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Overview

The Board of Trustees of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District held a regular public meeting at the District Conference Centre in St. John's, June 2018. The Chair opened the meeting by noting the public meeting was being broadcast online. The webcast can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CB3LmFc9xBw.

Below are highlights of the meeting.

School Reviews & Review of the Schools Act 1997

In light of the anticipated Provincial Government review of the Schools Act, 1997, trustees voted to postpone any further school review processes with the potential for school closure, with the exception of any schools with emerging issues that may need to be addressed in the upcoming school year. School reviews for the purposes of catchment review or grade configurations will continue to move forward as necessary.

Policies Approved

Two standing committees of the Board brought policies to the board for approval; the Programs and Human Resources Committee tabled the French Policy, while Finance and Operations Committee brought forth the Facility Security and Access Control policy.

New Schools and School Names

Following the Provincial Government's budget announcement of a new school for Bay d'Espoir Academy, District staff were provided with confirmation to seek a new site for the new facility construction. As a result of discussions with the school council and the Town of St. Alban's, Trustees approved the use of available sites in St. Alban's, pending confirmation of suitability from the Province.

Trustees also approved new names for two schools in the District;

- Bayview Academy was chosen for the name of the new K-12 school created from the
 consolidation of the former Appalachia High and Our Lady of Mercy Elementary in St.
 George's; and
- Admiral's Academy is the name chosen for the new elementary school in Conception Bay South, located in Kelligrews.

Special Motion – Indian River High

Trustee Blake brought forth a motion in support of the students of Indian River High, after their request to erect a rainbow crosswalk in the Town of Springdale generated much discussion. After being turned down by council, the school's Gender-Sexuality Alliance continued their commitment to bringing education to and awareness of the LGBTQ community. Chair Price committed to drafting a letter of support to the IRHS G-SA committee.

Reports

The Board approved the Quarterly Budget Status Update as presented by staff. Director Stack provided trustees with his Director's Report presentation, focusing on the successes achieved by schools and the District this past year in meeting goals set out within the organization's Strategic Plan, as well as updates on items from the Premier's Task Force Report and the Director's Principals Advisory Group.