



**HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
February 6, 2014
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
Mike Christie, Director, Human Resource Services

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
Tracy O’Kroneg, Coordinator, Human Resource Services
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
Vicki Palmetter, Assistant to the Corporate Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. AWARDS / PRESENTATIONS

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

November 27, 2013 (Regular Board)

It was moved and seconded (Wright/Linders) that the minutes/business arising from the minutes of the November 27, 2013, Regular Board meetings be approved.
(CARRIED)

8. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

9. ITEMS FOR DECISION

9.1 Motion from Board Member Christy Linders:

I move that the Board direct the Policy Development and Review Committee to begin developing a policy and associated procedures regarding Digital Citizenship.

It was moved and seconded (Linders/Wright) that the Governing Board direct the Policy Development and Review Committee to begin developing a policy and associated procedures regarding Digital Citizenship.

(CARRIED)

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Audit Committee

The Chair of the Audit Committee indicated the next meeting will be held February 12, 2014.

10.2 Policy Development and Review Committee

10.2.1 Report #13-12-1448 - Student Registration Policy - Danielle McNeil-Hessian, Director, School Administration and Selena Henderson, Corporate Secretary.

It was moved and seconded (Warburton/Daye) that the Governing Board approve Report #13-12-1448 - Student Registration Policy.

(CARRIED)

10.2.2 Report #13-12-1449 - Policy Development and Review Policy – Selena Henderson, Corporate Secretary

It was moved and seconded (Warburton/Jakeman) that the Governing Board approve the amended Report #13-12-1449 - Policy Development and Review Policy as follows:

Remove “the accompanying procedures” in number 5.2.

(CARRIED)

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

Board Member Melinda Daye indicated that the Directors had not met. She will provide an update at a later time.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

11.1 Report #13-11-1444 - Health & Safety Quarterly Report – Mike Christie, Director, Human Resource Services, and John Swales, Manager, Health & Safety

Tracey O’Kroneg, Coordinator, Human Resource Services presented the report.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

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).

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.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting – February 26, 2014

14. IN-CAMERA

It was moved and seconded (Blumenthal-Harrison/Linders) to move in-camera.
(CARRIED)

14.1 Capital Plan – Ron Heiman, Director, Operations Services

It was moved and seconded (Blumenthal-Harrison/Linders) to move into regular sessions.
(CARRIED)

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

15. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded (Boutilier/Warburton) that the meeting be adjourned.
(CARRIED)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Gin Yee
Chair
Halifax Regional School Board

Selena Henderson
Corporate Secretary

Prepared by Vicki Palmeter
Assistant to the Corporate Secretary

Board Meeting
February 6, 2014
Chair's Report

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

Why do all the snow storms seem to happen on nights when board meetings are scheduled?

In all seriousness, I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing holiday break. It is hard to believe that Friday marks the end of semester one. The school year is now half over. It seems like only yesterday we were talking about the first day of school and now we have registration for next year beginning on Monday.

It's been a few months since I last reported to the board and rather than give you a step by step recap, I thought I would mention a few events and activities I have attended during this time.

In November, I attended the Chamber of Commerce luncheon to hear Mayor Mike Savage reflect on his first year in office. Mayor Savage has a very optimistic outlook for our region and he is a firm believer in the power of education to shape our future.

I also met with Mayor Savage in early December where we had the opportunity to discuss a number of topics, including supplementary funding, and I'm looking forward to working with him in weeks and months ahead.

On November 27, I had the privilege, along with several of my fellow board members, to attend We Day at the Metro Centre. It was a remarkable day, filled with optimism and hope for the future. The speakers delivered powerful messages to the students encouraging them to stay engaged in their community and be agents for social change.

It was also very, very loud...

Since the New Year, I've had the opportunity, along with the Minister of Education and the Superintendent, to visit a number of schools that are scheduled to receive capital improvements from the province. So far I have visited:

- LeMarchant-St. Thomas;
- Southdale-North Woodside;
- Prince Arthur Junior High; and
- Cole Harbour District High

At LeMarchant, Cindy and the local MLA joined us and at Cole Harbour, Nancy and Minister Ince took part.

I am pleased the Minister is taking such a keen interest in our schools and I want to applaud her for the announcement just before Christmas of the new Primary to Grade 12 school for Sheet Harbour and the new elementary in south-end Halifax to replace LeMarchant-St. Thomas.

On January 16, I was fortunate to attend an event at Dartmouth High where local author George Borden held a reading for students to celebrate the donation of his published poetry collection to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

The province has taken Mr. Borden's work and created a book called *I Never Heard Their Cry!* And, in the spring, a copy will be sent to every high school and additional copies will be given to African Canadian Studies 11 and English 12: African Heritage classes.

It was a remarkable event and I was pleased board member Daye and vice-chair Wright were also able to attend.

And before I close, I want to mention the consultation the governing board and staff held with Bob Fowler and Dr. Henry Bishop regarding the School Review Process. I believe we provided the committee with some great feedback and I am optimistic they will make some substantial recommendations to the government on how we can improve this process.

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 budget and business planning process.

Thank you.