



**HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
October 23, 2013
6:00 p.m.**

A Regular Board Meeting was held this date in the Board Chambers,
33 Spectacle Lake Drive, Dartmouth, NS.

PRESENT: Bridget Ann Boutilier Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison
Melinda Daye Nancy Jakeman
Gin Yee Cindy Littlefair
Dave Wright Christy Linders
Steve Warburton

Chris Abraham, Student Advisor
Tristan Maxwell, Student Advisor
Denise Bell, Regional Education Officer

REGRETS: Kirk Arsenault
Alan Lowe, Senior Advisor, School Board Relations

STAFF: Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent
Gary Adams, Senior Staff Advisor
Judy White
Selena Henderson, Corporate Secretary
Mike Christie, Director, Human Resource Services
Terri Thompson, Director, Financial Services
Doug Hadley, Coordinator, Communications
Danielle McNeil-Hessian, Director, School Administration
Alison Leverman, Director, Program
Ron Heiman, Director, Operations Services
Gerard Costard, Coordinator, Information Technology
Susan Tomie, Coordinator, School Administration
Tracey Jones-Grant, Coordinator, Diversity Management
Kelly Connors, Communication Officer
Sandra Thomas, Executive Administrative Assistant to the
Superintendent
Vicki Palmeto, Assistant to the Corporate Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:59 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**It was moved and seconded (Wright/Boutilier) that the agenda be approved.
(CARRIED)**

3 AWARDS / PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Aboriginal Student Support Workers - In Honour of Mi'Kmaq History Month

Diane Obed, Aboriginal Student Support Worker at Auburn High School, presented.

4 PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

September 24, 2013 (Regular)

**It was moved and seconded (Blumenthal-Harrison/Wright) that the minutes/business arising from the minutes of September 24, 2013, Regular Board meeting be approved.
(CARRIED)**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

Gin Yee, Chair, presented the Chair's report. A copy of the Chair's report is filed with the minutes.

**It was moved and seconded (Yee/Wright) that the Governing Board officially thank Judy White for serving with us for the past 14 months.
(CARRIED)**

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent, presented the Superintendent's Report. A copy of the Superintendent's Report is filed with the minutes.

9. ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 9.1 Report #13-10-1435 - F.004 Solid Waste Management Policy – Selena Henderson, Corporate Secretary, and Ron Heiman, Director, Operation Services

It was moved and seconded (Jakeman/Boutilier) that the Governing Board approve Report #13-10-1435 - F.004 Solid Waste Management Policy.
(CARRIED)

- 9.2 Report #13-10-1436 - Distributed Learning Policy – Selena Henderson, Corporate Secretary, and Alison Leverman, Director, Program

It was moved and seconded (Linders/Jakeman) that the Governing Board approve Report #13-10-1436 - Distributed Learning Policy.
(CARRIED)

- 9.3 Report #13-10-1434 - D.006 Progressive Discipline Policy – Selena Henderson, Corporate Secretary, and Mike Christie, Director, Human Resource Services

It was moved and seconded (Jakeman/Boutilier) that the Governing Board approve Report #13-10-1434 - D.006 Progressive Discipline Policy.
(CARRIED)

- 9.4 Report #13-10-1433 - D.005 Secondary Employment Policy – Selena Henderson, Corporate Secretary, and Mike Christie, Director, Human Resource Services

It was moved and seconded (Daye/Wright) that the Governing Board approve Report #13-10-1433 - D.005 Secondary Employment Policy.
(CARRIED)

- 9.5 Report #13-10-1437 - B.010 Report Child Abuse and Neglect – Selena Henderson, Corporate Secretary, and Danielle McNeil-Hessian, Director, School Administration

It was moved and seconded (Jakeman/Wright) that the Governing Board approve Report #13-10-1437 - B.010 Report Child Abuse and Neglect Policy.
(CARRIED)

- 9.6 Board Chair Gin Yee provided the following notice of motion:

By-law Revisions

- Revisions to the index page
- Revisions to Appendix A - Agenda
- Addition of Appendix D – Terms of Reference – Policy Development and Review Committee

9.7 Board Member Dave Wright provided the following notice of motion:

I move that staff prepare a report in response to the transportation recommendations by the Sackville High and Millwood High Boundary Review proposal (doc #13-03-1397) referred to on Page 5 – Map Exchange 6 and Map Exchange 7 by the November Regular Board meeting.

