

NEWS RELEASE

February 6, 2018

School Board Meeting Includes Decisions on School Review Process

Trustees of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board held a meeting on February 3, 2018 at the new East Point Elementary in St. John's. For the first time, the public meeting of the Board was live broadcast on the website of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District for school community members to view deliberations of trustees.

Following in-depth discussion at the morning study session of trustees, six motions pertaining to the recently undertaken school review process were tabled at the public meeting. Trustees approved a motion to close H.L. Strong Academy in Little Bay Islands effective June 2018. Trustees also approved a motion to consolidate Our Lady of Mercy Elementary and Appalachia High School in St. George's, effective September 2018. A transition team will be established to coordinate the consolidation process and further information will be communicated to the school community in the coming weeks. Trustees did not approve motions to close James Cook Memorial in Cook's Harbour, LeGallais Memorial in Isle aux Morts, Swift Current Academy, and Leading Tickles Primary. These schools will remain open for the 2018-2019 school year.

Trustees also passed policies recommended by two standing committees of the Board. The Programs and Human Resources Committee recommended the Political Activities in Schools policy and the Research Studies and Survey policy. The Finance and Operations Committee recommended the Internal Audit policy.

"Live broadcasting the public meeting of the elected trustees was an important step to further engage our school community members throughout the province and help them become more aware of the actions and roles of school board trustees," said Goronwy Price, Chair. "An important aspect of this awareness was the results of the school review process, which saw trustees vote on motions this weekend after extensive consultation with the impacted school communities. I would like to thank all the school community members who participated throughout the process for providing their input, and to the trustees for their engagement in the process."

A recording of the meeting is available on the District website: www.nlesd.ca.

The Board of Trustees for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District is composed of 17 elected trustees, responsible for the governance of 65,300 students and 10,000 employees.

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