



# **Chignecto-Central Regional School Board**

## **Committee-of-the-Whole**

# **MINUTES**

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**January 10, 2017**

**CCRSB Board Room - 7:00 p.m.**

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**Members Present:**

Scott Adamson  
Sharron Byers  
Adam Davies  
Vivian Farrell  
Robert George  
Jim Grue  
Ron Marks  
Wendy Matheson-Withrow

Marilyn Murray  
David Myles  
Margie Nicholson  
Reg Pauley  
Mackie Ross  
Glenda Talbot-Richards  
Trudy Thompson

**In Attendance:**

Gary Adams  
Chris Boulter  
Valerie Gauthier  
Stephanie Isenor-Ryan

Allison McGrath  
Herb Steeves  
Leanne Marchand – Admin Assistant-Board  
Sarah MacIntosh – Legal Counsel

**Absent:**

Andrea Paul – with regrets  
Denise Bell – Dept. of Education & ECD – with regrets

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Board Vice-Chair Marilyn Murray called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

It was MOVED by David Myles, seconded by Jim Grue  
**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **PRESENTATION: OVERVIEW OF PROVINCIAL LITERACY & MATHEMATICS STRATEGIES**

Darlene MacKeen Hudson, Coordinator of Mathematics, provided highlights from the provincial mathematics strategy, which is expected to be released next month. Ms. MacKeen Hudson explained that mathematics, due to its daily use, is an important foundation of learning.

For Nova Scotia students, learning mathematics is about the conceptual understanding of how and why mathematics works, and in proficiently communicating and using this understanding to estimate, reason, analyze, make connections and inferences, create and solve problems, and use technology effectively.

She addressed the following:

- Why does Nova Scotia need a provincial mathematics strategy?
- Our vision for mathematics in Nova Scotia
- Key elements in the mathematics strategy
- Connections to previous mathematics strategy

Emily Fahey, Coordinator of Literacy, reviewed highlights from the provincial literacy strategy. She explained that literacy is the foundation for all learning. For Nova Scotia students, literacy learning is about acquiring, creating, connecting and communicating meaning in a wide variety of contexts through listening, speaking, reading and writing.

She addressed the following:

- Why does Nova Scotia need a provincial literacy strategy?
- Our vision for literacy in Nova Scotia
- Research
- What does increased literacy in school require?
- Provincial and school board actions to date
- How will we measure success?
- Next steps

By 2020, the target goal for reading and writing will be an increase of eight per cent in the number of students who perform at or above expectations, as measured by provincial assessments.

Ms. Fahey is a member of the Provincial Literacy Steering Committee, while Ms. MacKeen Hudson is a member of the Provincial Mathematics Team. Both strategies originated from *Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education*, released in 2015.

Discussion followed regarding strategic goals, parent partnerships, adult learners, grade level outcomes, early years, assessments and the provincial homework hub.

Copies of the 2016 *Provincial Literacy Strategy* were circulated. Stephanie Isenor-Ryan, Director of Programs and Student Services, expects the provincial mathematics strategy to be released next month.

**PRESENTATION: NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS CONFERENCE**

Board Member Glenda Talbot-Richards presented highlights from the National Alliance of Black School Educators Conference she attended in November.

She reviewed key messages from the workshop *How to Grow and Cultivate Your Own Little Genius*. The session reviewed Maslow's Hierarchy of Human Needs, and the impacts of race, poverty, achievement gap, and under representation in advanced classes on achieving human needs.

Member Talbot-Richards also attended the workshop *A Process to Increase Black Student Participation in Gifted Programs*. It was noted that African American youth are three times less likely to be placed in a gifted program in comparison to white counterparts, and that increasing diversity of teaching staff increases likelihood of Black student placement in gifted programs.

The last workshop she reviewed was entitled *Recruiting and Retaining Under-Represented Students in Gifted Education: Setting Equity Goals*. Deficit thinking is the major reason gifted education under-representation exists and persists. At the classroom level, it manifests into less challenge and rigor in the curriculum for students of African descent which is a significant factor in the even larger issue of the achievement gap.

