

CORRESPONDENCE (recorded session 21:45)

MOTION by Board Member Naugler, seconded by Board Member Stewart, that the Board receive the correspondence. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

- a. Letter from Minister Churchill re: review of administrative structures & pause school review
- b. Letter from Minister Churchill re: student attendance & engagement policy

Scott Milner, Superintendent of Schools, clarified that the first letter from the Minister of Education is regarding review of the senior administrative structures, board structures and the Department of Education. There will be an independent consultant named by the end of this month. Work is to be complete by December with a recommendation for implementation September 2018. The consultation could collect information that could inform a possible adjustment to the school review policy. For clarity, information already collected would be used and the next few months may inform further. A new review policy is not anticipated before December or the end of the review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Committee of the Whole** (recorded session 25:24)

Board Vice Chair Griffin stated that the board met for a Committee of the Whole meeting on September 20, 2017, discussion items were:

- There was a presentation from Barbara Welsford, Assistive Technology Specialist, regarding Showbie.
- Lamar Eason, RCH Coordinator, updated the board on the revised RCH Policy. A motion will be brought forward this evening for approval.
- Brian Smith, Director of Operations, reported on Catchment Area Review and the board has directed staff to move ahead with the work but will wait to hold community meetings.
- Theresa Schroder, Communications Coordinator, presented to the board regarding strategic communications. The board is looking forward to hearing more about this and will schedule a workshop in the near future.
- The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2017.

Programs & Student Services Committee (recorded session 27:34)

Board Member Crossland reported that the committee met on September 13, 2017. More detailed notes from the meeting can be found on the briefcase. Discussion items were: Policy 225 Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding, and Human Rights.

MOTION SS037-17 by Board Member Crossland, seconded by Board Member Naugler, that the Board approve Policy 225 Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights, with a review date of October 2018. **Seven For / One Opposed / Motion Carried**

Board Member Simms expressed concerns regarding the policy changes and ways to ensure that the policy is being followed and is effective.

Several Board Members shared their opinions regarding the RCH policy.

Scott Milner, Superintendent of Schools, stated that one aspect of checking in on how the policy is going is a collection of data. You will see in the policy that there are expectations that if there is an incident that occurs in a school that it's recorded appropriately in PowerSchool and those are reportable figures. Conversations have taken place with principals about expectations and that's an

ongoing dialogue. As part of the deliverables on the last page, PD sessions are provided. There are also reportables around self-identified students. The board can expect the information to come through the programs & student services committee meeting. The organizational climate is a broader collection of information with a variety of measures. EDI data can inform dialogue around climate. Staff have a voice in the survey as well. The outline of what the survey entails could be brought to the programs and student services committee as a presentation.

(35:05 recorded discussion)

Lamar Eason, RCH Coordinator, explained that the policy's effectiveness can be monitored through the deliverables found in the policy. Mr. Eason explained the work that has been done with staff, professional development and the incident/complaint reporting process.

(43:45 recorded discussion)

Scott Milner, Superintendent of Schools, stated that part of this is an education component, making sure all facets of the organization are very aware, not just of the policy but of the requirements and expectations of the policy. The school principals, school staff, all adults in the system that could see something occurring. There is a definite education component to this. There is a plan that will be rolled out to increase the awareness and understanding of what RCH is. There is a plan to present at the October meeting. The board has an RCH Committee that includes two Board Members, the Superintendent and the RCH Coordinator. The committee, at any point, could ask for a check in at any time. It could come to the board as a report.

(45:10 recorded discussion)

Lamar Eason, RCH Coordinator, explained the difference between appropriate and severe for grade level, age and number of incidents.

Board Chair Payzant stated that follow up and reporting is covered in RCH policy.

The next Programs & Student Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at 2:30 p.m.

