



*OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR*

*Chair: Goronwy Price  
C.E.O./Director of Education: Anthony Stack*

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **SKYPE**

**April 5, 2019 10 AM**

#### **1. OPENING**

An Executive Committee meeting of the Newfoundland & Labrador English School Board was held on April 5, 2019 at 10 AM.

Members present: Goronwy Price, Chair  
Wayne Lee  
Lester Simmons  
Winston Carter  
John Smith  
Scott Burden

Regrets:

Also in Attendance: Terry Hall, Assistant Director of Education  
Ms. Bernadette Cole Gendron, Solicitor  
Elaine Cross, Executive Assistant

#### **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** The Executive Committee agreed unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented. (Scott Burden / Winston Carter) Carried

#### **3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

3.1 MINUTES December 20, 2018 (Wayne Lee / John Smith) Carried

#### **4. BUSINESS ARISING**

4.1 No business arising

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1 Political Activity by Trustees

The District currently has a Political Activity Policy for employees, which was adapted from that of the Provincial Government. The District currently finds itself with no formal policy to cover similar activities by its Trustees. Given the high standard we hold for our employees, it is important that Trustees lead by example and govern themselves by similar standards. The Board will need to develop a political activity policy for Trustees, however, in the interim, the Board should agree that Trustees who decide to seek a nomination and/or run as a candidate should:

- Immediately advise the Chair, in writing, and temporarily take leave of their Trustee seat. If the Chair chooses to engage in political activity, they will advise the Vice-Chair.

Post nomination and/or election the following should occur:

- A Trustee who takes leave of their seat from the Board but fails to gain nomination or win the election may return to their duties as a Trustee.
- A Trustee who is successful in the election must permanently resign their seat on the Board of Trustees and the seat will be deemed vacant.

While seeking nomination or running as a candidate, the following activities are prohibited:

- Using confidential Board information or publicly criticizing the policy decisions and directions of the Board for which the Trustee was part;
- Using School Board premises, supplies, equipment, email or services for the purposes of any political activity;
- Participating in other political activities that are deemed inappropriate by the Chair and/or Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development.

There was discussion around the table and everyone was in agreement with the Interim Political Activity Memo as outlined in the package.

With regard to the last item regarding "...activities that are deemed inappropriate by the Chair and/or Deputy Minister..." it was noted that this is part of the Provincial Government Policy and is to cover anything not listed but that which might not be appropriate.

**MOTION:** That the Executive Committee recommend that the Board of Trustees of NLESD govern themselves by at least the rules outlined in this motion until it develops and approves its own policy to manage Trustee political activity. (John Smith / Lester Simmons)

All in favour.

### 5.2 NLTA Letter to Trustee

Trustee Carter received a letter from the NLTA dated March 28, 2019 wherein he has been disinvited to the 2019 BGM Presidential Banquet and that he not be recognized or welcomed during the 2019 BGM General

Sessions, as a result of his involvement in a recent decision of the Board regarding an NLTA member.

There was discussion around the table regarding the inappropriateness of this letter and what the Board's response would be. There was agreement that the letter was unprofessional and deemed a bullying tactic by the NLTA in an attempt to possibly sway voting members of the Board in future decisions.

**MOTION:** That the Executive Committee approve, on behalf of the Board, that a written response be sent from the Chair to the NLTA. (Lester Simmons / John Smith)

Five in favour/One against.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11 AM by a motion from Wayne Lee.