



## News Release

### Stipends Discontinued for Former HRSB Members

January 29, 2007

Former members of the Halifax Regional School Board have been informed that they will no longer receive their annual stipends.

They were notified this morning of the decision, which takes effect January 31, 2007.

Howard Windsor, in his role as the Board, reached the decision after consulting with legal counsel. Under Section 54(7) of the Education Act Mr. Windsor has the authority to determine remuneration for Board members.

“This decision was not made lightly,” said Mr. Windsor. “I respect the work done by the previous board members, but I see no reason to continue to pay them when they have neither the responsibility nor the authority to act on the public’s behalf.”

The annual cost of the stipends for the 13 former members was \$118,000. The breakdown was as follows: \$8,200 per annum per member, \$10,000 per annum for vice-chair, and \$13,500 per annum for chair.

On December 19, Education Minister Karen Casey exercised her power under the Education Act to strip the board of its authority and transfer that authority to Mr. Windsor, a former deputy minister.

Mr. Windsor will act as the Board until after elections are held in October 2008. The first meeting of the reconfigured board is this Wednesday, January 31.

The Halifax Regional School Board is responsible for the education of nearly 54,000 students in schools throughout the Halifax Regional Municipality.