



**Halifax Regional School Board  
Policy Development and Review Committee  
February 10, 2016  
6:00 p.m.**

Meeting was held this date in Board Chambers,  
33 Spectacle Lake, Dartmouth, NS.

**PRESENT:** Bridget Boutilier Dave Wright  
Nancy Jakeman Christy Linders  
Cindy Littlefair Melinda Daye  
Steve Warburton

Denise Bell, Regional Education Officer

**REGRETS:** Gin Yee  
Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison

**STAFF:** Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent  
Lance Bullock, Senior Staff Advisor  
Natascha Joncas, Acting Corporate Secretary  
Alison King, Director, Program  
Terri Thompson, Director, Financial Services  
Susan Tomie, Director, School Administration  
Ron Heiman, Director, Operations Services  
Tracy O’Kroneg, Director, Human Resource Services  
Wendy Mackey, Senior Diversity Advisor  
Athena Leclair, Administrative Assistant to the Corporate Secretary

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**It was moved and seconded (Littlefair/Wright) that the Committee approve the agenda.**

**(CARRIED)**

### 3. Approval of Minutes

January 13, 2016

Board Member Wright mentioned that the minutes sometimes refer to staff members by first name only and should perhaps be written with both first and last name, as it would read more professionally.

**It was moved and seconded (Jakeman/Daye) that the amended minutes/business arising from the minutes of the January 13, 2016, Policy Development and Review Committee meeting be approved.**

**(CARRIED)**

### 4. Information Items

- **A.001 Naming School Facilities**

Board Member Linders noted that the principles do not follow the practice that has been previously followed. In the last number of years the new school names seem to have been based on location.

Board Member Warburton noted he agreed with Board Member Linders as he sat through part of the school naming process for Rocky Lake Junior High. He noted they wanted to name Rocky Lake Junior High after an individual; however the individual was still living, so it was advised that the school could not be named after that individual. Clearer direction is required.

Superintendent LeRoux did an activity with Board Members. He asked them to write down three ideas that are a priority in naming schools.

Discussion ensued regarding if there is a difference when the Board names a completely new school versus a new school that is a combination of other schools.

He then asked what Board Members would like to have in front of them when making the decision on a school name. What information do Board Members want to know before making a decision.

It was noted that the parents want to know what the rules are when naming a school. Parents may like to have it prescriptive.

- **A.005 Advisory Committee to the Board**

The Corporate Secretary noted that this policy is quite old and has not been used since 2011. She also noted there is mention of the policy in the bylaws.

Discussion regarding Advisory Committees ensued. It was mentioned that they were an effective way to consult between the Board, teachers, principals and community. It was also noted that over time the committees became cumbersome. It was hard to get community representation, people come out when there was an issue but it is hard to get people to come out on a regular basis.

It was noted that any opportunities to get the community involved are opportunities that should be kept.

Superintendent LeRoux noted that staff's recommendation is that the policy be rescinded. He noted that because it is policy, without clear direction, staff controls it. It is not to say that the Board should be acting any differently towards the community, but by strengthening the bylaws, it is helping the Board Members.

It was decided that a decision regarding this policy be tabled until Board bylaws are updated.

## 5. Decision Items

- **F.008 School Boundaries**

Ron Heiman gave an overview of the changes to the policy and procedures after consultation.

Board Member Wright asked how does the policy fit with the School Options Committee and Long Term Reference.

Ron Heiman noted it should be removed from the definitions as the idea was to remove reference to both of those terms. In order to simplify the policy and procedure, the terms were removed. He also noted that having those conversations with the SOC's provides clarity.

Board Member Linders asked why does the Boundary Review Committee control their Terms of Reference and not the Board Members.

Ron Heiman noted that there are some points that need to be finalized by the Committee, and not everything can be pre-determined.

Board Member Littlefair referenced a parent's email. The email noted a protocol for any policy or report recommendations that come to the Board for approval. The protocol consists of four questions:

- a. Does this policy or decision item disproportionately affect Aboriginal students?
- b. Does this policy or decision item disproportionately affect African Nova Scotian students?
- c. Does this policy or decision item disproportionately affect students from low-income families?
- d. Does this policy or decision item disproportionately affect students with special needs?

Wendy Mackey noted that all policies are vetted through the Senior Diversity Advisor for that reason. Wendy Mackey noted that she likes these questions and that from a Senior Staff perspective that is what they are doing.

Superintendent LeRoux noted that the mandate has to be to solve the problem. Perhaps the SOC and LRO can be referenced in the Policy Overview. He also noted that the boundaries

in place include lakes and forests, areas that are not developed yet and that new streets are to be attached to an area rather than a Boundary Review being completed.

Board Member Linders asked if, as there are changes to the new developments within Halifax Regional municipality, changes to the boundaries could be made.

Ron Heiman noted with the current language in the policy and procedures give the ability to change boundaries.

**It was moved and seconded (Littlefair/Daye) that the Committee forward the *F.008 School Boundary Review* policy to the Regular Board Meeting for Governing Board approval.**

**(CARRIED)**

- **B.003 Creating School Populations**

**It was moved and seconded (Littlefair/Jakeman) that the Committee forward the *B.003 Creating School Populations* policy to the Regular Board Meeting for rescinding.**

**(CARRIED)**

**6. Lookahead**

a) PDRC Workflow

Natascha Joncas, Acting Corporate Secretary, reviewed the changes to the PDRC Workflow chart with the Committee, and outlined which policies would be coming forward to the PDRC March meeting.

b) Update from Directors

Ron Heiman noted no change in Operations from last month's PDRC meeting.

Natascha Joncas noted that there might be other policies coming forward from Board Services. She also noted that there is nothing coming forward from Human Resources, Finance or School Administration Departments.

**7. Next Meeting**

March 9, 2016

**8. Adjournment**

**It was moved and seconded (Wright/Boutilier) that the meeting be adjourned.**

**(CARRIED)**

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.