



**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**It was moved and seconded (Blumenthal-Harrison/Littlefair) that the Board approve the agenda.**

**(CARRIED)**

**3. AWARDS / PRESENTATIONS**

**3.1 Canada's Outstanding Principals - Adrienne Blumenthal, Porters Lake Elementary School and Roberta Jones, Holland Road Elementary School**

**Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent, presented Canada's Outstanding Principals.**

**4. CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Melinda Daye, Chair, presented 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 PRESENTATIONS**

**There were no public presentations.**

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**It was moved and seconded (Linders/Jakeman) that the minutes/business arising from the minutes of the March 4, 2015 Regular Board Meeting meeting be approved.**

**(CARRIED)**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

**8.1 Letter from the Auditor General of Nova Scotia regarding a performance audit dated March 6, 2015**

**8.2 Letter to Mayor Mike Savage regarding road priority levels dated March 11, 2015**

**8.3 Letter to Minister Karen Casey regarding Shannon Park School dated March 13, 2015**

**9. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

**There were no items for decision.**

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

10.1 Audit Committee

**Board Member Nancy Jakeman provided information on the upcoming April 15, 2015 Audit Committee meeting.**

10.2 Policy Development and Review Committee

**Board Member Cindy Littlefair provided an update from the March 11, 2015 Policy Development and Review Committee meeting.**

10.2.1 Canadian Anthem Policy

10.2.2 Student Protection Policy

10.2.3 Home Schooling Policy

10.2.4 Lunch Supervision Policy

**It was moved and seconded (Linders/Yee) that the Canadian Anthem Policy, Student Protection Policy, Home Schooling Policy and Lunch Supervision Policy be approved.**

**(CARRIED)**

10.2.5 School Review Process for Permanent Closure Policy

**It was moved and seconded (Littlefair/Linders) that the School Review Process for Permanent Closure Policy be rescinded.**

**(CARRIED)**

10.2.6 Supervision of Family Members Draft Policy

10.2.7 Recruitment and Hiring Policy

**It was moved and seconded (Littlefair/Linders) that the Recruitment and Hiring Policy be reviewed.**

**(CARRIED)**

### 10.3 Nova Scotia School Boards Association

#### 10.3.1 NSSBA Resolutions

**It was moved and seconded (Littlefair/Wright) that the Governing Board put forward the following resolution:**

**(CARRIED)**

Rationale:

The School Review Policy that took effect October 17, 2014 enshrines and puts new emphasis on the role of community in the forming of both the Long Range Outlook and the School Review Process. The initial Outlook will be the first opportunity for the public to engage in the manner contemplated by the Policy and the success of both that and subsequent stages of the process will owe much to the public seeing that every attempt is made to accommodate their input in the spirit suggested by the Policy.

Therefore,

Whereas the Minister's School Review Policy places new and important emphasis on the role of community in the School Review Process, beginning with the Long Range Outlook,

Whereas April 30, 2015, was the date selected by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for the Long Range Outlook to be made available to the public,

Whereas August 31, 2015 is the date by which public engagement is meant to be complete,

Whereas this scheduling unreasonably disadvantages the public in terms of its ability to fully engage,

Be it resolved that the NSSBA seek an extension to October 31, 2015 from DEECD in order to fully and properly engage the public in the formation of the Long Range Outlook in a spirit in keeping with the tenets of the new the School Review Policy.

**Nancy Jakeman put forward the following resolution:**

Rationale:

The Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, the Nova Scotia School Boards Association and school boards across Nova Scotia share a common interest in providing the best educational experience for students in Nova Scotia.

Due to decreasing demographics in the Province of Nova Scotia, school boards across the Province are facing a decrease in enrollment, particularly in the rural areas. This

decreased enrollment has contributed to school closures and the ensuing community conflict. Lowering the age of entry into school from five to four would increase the school population and assist in maintaining the operation of schools in many communities.

Additionally, due to the cost of childcare, many children in Nova Scotia are not receiving appropriate early childhood education and are at a disadvantage when entering the school system. Lowering the age of entry from five to four would enable disadvantaged children to access early intervention and would result in improved literacy, improved long term educational performance and early detection of learning disabilities.

Therefore,

Whereas Section 5(2) of the Education Act requires that every person over the age of five years and under the age of twenty-one years has the right to attend a public school; and

Whereas Section 3(1) of the Governor in Council Education Act Regulations provides that a child who has attained the age of 5 years on or before December 31 in any year is deemed to be a person over 5 years of age for the purpose of subsection 5(2) of the Act during the ensuing school year;

Whereas there are significant benefits to lowering the age of entry from five to four; and

Whereas in order lower the age of entry the Education Act and Governor in Council Regulations will require amendment;

Be it resolved that the Nova Scotia School Boards Association advocate to and encourage the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to commit to a timely and collaborative review of the age of entry into school and to amending section 5(2) of the Education Act to lower the age of entry into school from five to four.

**It was moved and seconded (Yee/Wright) that the Governing Board table the above resolution and that the Board Chair organize a meeting with the Governing Board at a leadership session with the Executive Director of the Early Years Branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.**

**(CARRIED)**

10.3.2 Hector Montgomery Award

**It was moved and seconded (Wright/Jakeman) to nominate Board Member Steve Warburton for the Hector Montgomery Award.**

**(CARRIED)**

10.3.3 Election of NSSBA Representatives

10.3.3.1 Board of Director Member

**Board Member Christy Linders nominated Board Member Dave Wright as a nominee for the NSSBA Board of Director Member.**

Board Member Dave Wright accepted the nomination.

**Board Member Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison nominated Board Member Christy Linders as a nominee for the NSSBA Board of Director Member.**

Board Member Christy Linders declined the nomination.

**Board Member Melinda Daye nominated Board Member Gin Yee as a nominee for the NSSBA Board of Director Member.**

Board Member Gin Yee accepted the nomination. Board Member Gin Yee later declined the nomination.

Board Member Dave Wright was appointed the NSSBA Board of Director Member by acclamation.

#### 10.3.3.2 Alternate Board of Director Member

**Board Member Steve Warburton nominated Board Member Melinda Daye as a nominee for the NSSBA Alternate Board of Director Member.**

Board Member Melinda Daye accepted the nomination.

Board Member Melinda Daye was appointed the NSSBA Alternate Board of Director by acclamation.

#### 10.3.3.3 Nomination of Resolution Committee Member

**Board Member Cindy Littlefair nominated Board Member Nancy Jakeman as a nominee for the NSSBA Nomination of Resolution Committee Member.**

Board Member Nancy Jakeman accepted the nomination.

Board Member Nancy Jakeman was appointed the NSSBA Resolution Committee Member by acclamation.

## 11. INFORMATION ITEMS

## 12. NOTICE OF MOTION

## 13. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Policy Development Review Committee – April 8, 2015

Audit Committee Meeting – April 15, 2015

Regular Board Meeting – April 22, 2015

**14. IN-CAMERA**

14.1 Contract Award

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**(CARRIED)**

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**

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Melinda Daye  
Chair  
Halifax Regional School Board

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Ian Pickard  
Acting Corporate Secretary

Prepared by Laura Conrod  
Assistant to the Corporate Secretary