



*OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR*

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

**Newfoundland and Labrador English  
School Board Minutes**  
*June 12, 2021*

**1. OPENING**

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board (NLESB) meeting took place on Saturday, June 12, 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 2:00 PM.

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

Regrets: Mr. Raymond Bennett

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  
Mr. Justin Hewett, Parliamentarian  
Ms. Elaine Cross, Executive Assistant

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

3.1 April 24, 2021 Minutes adopted (Pamela Gill/John George) Carried

#### **4. Business Arising**

##### **4.1 Bayview Primary School Closure**

A notice was presented to the Board of Trustees on November 21, 2020 that a motion would be brought to the Board to vote on the closure of Bayview Primary.

Bayview Primary in Nipper's Harbour has not had any students in attendance since at least the amalgamation of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District in 2013. Maintaining ownership/control of the building and land therefore poses a liability to the District while achieving no benefit. The Town of Nipper's Harbour has expressed interest in acquiring the building and property from the District. However, before this transfer can be executed, the school needs to be formally closed.

A notice of the Motion to close was posted in the community on April 26, 2021 inviting input from anyone in the community on the potential closure. No one expressed an interest in providing any feedback.

As such I bring the following motion:

##### **MOTION: Bayview Primary, Nipper's Harbour**

**WHEREAS:** Bayview Primary in Nipper's Harbour has not had children in attendance since at least June, 2013;

**AND WHEREAS:** Maintaining ownership/control of the building and land therefore poses a liability to the District while providing no benefit;

**AND WHEREAS:** The Town of Nipper's Harbour has expressed interest in acquiring the building and property from the District to use for community purposes;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that:

Bayview Primary will close effective June 12, 2021. (Wayne Lee/Jean Butt) Carried.

#### **5. Director's Report**

Mr. Stack presented the Director's Report to the Board, which provided an infrastructure update, information on the upcoming Cayenta launch, and highlighted Deep Learning in the District.

The Chair thanked the Director for his report.

#### **6. Committee Reports**

##### **6.1 Executive Committee Report – No Report**



## 6.2 Finance and Operations Committee Report – June 8, 2021

The Chair of the Finance and Operations Committee, Trustee Tessier, provided an update to the Board from the June 8, 2021 meeting of the committee. (Details are contained in the committee minutes.)

### Lind Avenue Property – Grand Falls-Windsor

The subject property housed a District-owned, denominational-era Board Office building on land owned by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation (RCEC). It is noteworthy that the land was transferred to RCEC by the AND Company in the early 1960s vs being a Crown Grant. It is also noteworthy that this is part of a broader parcel, which involves the former Millcrest Academy that we are in the process of working through disposal of with the RCEC.

**Motion:** That the Board approve a Quit Claim on the former Board Office property on Lind Avenue, Grand Falls-Windsor, as recommended by the Finance and Operation Committee, subject to Ministerial approval. (Steve Tessier /John George) Carried.

### Vehicle Financing

In support of District operations, a fleet of service vehicles is utilized by tradespersons attending to maintenance of schools. In total there are approximately 60 vehicles – the oldest is a 1999, the newest a 2019, and the average age of the fleet is just over eight years. The District's repairs and maintenance budget is focused on direct school infrastructure, but we are at a point where fleet renewal is required due to frequent breakdowns and increasing service costs that are not economical in the long term, i.e. we are into engine and transmission replacements for vehicles with 300+ kilometers.

The District participated in the Public Procurement Agency standing offer agreement for fleet vehicles, which offers the most competitive pricing available. To that end, we can obtain 18 full-sized cargo vans and/or pickups for approximately \$530,000 (average ~\$29,000 each) pre- HST, approximately \$575,000 with rebate applied, which we propose financing over 5 years.

**Motion:** That the Board approve the borrowing \$575,000 to finance service vehicles, as recommended by the Finance and Operations Committee, subject to Ministerial approval. (Steve Tessier /Wayne Lee) Carried.

### Gov-104 School Review Policy

Under the Schools Act, 1997 the definition of school is:

2.(p) *“school” means the body of school students that is organized as a unit for the purpose of education and includes teachers and other staff members associated with the unit and the lands and premises used in connection with the unit;*

In regards to school reviews and closures, the Act states:

76(2) states *“...a board may close a school only after the parents of students affected have been given an opportunity to make representations to the board.”*

There have been numerous court actions related to school closures over the years, giving rise to jurisprudence concerning what is required by the Board by process to meet the requirements of 76(2). The Board lays out the detail of this process in policy Gov-104 School Review. However, one omission in this policy is the definition of what comprises a school. In the absence of a definition, the Board has potentially imposed a restriction upon itself to follow a process even where a school is already effectively closed by virtue of not having students. To rectify this, it is suggested that the Board explicitly acknowledge under policy Gov-104 School Review that the definition of a school is per the Schools Act, 1997.



