

**Newfoundland and Labrador English
School Board Minutes
Special Meeting of the Board by Skype
*June 20, 2017***

1. OPENING

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board (NLESB) special meeting took place on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 12:10 p.m. at District Conference Center, 40 Strawberry Marsh Rd, St. John's. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Board, Goronwy Price. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Members present by SKYPE: Mr. Goronwy Price, Chair
Mr. Thomas Kendell
Mr. Bruce Cluney
Mr. Kevin Ryan
Mr. Wayne Lee
Mr. Hayward Blake
Mr. John George
Ms. Jennifer Aspell
Mr. Hilary Primmer
Mr. Corey Parsons (by phone)
Mr. Winston Carter
Mr. Peter Whittle
Mr. Scott Burden
Mr. Keith Culleton
Mr. Lester Simmons
Mr. Raymond Bennett (by phone)
Mr. John Smith
Mr. Bruce Cluney (joined at 12:17)

Also in attendance: Mr. Anthony Stack, CEO/Director of Education
Ms. Lucy Warren, Associate Director of Education, Programs and Operations
Mr. Lloyd Collins, Assistant Director of Education, Human Resources
Mr. Terry Hall, Assistant Director of Education, Finance & Admin
Mr. Ken Morrissey, Director of Communications
Ms. Jackie Crane, Executive Assistant

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Corey Parsons, seconded by Lester Simmons, and carried that the agenda be adopted as presented.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 **Motion to defer minutes** (Tom Kendell/Winston Carter) Carried

4. Business Arising

4.1 Whitbourne Elementary

Chair Price stated the purpose of this Special Meeting was to discuss Whitbourne Elementary. The Chair informed all present that motions to direct staff to provide additional information could be entertained, however a motion to rescind would be out of order. Chair Price then called on the CEO to provide an overview to all trustees regarding the process that was followed and the information gathered and provided prior to the vote by the previous Board to close Whitbourne Elementary. CEO, Tony Stack provided an overview to the full Board.

Trustee Culleton spoke to the topic and questioned legal council on why a motion to rescind would be out of order. Ian Wallace explained that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss Whitbourne Elementary and there is a process under the School Review Policy that needs to take place prior to a motion to rescind a school closure being voted on

Trustee Whittle asked if we could have a vote to suspend the bylaws and take a vote. Ian Wallace stated that the Minister approves the bylaws and they are used to guide the order of our meetings.

Trustee Blake felt if there was no decision to be made then we should recess the meeting and stated he was quite disappointed.

Trustee Burden thought that the purpose of the meeting was to have a generic discussion about Whitbourne for clarification. He felt that after this meeting we could discuss further in person at a later date.

Trustee Cluney stated he will reserve his comments for later.

Trustee Lee stated that due diligence has been done by the Board and suspending the bylaws would lead to chaos. He felt that when a closure is done we need to move forward. He also said that no community wants their school closed and trustees do not want to close schools but it is part of their role.

Trustee Kendell felt a little overwhelmed by the skype call today. He felt the decision should be revisited.

Trustee George asked if the Whitbourne decision is still before the court of appeal. He was told it was. He had no further comment.

Trustee Carter felt that as far as he is concerned we need to trust that the work was done by our senior staff and past trustees and the decision to close should stand.

Trustee Parsons would have liked to have the legal opinion regarding the motions provided to trustees prior to the meeting. He also stated that we need to have tighter parameters around how we choose which schools are reviewed.

Trustee Primmer has no comment.

Trustee Ryan felt that the court case needs to be settled before we make any decisions.

Trustee Aspell felt that the discussion should be around the process used to close schools. She also felt that the scope of the policy for school reviews would allow a motion to rescind and echoed Trustee Culleton's comments.

Trustee Whittle stated that there is new information and that this needs to be looked at again. He asked two questions 1) what are the savings from this move and 2) If Whitbourne are successful in the appeal what happens then? Ian Wallace answered the second question by saying that that will be a process followed out by the District. Trustee Whittle then asked what are we prepared to do to revisit this decision. Ian Wallace was asked to prepare a response for all trustees.

Trustee Smith reserved his opinion to a later date.

Trustee Culleton asked Ian Wallace if the trustees have all the information why a motion to rescind cannot put to the table. Ian Wallace said that it has to be based on a recommendation brought to the Board from the CEO prior to the trustees engaging in a discussion for decision.

Trustee Blake was asked if he wanted to add anything further, he stated he was disappointed and frustrated that there has been no closure brought from this meeting.

5. Committee Reports

No committee reports

6. New Business

No new business

7. Adjournment (Bruce Cluney) at 1:13

Chair

Recording Secretary