It was moved and seconded (Wright/Boutilier) that the Governing Board approve

(CARRIED)

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Audit Committee

Board Member David Wright indicated the Audit Committee would be meeting on November 13, 2013

10.2 Nova Scotia School Boards Association

Board Member Melinda Daye provided an update.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

11.1 Report #13-10-1438 - B.003 Creating School Populations– Selena Henderson, Corporate Secretary

Selena Henderson, Corporate Secretary, presented the report.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

Board Member Steve Warburton provided the following notice of motion:
It was moved that the Governing Board move its regular board meeting to the communities we serve, in high schools and/or community centres and to include the necessary by-law revisions to make this effective.

It was moved and seconded (Blumenthal-Harrison/Warburton) to waive the notice of motion.

(DEFEATED)

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting – October 23, 2013

14. IN-CAMERA

15. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded (Blumenthal-Harrison/Wright) that the meeting be adjourned.

(CARRIED)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Gin Yee
Chair
Halifax Regional School Board

Selena Henderson
Corporate Secretary

Prepared by Vicki Palmeter
Assistant to the Corporate Secretary

**Chair's Report
Board Meeting
October 23, 2011**

Good evening, everyone.

Tonight is our first regular board meeting with Elwin as our superintendent. It is also our last meeting with Judy in attendance.

I want to speak to the significance of both this evening.

First, I want to congratulate Elwin publicly on his appointment. A superintendent is the most important hire for a school system and I speak for all board members when saying we are extremely pleased to have a person with Elwin's qualifications and skills in this position.

Elwin was absolutely the best candidate, period. He demonstrated this clearly throughout the interview process and with 24 years of experience in various roles in our system, he knows our strengths and challenges better than anyone.

I was asked by media on a couple of occasions if the process to find a superintendent was taking longer than expected. I don't believe it was a matter of how long it took, but that we got the right person for the job.

As a Governing Board we made a conscious decision to develop a strategic plan to guide us for the next four years, and then found the right candidate to fulfill our vision.

So Elwin, good luck in your new role.

As we welcome our new superintendent, we also say good bye to Judy. On behalf of the Governing Board, I want to thank Judy White for the tremendous leadership she has provided to the system for the past 14 months as the interim superintendent.

Judy, knowing that we had someone with your ability in place allowed the governing board to take the time we needed to find right candidate for this job.

We wish you well as you re-enter retirement. We hope it sticks this time.

On another note, yesterday, I had the pleasure of attending the swearing in ceremony for the new provincial cabinet in Annapolis Royal. After the ceremony, I had the opportunity on behalf of the Governing Board to congratulate the new Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, Karen Casey.

I wished her well on her new appointment and offered my support as she takes on this portfolio. Having previously served as Education Minister, Ms. Casey is aware of many of the issues facing schools and school boards. I presume she will make an effort to visit with each board early in her mandate to discuss issues of interest but if it is the wish of the board, I will extend an invitation to meet in the near future.

As this is the last meeting before next month's election of the chair and vice-chair, I want to thank my fellow board members for having had the opportunity to serve as your chair for the past year. I have enjoyed the role immensely and hope I have met your expectations.

I have enjoyed working with Steve as vice-chair and would welcome him to say a word or two if he wishes.

It is an honour and a pleasure to work with you.

Thank you.

Steve?

Superintendent's Report to the Board
October 23, 2013

Good evening everyone!

I'm pleased to present you with my first report as the new Superintendent of the Halifax Regional School Board.

The past three weeks have been full of great change here at Central Office... Aside from announcing a new Superintendent, we also named a new Director of Program and a new Senior Staff Advisor, both whom I will introduce in just a few moments. And there will continue to be change as we move to replace them in their former roles.

