



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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

**Newfoundland and Labrador English
School Board Minutes**
April 24, 2021

1. OPENING

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board (NLESB) meeting took place on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at the District Conference Centre, Strawberry Marsh Road, St. John's, NL. The meeting was called to order by the Chair of the Board, Goronwy Price, at 3:00 PM.

Members present: Mr. Goronwy Price, Chair
Mr. Wayne Lee, Vice-Chair
Mr. Guy Elliott
Mr. Raymond Bennett
Ms. Pamela Gill
Mr. Scott Burden
Mr. Thomas Kendell
Mr. John George
Mr. Winston Carter
Ms. Jean Butt
Mr. Eric Ayers
Mr. Steve Tessier

Regrets: Mr. Kevin Ryan (technical issues with virtual attendance)

Also in attendance: Mr. Anthony Stack, CEO/Director of Education
Mr. Ed Walsh, Associate Director of Education (Programs and Human Resources)
Mr. Terry Hall, CFO/Assistant Director of Education (Corporate Services)
Ms. Georgina Lake, Assistant Director of Education (Student Services)
Ms. Cheryl Gullage, Manager of Communications
Ms. Susan Tobin, Manager of Policy
Ms. Sarah Byrne, Parliamentarian
Ms. Elaine Cross, Executive Assistant

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: It was moved by Thomas Kendell and seconded by John George that the agenda be adopted as presented. (Carried)

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 March 30, 2021 Minutes adopted (Winston Carter/Ray Bennett) Carried

4. Business Arising

4.1 No business arising.

5. Director's Report

Mr. Stack presented the Director's Report to the Board, which highlighted Kinderstart Online Registration, Resumption of In-class Instruction and Blended Learning, Scenario 2, and New Pedagogies for Deep Learning.

The Chair thanked the Director for his report.

To mark National Volunteer Week, the Chair also thanked trustees for their work as volunteers with the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board.

6. Committee Reports

6.1 Executive Committee Report – No Report

6.2 Finance and Operations Committee Report – April 15, 2021

The Chair of the Finance and Operations Committee, Trustee Tessier, provided an update to the Board from the April 15, 2021 meeting of the committee. (Details are contained in the committee minutes.)

Quarterly Budget Status Update – Period Ended December 31, 2020

Budget Highlights

Total Budget

Original Budget (total)	\$829.28 Million
Revised Budget (total)	836.76 Million
Budget Increase	7.44 Million

Expenses are expected to remain within budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year, although certain expenditures may exceed the approved budget allocation and budget transfers within these categories may be required.

Budget Adjustments

The total budget, as previously presented, has been decreased by \$200,000 to align with the confirmed one-time funding budget provided to the District. The revenue and related salary expenses have both been corrected and reduced by \$200,000.

The attached schedules summarize the operating results compared to the revised budget for the period ended December 31, 2020.

Motion: That the Board approve the revised Quarterly Budget Status Update for the period ended December 31, 2020, as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee. (Steve Tessier/John George) *Carried.*



City of St. John's Easements – Bishop Abraham

The former Bishops College was sold to Pennecon and is being converted to a senior's facility. The City of St. John's recently contacted the District, and, as a part of the redevelopment, they would like to upgrade traditional ad-hoc walking paths in the area, predominantly used by Bishop Abraham students, such that they are formalized and maintained by the City.

Motion: That the Board approve the easements as required for the City of St. John's to upgrade the Bishop Abraham trail network, as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee. (Steve Tessier/Ray Bennett) *Carried.*

Sale of Former Our Lady of Labrador, West St. Modeste

The former Our Lady of Labrador was closed by the Western School District in 2010. The NLESD listed the property for sale by tender in 2014, garnering no bids. It has been listed with a real estate agent since that time.

A Quit Claim was signed by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation for the specific school land in 2016, in exchange for \$1,000 consideration and their retention of most of the original grant.

A 2017 prospective sale fell through due to the Crown Grant restriction that was in place at the time. The associated "for church and educational use" grant restriction was subsequently removed by the Crown Lands in 2018. The Town of West St. Modeste charges the District \$15,000 a year in municipal fees. A recent offer was made for \$20,000, which relieves the District of the potential liability of a closed building as well as the ongoing municipal fees. Prior to receipt of the formal offer, the District wrote the Town inquiring if they were interested in obtaining title, however there was no response.

Motion: That the Board approve the sale of the former Our Lady of Labrador for \$20,000, subject to Ministerial approval, as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee. (Steve Tessier/Winston Carter) *Carried.*

Transfer of St. Agnes School to Town of Pouch Cove

The former St. Agnes School in Pouch Cove was closed by the Avalon East School District in 2002. As a former church-owned school, the site was subject to Section 84 of the Schools Act, specifically in this case the building was to be removed and the site returned to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation (RCEC). However, subsequent to demolition of the building, hydrocarbon contamination was discovered in the soil. Consequently, the site was purchased from the RCEC based on a cost benefit analysis – specifically the ~\$100,000 purchase price was ~25% of the cost of remediation.

