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Eastern School District

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, October 14, 2009

LOCATION: LM Montgomery Elementary School
69 MacWilliams Road, Charlottetown

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

- AGENDA:**
1. Approval of Agenda **(ACTION)**
 2. Minutes of September 9, 2009 School Board Meeting **(ACTION)**
Business Arising from Minutes
 3. Correspondence
 4. Public Input
 - 4.1 Welcome by Lois Adams, Principal of LM Montgomery Elementary
 - 4.2 Presentation by Gaylene Gillis, Morell Consolidated Home and School
 5. Superintendent's Executive Summary Report
 - 5.1 Time on Busses
 - 5.2 Student Transfer Requests
 6. Report from the Executive Committee
 - 6.1 Board Professional Development
 7. Report from the Finance and Audit Committee
 8. Report from the Policy, Planning and Development Committee
 - 8.1 Appeals (BEE) - Proposed Housekeeping Revisions to Board Policy
(ACTION)
 - 8.2 Appeals (BEE-R) - Proposed Housekeeping Revisions to Board Regulation
(ACTION)
 9. Report from Kids Count - The Learning Fund
 10. Report from the PEI School Trustees' Association
 11. Other Business

**EASTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT
TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVENTH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

The School Board for the Eastern School District met on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at Sherwood Elementary School, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Robert Clow, Board Chairperson
Sandy Clark
Richard Collins
Barbara Dingwell
Ronald Lee
Gael MacEachern
David Mitchell
Elizabeth Rankin
Edna Reid
Henry Somers

REGRETS: Anne Miller

ALSO PRESENT: Alex (Sandy) MacDonald, Superintendent of Education
Ricky Hood, Transitions
Donna Dawkins, Manager of Policy and Research
Cindy MacLean, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

01/09/09 **It was moved by Richard Collins and seconded by Ronald Lee that the agenda be adopted as presented. Motion carried.**

MINUTES OF MAY 29, 2009 SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

02/09/09 **It was moved by Ronald Lee and seconded by Sandy Clark that the Minutes of the May 29, 2009 Special School Board Meeting be adopted as presented. Motion carried.**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2009 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

03/09/09 **It was moved by Ronald Lee and seconded by Richard Collins that the Minutes of the June 9, 2009 School Board Meeting be adopted as presented. Motion carried.**

In business arising from the minutes, it was suggested that procedures for the Nominating Committee be reviewed next year to determine whether nominations should be moved and seconded individually.

MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2009 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

04/09/09 **It was moved by Richard Collins and seconded by Edna Reid that the Minutes of the June 17, 2009 School Board Meeting be adopted as presented. Motion carried.**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board Chairperson advised trustees to contact the Board Secretary if they wish to access specific items of correspondence. There were two items in addition to the Correspondence Summary dated September 3, 2009.

Further to the June 18, 2009 letter from the President of the PEI Home and School Federation, Gael MacEachern suggested that the Board try to schedule a presentation prior to the October 15, 2009 semi-annual meeting of the federation.

The Superintendent indicated that the parent's transportation concerns contained in a September 9, 2009 letter had been resolved.

PUBLIC INPUT

The Board Chairperson expressed appreciation to Principal Marian Grant for hosting the meeting and for providing a student-lead, bilingual tour of the school.

Welcome to Sherwood Elementary

Principal Marian Grant extended welcome to the Board and public to Sherwood Elementary School and provided highlights on student and staff activities. Ms. Grant made particular note of the value of early intervention programs such as Reading Recovery and the Primary Literacy Intervention Program.

UFIT Program

Gordon McNeilly made a presentation on programs offered through UFIT and commented on the proposed revisions to the Rental of School Property and/or Buildings Policy that would see the rental fee increased. Mr. McNeill requested Board support to expand the UFIT programs. (A copy of his presentation will be filed with the official minutes.) Mr. Rob Paterson also addressed the Board in support of the UFIT program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

Preliminary Enrolments

The Superintendent provided preliminary enrolment figures with 12,945 students reported as of September 9, 2009. Dr. MacDonald noted that enrolment had declined by 1,600 students over the past five years but with no teaching positions lost, the District is experiencing a good staffing situation.

Transitions Overview

The Superintendent indicated that Ricky Hood had agreed to continue with the District to oversee the transition of students from the recently closed schools.

Mr. Hood reported that many considerations have been addressed by people in the school communities and administrative office working together. Staffing and the physical moves were completed over the summer months and orientations for students,

staff and parents were held in every receiving school. Community use of closed schools continued over the summer where requested, and the disposal of surplus buildings will be determined by the provincial government. After one day of school, principals were pleased with the transition, although there were a number of transportation issues that will be addressed as soon as possible. Detailed transportation and route information for all schools will be provided to the Board by the end of December.

