large town.

#### **Why the school at St. Alban's should not be renovated?**

Holy Cross is an old building and it is questionable whether it is worth spending much money to do the necessary renovations—especially in the area of 2.2 million dollars; St. Alban's is not central to the whole area; most people in the area agreed to the present schooling situation as a temporary stop-gap solution until the new central all-grade school was constructed; and the land on which the school is located is not owned by the Board and this could have future problems for the Board.

#### **Why have the school at Milltown renovated?**

Milltown is more central to the whole; that school can be renovated with less money; the Board has the green light to renovate the school building and provide schooling for all the students in the area; and one million dollars has been allocated to the Board.

#### **Why Greenwood Academy should not be renovated?**

The people of Bay d'Espoir deserve a new school and if the Board takes the million dollars to the renovations at Greenwood it is very unlikely that money will be provided for a new school for many years to come; more students will have to be bussed; and Greenwood is not central.

Mr. Hodder went on to say that Bay d'Espoir deserves a new school and he is not happy with renovating either present school building.

Gail Hoskins thanked everyone for their presentations on June 18. Ms. Hoskins said after reviewing all the information on renovating Holy Cross School and closing Greenwood Academy, she still agrees with the motion of intent. She said her decision is not influenced by the politics that seems to have entered the process. She said politics have no place at the Board table since the Board is here to ensure the children in the District have the opportunity to learn and grow. The Board must provide them with the best education possible. Ms. Hoskins said she has one question she has been trying to answer: Why has the Department of Education placed a one million dollar cap on the education of children in Bay d'Espoir? Is this happening in other Districts? She said just recently in Corner Brook, District #3 decided to close one of its schools and redevelop another and has gone through their process. Now they plan to go to the government for money. She asked if there would be a cap of funding put on that project? Ms. Hoskins mentioned the closing of Brent's Cove School. She said Brent's Cove was the newer building but with declining enrollment in that community and facilitates and services in La Scie to provide enhanced programming, the Board decided to have everyone bussed to La Scie. She asked how different is that from Bay d'Espoir. Ms. Hoskins said by choosing Holy Cross School the children's lives will not be put in danger as some have been led to believe. She said the quality of programming would not be compromised but rather it would be enriched and enhanced. She said the Board would not have the high bussing costs which was a major part of school reform in the first place. Ms. Hoskins said the Board knows the one million dollars will not renovate either building. She said the actual cost of renovating either building is not known. Why use one million dollars as a factor to consider. Ms. Hoskins closed by saying that she wants to make the right decision: follow through on the motion of intent.

Carolyn Andrews also thanked the people of Bay d'Espoir for their presentations. She said she recognizes all the work and thought that have gone into the presentations and that both sides were passionate and offered good rationale for the stand they take. She said she was not supporting the motion because:

The Board needs to bring closure to this issue; to support having the school in St. Alban's would mean an indefinite future for bringing the systems together; the school in Milltown is a better building and she likes the layout with the twin buildings for primary/elementary and junior/senior high students having some separation. She said her decision for not supporting the motion was not related to any perceived politics that may have swayed or railroaded a decision in any way by government. Ms. Andrews felt that a good education can be provided at either site. She said the infrastructure is available no matter what building the students attend: the bussing is unfortunate but that will happen either way.

Carolyn Andrews said she agreed with Mr. Elliott's comment that the children and only the children matter. Because of this she said the Board must move on and resolve this matter.

Sharon Mayne said she enjoyed her trip to the Bay d'Espoir area on June 18 and thanked people for their presentations. She said she heard their emotions and saw it in their faces. For her, bussing is the biggest issue. She said School Board trustees went to St. John's and were told that there was no more money for Bay d'Espoir. She was not sure how she would vote.

Clarence Brown apologized for not attending the public hearings but read and weighed all the information that had been sent to him and would still support the motion of intent. He said he went to St. John's and met with the Minister of Education. She has committed extra money through school closure savings to help with the renovations.

Sean Power said he would be voting against the motion. He said he agreed with the motion of intent because he had expected to get extra money but have seen no indication that such money will be forthcoming, not now nor in the future. He said he believes Holy Cross is the best situation but will have to vote against the motion. Mr. Power said for the sake of the educational system and the students and the people of Bay d'Espoir who have gone through enough, he does not believe a decision should be put on hold for a longer period of time.

