

NEWS RELEASE

November 30, 2017

Trustees Hold Productive Meeting on Education

The Board of Trustees for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District Board held a public meeting Saturday, November 25, 2017. Board Chair Goronwy Price opened the meeting by acknowledging the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.

After consultation with both school communities and an extensive review by trustees, new student attendance zones for East Point Elementary and Mary Queen of Peace Elementary were approved. Effective September, 2018, zones will be realigned so that students within East Point Elementary's Exclusive Family Responsibility Zone (with the exception of Gregory Street, Lucyrose Lane and Gerard Place) attend East Point Elementary.

Six school review processes have been underway, with the school communities involved sharing initial feedback through online forms. The tabled Notice of Motions and new feedback surveys are available online at www.nlesd.ca for school communities to provide their input to trustees. The school systems involved and the changes proposed are outlined in the accompanying background.

"Our recent meetings provided a great opportunity for trustees to gather and discuss many important issues facing our public education system," said Chair Price. "As we begin the next phase of the school review process, I encourage all members of the school communities to visit our website and share their feedback with the Board."

Following a review of the coordinating organization and school community concerns brought forward to the District, trustees discussed Operation Christmas Child. Trustees passed a motion to direct all District schools to cease participation in this activity. Additionally, trustees directed staff to develop guidelines for schools regarding their interactions with outside or third party organizations who wish to participate or organize activities within District schools.

Trustees also approved Brookside Intermediate as the name of the new grades 5-9 school in Portugal Cove-St. Philip's. The school council undertook a consultation process where the name was voted on by the school community and provided to the Board for approval.

The Board of Trustees for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District is composed of 17 elected trustees, responsible for the governance of 65,600 students and 10,000 employees.

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BACKGROUND

School systems currently under review for the 2017-18 school year are as follows:

- **James Cook Memorial School System** - proposed closure of James Cook Memorial with students to attend White Hills Academy;
- **Appalachia High School System** - proposed consolidation of Our Lady of Mercy Elementary and Appalachia High School;
- **St. James Regional High School System** - proposed closure of LeGallais Memorial with students attending either St. James Elementary/ High or Grandy's River Collegiate;
- **H.L. Strong Academy School System** - proposed closure of H.L. Strong Academy;
- **Point Leamington Academy School System** - proposed closure of Leading Ticks Primary with students to attend Point Leamington Academy; and,
- **Swift Current Academy School System** - proposed closure of Swift Current Academy with students to attend Tricentia Academy.

More information on the school system review process is available at www.nlesd.ca.