**Motion:** That the Board approve the addition of the following definition to policy Gov-104 School Review: “SCHOOL per the Schools Act, 1997”. (Steve Tessier /Winston Carter) Carried.

**MOTION:** That the Board approve the Finance and Operations Committee Report of June 8, 2021 as presented. (Steve Tessier/Winston Carter) Carried

### **6.3 Programs and Human Resources Committee Report – No Report**

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1 Education Foundation Report – May 5, 2021**

The Chair of the Education Foundation, Jean Butt, provided an update to the Board from the May 5, 2021 meeting of the committee. (Details are contained in the committee minutes.)

Trustee Jean Butt was acclaimed as new Chair of the Education Foundation Committee.

### **Scholarship Applications for 2020/2021 and Grant Applications for 2021-2022**

Last school year (2019-2020), the Newfoundland and Labrador Education Foundation offered 50 scholarships at \$1,000 to graduating students across Newfoundland and Labrador. This was an increase from previous years where the Foundation offered 27 scholarships at \$1,000. This increase was decided upon due to the Covid-19 impact along with the fact that the Foundation had excess funds because of the suspension of the Innovation Awards and Grants and no other funding initiative program was implemented in its place at that time.

For this school year (2020-2021), it is proposed that we establish 36 scholarships at \$1,000 with eight of those being awarded to students with Academic status and eight being awarded to students with General status who are intending to pursue further education. The remaining 20 will be awarded as per normal past procedure. The breakdown for awarding to each region is as follows: 13 (nine, two and two) – Avalon Region, nine (five, two and two) – Central Region, eight (four, two and two) Western Region and six (two, two and two) Labrador Region. The option to add up to five scholarships specific to NLESD employee’s children will also be considered for implementation if possible.

A form to implement and proceed with funding requests from schools in the form of Grants will be finalized for posting. The Education Foundation followed this procedure prior to the merger, which created NLESD and was quite successful and very much appreciated by schools who were looking for available funding for various educational purposes (library enhancements, musical instruments, drama, arts, science, etc.). We could use the same process with Deep Learning initiatives being the main point of focus. We would have each school apply for the funds via a form and submit to the Education Foundation for review and selection with two established deadlines for November (Fall Grants) and March (Spring Grants) of the school year. These grants would be up to \$1,000 and we would offer 40 grants in total (20 for each deadline). To be fair, only one grant per school will be permitted in a given school year.

There is also funding that can be considered for lower grade levels. Possibility of sponsoring contests (posters, essays, art projects, etc.) and awarding certificates and/or award amounts in the \$50-\$100 range.



**Motion:** Moved by Pamela Gill, seconded by Thomas Kendell that the Newfoundland and Labrador Education Foundation Board approve to proceed with the 36 scholarships valued at \$1,000 for graduating NLESD students for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. *Carried.*

**Motion:** Moved by Goronwy Price, seconded by Thomas Kendell that the Newfoundland and Labrador Education Foundation Board approve the implementation of the 40 grants for schools as outlined, which will be administered beginning November 2021. *Carried.*

## Discussion Items

### Thought Exchange results for future funding considerations

The Newfoundland and Labrador Education Foundation, Inc. is a registered, charitable organization committed to enhancing the education experience of students in the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District. The primary purpose of the Foundation is to raise and allocate funding for scholarships, programs, projects, activities and initiatives that support student achievement and success throughout the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District.

Its mission is to enhance educational opportunities for students in Newfoundland and Labrador English School District through innovative community partnerships. The Foundation relies on the generous support of Newfoundland and Labrador English School District teaching and support staff to support its fundraising initiatives. This support is provided through a staff 50/50 payroll deduction that awards 27 scholarships annually.

Student inequity was highlighted as an issue during the development of the District's 2020-23 Strategic Plan. As a result, the District included an indicator to address inequities through a review of the allocation model of funds disbursed by the Education Foundation.

The District conducted a Thought Exchange in January 2020, to gain feedback on the disbursement of funds collected from the staff 50/50 payroll. The report can be accessed via:

<https://my.thoughtexchange.com/report/7c7a3a731e8700e3be44d351393ec193>

The report provides an overview of participants, their interest in joining the payroll deduction and areas that they feel are worthy of support with funds collected.

