



**HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 25, 2006
6:00 p.m.**

A Regular Board meeting was held this date in the Halifax West High School Cafetorium,
283 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax, NS

PRESENT:

Debra Barlow	Bernadette Reid
Bridget Ann Boutilier	Doug Sparks
Deborah Brunt	Grace Walker
Wade Marshall, Chair	Darren Watts
Gary O'Hara	Gin Yee
Jordan Warford, Student Advisor	Auyon Siddiq, Deputy Student Advisor

REGRETS:

Kim Berkers, Lynn MacGregor and Peggy Draper

ABSENT:

STAFF:

Carole Olsen, Superintendent
Judy White, A/Senior Staff Advisor
Gordon Young, Director, Program
Denise Bell, A/Director, School Administration
Richard Morris, Director, Financial Services
Doug Hadley, Coordinator, Communications
Doug Creamer, Director, Operational Services
Mike Christie, Director, Human Resource Services
Jodene Dunleavy, Coordinator, Policy & Research
Selena Henderson, Board Secretary
Norma Beairsto, Administrative Assistant to the Board

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

The Chair noted Kim Berkers, Lynn MacGregor and Peggy Draper had sent their regrets.





3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair noted agenda item 11.1: *Report 06-01-918 Student Identification Survey Update and Employee Identification Survey* would be postponed until April or May.

It was moved and seconded (Watts/Yee) the agenda of January 25, 2006 be approved as amended.

(CARRIED)

4. GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

 Barbara Graves	Ash Lee Jefferson Elem, District 2 – Peggy Draper
 Jackie McNeil	Ocean View Elem., District 4 – Grace Walker
 Natasha Beals	Harbour View Elem., District 6 – Gin Yee
 Library Volunteer Coordination Comm. - Edie Shaw-Ewald & Allison Maher	Tantallon Elem., District 11, Deborah Brunt

Jackie McNeil, Natasha Beals and Allison Maher were unable to be present. The award would be forwarded to their schools for presentation.

STUDENT ART FOR HOLIDAY CARDS

-  Heather Mills, Grade 4 – Springvale
-  Dylan Conrad, Grade 4 – Tantallon
-  Carolyn Cook, Grade 5 – Ash Lee Jefferson
-  Korena Wells, Grade 5 – Sunnyside
-  Rebecca Kessler, Grade 6 – Ridgecliff
-  Anna McCrea, Grade 5 – LeMarchant/St. Thomas
-  Rosalyn Huynh, Grade 4 – Duc d'Anville
-  Megan Watt, Grade 5 – Sir Charles Tupper
-  Robyn Lawlor, Grade 4 – Hammonds Plains Consolidated
-  Sahar Atbaei, Grade 4 – Portland Estates
-  Meghan Ritter, Grade 5 – Westmount
-  Eliana Hobeiche, Grade 5 – Grosvenor-Wentworth
-  Kim P. Wills, Grade 6 – Bell Park Academic
-  Aziza MacIsaac, Grade 5 – Rockingham
-  Shannon Hicks, Grade 4 – Tantallon
-  Kelsey McKenzie, Grade 5 – Basinview Drive
-  Lauren Crozier, Grade 4 – Caldwell Road
-  Chad O'Quinn, Grade 5 – Bell Park Academic
-  Chloe Beaver, Grade 4 – Sheet Harbour Consolidated
-  Jennifer Flemming, Grade 6 – Caudle Park

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

June 21, 2005 (Special Board); November 30, 2005 (Regular Board)

It was moved and seconded (Watts/Boutilier) the minutes of June 21, 2005 Special Board meeting be approved.

(CARRIED)

It was moved and seconded (O’Hara/Yee) the minutes of November 30, 2005 Regular Board meeting be approved.

(CARRIED)

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair noted any correspondence had been sent out by email to members.

7. MOTIONS

7.1 Wade Marshall

Mr. Marshall requested Mr. O’Hara to read the motion into the record.

Whereas the Board is committed to acting in the best interests of students in the Halifax Regional School Board;

Whereas the Board is participating in mediation facilitated by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission;

Whereas it is best practice in a mediation that all parties participate openly and willingly;

It was moved and seconded (O’Hara/Boutilier) that the Halifax Regional School Board maintain confidentiality surrounding the mediation.