Corporate Services Committee (50:52 recorded discussion)

Board Member Maguire gave a brief update of the Corporate Services Committee meeting from September 13th, 2017:

- Murray Doucette, Director of HR, provided an update as to the HR Policies that will be reviewed for the upcoming year: 610 Hiring, 615 Hiring Education Administrators, 650 NSTU Hiring, 630 Respectful Workplace, 695 Professional Development Funds Non-union.
- Brian Smith, Director of Operations, provided his report to the Committee: Update on the summer work that was completed at PVEC. A tour was provided for local Municipal and Provincial Leaders prior to the start of school that went very well. There are plans for an Open House for the Public to attend at some point in the fall. The policies to be reviewed are: #420, #460 & #470. Discussion regarding the Catchment Area Consultations and whether or not this process should continue as planned. This item was referred to Committee of the Whole.
- Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance, reported that the Board is in a good financial position with regards to the Valuation of the Pension Plans. A future item for discussion will be the renewal of the Board Office Lease. The July 31st 2017 Financial Report did not produce any identifiable or expected financial issues, at this time. NSTU Service Award Calculations are required by the Department of Education. The Policies to be reviewed: #530, #510, #170. There has been a significant decrease to the Workers Compensation Rate and the cost savings is estimated to be around \$80,000. The Auditor Services contract is up for tender. As part of the proposal review

process it was felt that a Board Member should participate in the selection. Board Member Maguire will act in this role. As an addition to the Corporate Services agenda, Board Members Griffin, Crossland and Maguire gave an update on their experience/observations of the MODL Rural Schools Community Consultations which were held at the LaHave Fire Hall (July 19th) and Northfield District Fire Hall (July 24th).

- The next Corporate Service Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 11th 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Audit Committee (recorded session 53:37)

Board Member Maguire stated that the committee met on June 26, 2017. The next meeting will be scheduled for this spring.

By-Laws Committee (recorded session 53:58)

Board Member Maguire stated that the committee met on September 5, 2017. The committee will have one final meeting to finish up their work and hopes to have a recommendation for the board in the fall.

RCH Committee (recorded session 54:50)

Scott Milner, Superintendent of Schools, stated that the RCH Committee has not met this year. The scheduled meeting had to be postponed. There has been some work completed by Mr. Eason that will be rolled out next month.

Lamar Eason, RCH Coordinator, stated he will be working with the Communications Coordinator to roll out the RCH policy. Part of it will be PD with staff and support staff but also awareness with our communities and schools communities. Each school will have posters regarding RCH and all schools will be receiving items with an RCH focus. Ultimately, this will be about how do we communicate this to the staff but also to the school community. This is an important part to the RCH policy and the beliefs which includes school communities and families. The work will be on how to message that and bring awareness.

NEW BUSINESS

MODL Rural School Report (recorded session 57:00)

Board Vice Chair Griffin stated that she read the MODL presentation and it was concerning that there was no formal invitation sent to School Board Members when they were discussing issues related to schools and school closures and reviews. In some instances, the presentation was somewhat lopsided in that the board didn't have an opportunity to present the rationale for the decisions that the board has made over time. It was concerning that during the consultation process, board members were not able to participate as fully as others in the group. Comments were made about some of the actions of the board being unlawful. Not all information presented was accurate. The board needs greater dialogue with the municipal units and to encourage more of those interactions and that the board be engaged and be at the table when those conversations occur.

(recorded session 59:35)

Board Member Maguire stated that he expressed his displeasure on how the meetings were handled and an invitation to participate when discussing school board matters. We are dealing with the same problem through different lenses. We need to build partnerships and work together. We are all fighting each other when we should be fighting with the provincial government to get at a new funding model for rural schools. We need to work with our municipal partners.

(recorded session 1:02:35)

Board Member Payzant stated that the board had met with the municipal and town councils over the past school year and the meetings seemed to go well. The MODL Rural Schools meetings were arranged over the summer. Would have attended if there had been an invitation. In reading the comments, there are some valid concerns and some real misconceptions in the public. It means that the school board need to be reaching out even more to our municipal partners.

(recorded session 1:05:05)

Board Member Griffin stated that it's a catalyst for action on the board's part. It demonstrates a far greater communication and connection with our community and can see this coming through our SACs. It's a shared role and responsibility that the board has with the municipalities and communities. What is evident is that people don't understand what the structure is, what the role of the board is, what the constraints are. They need to understand how the board is governed and that there are policy frameworks that influence and constrain the board decision making. This has to be reflected in the board's communications plan. It requires a cultural shift and that takes time. Those meetings were red flags to say that the board can do better and the board will do better.