The above, approved initiatives stem from feedback from employees via the Thought Exchange process. It is hoped that these changes to disbursement of NLEF funds may entice more employees to join the 50/50 draw.

## 7.2 NLISE – No Report

## 7.3 School Milk Foundation Report – March 10, 2021

Member of the School Milk Foundation, Trustee Ayers, provided an update to the Board from the March 10, 2021 meeting of the committee. (Details are contained in the committee minutes.) Highlights from the meeting included decline in milk sales this past year and an approved increase in milk prices.

**MOTION:** That the Board approve the School Milk Foundation Report of March 10, 2021 as presented. (Eric Ayers/Thomas Kendell) *Carried*



## 7.4 Board Meeting Schedule 2021-22

Trustees reviewed the proposed board meeting schedule for 2021-22.

### DRAFT BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2021-22:

Month	Dates	Location
SEPTEMBER 2021	25 <sup>TH</sup> /26 <sup>TH</sup>	ST. JOHN'S
NOVEMBER 2021 (AGM)	20 <sup>TH</sup> /21 <sup>ST</sup>	ST. JOHN'S
JANUARY 2022	22 <sup>ND</sup> /23 <sup>RD</sup>	ST. JOHN'S
FEBRUARY 2022	26 <sup>TH</sup> /27 <sup>TH</sup>	ST. JOHN'S
APRIL 2022	9 <sup>TH</sup> /10 <sup>TH</sup>	ST. JOHN'S
JUNE 2022	11 <sup>TH</sup> /12 <sup>TH</sup>	ST. JOHN'S

### MEETING STRUCTURE SEPTEMBER - JUNE

SATURDAY	8:30 – 5:00 PM BOARD MEETING/WORKING SESSION
SUNDAY	8:30 – 11:00 AM AS REQUIRED

**MOTION:** That the Board approve the proposed Board Meeting Schedule for the 2021-22 school year as presented. (Wayne Lee/Steve Tessier) Carried

Trustees Burden and Ryan noted the expense of six in-person meetings in St. John's each year, along with the time required for some trustee to travel from some areas of the province. It was requested that several meetings be held virtually, instead of in-person.

The Chair noted that this would be a Board decision. There is an option at every meeting to join virtually.

Trustees Lee and George noted that all other Board work (including regular committee meetings) are conducted virtually throughout the year. There are benefits to coming together to meet in person that cannot be obtained through virtual attendance. It is also difficult to be online for 8 hours consecutively.

Trustee Lee raised a Point of Order in response to comments made by Trustee Burden wherein he believed he was being accused of making a false statement. Trustee Burden misunderstood commentary made by Trustee Lee regarding his comment that it is a false equivalency to believe that 13 hours on a zoom meeting is the same as 13 hours in-person.

Trustees Burden and Ryan voted against the motion.

## 7.5 Raymond Ward Memorial (Norman Bay) Closure

Norman's Bay is an [isolated settlement<sup>\[1\]</sup>](#) in [Newfoundland and Labrador](#), situated at the head of Norman Bay, an extension of Martin Bay. The population of the community is 19. The community is reliant on the



postal, air, and medical services in nearby [Charlottetown](#). The community is not accessible by road and is serviced by a ferry port in Charlottetown.<sup>[2]</sup>

Raymond Ward Memorial School is a K-Level III school located in Norman Bay, and is part of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (Labrador Region). As of June 2020, the enrollment was one student in Grade 8. He has been the only student registered at RWMS since the 2017-2018 school year when he was in Grade 5. In addition, there have been no Kinderstart/Kindergarten registrations during that time period.

The school had one teacher, a sole charge teaching principal, and a part-time custodian. The school offered the provincially prescribed curriculum depending on the student registration each year. In the past, senior high students, if any, did most of their courses through CDLI.

During the 2019-2020 school year, a 2nd year teacher was hired to be the sole charge principal at RWMS. It was filled as a term position because the candidate did not have an M. Ed. and did not reapply the following year. There was very little interest in the job and it was offered on many occasions only to be rejected.

Ultimately, the parent decided to move to Charlottetown (Labrador) and registered her son in Gr 8 at William Gillett Academy on September 21, 2020. A bursary application was sent to the parent on October 19, 2021 and it was completed shortly thereafter and submitted to the District and EDU.

In early May, 2021, the parent was contacted by District staff at which time the parent indicated their intention to register their child at WGA again for the upcoming school year. As such, there are no students currently attending or registered to attend Raymond Ward in the upcoming year.