Discussion followed. There was interest in further professional development opportunities on the topic of cultural capital.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

It was MOVED by Vivian Farrell, seconded by Sharron Byers  
**THAT THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2017 BE APPROVED.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

There was no business.

## **HIGHLIGHTS / CONCERNS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:**

### ***Education Services:***

Glenda Talbot-Richards, Vice-Chair of the Education Services Committee, highlighted one item from the meeting held on January 3, 2018.

### **NSSBA Resolutions**

Members present discussed possible submissions for the Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA) resolutions. Director Isenor-Ryan will speak to these further on this evening's agenda.

Please note that the next Education Services Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 in the Central Office board room at 5:00 p.m.

### ***Financial Services:***

There was no report.

### ***Human Resources Services:***

There was no report.

### ***Operational Services:***

Vivian Farrell, Chair of the Operational Services Committee, highlighted the following item from the meeting held on December 19, 2017.

### **Additional Tangible Capital Assets**

Tangible Capital Assets (TCA) are projects over \$150,000 and funded individually by the Province. During the spring of each year the governing board submits a list of potential projects to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) for consideration.

In the fall EECD requested potential additional TCA projects which could be completed by March 31, 2018. Property Services responded with ones derived from the order on the CCRSB Major Maintenance Repairs List.

The following were approved:

Hants North Rural High:	Environmental remediation, building envelope repairs
Parrsboro Regional High:	Building envelope and stairwell repairs, locker room upgrades
A.G. Baillie Memorial:	Replacement of exterior doors and windows
Thorburn Consolidated:	Windows, doors and boiler replacement
Cyrus Eaton Elementary:	Windows, doors and siding repairs

Herb Steeves, Director of Operational Services, said the tendering process began prior to Christmas.

#### **DISCUSSION / INFORMATION / DECISION ITEMS:**

#### **NSSBA Resolutions**

Vice-Chair Murray informed the governing board members that NSSBA resolutions are due February 28, 2018.

Director Isenor-Ryan presented two potential resolutions on behalf of the Education Services Committee:

1. Bussing for Pre-primary children – this resolution will advocate for targeted funding to provide transportation for children who are participating in the Pre-primary program.
2. Parent and Student Charter

These resolutions will be considered for submission to the NSSBA next month, along with those submitted by the additional Standing Committees.

Much discussion followed, especially regarding the issue of bussing for Pre-primary children. It was decided that the governing board will wait to hear all proposed resolutions at next month's board meeting before deciding whether to request additional information on this topic.

It was suggested the board may wish to write a letter to the deputy minister looking for more clarification on this matter. The Education Services Committee will discuss further.

Board Member Adam Davies will circulate more information on the Parent and Student Charter.

The Standing Committees will complete their proposed resolutions, which will be circulated prior to the next Committee-of-the-Whole meeting on February 14, 2018.

### **Camp Campeche Criteria**

As a follow up to the Education Services Committee report, Board Member Wendy Matheson-Withrow asked if there was an application process for Camp Campeche, a trip offered through the Nova Scotia International Student Program (NSISP). If so, did all CCRSB high schools have the opportunity to apply? Supervisor Boulter will contact NSISP staff for more details regarding the application process.

### **2017-18 Board Self-Assessment Responses**

Gary Adams, Superintendent of Schools, thanked board members for completing the self-assessment questionnaire. Copies of the collated results were circulated, and board members were asked to review the responses prior to the January 17 Regular Public Board Meeting, and highlight questions they would like to discuss further. He noted that 6.7 per cent represents one person. The survey comments, which were not provided in the circulated document, will be collated and provided for future discussion.

### **Board Retreat ~ Strategic Planning**

Vivian Farrell, newly appointed Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, provided an update on the committee meetings held December 13 and January 10. She noted that additional strategic planning consultations have been held with community stakeholders. The Committee is currently planning the agenda for the governing board's professional development session, scheduled for January 26 – 27, 2017 at the Debert Hospitality Centre.

### **PRIVATE SESSION:**

There was no private session.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On the motion by Trudy Thompson, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

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Marilyn Murray, Vice-Chair

Meeting Date: January 10, 2018  
Approved: February 14, 2014

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Leanne Marchand – Admin. Assistant to the Board