(CARRIED)

RECORDED VOTE		
Re Motion: 7.1 Confidentiality surrounding the mediation..		
NAME	YES	NO
Debra Barlow	X	
Kim Berkers	Absent	Absent
Bridget Ann Boutilier	X	
Deborah Brunt	X	
Peggy Draper	Absent	Absent
Lynn MacGregor	Absent	Absent
Wade Marshall	X	
Gary O’Hara	X	
Bernadette Reid	X	
Douglas Sparks	X	
Grace Walker	X	
Darren Watts	X	
Gin Yee	X	
CARRIED	10	

7.2 Deborah Brunt

Whereas the Halifax Regional School Board has a mandate to do a yearly review of the Superintendent;

Whereas in an Emergency Special Board Meeting on October 19, 2005 we agreed we would put the wheels in motion to set the basis for this review;

It was moved and seconded (Brunt/Yee) the board to direct the Chair of the Board to strike an ad-hoc committee immediately, for the purpose of developing the criteria (performance plan) that will support the Superintendent's yearly review and in an effort to ensure this plan incorporates the diverse nature of the Superintendent's position, this committee will include the Board Chair and representation from the Audit and Operations, Policy and Program, Bylaw Committee, Committee of the Whole and the HRSB Director of Human Resources.

(CARRIED)

The Chair asked for clarification if it was the intent of the motion to include the current board year? Ms. Brunt confirmed it was the intent of the motion.

Amendment to the Motion

It was moved and seconded (Reid/Sparks) the African Nova Scotian Member be added as a member of the superintendents review committee.

(DEFEATED)

7.3 Douglas Sparks

Where as the Halifax Regional Boards prides itself on openness and transparency as it relates to the operation of its policies and procedures. Further, that the public we serve and the tax dollars that are spend are open to a fair viewing by that public;

*Where as the Board has a clearly defined procurement policy for supplies, material, and services, in particular **Section 4.0: Purchasing Thresholds**, it clearly states in sub-section **4.1.2 and 4.1.4** who is responsible and the value ranges for such;*

*Where as in the above stated policy **Section 5: Board Approval**, there are clearly defined responsibilities and duties of the Board in keeping with the public trust;*

Where as in a recent report presented to the Board for information that I had requested in the awarding of services contract, it is quite clear that the board procurement policy and procedures were not followed and nor did the Board approve a number of transactions;

Where as in further investigation of at least one of these transactions the information presented in the report as it related to some form of justification or rational for such is misleading and false.

It was moved and seconded (Sparks/Reid) that the Minister of Education be contacted to request a detailed investigation of these matters to determine who is responsible for this serious violation of policy and public trust and that appropriate action be taken.

The Chair cautioned the report referred to in the motion was an incamera report and the debate could only be to process. The letter distributed earlier to members could not be referred to in debate and a more in depth debate would require members to move incamera.

Motion to Refer

It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Walker) to refer the motion “that the Minister of Education be contacted to request a detailed investigation of these matters to determine who is responsible for this serious violation of policy and public trust and that appropriate action be taken.” to Audit & Operations to be duly investigated at its earliest opportunity and a subsequent report to the full board.

(CARRIED)

7.4 Gin Yee

It was moved and seconded (Yee/Reid) that a staff report be completed that indicates the number of students from Dartmouth attending schools in Halifax and also the number of students from Halifax County attending schools in Dartmouth and Halifax that are eligible to pay the supplementary fund surcharge in 2005-2006.

The Superintendent offered there was a staff member with approximately one days labour could provide the information requested for 05-06. Information for 04-05 is currently available through the Director of Finance and could be provided to members.

Ms. Barlow asked it be noted in the record that she was in support of Mr. Yee’s request and his right to receive the information requested, however in view of the work currently being carried out by the Supplementary Funding Committee and the yet unresolved law suit Ms. Barlow stated she would not be able to support the motion at this time.

Motion to Defer

It was moved and seconded (O’Hara/Barlow) to have the motion “that a staff report be completed that indicates the number of students from Dartmouth attending schools in Halifax and also the number of students from Halifax County attending schools in Dartmouth and Halifax that are eligible to pay the supplementary fund surcharge in 2005-2006.” deferred until the Supplementary Funding Committee has completed it work and made report to the board and to HRM Council.

