



**HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
October 26, 2011  
6:00 p.m.**

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

**PRESENT:**

Irvine Carvery	Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison
David Finlayson	Gina Conrod
Chris Poole	David Cameron
Donna Hubbard	Steve Brine
Kirk Arsenault	

Callahan Murphy, Student Advisor  
Suzanne Gray, Deputy Student Advisor  
John MacPherson, Legal Counsel, McInnes Cooper

**REGRETS:**

Gin Yee  
Alan Lowe, Senior Executive Director, Public Schools  
Danielle McNeil-Hessian, Director, School Administration  
Dale Armstrong, Coordinator, School Administration

**STAFF:**

Carole Olsen, Superintendent  
Selena Henderson, Corporate Secretary  
Denise Bell, Senior Staff Advisor  
Mike Christie, Director, Human Resource Services  
Geoff Cainen, Director, Program  
Terri Thompson, Director, Financial Services  
Charles Clattenburg, Director, Operations Services  
Doug Hadley, Coordinator, Communications  
Heather Chandler, Coordinator, Diversity Management  
Gerard Costard, Coordinator, Information Technology  
Elwin LeRoux, Coordinator, School Administration  
Ron Heiman, Coordinator, Property Services - Maintenance  
Anne Marie Melnyk, Supervisor, School Administration - Admin Unit 1  
John Swales, Manager, Occupational Health and Safety

Jill McGillicuddy, Planner  
Sandra Thomas, Executive Administrative Assistant  
Vicki Palmeto, Assistant to the Corporate Secretary

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**It was moved and seconded (Brine/Poole) that the agenda be approved.**

**(CARRIED)**

**3. AWARDS / PRESENTATIONS**

**Peggy Wentzel presented in honour of Mi'kmaq History Month**

**Board Member Kirk Arsenault excused himself at 6:15 pm.**

**4. PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS**

4.1 Chantel Arbuckle – unable to attend

**It was moved and seconded (Cameron/Blumenthal-Harrison) that the Board approve Glenda Casavechia to present to the Board.**

**Glenda Casavechia, Crossing Guard's Union, presented in regards to Board Member David Cameron's motion on snow days.**

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

September 28, 2011 (Regular Board)

**It was moved and seconded (Poole/Brine) that the minutes/business arising from the minutes of the September 28, 2011, Regular Board meetings be approved.**

**(CARRIED)**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

**7. CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Irvine Carvery, Chair, presented the Chair's Report. A copy of the Chair's report is filed with the minutes.**

**8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**Carole Olsen, Superintendent, presented the Superintendent’s report. A copy of the Superintendent’s report is filed with the minutes.**

**9. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

9.1 Board Member David Cameron provided the following notice of motion:  
**Whereas** cancellation of school because of inclement weather represents a loss of valuable time for teaching and learning that cannot be made up; and  
**Whereas** the cancellation of all schools in HRSB when buses do not operate imposes an unnecessary burden on many families whose children either do not use bus transportation or who are able to make alternative arrangements to transport their child or children to school; and  
**Whereas** the current policy of the board (B.012) adopted January 27, 2010, states that “When deciding school cancellation due to severe weather, the Superintendent or designate shall consider closing individual schools, Families of Schools or all schools; and  
**Whereas** most school boards in Canada have policies or procedures whereby schools normally remain open in the case of inclement weather, whether or not buses are able to run, with parents deciding whether or not it is safe for their child or children to go to school;

**Be it Resolved** that the policy of the HRSB be modified such that the normal expectation is that schools will be open and staffed on each scheduled school day as prescribed by the Department of Education.  
Decisions regarding the operation of buses will normally be made respecting each Family of Schools.  
Only in cases of the most extreme weather conditions will the decision be made to close all schools.

**It was moved and seconded (Cameron/Finlayson) that the Board approve that the policy of the HRSB be modified such that the normal expectation is that schools will be open and staffed on each scheduled school day as prescribed by the Department of Education.**  
**Decisions regarding the operation of buses will normally be made respecting each Family of Schools. Only in cases of the most extreme weather conditions will the decision be made to close all schools.**

**(DEFEATED)**

<b>RECORDED VOTE</b>			
<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBER NAME</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1	Steve Brine	X	
2	Gina Conrod		X
3	Gin Yee		

	<b>(not in attendance)</b>		
4	<b>Chris Poole</b>		X
5	<b>David Cameron</b>	X	
6	<b>Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison</b>		X
7	<b>David Finlayson</b>	X	
8	<b>Donna Hubbard</b>		X
African Nova Scotian	<b>Irvine Carvery</b>	X	
Mi'kmaq	<b>Kirk Arsenault (not in attendance)</b>		

9.2 Report 11-10-1317 - Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board Boundaries Report – Charles Clattenburg, Director, Operation Services, and Jill McGillicuddy, Planner.

**It was moved and seconded (Conrod/Cameron) that the Board apply to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board for Intervener status.**

**(CARRIED)**

**It was moved and seconded (Conrod/Finlayson) that the Board defer Report 11-10-1317 - Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board Electoral Boundaries Report until the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board makes a decision on the Halifax Regional Municipality Electoral Boundary report.**

**(CARRIED)**

9.3 Board Member Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison provided the following notice of motion:

That we recommend that the Minister of Education request a change to the Education Act and the Elections Act as follows:

That HRM elect not only the 10 members by either election or appointment but whereby HRM also elect the Chair of the HRSB.

To follow suit under the municipal policy to elect counselors or as well as mayor.

**It was moved and seconded (Blumenthal-Harrison/Poole) that the Board recommend the amended motion that the Minister of Education request a change to the Education Act and the Elections Act as follows: That HRM elect not only the 10 members by either election or appointment but whereby HRM also elect the Chair of the HRSB. To follow suit under the municipal policy to elect counselors or as well as mayor.**

**(DEFEATED)**

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS** (Committee reports will be limited to 5 minutes – the Chair may extend the time limit under unique circumstances.)

10.1 Audit Committee – Committee Chair Steve Brine

**Chair Steve Brine indicated that the next meeting of the Audit Committee will be held November 9, 2011.**

10.2 Nova Scotia School Board Association - Board Member David Cameron, NSSBA Director

**It was moved and seconded (Cameron/Conrod) that the Board accept the Nova Scotia School Board Association report for information.**

**(CARRIED)**

## **11. INFORMATION ITEMS**

11.1 Report 11-08-1312 – Occupational Health & Safety – Quarterly Update April 1 to June 30, 2011 – Mike Christie, Director, Human Resource Services and John Swales, Manager, Occupational Health & Safety

**It was moved and seconded (Brine/Poole) that the Board accept Report 11-08-1312 – Occupational Health & Safety – Quarterly Update April 1 to June 30, 2011 for information.**

**(CARRIED)**

## **12. NOTICE OF MOTION**

## **13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Board Meeting – November 23, 2011

## **14. IN-CAMERA**

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

**(CARRIED)**

14.1 Personnel Issue – Mike Christie, Director, Human Resource Services

14.2 Contract – Terri Thompson, Director, Financial Services

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

**(CARRIED)**

**It was moved and seconded (Finlayson/Blumenthal-Harrison) to approve motions made in-camera.**

**(CARRIED)**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**(CARRIED)**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.

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Irvine Carvery  
Chair  
Halifax Regional School Board

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Selena Henderson  
Corporate Secretary

Prepared by Vicki Palmeter  
Assistant to the Corporate Secretary

APPROVED