(recorded session 1:07:39)

Scott Milner, Superintendent of Schools, referred to a summary of the MODL Rural School Meetings and quoted the motion which stated staff were directed to work towards a meeting to involve all relevant participants. If we are talking about education in Lunenburg and Queens County, I hope the board is seen as a relevant participant. We are not really sure of the goal of these meetings and what was stated. A conversation was had with the Mayor to say that the board had hoped to be part of the dialogue. The board is invited to present at MODL at the end of October. The board could send a letter to state that this is an opportunity to engage and look at our common goals and see this as a catalyst for greater engagement together.

Board Member Crossland suggested that the Board should look at the By-Laws and see if there is something that can be done with the meeting structure of the board public meetings. How can the board be more inviting or invite public to be part of our meetings?

Board Vice Chair Griffin stated that some board give the public the opportunity to ask questions at the beginning of their meetings. The By-Laws Review Committee can review this. The board participated in a Restorative Workshop today and there may be ways to facilitate our meetings in different ways.

Board Member Crossland stated that one of the conversations at the table at the MODL public meeting was communication and getting the word out. There is a Municipal newsletter, perhaps the board could have a section for school board news.

Board Members were in agreement to have Board Member Maguire prepare the letter to the MODL. All Board Members will review the draft letter.

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT (recorded session 1:16:41)

Board Chair Payzant stated that the Board Members toured Park View Education Centre earlier this month and Park View is a wonderful new school. Staff and Mr. Smith were thanked for their work. Attended committee meetings on September 13th. Invited to speak about attracting families to the area, along with the Superintendent, at the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on September 19th. There were positive comments stating the need to let the community members know what the school board does. Attended the committee of the whole meeting on September 20th. Tomorrow, there is a School Insurance Program meeting in Dartmouth.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (recorded session 1:20:00)

Scott Milner, Superintendent of Schools, reviewed his September Report. There will be an SAC Workshop on November 7th at Forest Heights Community School. The complete report can be found on the SSRSB website under the Governing Board tab.

Jeff DeWolfe, Director of Programs & Student Services, gave a brief overview of the pre-primary classes that opened today at Chester District School and West Northfield Elementary School.

REGIONAL EDUCATION OFFICER'S REPORT (recorded session 1:40:01)

Stephen Amirault, Regional Education Officer, highlighted the following items from his report: Education and Early Childhood Development Updates on programs, initiatives, and opportunities for the September 2017 school year - Primary to 3, Grade 7 and 8 Curriculum Renewal, Citizenship 9, Extended Mathematics 11, Entrepreneurship 12, Mentorship Program for New Guidance Counsellors, Mental Health Professional Development, Public School Program Review, Physical Activity Framework, SchoolsPlus and Mental Health, Provincial School Police Protocol, Council to Improve Classroom Conditions and Committees/Meetings attended as of June 1, 2017.

OTHER REPORTS**NSSBA Board of Directors & Finance Committee** (recorded session 1:19:18)

Board Member Simms updated the board on the recent NSSBA Board of Directors meeting. Discussion items were: School Board Policies on Fraud, Pre-primary - are students and staff being treated the same for fire drills etc., Improving image and communication with community groups and School Bus Red light school district.

NSSBA Education Committee

Board Member Stewart gave an update from the NSSBA Education Committee where Dr. Stan Kutcher presented.

NOTICE OF MOTION

There was no notice of motion.

DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Programs & Student Services Committee Meeting – October 11, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.
- Corporate Services Committee Meeting – October 11, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
- Committee of the Whole Board Meeting – October 18, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
- Board Meeting – October 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Board Chair Payzant stated that the board will meet in camera after this meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

Board Chair Payzant stated that the NSSBA would like to meet with all School Boards to brainstorm on strategic planning. A meeting will be scheduled towards the end of October or early November.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Board Member Stewart, seconded by Board Member Simms, that the meeting be adjourned. (8:29 p.m.)

Motion Carried Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

There were no public comments.

MOTION by Board Member Maguire, seconded by Board Member Naugler, that the board move in camera (8:35 p.m.) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

MOTION by Board Member Stewart, seconded by Board Member Simms, that the board move out of in camera (8:57 p.m.) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

Lori Ferraina
Board Secretary &
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Elliott Payzant, Board Chair