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**Eastern School District**

## **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 9, 2008

**LOCATION:** Mt. Stewart Consolidated School  
120 South Main St. - Rte. 351, Mt. Stewart

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

- AGENDA:**
1. Approval of Agenda **(ACTION)**
  2. Minutes of March 12, 2008 School Board Meeting **(ACTION)**  
Business Arising from Minutes
  3. Correspondence
  4. Public Input
    - 4.1 Welcome to Mt. Stewart Consolidated School
      - Bernadine Lamphier, Principal
      - LaVerne MacKinnon, President of Home and School
    - 4.2 Presentation by Grand Tracadie Home and School
      - Martie Murphy, President
  5. Superintendent's Executive Summary Report
    - 5.1 Rental of Transportation Vehicles (EE-R) - Proposed Administrative Regulation
    - 5.2 Rental of School Property (KG-R) - Proposed Revisions to Administrative Regulation
  6. Report from Policy, Planning and Development Committee
    - 6.1 Rental of Transportation Vehicles (EE) - Proposed Housekeeping Revisions to Board Policy **(ACTION)**
    - 6.2 Rental of School Property (KG) - Proposed Housekeeping Revisions to Board Policy **(ACTION)**
    - 6.3 School Board Retreat
  7. Report from Kids Count - The Learning Fund
  8. Report from PEI School Trustees' Association
  9. Other Business

**EASTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TWO HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

The School Board for the Eastern School District met on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at Westwood Primary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Robert Clow, Board Chairperson  
Sandy Clark  
Richard Collins  
Gael MacEachern  
Alan MacPhee  
Phil Matusiewicz  
Julius Patkai  
Edna Reid

**REGRETS:** Ronald Lee  
David MacDonald  
Anne Miller

**ALSO PRESENT:** Alex (Sandy) MacDonald, Superintendent of Education  
Philip Connolly, Manager of Policy and Planning  
Cindy MacLean, Recording Secretary

Vice-Principal Stewart Darrach welcomed the Board to Westwood Primary School, and presented a video of student activities at Westwood. The Board Chairperson expressed appreciation to Mr. Darrach for hosting the School Board Meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Board Chairperson indicated that the Presentation by Grand Tracadie Home and School had been re-scheduled to the April School Board Meeting. First reading of revisions to Board Regulation GCKC-R (Administrative Appointments - Principals and Vice-Principals) was added to the agenda under the Report from Policy, Planning and Development Committee. **It was moved by Phil Matusiewicz and seconded by Sandy Clark that the agenda be adopted as amended. Motion carried.**

01/03/08

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2008 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**It was moved by Richard Collins and seconded by Phil Matusiewicz that the minutes of the February 20, 2008 School Board Meeting be adopted as presented. Motion carried.**

02/03/08

In business arising from the minutes, the Board Chairperson reported that arrangements will be made for Ms. Bruce to receive an internet connection at home in order to update the District website immediately in cases of school cancellation.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board Chairperson noted two items in addition to the March 6, 2008 Correspondence Summary.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public input.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT**

### 1. Change to Age of School Entry

The Superintendent reported that on February 28, 2008 the Department of Education had announced a change to the age of entry for school and kindergarten from August 31 to October 31, beginning in the 2008-2009 school year. The new policy means that approximately 125-150 additional students are now eligible for Grade 1 in Eastern School District schools. Unfortunately, there had been no consultation with members of the education community prior to notice of the change, and the late notice created confusion among parents regarding their children's readiness for school without a full year of kindergarten. The Superintendent will request Student Services personnel to create a document to be posted on the ESD website to address frequently asked questions regarding child readiness for school.

### 2. EAL (English as an Additional Language) Students

Dr. MacDonald reported there are approximately 350 EAL students in the Eastern School District: 125 who attended school last year, and 225 students new to the District since September of 2007. The schools most affected are Colonel Gray and Queen Charlotte with 10% of their population being EAL students. Other schools with EAL students include Stonepark, Birchwood, Charlottetown Rural, Glen Stewart, Spring Park, West Royalty, Prince Street, St. Jean and West Kent.