I want to begin this evening by thanking you, the Governing Board, for having the confidence to place me in the Superintendent's role. Although I am personally thrilled with the challenge and opportunity, I am even more proud of what this tells our system...and trust when I say; **this has been a loud message to our system.**

I have received many supportive and encouraging messages which include personal reflections from individuals in various roles in our system sharing how:

- they feel affirmed in the work they are doing;
- they feel recognized and supported by this governing board; and
- they feel you have great confidence in the work that is being done in our board.

In September, I read *Cultures Built to Last*, by Richard DuFour & Michael Fullan.

Here's an interesting quote that caught my eye:

"One way to promote continuity of direction is to look for leaders from within the organization during transitions. Studies of both private sector organizations and educational systems that were able to sustain improvement over long periods of time found that they almost exclusively promoted leaders from within. Changes were evolutionary rather than revolutionary because the systems were constantly developing tomorrow's leadership today."

This quote rings true for me.

As you know, in the past few weeks we've also hired 2 other internal candidates for senior roles.

I'd like to formally introduce and welcome Alison Leverman, our new Director of Program.

Alison has been with the board for 22 years as a teacher, a Vice Principal, a Principal and as part of the Program Department. For the past 9 years, she has been sitting at the PFI/CSI leadership table, most recently as the Facilitator of Continuous School Improvement.

Alison brings many strengths to her new role, including a deep understanding of how to affect positive change and a passion for student achievement and school improvement.

Many of you may not know that Alison is a musician who majored in double bass in university! As music and band teacher, she learned to play a variety of instruments from clarinet to piano, but her passion is the bass. To this day, Alison still plays her Fender electric in a band.

Welcome Alison!

I'd also like to introduce and welcome Gary Adams as our new Senior Staff Advisor.

Gary has been a teacher, a Vice Principal and a Principal in our system, most recently, a School Administration Supervisor.

Gary has been involved in Provincial committees, including: curriculum development for the arts as well as the Grade 9 Inquiry-Based Curriculum Project. He has also worked with provincial groups relating to our School Information System-PowerSchool, including incident tracking, the attendance pilot, emergency management planning.

Here at the board, Gary has done in-depth work on collaborative models to advance Continuous School Improvement, including Professional Learning Communities and Networked Learning Communities.

Like Alison, Gary also majored as a musician in university and still performs on trumpet from time to time.

Here's one more interesting fact: Gary and Alison first met in the 80s when they stood next to each other in the NS youth orchestra!

Welcome Gary!

Gary and Alison are the newest members of our Senior Staff team. As Superintendent, I'm deeply excited – yet humbled – to work with such a

strong team of leaders. Together, we will continue to build on the tremendous strengths of our Senior Staff and our entire system.

I firmly believe that every single employee – both past and present – has had an impact on where we are today.

And we are in the very best place to decide where we will go tomorrow.

So where are we going – and how will we get there?

That's what I am going to ask principal to reflect on tomorrow morning when we meet to discuss Continuous School Improvement....

ELWIN'S BELIEFS – *to present from slide show*

...and I have already begun to see that learning as I visit schools.

Yesterday, I visited 5 schools, including O'Connell Drive Elementary.

In this Grade 6 classroom, students had studied a novel and then represented what they learned through various media.

I was also impressed when visiting a classroom at Bedford South School. Here, students are using Lego to build a working elevator. Creative minds plus great instruction? Amazing things happen!

Other schools I have had the pleasure of visiting include Basinview, Rocky Lake Jr. High, Humber Park, Bell Park, Graham Creighton, Gaetz Brook Jr. High, YPT and FLECs.

I also attended the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development session on cyberbullying in Wolfville;

And with many of you, I attended NSSBA conference on community engagement;

Next month, I look forward to presenting the Superintendent's Annual Report for 2012-2013!

Now...I certainly can't sign off without thanking Judy White for her tremendous work over the past 14 months. Judy and I first worked

together as vice-principals at CPA in 1997. That means she has been an incredible mentor and role model to me **since the last century!**

Her problem-solving approach is admired by principals and her leadership skills are second to none. But what is most significant about Judy is that she remains as much a teacher on the last day of the job as she was on the first. She has helped us all remain focused on learning, supporting students and doing the absolute best job we can.

On behalf of the students and staff of the HRSB, I again wish her all the best in her retirement.