As such I bring the following motion:

**MOTION:** Raymond Ward Memorial School, Norman Bay, NL

**WHEREAS:** Raymond Ward Memorial School, Norman Bay, NL has not had children in attendance since September, 2020 and no students registered for the upcoming school year;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that:

Raymond Ward Memorial School, Norman Bay, NL will close effective June 12, 2021. (Wayne Lee/Guy Elliott) Carried.

## 7.6 Basque Memorial (Red Bay) Closure

Basque Memorial All Grade is located in the community of Red Bay on the south coast of Labrador. It is located on the main highway approximately 80 kms from Mary's Harbour, Labrador and 50 kms from L'Anse au Loup, Labrador. The school population for 2019-20 was 4 students. The grade range was as follows:

**2019-2020 Student Registration**

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
<b>Basque Memorial</b>	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	NA	4						



It should be noted that on Monday, August 5, 2019, the Trustees of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board approved a grade reconfiguration for Basque Memorial in Red Bay, Labrador. Since opening in its current location in 1992, Basque Memorial had operated as a K-12 school. Following a request in June, 2019 from the Red Bay parent community, the District undertook a review to consider reconfiguring Basque Memorial from a K-12 school to a K-6 school and transporting students in Grades 7-12 to Labrador Straits Academy in L'Anse au Loup. The parent request cited the availability of more diverse academic programming; opportunities for involvement and sports activities, and more social interaction with peers as justification for the change. It was agreed that Basque Memorial be reconfigured from a Kindergarten to Grade 12 school to a Kindergarten to Grade 6 school and that Grades 7 to 12 be assigned to Labrador Straits Academy effective September 2019.

In 2019-2020, the school was allocated 1 teacher. There was no administration time allocated to the school but Basque Memorial did avail of shared guidance services with Labrador Straits Academy. The school had 20 hours per week of secretary time and 25 hours per week of custodian/janitor time. The secretary was laid off in September 2020 and the custodian/janitor was placed on reduced hours as the school was placed in “caretaker” mode.

The projected enrollment for September 2020 was two students with a grade configuration of:

- Gr 2 - 1
- Gr 5 - 1

In January 2020, the principal of Basque Memorial and Labrador Straits Academy started to receive messages from parents in Red Bay of their intention to register their children at Labrador Straits Academy due to the low numbers of students expected at the school. Both students officially transferred to LSA on August 31, 2020, leaving no current students at the school. The two remaining students were grade 6 students so they moved to Gr 7 @ LSA automatically with redesignation of BMAG as K-6 school. The families of two students who were initially registered to attend Kindergarten in September, 2020, subsequently informed the District of their intentions to move their children to LSA. Both students were officially transferred to LSA on August 31, 2020, leaving no incoming students for the school.

All four parents were contacted by the District in early May, 2021 and all indicated their intentions to continue their child in attendance at LSA. As such, there are no students currently registered for Basque Memorial for the upcoming school year.

As such, I bring the following motion:

**MOTION: Basque Memorial All Grade, Red Bay, NL**

**WHEREAS:** Basque Memorial All Grade, Red Bay, NL has not had children in attendance since June, 2020 and no students registered for the upcoming school year;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that:

Basque Memorial All Grade will close effective June 12, 2021. (Wayne Lee/Thomas Kendell) Carried.



**8. Correspondence sent to the District**

- 8.1 Trustee Zone 12 Declared Vacant
- 8.2 Trustee Zone 14 Declared Vacant
- 8.3 Ministerial Approval – Land Transfer Roncalli Elementary
- 8.4 Ministerial Approval – Photocopier Lease and Financing
- 8.5 Ministerial Approval – Land Purchase Exploits Valley High
- 8.6 Ministerial Approval – Sale of Bayview Collegiate (St. Lunaire-Griquet)
- 8.7 Ministerial Approval – Sale of Former Clarenville Primary

**9. Correspondence sent from the District**

- 9.1 Ministerial Request – Land Transfer Roncalli Elementary
- 9.2 Ministerial Request – Sale of Our Lady of Labrador
- 9.3 Ministerial Request – Transfer of St. Agnes School (Pouch Cove)
- 9.4 Ministerial Request – Photocopier Lease and Financing
- 9.5 Ministerial Request – Sale of St. Theresa’s (Port au Choix)

Trustee Kendell requested clarification on Item 8.5, regarding the purchase of land for snow removal purposes.

**10. Adjournment at 3:10 pm by a motion from Trustee Eric Ayers.**

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Chair

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Recording Secretary

