



**HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
September 28, 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 Gin Yee
Gina Conrod Chris Poole
David Cameron Donna Hubbard
Steve Brine Kirk Arsenault

REGRETS: Callahan Murphy, Student Advisor
Suzanne Gray, Deputy Student Advisor
Alan Lowe, Senior Executive Director, Public Schools

STAFF: Carole Olsen, Superintendent
Selena Henderson, Corporate Secretary
Denise Bell, Senior Staff Advisor
Mike Christie, Director, Human Resource Services
Geoff Cainen, Director, Program
Charles Clattenburg, Director, Operations Services
Danielle McNeil-Hessian, Director, School Administration
Heather Chandler, Coordinator, Diversity Management
Doug Hadley, Coordinator, Communications
Gerard Costard, Coordinator, Information Technology
Terri Thompson, Director, Financial Services
Elwin LeRoux, Coordinator, School Administration
Dale Armstrong, Coordinator, School Administration
Lance Bullock, Coordinator, Programs & Student Services
Sandra Thomas, Executive Administrative Assistant
Vicki Palmeto, Assistant to the Corporate Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded (Brine/Blumenthal-Harrison) that that item 14 be removed from the agenda.

(CARRIED)

It was moved and seconded (Brine/Blumenthal-Harrison) that the amended agenda be approved.

(CARRIED)

3. AWARDS / PRESENTATIONS

4. PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

4.1 Robert Wooden, Chair, Bedford South School SAC

Robert Wooden, Chair, of Bedford South School SAC, presented in regards to Report#11-08-1313 - Boundary Review for Bedford South/West.

4.2 Valerie Teepell

Valerie Teepell presented in regards to Report #11-09-1315 - Impact Assessment Reports: South Woodside Elementary.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

June 8, 2011 (Special Board)

June 22, 2011 (Regular Board)

It was moved and seconded (Arsenault/Finlayson) that the minutes/business arising from the minutes of the June 8, 2011, Special Board, and June 22, 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 Ad hoc Governance Committee Report – Board Member David Cameron

It was moved and seconded (Cameron/Yee) that the Board approve the Ad hoc Governance Report and its recommendations with a trial period to the end of December, and a decision to be made in January 2012 on the process.
(CARRIED)

9.2 Board Member David Finlayson provided the following notice of motion:

Whereas the school boards are mandated with the responsibility of school reviews and closures;

Whereas the HRSB has a maintenance deficit of over \$80 million;

And the Province of Nova Scotia through the Department of Education is responsible for announcing school openings and allocating maintenance funds;

HRSB recommends that the process be reviewed by the Minister to either assign full responsibility for all of the above tasks to the individual Boards with 4 year commitments for funds for Capital and maintenance; or the Department of Education removes the responsibility completely and manages all of it under provincial departments.

It was moved and seconded (Finlayson/Poole) that the Board recommend that the process be reviewed by the Minister to assign full responsibility for all of the above tasks to the individual Boards with 4 year commitments for funds for Capital and maintenance.

(CARRIED)

It was moved and seconded (Blumenthal-Harrison/Poole) that Board in consideration until a decision has been made or determined by the Minister of Education that we put our current policy and process for the 5 schools that are currently up for review for potential closure on hold or that they be deferred for one year so we can await this decision by the Minister of Education.

(DEFEATED)

9.3 Report#11-08-1313 - Boundary Review for Bedford South/West -Report – Charles Clattenburg, Director, Operation Services, and Jill McGillicuddy, Planner

It was moved and seconded (Finlayson/Blumenthal-Harrison) that the Board direct staff to complete a boundary review of Bedford South, Basinview Drive Community, Sunnyside Elementary, Kingswood Elementary, Madeline Symonds Middle School and Bedford Junior High schools.

(CARRIED)

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

It was moved and seconded (Blumenthal-Harrison/Cameron) that Board Members Gina Conrod and David Finlayson be appointed to the Audit Committee.

(CARRIED)

It was moved and seconded (Blumenthal-Harrison/Cameron) that the Board accept the Audit Committee Report for information.

(CARRIED)

10.2 Finance Committee - Committee Chair David Finlayson

10.3 Planning, Policy and Priority Committee – Committee Chair Gina Conrod

It was moved and seconded (Conrod/Poole) that the Board accept the Planning, Policy and Priority Committee report for information.

(CARRIED)

10.3.1 B.002 Communicable Diseases, Illnesses and Infections

It was moved and seconded (Conrod/Poole) that the Board approve the revised Communicable Diseases, Illnesses and Infections Policy.

(CARRIED)

10.3.2 B.016 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Policy

It was moved and seconded (Conrod/Poole) that the Board rescind the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Policy.

(CARRIED)

10.3.3 A.002 School Review Process for Permanent Closure Policy (Revision)

It was moved and seconded (Conrod/Poole) that the Board approve the revised School Review Process for Permanent Closure Policy with revisions as follows and revisions to procedures as outlined by the Superintendent:

1.1 The Halifax Regional School Board has a **responsibility to manage the use of its schools effectively.**

- 1.2 The Halifax Regional School Board will examine the feasibility of **reviewing** schools that prove to be inefficient regarding effective education across the whole region, economic constraints, and the aging of physical plants.
(CARRIED)

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

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

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 11.1 Report #11-09-1315 - Impact Assessment Reports: Central Spryfield Elementary, South Woodside Elementary, Prince Arthur Junior High, Gertrude Parker Elementary, Sackville Centennial Elementary – Charles Clattenburg, Director, Operations, and Jill McGillicuddy, Planner

It was moved and seconded (Finlayson/Blumenthal-Harrison) that the Board accept Report #11-09-1315 - Impact Assessment Reports: Central Spryfield Elementary, South Woodside Elementary, Prince Arthur Junior High, Gertrude Parker Elementary, Sackville Centennial Elementary for information.

(CARRIED)

- 11.2 Report #11-09-1314- Mental Health Initiatives and Mental Health Promotion Report – Geoff Cainen, Director, Program

It was moved and seconded (Conrod/Arsenault) that the Board accept Report #11-09-1314- Mental Health Initiatives and Mental Health Promotion Report for information.

(CARRIED)

- 11.3 Report #11-02-1284 - Annual Purchasing Policy Report – Terri Thompson, Director, Financial Services, and Kathryn Burlton, Manager, Accounting and Purchasing

It was moved and seconded (Blumenthal-Harrison/Brine) that the Board Report #11-02-1284 - Annual Purchasing Policy Report for information.

(CARRIED)

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

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.

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

That we recommend that the Minister of Education request a change to 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.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting – October 26, 2011

14. IN-CAMERA

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

(CARRIED)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Irvine Carvery
Chair
Halifax Regional School Board

Selena Henderson
Corporate Secretary

Prepared by Vicki Palmeter
Assistant to the Corporate Secretary

APPROVED