Mabrey Winsor said he could not support the motion because it has been confirmed by the government that there is no more money available.

David Morrow said schools have been closed before and students have been bussed. He said Brent's Cove was bussed to a larger school in La Scie; Belleoram was bussed to a smaller school in English Harbour West. He said he does not feel that bussing is a legitimate reason to choose one school over another.

Terry Hillier, Assistant Director (Finance & Administration), earlier circulated a package regarding a number of references to life and safety fire deficiencies at Holy Cross School, St. Alban's.

***On motion in was agreed to upgrade Greenwood Academy, Milltown, with the intention to close Holy Cross School, St. Alban's, following the established process for school closing. (Gray/Roberts) Carried. (9 for/2 against) 131-01/02***

The Director reminded Board trustees that the above motion was one of intent and another round of public hearings will be held before the final vote can be undertaken. Ms. Armstrong said there had been some discussion earlier about holding public hearings during the summer, however, legal counsel has advised that there is no reason why they cannot be held if the communities involved have been given a minimum notice of between 30 to 60 days' notice. A public notice and the original information that was circulated for the June 18, 2002, public hearings will have to be issued. It is expected that the hearings will be held in late August 2002.

## **6.4. Smoking Policy**

This item is being dealt with by the Finance and Properties Committee and is deferred to the September 2002 meeting.

## 6.5. NLSBA AGM

The delegates to the NLSBA AGM are Terry Brown, Sean Power, Clarence Brown, Carolyn Andrews and Raymond Gray.

### 6.5.1. *Andy Butt's Report*

Cormack Trail School Board is recommending approval of Andy Butt's Report.

### 6.5.2. *Resolutions to AGM*

It was agreed that individual delegates make their own decisions on resolutions at the Annual Meeting of NLSBA.

## 6.6. Helen Tulk Noontime Bussing

Sandra Sutton, Helen Tulk Elementary School Bus Committee, wrote a letter advising that lunch hour bussing is no longer feasible at their school. She said a survey relating to bussing for the whole school system in Bishop's Falls is ongoing. However, if the majority of parents do not wish to take part in the program, there will be no lunch hour bussing in Bishop's Falls in September 2002.

## 6.7. Bussing Changes in the White Bay Zone

At the last Board meeting the Assistant Director (Finance and Administration) circulated proposed bussing changes on the Baie Verte Peninsula. He now advised the meeting that the proposed changes for Wild Cove/Seal Cove and Fleur de Lys/Coachman's Cove would be deferred until a complete review of bussing of the whole District is done next year. He said the proposed changes for Pacquet/Woodstock would be made effective September 2002.

A resolution will be made to the Annual Meeting of NLSBA in July 2002.

The Finance and Properties Committee will review the whole issue of bussing in the District. David Morrow said he would like to attend such a meeting when this issue is dealt with.

## 7. Reports

### 7.1. Director's Report

<i>On motion it was agreed to approve the staffing appointments listed in the Director's Report dated June 27, 2002. (Winsor/ Mayne) Carried.</i>	<i>132-</i>
<i>001/02</i>	

<i>On motion it was agreed to approve the leaves as listed in the Director's Report dated June 27, 2002. (Keeping/Power) Carried. 133-01/02</i>
---

<i>On motion it was agreed to approve the resignations as listed in the Director's Report dated June 27, 2002. (Hodder/Gray) Carried.</i>
---

*On motion it was agreed to approve the list of teachers recommended for tenure in the Director's Report dated June 27, 2002. (Hoskins/Mayne)  
Carried.*

135-01/02

## 7.2. Executive Report

The Executive's Report was covered in the In-Camera Session.

## 7.3. Financial Report

A copy of the Board's Financial Statements to May 31, 2002, was circulated to Board trustees. Terry Hillier said the projected surplus for June 30, 2002, is \$152,100.

