



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

*Chair: Goronwy Price
C.E.O./Director of Education: Darrin Pike, B. Sc., B.Ed., M.Ed.*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

SKYPE SESSION

Friday, March 17, 2017 – 1:30 PM

1. OPENING

An Executive Committee meeting of the Newfoundland & Labrador English School Board was held by Skype on Friday, March 17, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM.

Members present: Goronwy Price, Chair
Thomas Kendell
John Smith
Bruce Cluney
Lester Simmons
Winston Carter (In Person)

Also in attendance: Mr. Darrin Pike, CEO
Mr. Anthony Stack, Associate Director of Education (Skype)
Mr. Terry Hall, Assistant Director of Education
Mr. Lloyd Collins, Assistant Director of Education
Ms. Jackie Crane, Executive Assistant

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Executive meeting and thanked them all for taking the time to attend.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA (Tom Kendell/ Bruce Cluney) Carried

MOTION: The Executive Committee agreed unanimously to adopt the agenda.

3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES- two spelling errors noted and fixed.

3.1 January 23, 2017 (Lester Simmons/Tom Kendell) Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 No business arising.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Bay d'Espoir/Milltown School

Bay d'Espoir Academy is a K-12 school with 247 students and 28 staff members from the communities of Morrisville, Milltown-Head of Bay d'Espoir, St Veronica's, St Joseph's Cove and St. Alban's.

On January 17, 2017 a fire at the school complex at Milltown-Head of Bay d'Espoir completely destroyed the Primary-Elementary section, administrative suite, and the gymnasium. The section of the school housing the Intermediate-Senior High division was not destroyed but did sustain significant smoke, heat, and water damage.

Personnel from the Programs and Operations division visited the area on January 18th to identify possible interim locations for students and staff and identified the St. Alban's Town Office facility (formerly Holy Cross Community School) as a possible location that could accommodate all students and staff of Bay d'Espoir Academy. On January 19th, the Director and personnel from the Programs and Operations division toured the facility, met with the St. Alban's Town Council and an agreement in principle was reached between the Town and the NLESD.

On January 20th the Operations, Finance and Administration, and Programs divisions commenced the necessary work to prepare the location with a goal of have students return to school by Monday, January 30th. The building was in reasonable condition but a significant amount work was completed by all divisions and the school staff to complete the necessary life safety and maintenance renovations as well as installation and delivery of equipment, furniture and resources necessary for instruction. Intermediate and Senior High students returned to regular classes on Monday, January 30th with K-6 students returning on Wednesday, February 1st.

Since the start of classes, the Operations division has continued with necessary renovation and remediation work throughout the building and is in the process of addressing leaks in the gymnasium in the upstairs section of the building. The Programs division are working with teachers on an ongoing basis for the remainder of the school year to review and adjust yearly instructional plans and provide necessary supports.

While a great deal of work has been completed to transform the St. Alban's Town Council office into a suitable location, the site is not an ideal location and should not be considered as a permanent solution. Sections of the building are nearing 70 years old and the layout of the building is problematic for a K-12 school. Currently all space is maximized as learning spaces and there is no additional space for computer labs, science lab, library/learning commons, technology/skilled trades suite, appropriate student services suite or a cafeteria. There is no ventilation system in the building and sections of the building are not wheelchair accessible.

Remaining Section of Bay d'Espoir Academy

- In terms of the former location of Bay d'Espoir Academy in Milltown-Head of Bay d'Espoir, Department of Finance, Insurance Division personnel have completed a preliminary assessment of the Intermediate and Senior High structure and have determined it could be returned to use following a remediation process.
- However, this assessment did not include a complete evaluation of the electrical and ventilation systems and more particularly, what the costs would be to re-use this structure and incorporate it into new construction.
- There was significant smoke and heat damage to the building that would need to be addressed. As well as costs to bring all systems to current code requirements.
- There would also have to be a complete accessibility review, as the building was exempt (based on age) before the fire, but given the scope of the rebuild project, the entire facility would need to be brought up to current code before occupancy.

The K-6 and 7-12 sections of Bay d'Espoir Academy were constructed in 1962 as two separate buildings with the gymnasium being constructed in 1982. An administrative suite connecting all three structures was built in 2003. While well maintained, the remaining wooden structure is 55 years old and is near the end of its life span as a school. Given its age, this structure does present programming and physical challenges (i.e. the Intermediate-Senior High section was a two story building with a cafeteria and learning spaces located in a basement). In 2013, the Nova Central School District had identified the design and build of a new K-12 school at Milltown-Head of Bay d'Espoir as a capital priority #5.

MOTION: that the Executive Committee, recommend to the Board full replacement of the Bay d'Espoir /Milltown School, and further recommend that a location be determined through a site selection process, pending Ministerial Approval. (Winston Carter/John Smith) Carried

5.2 Premier's Task Force on Improving Educational Outcomes

There was a discussion regarding the Premier's Task Force upcoming meeting with the Board and the most effective way to communicate the concerns of the Board to the committee. We have a two hour meeting scheduled for April 1, 2017. The Director told the Executive that District staff have met with the Committee on numerous occasions and there has been detailed discussions around their mandate and that the District has provided a written submission to the Task Force. The Executive felt that the written submission would be a good starting point for the Board and it was agreed that Darrin would forward this information to the Board by Monday, March 20, 2017.

