



FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
October 16, 2018 – 12p.m.
NLESD Headquarters
95 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL (Skype)

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 12:08p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

Members Present: Thomas Kendell, Chair
 Winston Carter, Committee Member
 Peter Whittle, Committee Member
 Keith Culleton, Committee Member

NLESD Staff Present: Tony Stack, Director of Education/CEO
 Terry Hall, Assistant Director of Education – Finance and Business
 Administration/Student Transportation
 Jim Sinnott, Director of Facilities and Custodial Management
 Ed Walsh, Associate Director of Educations (Programs/Operations)
 (Acting), ADE of Human Resources
 Susan Clarke, Administrative Assistant (Finance/Recorder)

Regrets: Goronwy Price, Board Chair
 Wayne Lee, Committee Member
 Ray Bennett, Committee Member

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Winston Carter, seconded by Keith Culleton that the agenda be adopted as presented. *Carried.*

3. Approval of Minutes – August 17, 2018

It was moved by Peter Whittle, seconded by Winston Carter that the minutes of August 17, 2018 be adopted as presented. *Carried.*

4. New Business (Motion)

4.1 Paradise Intermediate Land Purchase

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

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (GovNL) approved the construction of Paradise Intermediate School in 2015. The project was deferred in 2016, but renewed in 2017 and continued in 2018. District staff engaged with the Town of Paradise and the Department of Transportation and Works with respect to site selection. The preferred site is adjacent to existing recreation infrastructure (Diane Whalen Soccer Complex), and is in an area that is close to residential and along the route of planned transportation network to facilitate safe and efficient movement of the associated traffic.

The site is comprised of two parcels:

1. One owned by the Town of Paradise, which will be deeded over to the District with the roadwork undertaken by GovNL as compensation.
2. The other parcel is owned by Karwood Realty, with whom a Purchase and Sales Agreement has been reached, with per acre price of \$290,000 being essentially the midpoint of asking (\$313,000/acre) and appraised (\$270,000/acre) values.

Motion:

Moved by Peter Whittle, seconded by Winston Carter that the Finance and Operations Committee recommend to the Board, approval of the acquisition of the parcels of land required for Paradise Intermediate School from Karwood Realty and the Town of Paradise respectively, subject to Ministerial approval.

4.2 Strip of Land in Gander (Land Exchange)

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

The redevelopment of Gander Academy involves a new school being built onto the existing 1990's-era gymnasium, and the old school ultimately being demolished. As part of this process, the existing soccer fields will be impacted by construction, and ultimately a new realigned field will be associated with the new school. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development typically builds fields to Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) standard size of 100' x 50'. After a recent meeting between NLESD and the Town of Gander, the Town requested that the field be FIFA International size of 100' x 70', which is preferred for community use e.g. hosting tournaments in the

summer. Coincidentally, the survey of the property brought to light that a portion of the school site is actually owned by the Town. As a win-win solution to both issues, NLESD proposed to the Town and the Department of Transportation and Works (TW) that the Town deed the strip of property to NLESD in exchange for TW building the larger field. TW has approved this exchange, and will work with NLESD and the Town as required, subject to Board and Ministerial approval.

Motion:

Moved by Winston Carter, seconded by Keith Culleton that the Finance and Operations Committee recommend to the Board, approval of acquisition of the indicated parcel of land to complete the Gander Academy site, subject to Ministerial approval. *Carried.*

4.3 Easement in Labrador for EastLink

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

Eastlink is a telecommunications provider, including being the service provider to many NLESD schools, that is expanding their physical network in the province. The Board recently approved an easement on Swift Current Academy site. Eastlink has also requested permission to place such a cabinet on the perimeter of Menihek High School in Labrador City, at no cost to NLESD and no impact to the school. There is an existing generator and utility structure there for the Town's use of the school as warming centre, and this cabinet would be on the same piece of land. District staff have no objection to allowing Eastlink to locate said cabinet on our site.

Motion:

Moved by Peter Whittle, seconded by Winston Carter that the Finance and Operations Committee recommend to the Board, approval of an easement on the Menihek High School site for use by Eastlink, provided it is at no cost to the District and does not adversely impact the school. *Carried.*

4.4 Bus Purchase

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

Each year, the provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island undertake a joint school bus purchasing program. The tender number 0199002-20 has been awarded to Leeds Transit Inc. for purchases for delivery in the Spring/Summer of 2019.

Within the District-operated (commonly referred to as “board-owned”) fleet of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, there are thirty three (33) model year 2006 buses that have to be removed from service as of June 2019 in accordance with Department of Education and Early Childhood Development policy. Additionally, there are four (4) model year 2007 buses that have been deemed unrepairable to meet Highway Traffic Act legislation and another ten (10) model year 2007 buses that are recommended for replacement due to the significant cost to repair combined with their minimal remaining useful life.