Since the beginning of September, the Department has added 10.66 FTE positions for itinerant teachers, and EAL support as well as support for class composition issues associated with the influx of EAL students. The tutoring service hired by the Department this year for EAL students didn't work out well, and the Department has asked for advice from District personnel to address the issue. The Superintendent noted that the Department is moving towards better collaboration within government and the PEI Population Secretariat.

3. Late French Immersion Registration

The Superintendent indicated that registration numbers are good for Late French Immersion with classes to be offered next year at Birchwood, East Wiltshire, Queen Charlotte and Stonepark Intermediate Schools.

**REPORT FROM MONTAGUE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Board Chairperson reported that the Montague Regional High School Construction Planning Committee had been reactivated in February, with himself, Julius Patkai and Richard Collins representing the Board on the committee. Mr. Clow shared a letter from the Minister of Education to the Chair of the Planning Committee which outlines the Government commitment to the project. (A copy of the letter will be filed with the official minutes.)

Industrial arts programming space for Montague Intermediate School had been included in the original 110,000 ft.<sup>2</sup> concept plan, but with the change in site, the intermediate students will not be using that space, and the plan will be reduced by 2,500 ft.<sup>2</sup>.

It is hoped that the project will go out to tender by May, 2008 with construction to begin by the end of June, and the new school opening in early 2010.

**REPORT FROM THE POLICY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Proposed Regulation Revision - Administrative Appointments-Principals and Vice-Principals (GCKC-R)

The Board Chairperson reported that the Executive Committee, with assistance from Ron MacLeod of HRA, had drafted revisions to Board Regulation GCKC-R - Administrative Appointments - Principals and Vice-Principals. The proposed revisions were presented for first reading and will be circulated for input prior to second reading in May, 2008.

Proposed Change from Administrative Regulation to Board Regulation - Role Description: Superintendent of Education (GBEA-R)

03/03/08

**It was moved by Gael MacEachern and seconded by Phil Matusiewicz that the proposed revisions to Board Regulation GBEA-R - Role Description: Superintendent of Education be adopted as presented. Motion carried.**

The next meeting of the Policy, Planning and Development Committee will be held at 4:00 p.m. on March 26, 2008.

### **REPORT FROM THE FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Julius Patkai, Committee Chairperson, reported that Paul MacDonald, Principal of Southern Kings Consolidated School, had made an excellent presentation to the Finance and Audit Committee regarding the roles, responsibilities, advantages and disadvantages of a school-based finance committee. All school administrators will be encouraged to use school-based finance committees to assist with the management of school-based funds.

The Finance and Audit Committee completed a review of Administrative Regulation CFA-R - School-Raised Funds - Administration and Accounting Procedures, and will be forwarding a proposed revision to the Policy, Planning and Development Committee for consideration. The Superintendent will consult with principals regarding the proposed revisions.

The Committee Chairperson will ask that the Director of Corporate Services speak to the Board about the new SchoolCash.net accounting system. The Director will also be asked to arrange for a presentation by Paul MacDonald to the whole Board regarding his school-based finance committee.

### **REPORT FROM KIDS COUNT - THE LEARNING FUND**

Phil Matusiewicz announced that the Mr. Geldert, Chairperson of Kids Count - The Learning Fund, has resigned due to medical reasons. A new Chairperson will be selected during a meeting of the Kids Count Board in early April.

### **REPORT FROM PEI SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION**

Sandy Clark, ESD Director of the PEISTA, reminded trustees of the June 9, 2008 Annual General Meeting of the PEI School Trustees' Association to be held at the French School in Summerside.

The Board Chairperson reported that he had received positive feedback from trustees in the other two Island boards who had attended the March 3, 2008 Eastern School District meeting. Eastern School District trustees are invited to attend a meeting of the French Language School Board in May.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board Chairperson expressed best wishes to Eastern School District personnel and Directors for a restful March Break.

Trustees were reminded of a social event to be held March 29.

04/03/08

**It was moved by Julius Patkai and seconded by Alan MacPhee that the meeting adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried.**