5.3 Retirement Functions

There was a detailed discussion about retirement functions and how they are not in line with government policy. A briefing was given to the Executive Committee regarding how retirements have been celebrated by past Boards, see below:

Each year in May and June the Board of the English School District has hosted retirement functions in each region as a means to recognize the many years of dedicated service provided by the retirees. Retirees from all operational functions are celebrated at a sit down meal and each individual is presented

with a small token of appreciation in the form of a print. While the cost in any given year depends upon the number of retirees across the District it has cost as high as \$60K but in the most recent year we have only budgeted and spent in the \$45K range on these functions.

If these functions are to continue then planning has to commence immediately.

Based on the definition and policy posted on the Government site retirement functions appear in violation of the Government Entertainment policy. Specifically, entertainment functions/expenses are to be with persons whom work is conducted and is limited to specific types of events. Retirement type celebrations appear to be the responsibility of the employee department and not a large scale function.

The Executive committee felt that the Board should recognize retiring employees but should also get on side with government policy. The following motion will go to the Board table:

MOTION: that the Executive committee, recommend to the Board, that the District discontinue the practice of retirement dinners in order to be in line with Government policy. (Winston Carter/John Smith)
Carried

5.4 Whitbourne Appeal

The Executive were provided with a copy of the Appellant's Factum. This is for information purposes and will be provided to the Board at our next meeting in April. The Whitbourne Appellant's are looking to have the previous boards decisions overturned based on the legislative requirement to hold an election in 2013. If successful, the decision to close Whitbourne Elementary would be overturned. We have engaged in dialogue with government regarding this Appeal.

5.5 Virginia Park Catchment Area

The new Virginia Park school is a two-stream facility (two classrooms per grade) that can support a population of approximately 350 students. The school has a full gymnasium, cafeteria with kitchen, music room, learning resource centre, and IRT rooms. The contractor is currently on schedule to have the new school open for September, 2017. The demolition of the existing school and remaining site works are a separate tender to be issued by Transportation and Works in the coming months.

In light of excess capacity at the new Virginia Park school and a growing student population at Mary Queen of Peace Elementary, the zone trustee (Zone 16) has asked the Board executive committee to recommend to the Board a review of the catchment areas of Mary Queen of Peace Elementary and the new elementary school in Virginia Park.

Staff have completed a very preliminary look at the catchment areas of both schools for any potential modification of catchment areas. Both schools feed St. Paul's Junior High and then Holy Heart of Mary High School.

Potential to Rezone East Meadows neighbourhood

Currently zoned to Mary Queen of Peace Elementary

Three separate areas reviewed in combinations:

Area 1 contains East Meadows Avenue and connected street system

Area 2 contains Parsonage Drive and connected street system as well as side streets Rocksley Place, Marconi Place, and Cook's Lane

Area 3 contains Lucy Rose Lane and connected street system

Mary Queen of Peace Elementary currently has 32 rooms, with one additional space that could be used

New building for current Virginia Park Elementary catchment designed for 14 rooms

Assumed to have no impact on EFI

MOTION: That the Executive Committee ask the staff to engage in a preliminary discussion with the administrators and also the school councils of the two schools and report back to the Executive Committee on the initial feedback received. The Executive Committee will inform the Board of Trustees that these initial discussions are to take place. (Lester Simmons/John Smith) Carried

5.6 Catchment Area Reviews

The Executive committee were provided with briefings on the following catchments:

- Corner Brook Regional High System
- Gander School System
- Mobile Central High School System
- Clarendville School System
- Paradise/Mount Pearl Senior High School System
- Prince of Wales Collegiate School System
- Portugal Cove-St.Philip's School Sytem
- Conception Bay South- Queen Elizabeth Regional High

Director Pike went through the detailed information provided to the Trustees, and identified areas of immediate concern in the near future. Chair Price then further elaborated on Mobile Central High System. He explained to the Executive that the previous Board had approved a new school which has since been rejected by Government and an extension is now approved. The Chair stated he has had conversations with Trustee Aspell regarding her concerns for the future of the Mobile system. Goronwy told the Executive that he has approached the Minister on her behalf and requested that the Government reconsider the decision to build an extension instead of a new school. The Minister has been clear that there will not be a new school and to continue with the extension as planned.

Chair Price stated that the activism has really stepped up in the Mobile community and that the Board has done what it can and the decision now lies with Government. Our current data tells us that we may have a population problem in 2021-2022. I recommend we write government and express the concern of the potential for over population 21-21. The Executive Committee agreed that a letter should go from the Chair to the Minister expressing this concern.

5.7 Elections Report

The Elections Report was provided for information purposes.

6. Adjournment to Closed

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 2:55 PM by motion from Tom Kendell.