*On motion it was agreed to approve the Board's Financial Statements to May 31, 2002. (Roberts/Gray) Carried.*

136-01/02

## 7.4. Finance and Properties Report

The following action was taken on recommendations from the Finance and Properties Committee meeting held on June 5, 2002:

*On motion the following was approved:*

- a. that the Board instruct the realtors to indicate on the for sale sign at the School Board Office on St. Catherine Street "New Price";*
- b. that Terry Hillier telephone Pierce Carey asking that the R. C. Episcopal Corporation respond to the Board's letter regarding La Rochelle Property at Brent's Cove;*
- c. that the Assistant Director (Finance and Administration) present an overview of school board financing and grant structure at a later regular meeting of the Board.;*
- d. that the Board vote on whether or not to challenge the Department of Education's bussing regulations;*
- e. that the Board revisit the issue of a logo and name change. (Roberts/Winsor) Carried.*

137-01/02

It was agreed that the Programming Committee be given the power to revisit the issue of a logo and name change for the Board.

It was agreed that the following Resolution be presented to the NLSBA at its Annual Meeting in July 2002:

**WHEREAS** the Minister of Education allocates funds under the School Bus Transportation Policy to cover (a) the cost to a School Board for the transportation to and from a school of pupils who reside more than 1.6 kilometers from that school and (b) the number of pupils traveling on a bus shall not exceed the rated seating capacity of the bus (in relation to a 72 passenger bus: K - 6 or a mixed load, K - 12 - 72 students, and for grades 7 - 12 - 63 students).

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the NLSBA pursue with the Department of Education the following:

- a. Amend the Transportation Policy to allow for the provision of a late bus at no cost to the school and/or the School Board in order for students living outside the 1.6 kilometer regulation to access after school activities such as extra curricular, tutoring, etc., and
- b. Amend the Transportation Policy to reduce the seating capacity on a 72-passenger bus to take into consideration the size of the students, the distance traveled and the varying road conditions.

*On motion it was agreed that the Assistant Director (Finance and Administration) be empowered to borrow a \$1,000,000 operating line of credit for the period July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2003, subject to the approval of the Minister of Education. (Roberts/Hoskins) Carried.  
138-01/02*

A letter was received from the Minister of Education giving approval for the Board to borrow up to \$394,204 to purchase five new school busses.

## **7.5. Personnel Committee Report**

Sean Power said the reduction of teachers in schools is a concern of the Personnel Committee. He said information has been coming in from schools informing the Board how cuts are affecting programming in their schools and how further cuts will affect them. Mr. Power said the Personnel Committee will have a presentation for the Strategic Social Committee on the effects of teacher redundancy. He said the Committee hopes to arrange a meeting with Cabinet in October.

## **7.6. Programming Report**

A copy of the Programming Committee Meeting Proceedings of May 14, 2002, was circulated to Board trustees. The following action was taken:

*On motion it was agreed that the process for school board trustees attending graduations to bring greetings on behalf of the Board be reviewed and that protocol be adopted and communicated to Board trustees and Board personnel. (Andrews/Gray)  
Carried.  
139-01/02*

The Director suggested that the senior administration look at a process and communicate it to the schools and to Board trustees. Gregory Roberts suggested the Board use the same theme at all the graduations for a given year.

## **7.7. CRSC Report**

There was no report from the Central Regional Social Committee.

David Morrow said CRSC had hired someone in December to highlight some of the concerns of education in the area, eg. demographics, enrollment, salaries, etc.

Randy Edison suggested bringing the highlights to the Board in August so the Board can analyze them.

## **7.8. School Board-Teacher Liaison Committee**

Minutes of the School Board-Teacher Liaison Committee's last meeting for the 2001-2002 school year were circulated to Board trustees.



## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.1. Strategic Planning Session**

The Director said the District is involved in an accountability framework with government as one of its agencies. Bill Lee and Brenda Kelleher-Flight met with the senior administration team and some program specialists and a working session will be held on September 27 and 28 with some Board members, principals, staff, etc. The District's strategic plan will be discussed with a plan to see who we are and where we are going. Randy Edison, David Morrow, Carolyn Andrews and Terry Brown said they would be interested in attending such a session.

### **8.2. School Calendar**

A proposed school calendar for the school year 2002-2003 was presented to Board trustees.

<i>On motion the proposed school calendar for 2002-2003 was approved. (Power/Morrow) Carried.</i>
---

<i>140-01/02</i>
------------------

## **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)**
- 10.7. Harbour Breton Trustee (pg. 73)**
- 10.8. CSBA Conference July 4-6 (pg. 73)**
- 10.9. La Rochelle Property in Brent's Cove**

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on September 10 at 7 p.m. in Grand Falls-Windsor.

## **12. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.



Beverly Wells, Recorder

Terry Brown, Chair of the Board