Motion:

Moved by Keith Culleton, seconded by Winston Carter that the Finance and Operations Committee recommend to the Board, approval to:

- a. **Purchase forty seven (47) buses at a total cost of \$5,584,134 (HST included); and**
- b. **Borrow up to \$6,000,000.00 with an amortization period of twelve (12) years; with such approval further subject to Ministerial approval. *Carried.***

4.5 Heritage Sale

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

Former Heritage Academy in Greenspond, NL closed in 2016 and was recently offered for sale by public tender.

Six (6) bids were received ranging from \$5,500 up to \$42,000. The highest compliant bid received was from Alliance Builders Ltd.

No denominational interest in the property.

Motion:

Moved by Winston Carter, seconded by Peter Whittle that the Finance and Operations Committee recommend to the Board, approval to accept the offer by public tender from Alliance Builders Ltd in the amount of \$42,000 for the sale of former Heritage Academy in the community of Greenspond, subject to Ministerial approval. *Carried.*

4.6 Long Island Academy (Transfer to Town)

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

Former Long Island Academy in Lushes Bight-Beaumont was recently tendered for sale, with a closing of September 13, 2018.

When the Town was made aware that a tender was issued, they contacted the District and advised a water filtration system for the Town is located on the property.

This filtration system was installed, however there is no documentation on file and according to the Town, no agreement or papers signed.

The Town emailed the District (cc'd Minister and local MHA) requesting that the District consider transferring to the Town so property can be used for town activities.

The District cancelled the tender. Department desire is to work with the Town if possible.

No denominational interest in the property.

Motion:

Moved by Winston Carter, seconded by Keith Culleton that the Finance and Operations Committee recommend to the Board, approval for the District to convey the property to the Town for nominal consideration, subject to Ministerial approval. *Carried.*

New Business (Discussion/Information Only)

4.7 Update on Morris

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

Morris Academy is an approximately 50 year old school in Mt. Pearl that is currently heated by an oil fired boiler system. The system is end of life, so NLESD requested conversion to electric heat some years back. NL Power requires an easement in order to get power to the school to facilitate this work.

The land in question is owned by the Morris Estate. There are existing powerlines due to historical circumstances, installed when the Morris Estate expected the City of Mt. Pearl to buy this land to extend Edinburg Drive to Roosevelt Avenue opposite the school. However this purchase did not occur and the City has no plans to ever purchase it. NL Power will not place new powerlines

without a proper easement, the Morris Estate have been left with unusable land so will not sign an easement, consequently NLESD's only option to get electrical service is to purchase the land. The Department of Transportation and Works advised NLESD they will fund this purchase to facilitate the electrical upgrade.

The District is currently in discussions with the City of Mount Pearl on potential solutions to acquire or gain access to land. Once a solution is established, recommendation will be brought forward to Committee.

For information purposes only.

4.8 Update on Clarenville Primary and Millcrest in Grand Falls

Clarenville Primary

Terry Hall, ADE – Finance and Business Administration/Student Transportation provided an update on current events surrounding Clarenville Primary. There is Denominational interest in this property with the United Church of Canada. We have had interest from the Town of Clarenville and another group looking to build low interest housing but the UCC declined a transfer and wants property tendered and proceeds split.

There is a Crown Grant attached that states "For Church Use Only" which needs to be amended prior to tendering. The UCC has agreed to provide the District with a Quit Claim to allow the process to start to change the Grant.

The Town has issued a Demolition Order to the District on the property to which the District filed an appeal. Once in a position to tender it will be tendered for sale with Demolition Order attached.

Net proceeds of any sale will be split 50/50 with the UCC.

Millcrest

Terry Hall, ADE – Finance and Business Administration/Student Transportation provided an update on current events surrounding the vacant Millcrest School in Grand Falls-Windsor. The RCEC holds a Denominational interest in this property. The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor wants to acquire the Gym portion of the old school for a recreation complex for their programs.

Church does not agree to transfer the school to the Town but is willing to sell. District held a meeting with both parties and RCEC agreed to complete 2 surveys – 1 with just the Gym portion of parking lot and 1 with a survey of the remaining school and lot.

If feasible, RCEC will consider selling to the Town. Remainder will be put up for tender.

For information purposes only.

4.9 Plastic Straws in Schools – discuss approach

There were discussions regarding the proper approach to deal with this item.

There will be a need to exempt certain students due to needs. Possible regulations to be added in the Healthy Schools Policy or Nutrition Policy.

Communications team to look at possible campaigns/ads with a tentative implementation in September of 2019.

For information 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 Winston Carter at 1:03pm. *Carried.*