



**HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
January 27, 2016  
6:00 p.m.**

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

**PRESENT:**

Melinda Daye  
Nancy Jakeman  
Cindy Littlefair  
Christy Linders  
Steve Warburton  
Bridget Ann Boutilier  
Dave Wright  
Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison

Denise Bell, Regional Education Officer  
Micci Davy, Student Advisor  
Shaye MacEachern, Student Advisor

**REGRETS:**

Gin Yee

**STAFF:**

Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent  
Lance Bullock, Senior Staff Advisor  
Natascha Joncas, Acting Corporate Secretary  
Terri Thompson, Director, Financial Services  
Doug Hadley, Coordinator, Communications  
Susan Tomie, Director, School Administration  
Tracy O'Kroneg, Director, Human Resource Services  
Ron Heiman, Director, Operations Services  
Alison King, Director, Program  
Wendy Mackey, Senior Diversity Advisor  
Pam Nicholson-Comeau, Coordinator, School Administration  
Gerard Costard, Coordinator, Information Technology  
Vicki Palmeter, Executive Administrative Assistant  
Athena Leclair, Administrative Assistant to the Corporate Secretary  
Jessica Michael, Labour Relations Consultant  
Joanne Williams, Coordinator, Excel Program

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Natascha Joncas, Acting Corporate Secretary, provided an updated agenda of approved presenters as item 6.2.

It was moved and seconded (Daye/Jakeman) that the Governing Board amend the agenda to remove item 9.4 Bylaw Amendments, add item 11.1 Report #2016-01-05 – Release of Provincial Assessment Results to the agenda, postpone item 12.1 Bylaw Amendments to the February Regular Board Meeting and add an In-camera item Board Member Absence as 14.3.

(CARRIED)

It was moved and seconded (Boutilier/Jakeman) that the Governing Board approve the amended agenda.

(CARRIED)

**3. AWARDS / PRESENTATIONS**

3.1 In honour of African Heritage Month, Ms. Freedom Jones from Citadel High will sing the Black National Anthem. Freedom is the president of the African Nova Scotian cultural group “Know Thyself”. Accompanying Freedom will be Ms. Cindi Cain, African Nova Scotian Support Worker.

Ms. Freedom Jones, student from Citadel High, and Ms. Cindi Cain, African Nova Scotian Support Worker, performed.

**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**

6.1 Jean McKenna, Community Campus Vision Association – *did not present*

6.2 Tina Roberts-Jeffers, African Nova Scotian Learners - *presented*

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

**It was moved and seconded (Linders/Blumenthal-Harrison) that the minutes/business arising from the minutes of the January 13, 2016, and January 20, 2016 Special Board meetings be approved.**

**(CARRIED)**

**The Governing Board deferred approval of the December 16, 2015, minutes until the February 24, 2016, Regular Board meeting.**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1 Letter received on January 14, 2016 from the Honourable Karen Casey, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development regarding Syrian refugee settlement in Nova Scotia.

**The letter was shared with the Governing Board.**

8.2 Letter dated January 20, 2016 to the Honourable Karen Casey, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development requesting a meeting with the Minister of Education to discuss issues surrounding capital construction requests.

**The letter was shared with the Governing Board.**

**9. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

9.1 Motion to move the date of the March Regular Board Meeting

Board Chair Melinda Daye provided the following notice of motion:

Article 5.01 of our Bylaws states the following: “the Board shall hold a Regular Board Meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month”. I move that we change the March Regular Board Meeting from the 4th Wednesday, March 23, 2016 to the 5th Wednesday, March 30, 2016.