(CARRIED)

RECORDED VOTE		
Re Motion: To defer Mr. Yee’s motion until after supplementary funding negotiations		
NAME	YES	NO
Debra Barlow	X	
Kim Berkers	Absent	Absent
Bridget Ann Boutilier	X	
Deborah Brunt	X	
Peggy Draper	Absent	Absent
Lynn MacGregor	Absent	Absent

Wade Marshall	X	
Gary O'Hara	X	
Bernadette Reid		X
Douglas Sparks		X
Grace Walker	X	
Darren Watts		X
Gin Yee		X
CARRIED	6	4

8. RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ISSUES IDENTIFICATION AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES

The Chair advised the response to last weeks Issues Identification had been distributed to members.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

9.1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(Policy and Program)

9.1.1. It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Brunt) Section 6.5 of the Procedures in the Board's Trip Policy remain as written to maintain the Board's ability to manage risks associated with school trips and to ensure student safety during school initiated activities and this recommendation be approved by board.

(CARRIED)

9.1.2. It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Watts) that board approve the Partnership and Cooperative Relations Policy be rescinded and that staff bring forward a set of guidelines to be reviewed by the Policy and Program Committee.

(CARRIED)

9.1.3. It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Boutilier) that the revised Policy and Program Committee Terms of Reference be approved by board.

(CARRIED)

9.1.4. It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Watts) that policies of the former boards as identified by board members and staff in *Report 06-01-915 Policies of the Former Boards Appendices A & B* be rescinded and that this recommendation be approved by board.

Amendment

It was moved and seconded (Yee/Barlow) to remove Appendix B from the motion.

(AMENDMENT CARRIED)

Motion as Amended

It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Watts) that those policies of the former boards as identified by board members and staff in *Report 06-01-915 Policies of the Former Boards Appendix A* are rescinded and that this recommendation be approved by board.

(CARRIED)

- 9.1.5. It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Walker) that the Halifax Regional School Board suspend the collection of out of area surcharges for one year, and this recommendation be approved by board.

Motion to Refer

It was moved and seconded (Yee/Reid) to refer the motion “*that the Halifax Regional School Board suspend the collection of out of area surcharges for one year*” to the budget process.

(CARRIED)

(Audit and Operations)

- 9.1.6. It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Brunt) that the name for the new Western high school be Sir John A. Macdonald High School and retire this name on the existing building when the new school opens and this recommendation approved by board.

(CARRIED)

- 9.1.7. It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Brunt) that due to the relocation of Tantallon Junior High School to a site no longer in the community, the process to rename the school be initiated immediately, and this recommendation be approved by board.

(CARRIED)

- 9.1.8. It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Walker) that the *Audit & Operations Committee Terms of Reference* be approved by board.

(CARRIED)

- 9.1.9. It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Walker) that the Board continue with the existing Legal Services Agreement with McInnes Cooper until expiry of the legal services contract, and this recommendation be approved by board.

Friendly Amendment

It was moved and seconded (Reid/Watts) to insert the expiration date of the contract “*January 31, 2009*” into the motion.

(CARRIED)

Motion as Amended

It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Walker) that the Board continue with the existing Legal Services Agreement with McInnes Cooper until expiry of the legal services contract on January 31, 2009, and this recommendation be approved by board.

(CARRIED)

- 9.1.10. It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Reid) that Grant Thornton be appointed as the auditors of the HRSB in accordance with Section 84(1) of the Education Act; and authorize the Superintendent to conclude a letter of engagement reflecting the response of Grant Thornton to the Audit Services RFP, and this recommendation be approved by board.

(CARRIED)

(Bylaw Committee)

- 9.1.11. It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Walker) the revised Board Member Expense Guidelines; Section 3.0: Members; Section 8.0 Committees; Appendix A – Terms of Reference for Committee of the Whole; Appendix D – Terms of Reference for Bylaws Review Committee; Agenda for School Board Meetings and Agenda for Committee of the Whole be approved by board.

Amendment

It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Watts) and the Board Members Expense Guidelines become effective in the new budget year April 1, 2006.

