



FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
Saturday, October 1, 2016 – 11:15 a.m.
District Conference Centre, Strawberry Marsh Road

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Finance and Operations Committee of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board was called to order at 11:15a.m. on Saturday, October 1, 2016.

Members Present: Goronwy Price, Chair
 Milton Peach, Board Chair
 Nada Borden, Committee Member
 Wayne Lee, Committee Member
 John George, Committee Member

NLESD Staff Present: Darrin Pike, Director of Education/CEO
 Terry Hall, Assistant Director of Education – Finance and Business
 Administration/Student Transportation
 Jim Sinnott, Director of Facilities and Custodial Management
 Susan Clarke, Administrative Assistant (Finance/Recorder)

Absent with Regrets: Gary Baikie, Committee Member
 Rick Martin, Committee Member

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by John George, seconded by Nada Borden and carried unanimously that the agenda be adopted as presented. *Carried.*

3. Approval of Minutes – September 27, 2016

It was moved by Wayne Lee, seconded by John George that the minutes of September 27, 2016 be adopted as presented. *Carried.*

4. New Business – Update Purposes Only

4.1 GAFE Rollout Update

This item was tabled by Terry Hall, Assistant Director of Education – Finance and Business Administration/Student Transportation.

On August 8, 2016 the District transitioned to Google Apps for education (GAFE) for its email and collaboration platform.

The District designed a website to introduce users to Google Apps, provide some instructional steps for important processes, and answer pertinent questions. This resource can be found through the District website Staff Room or by visiting the address: <https://www.nlesd.ca/staffroom/gafe/>. This site will be used to provide further announcements and updates related to this initiative.

Google Apps represents a proven, secure cloud environment for messaging, scheduling, communication and collaboration. By moving District communications to Google Apps, we have joined thousands of other Districts across Canada and throughout the world who are also using Google Apps for teaching and learning. Using this technology, teachers and students will have access to a system that is easy to use, scalable and can be tailored to meet individual needs of our diverse staff.

The decision to move to Google Apps is based on a technology focused approach to introduce innovation for teaching and learning in our classrooms. By putting the right tools forward, teachers can better help students reach their full potential. At this time we are managing approximately 82,000 users accounts compared to around 10,000 accounts in FirstClass.

Training for staff started back in late August where sessions were offered to school administrators in the form of introductory training sessions for this group. As well, during the last week of August, all District secretaries were provided with professional learning using Skype for Business. Starting the week of September 19, 2016 and continuing through today, the District is delivering “train-the-trainer” sessions for each school where a staff designate is getting a full day, face-to-face training on GAFE features and their use. This staff will then be able to provide professional learning and support back at their respective schools.

To facilitate support efforts, the IT Department has developed an IT Assist site (itassist.nlesd.ca) where schools can go to request support from items such as school related technology support to requesting GAFE account changes for staff and students.

The cost savings that is associated with this is not apparent but will be seen over time. Trustees will be using Google and not personal accounts for District purposes. This will be a recommendation to the new Board.

This item is for informational purposes only.

4.2 Vacant Properties Update

This item was tabled by Terry Hall, Assistant Director of Education – Finance and Business Administration/Student Transportation.

There are reports from media that all is on hold with regards to property disposal for the District. The District is proceeding with paperwork to dispose of properties but are waiting on Government to check into new ways of disposing of properties.

There are presently 18 vacant schools plus Nippard's Harbour. There were inquiries from Gerry Rogers, NDP and City of St. John's looking for one school in the center city to start an Arts Building. They have also approached Government for use of a vacant school. Booth, Bishops, MacPherson have all had appraisals, environment assessments and hazmats completed. These buildings are market ready when given the okay to proceed by Government. Any potentially high value properties are being discussed with Government. Other properties, we are still trying to dispose of via the tendering process.

This item is for informational purposes only.

4.3 Major Capital Update

This item was tabled by Jim Sinnott, Director of Facilities and Custodial Management.

School Infrastructure

New Schools open

- Octagon Pond 2016
- Waterford Valley High (2015)
- Roncalli Elementary (2015)

Ongoing Projects

- New 5-7 School – Torbay (December 2016)
- New 4-6 School – Gander (September 2017)
- New 5-9 School – Portugal Cove (September 2017)
- New K-7 School – CBS (September 2017)
- New Virginia Park Elementary (September 2017)
- Extension to St. Peter's Junior High (September 2017)

Future Projects

- G.C. Rowe
- St. Peter's Primary Extension
- Mobile Central Extension (2015 Budget approved new school)

- Paradise Intermediate (Deferred 2 years in Budget 2016)
- Paradise High (Deferred indefinitely in Budget 2016)
- Riverside Extension (Deferred indefinitely in Budget 2016)

Coley's Point site has been picked out but has been deferred for a year to 2 years. Tender ready with Government's approval to proceed. Site has been expropriated from owner.

This item is for informational purposes only.

5. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

6 **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by John George at 11:50a.m. *Carried.*