



**HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
February 26, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

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

PRESENT:

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| Bridget Ann Boutilier | Steve Warburton |
| Melinda Daye | Nancy Jakeman |
| Gin Yee | Cindy Littlefair |
| Dave Wright | Christy Linders |

Alan Lowe, Senior Advisor, School Board Relations
Chris Abraham, Student Advisor
Tristan Maxwell, Student Advisor

REGRETS:

Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison
Denise Bell, Regional Education Officer
Kirk Arsenault

STAFF:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded (Boutilier/Wright) to add three in-camera items to the agenda.

(CARRIED)

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

(CARRIED)

3. AWARDS / PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Black National Anthem - Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing – Board Member Melinda Daye

3.2 Joseph Howe Choir – Cindy Cain, Choir Director

The Joseph Howe Choir performed.

3.3 Hope Blooms

Unable to attend and will be rescheduled at a later date.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

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

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

6. PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

February 6, 2013 (Regular Board)

It was moved and seconded (Daye/Linders) that the minutes/business arising from the minutes of the February 6, 2014, Regular Board meetings be approved.

(CARRIED)

8. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

9. ITEMS FOR DECISION

9.1 Report #14-02-1451- French Immersion in the Millwood Family of Schools Report – Gary Adams, Senior Staff Advisor, and Alison Leverman, Director, Program

It was moved and seconded (Jakeman/Warburton) that the Governing Board approve that the Millwood and Sackville Boundary Review Committee’s recommendation to extend Early French Immersion eligibility to the Millwood Family Schools.

(DEFEATED)

9.2 Report #14-02-1452 - 2014-2015 Draft General Fund Business Plan – Terri Thompson, Director, Financial Services

It was moved and seconded (Boutilier/Linders) that the Governing Board approve the draft 2014-2015 General Fund Business Plan and forward to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

(CARRIED)

9.3 Board Chair Gin Yee provided the following Notice of Motion:

1. That section 3.08 of the HRSB bylaws be revised to add “reasonable child care costs” as section 3.08 (a) (vi)
2. That section 3.08 of the HRSB bylaws be revised to add “print and digital advertising” as section 3.08 (a) (vii).

It was moved and seconded (Yee/Jakeman) that the Governing Board approve the By-law revision as follows:

3.06 Other Eligible Expenses

- (a) The Board shall approve an annual budget per Member for other expenses incurred by Members in the performance of their duties as follows:

vi) reasonable childcare expenses, and

(CARRIED)

It was moved and seconded (Yee/Littlefair) that the Governing Board approve the amended By-law revision as follows:

3.07 Other Eligible Expenses

(b) The Board shall approve an annual budget per Member for other expenses incurred by Members in the performance of their duties as follows:

vii) publishing Governing Board member contact information; except for six months before a school board election.

(CARRIED)

9.4 Board Member Steve Warburton provided the following Notice of Motion:

A future public Board meeting would be held at the new Charles P. Allen High School.

It was moved and seconded (Wright/Jakeman) that the Governing Board approve the amended motion that a future public Policy Development and Review Committee meeting would be held at the new Charles P. Allen High School.

(CARRIED)

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Audit Committee

10.1.1 Report #14-01-1449 - December 31, 2013 – Quarterly Business Plan and Financial Update

Board Member Christy Linders, Chair of the Audit Committee, provided an update on the Audit Committee meeting and the December 31, 2013 – Quarterly Business Plan and Financial Update.

10.2 Policy Development and Review Committee

Board Member Steve Warburton, Chair of the Policy Development and Review Committee, provided an update.

10.3 Nova Scotia School Board Association - Board Member Melinda Daye, NSSBA Director

Board Member Melinda Daye provided an update.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting – March 26, 2014

14. IN-CAMERA

It was moved and seconded (Linders/Boutilier) to move in-camera.

(CARRIED)

14.1 Personnel Matter – Mike Christie, Director, Human Resource Services

14.2 NSTU Local Agreement Ratification - Mike Christie, Director, Human Resource Services

14.3 Contract Approval – Ron Heiman, Director, Operation Services

14.4 SIP 2014-15 Premiums – Terri Thompson, Director, Financial Services

14.5 Lease Extension – Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent

14.6 Contract Award – Ron Heiman, Director, Operation Services

It was moved and seconded (Linders/Wright) to move into regular sessions.

(CARRIED)

It was moved and seconded (Linders/Boutilier) to approve motions made in-camera.

(CARRIED)

15. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded (Linders/Daye) that the meeting be adjourned.

(CARRIED)

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Gin Yee
Chair
Halifax Regional School Board

Selena Henderson
Corporate Secretary

Prepared by Vicki Palmeter
Assistant to the Corporate Secretary

**Board Meeting
February 26, 2014
Gin Yee – Speaking Notes**

Fellow board members, Mr. Superintendent, members of staff, ladies and gentlemen, good evening.

For a month with the fewest days, February has been an extremely busy month. I'd like to take a couple of moments to highlight a few of the events and activities that I have attended.

On February 12, I had the opportunity, to join the Minister of Education and the Superintendent on a tour of J.L. Ilsley. As you may recall, J.L. Ilsley was on our capital submission list to the province and while it did not receive funding, the Minister did want to visit the school and walk the halls.

On February 17, I was at Dartmouth High for the unveiling of the Viola Desmond Mural which was done by students in the African Canadian Studies 11 class, in partnership with BridgeCAT.

It is a tremendous piece of artwork and I was pleased a number of board members attended the event.

The following day, February 18, some board members and staff attended the Halifax Chamber of Commerce luncheon to hear Premier

Stephen McNeil speak. Premier McNeil made it very clear that education is a priority for his government and he hinted at the scope of the upcoming education review.

On February 19, Minister Casey announced that former Lieutenant Governor and HRSB teacher, Myra Freeman would chair the Education Review Panel. Ms. Freeman will be joined by five others on the panel and they begin by seeking public opinion on what is working with public education and what needs improvement. The panel's report is due by the end of September.

Both Premier McNeil and Minister Casey indicated that everything is on the table for this review. I believe this is good news because if we truly want to see improvement we can't look at things in isolation. We need to consider all components of the system if we are going to see effective change.

Also last Wednesday, Minister Casey met with the board for a general question and answer session. Without recapping the time, I was pleased with how things went and I thought the Minister demonstrated a thorough understanding of the issues we face both as a board and as a province. I look forward to continuing our shared work to improve learning for all students.

And before I conclude my remarks, today I had the opportunity to attend an African Heritage Month assembly at Nelson Whynder. It was a wonderful event and the students were so proud to share their talents and experiences with everyone who attended.

These are just a few of the events and activities that I wanted to mention since my last report. I look forward to continuing our work as we move into the spring and address issues like the budget and business planning process.

Thank you.