The Town of Pouch Cove expressed interest in purchasing the land some years back, but withdrew upon reading the environmental report. They have now approached the District seeking to have the land transferred to them at no cost, subject to their obtaining funding to pursue a new remediation method in partnership with Memorial University.

Motion: That the Board approve the sale of the former St. Agnes School in Pouch Cove to the Town of Pouch Cove for nominal consideration including the District's legal costs, subject to Ministerial approval, as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee. (Steve Tessier/Guy Elliott) *Carried.*



Transfer of Land to the Town of Deer Lake for Medical Clinic Elwood Complex

The medical clinic in the Town of Deer Lake is owned/operated by a non-profit corporation. The Town contacted the District some time ago seeking to acquire land from the rear of the Elwood Elementary/High School complex in order to expand the clinic and its parking lot. In exchange, the Town offered to upgrade the recreation area, which is also behind the school, along with some associated civil (e.g. parking lot and walkway) improvements.

Motion: That the Board approve the sale of the land at the rear of the Elwood schools to the Town of Deer Lake in exchange for the Town undertaking site improvements as agreed to between the Town and the District and illustrated in the concept plan, subject to Ministerial approval, as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee. (Steve Tessier/Jean Butt) *Carried.*

Relinquish Crown Grant – English Harbour West

The District was recently contacted by an individual interested in acquiring property in English Harbour West. This land was granted to the Bay d'Espoir Integrated School Board in 1986 with a grant restriction "for the purpose of a school". The land is not of any current or future use to the NLESD. Given this is vacant land, the best way to proceed is for the District to relinquish the grant back to the Crown, and the individual to acquire from the Crown.

Motion: That the Board approve relinquishing the unused grant in English Harbour West back to the Crown, as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee. (Steve Tessier/John George) *Carried.*

Sale – St. Theresa's, Port aux Choix

The former St. Theresa's in Port aux Choix was closed by the Western School District in 2010. The NL English School District listed the property for sale by tender twice, garnering no bids. It has been listed with a real estate agent since that time. The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation will retain most of the original grant for the church onsite. The proceeds of sale, minus expenses will be split between NLESD and RCEC. A previous prospective sale fell through due to the restrictions RCEC places on future use. Potential hydrocarbon contamination has been disclosed to the buyer via an environmental report. This report, commissioned by the Western School District, postulates that the contamination is from an adjacent property that previously housed a gas station and bulk fuel storage facility. The current offer of \$55,000 relieves the District of the potential liability of a closed building as well as receive a modest return. The purchaser intends to use the facility for non-cannabis agriculture, and has agreed to a restrictive covenant per RCEC's wishes.

Motion: That the Board approve the sale of the former St. Theresa's, Port aux Choix, for \$55,000, subject to Ministerial approval, as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee. (Steve Tessier/Winston Carter) *Carried.*

Photocopier Lease and Financing

Request for Board approval of \$800,000 to purchase approximately 137 photocopiers (multi-function devices) for various schools throughout the District. These photocopiers will replace existing copiers that were installed at least five (5) years ago, and in which the service agreements and/or leases have already expired and/or are due to expire by September 2021. Please note that there are approximately 173 copiers that are due



to expire by the beginning of 2022; however, the District will prioritize replacements for this request and will look at replacing the additional 36 devices for the 2022-23 school year.

These purchases shall be made via the Managed Print Services Contract awarded to Xerox by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Lease financing would be arranged through the Royal Bank of Canada with a five (5) year amortization term, and would require Ministerial approval.

Motion: That the Board approve the:

1. purchase of up to \$800,000 (inclusive of net HST) worth of replacement copy/print/duplication technology from Xerox under the provincial RFP, and
2. arrange the necessary lease financing with a five year amortization term, with such lease financing subject to Ministerial approval, as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee. (Steve Tessier/John George) *Carried.*

MOTION: That the Board approve the Finance and Operations Committee Report of April 15, 2021 as presented. (Steve Tessier/Eric Ayers) *Carried*

Trustee Burden requested that the Finance and Operations Committee review the matter of holding more virtual Board meetings, in place of in person. Trustee Tessier confirmed this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

6.3 Programs and Human Resources Committee Report – No Report

7. New Business

7.1 Education Foundation Report – No Report

7.2 NLISE – No Report

7.3 School Milk Foundation Report – No Report

7.4 Trustee Political Activity Policy Review

Trustee Burden requested a clarification of the process regarding political activity by trustees (whether provincial or municipal) and whether it presents a conflict of interest requiring them to resign from the Board. After discussion, it was decided that it would be referred to the Executive Committee of the Board for a full review.

Motion: That the Board refer Trustee Political Activity to the Executive Committee for full review, with a recommendation to be brought back to the Board. (Wayne Lee/Pamela Gill) *Carried.*

8. Correspondence sent to the District

8.1 NLESD Staffing Allocations for 2021-22 School Year



9. Correspondence sent from the District

- 9.1 Vacant Trustee Zone 12 Request
- 9.2 Vacant Trustee Zone 14 Request
- 9.3 Vacant Trustee Zone 16 Request

10. Adjournment at 3:55 pm by a motion from Trustee Wayne Lee.

Chair

Recording Secretary