**It was moved and seconded (Daye/Blumenthal-Harrison) that the Governing Board approve moving the Regular Board Meeting scheduled for March 23, 2016 to March 30, 2016.**

**(CARRIED)**

9.2 Report #2016-01-03 – P3 Schools Decision Report – Elwin LeRoux, Superintendent

**It was moved and seconded (Littlefair/Jakeman) that the Governing Board direct the Superintendent to advise the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development of the continued need for all ten P3 schools in HRSB.**

**(CARRIED)**

9.3 Report #2016-01-04 - Excel Fee Structure - Proposed Fee Increase – Terri Thompson, Director, Financial Services and Joanne Williams, Coordinator, Excel Program

**It was moved and seconded (Boutilier/Warburton) that the Governing Board consider and adopt the following option for EXCEL rate increases effective September 1, 2016.**

- **To implement a fee increase of 5% for all program participants with a change to limit enrolment to full-time participation only.**

**(CARRIED)**

9.4 Bylaw Amendments

**Item removed from the Agenda**

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

10.1 Audit Committee

**Board Member Nancy Jakeman had no new information to provide at this time as the next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2016.**

10.2 Policy Development and Review Committee

**Board Member Christy Linders provided an update from the January 13, 2016 Policy Development and Review Committee meeting.**

10.2.1 Policy Development and Review Policy

**It was moved and seconded (Linders/Blumenthal-Harrison) that the Governing Board approve the changes to *A.012 Policy Development and Review Policy* as presented.**

**(CARRIED)**

**It was moved and seconded (Linders/Blumenthal-Harrison) that the Governing Board direct the Superintendent to identify all instances where the Coordinator, Diversity Management is identified within existing policies and replace with Senior Diversity Advisor.**

**(CARRIED)**

### 10.3 Nova Scotia School Boards Association

**Board Member Dave Wright provided an update on the Nova Scotia School Boards Association.**

**A brief discussion took place with regards to the nomination of a Board Member for the Education Week. The theme for the week is Media Literacy: Empowering critical thinking in a digital media world. Board Member Wright would like to put forth Board Member Linders's name for this award. The Chair asked that this be placed on the agenda of the February Board meeting in order to give time to other board members wishing to nominate a fellow board member to reflect on their nomination.**

### 10.4 Ad Hoc Governance Committee

**Board Member Cindy Littlefair provided an update from the Ad Hoc Governance Committee.**

## 11. INFORMATION ITEMS

11.1 Report #2016-01-05 – Release of Provincial Assessment Results, Alison King, Director, Program.

**Alison King, Director, Program presented the report and responded to the Governing Board's questions.**

Board Member Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison announced that Shaye MacEachern, Student Advisor, graduated from Bedford and Forsyth Education Centre this week. Board Members congratulated him and wished him all the best in his future endeavors.

## 12. NOTICE OF MOTION

12.1 Bylaw Amendments

**Item postponed to February Regular Board meeting.**

## 13. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Policy Development and Review Committee – February 10, 2016

Audit Committee Meeting – February 17, 2016

Regular Board Meeting – February 24, 2016

**14. IN-CAMERA**

**It was moved and seconded (Wright/Warburton) to move in-camera.**

**(CARRIED)**

14.1 Approval of December 16, 2015, January 13, 2016, and January 20, 2016 In-Camera Minutes

**Item deferred until the February 24, 2016, Regular Board meeting.**

14.2 CUPE Bargaining Mandate – Tracy O’Kroneg, Director, Human Resources

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

**(CARRIED)**

**It was moved and seconded (Jakeman/Littlefair) that the Governing Board give the authority to the negotiating team to negotiate a new collective agreement with Canadian Union of Public Employees.**

**(CARRIED)**

14.3 Board Member Absence

**It was moved and seconded (Blumenthal-Harrison/Boutilier) that the Governing Board accept Board Member Yee’s excused absence.**

**(CARRIED)**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**(CARRIED)**

Meeting adjourned by the Governing Board at 9:05 p.m.

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Melinda Daye  
Chair  
Halifax Regional School Board

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Natascha Joncas  
Acting Corporate Secretary

Prepared by Vicki Palmeter  
Executive Administrative Assistant to the  
Superintendent