(CARRIED)

Amendment

It was moved and seconded (Reid/O'Hara) to add "Attendance" to the Committee of the Whole Agenda.

(CARRIED)

Motion as Amended

It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Walker) the revised Board Member Expense Guidelines (effective April 1, 2006); Section 3.0: Members; Section 8.0 Committees; Appendix A – Terms of Reference for Committee of the Whole; Appendix D – Terms of Reference for Bylaws Review Committee; Agenda for School Board Meetings and Agenda for Committee of the Whole including the addition of an "Attendance" item be approved by board.

(CARRIED)

**9.2 NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
- Darren Watts, Director NSSBA**

Mr. Watts referred to a handout which was given to members at their desks for his report.

9.3 OTHER COMMITTEES

9.3.1. Anti-Bullying Committee Report

Wade Marshall, Chair, Anti-Bullying Conference Steering Committee

It was moved and seconded (Boutilier/Walker) that an RFP to hire an Events Planner to produce the conference on anti-bullying be approved.

Amendment

It was moved and seconded (Brunt/O'Hara) to follow procedures of Audit & Operations Committee, Committee of the Whole and Full Board.

(CARRIED)

Motion as Amended

It was moved and seconded (Boutilier/Walker) that in accordance with procedures of the Audit and Operations, Committee of the Whole and Full Board, an RFP to hire an Events Planner to produce the conference on anti-bullying be approved.

(CARRIED)

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. STAFF REPORTS

11.1 Report 06-01-918: Student Identification Survey Update and Employee Identification Survey

Heather Chandler, Policy Consultant-Diversity Management

The Chair noted the motion to amend the Agenda for January 25, 2006 Regular Board Meeting stated the item 11.1 Report 06-01-918 would be omitted from the agenda. The correct amendment should have been only a portion of Report 06-01-918 would be omitted. The Chair asked permission of the board to have Ms. Chandler present the Student Identification Survey portion of the report. The members gave their consent.

It was moved and seconded (Watts/Barlow) the board receive *Report 06-01-918: Student Identification Survey Update and Employee Identification Survey* for information.

(CARRIED)

12. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair advised the board the Department of Education required a draft document of the Board's Business Plan by February 4, 2006. It was the consensus of the board to conduct a business plan workshop. The workshop would take place on a day the week following the January 25, 2006 Regular Board Meeting and that day would not be a Wednesday. The Board Secretary would advise members as soon as possible of the date and time.

The Chair inquired if the members wished to renew the membership with the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. It was noted the membership had formerly been paid for from the

Superintendent's membership budget and would now, with the board's approval, be paid from the elected board members budget.

Motion

It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Brunt) the board maintains the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce membership and the fees for this membership would come out of the elected board members budget.

Amendment

It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Walker) the cost of attending individual events would be paid from the individual board members budget.

(CARRIED)

Motion as Amended

It was moved and seconded (Barlow/Brunt) the board maintains the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce membership and the fees for this membership would come out of the elected board members budget. The cost of attending individual events would be paid from the individual board members budget.

(CARRIED)

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A copy is filed with the minutes.

14. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

February 22, 2006

16. INCAMERA

The members voted to go incamera in accordance with section 59(3) of the Education Act and paragraph 6.05 of the By-laws to consider a matter involving personnel, collective bargaining matters and to permit informal debate and more detailed consideration than the Rules of Orders permit.

It was moved and seconded (Watts/Yee) to convene the board meeting incamera.

(CARRIED)

It was moved and seconded (Walker/O'Hara) to reconvene the board meeting in regular session.

(CARRIED)

It was moved and seconded (Brunt/Walker) that the appointment of Mr. Lance Bullock to the position of Coordinator Programs & Student Services be approved.

(CARRIED)

It was moved and seconded (Barlow/O'Hara) that the Minutes of Settlement dated January 25, 2006 be received for information.

(CARRIED)

It was moved and seconded (Boutilier/Watts) that the Minutes of Settlement dated January 24, 2006 be received for information.

(CARRIED)

17. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded (Watts/Yee) that the board meeting of January 25, 2006 be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Wade Marshall
Board Chair

Norma Beirsto
Administrative Assistant to the Board

Approved