Mr. Hood circulated a binder of enrichment activities provided for students at Sherwood School.

Pandemic Planning

The Superintendent reported that the Chief Health Officer, Dr. Heather Morrison, and her Deputy, Dr. Sweet, presented information to principals regarding the H1N1 virus and pandemic planning, and they continue to work with District management regarding education and reporting matters. The H1N1 influenza is expected to affect PEI by mid-October, and schools will be reporting daily on student and staff absences due to influenza like illness. Any increased incidence will be reported to the Chief Health Officer. The Department of Health has also spearheaded preventative work by providing education materials for proper hand washing, cough and sneeze etiquette. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be installed in schools, and special cleaning procedures have been developed to help prevent the spread of the virus. The Superintendent sent a letter home to parents to keep them informed about H1N1 issues. Dr. MacDonald indicated that the District would take direction from the Department of Health in the event the pandemic affects a large number of Islanders.

Kindergarten Program and Transition

Dr. MacDonald reported that planning is underway for next year's introduction of kindergarten students into the school system along with the new grade 1 students. Walter Wilkins is the ESD representative on the Provincial Kindergarten Steering Committee, and District representatives serve on each of the provincial committees established to consider specific kindergarten issues. The Superintendent plans to visit schools to review possible space issues given the increased square footage requirements for kindergarten classes. Registration for kindergarten and grade 1 students beginning in September, 2010 will be held in September, 2009 rather than February, 2010 to assist with planning.

The PEI School Trustees' Association have a session planned for the Fall PD workshop to receive information about the transition of the kindergarten program into schools.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board Chairperson reported that Anne Miller was absent due to illness.

Vision and Strategic Planning

The Board Chairperson reported that a facilitator has been contacted to conduct a session for the Board on vision and strategic planning. Trustees will be informed when details are confirmed.

The Board Chairperson indicated that a committee of the whole session would be held following the meeting to discuss an outstanding item.

REPORT FROM THE FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

The first committee meeting of the new school year will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, 5:30 p.m. at the School Board Office.

REPORT FROM THE POLICY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The date of the first committee meeting will be announced in the next week.

SURPLUS PROPERTIES

05/09/09

It was moved by David Mitchell and seconded by Edna Reid that the Minister of Education be notified that the following properties are surplus to the needs of the Eastern School District effective September 30, 2009:

- Dundas Consolidated School
- Eastern Kings Consolidated School
- Fortune Consolidated School
- Grand Tracadie Elementary School
- Rollo Bay Consolidated School
- St. Peter's Consolidated School
- St. Teresa's Consolidated School
- Tracadie Cross Consolidated School

Motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes, 2 nays.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON TO THE FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

The Board Chairperson appointed Edna Reid to serve as Chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee for the 2009-2010 school year.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON TO THE POLICY, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

The Board Chairperson appointed Gael MacEachern to serve as Chairperson of the Policy, Planning and Development Committee for the 2009-2010 school year.

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF THE PEI SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

The Board Chairperson announced that ESD trustee, Ronald Lee, had been elected as President of the PEI School Trustees' Association for the 2009-2010 school year, which requires another ESD trustee to be appointed to join Richard Collins in serving as Directors of the PEISTA. The Board Chairperson appointed Henry Somers to serve on the Board of Directors of the PEI School Trustees' Association for the 2009-2010 school year.

REPORT FROM KIDS COUNT - THE LEARNING FUND

David Mitchell, ESD Director of Kids Count - The Learning Fund, reported on the history of Kids Count, and reported that it has become increasingly difficult to operate the foundation due to decreased donations and difficulty replacing retiring board members. The Executive Director and Chairman of Kids Count recently met with the Superintendent to request a review of the current situation.

Trustees were invited to attend the 10th Annual General Meeting of Kids Count - The Learning Fund to be held October 14, 2009 at the ESD School Board Office.

REPORT FROM PEI SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION

Richard Collins, ESD Director, reported that the first meeting of the PEISTA Board of Directors will be held September 17, 2009 at the ESD office. President, Ronald Lee, noted that the French Language School Board had appointed two new directors to serve on the PEISTA, and the annual grant had been received from the Department of Education for professional development.

Trustees were asked to contact Mr. Collins if interested in volunteering for the Atlantic Conference to be hosted in Charlottetown in January, 2010. The Minister of Education will be speaking at the conference.

Barbara Dingwell reported that she had received comments on the new mandate for the PEISTA, but the committee had not yet met to discuss input.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board Chairperson expressed appreciation to the Superintendent and all District staff for their efforts in making the first week of school successful.

06/09/09

It was moved by Richard Collins and seconded by David Mitchell that the meeting adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried.