

SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting

March 20, 2013

Board Office

Bridgewater, Nova Scotia

Present:

Board Members

Naugler, Jennifer; Board Chair	Garber, Elmer
Payzant, Elliott; Board Vice-Chair	Griffin, Theresa
Crossland, Elizabeth	Simms, Vernon
Fougere, Cheryl	Stevens, Charmaine

Staff

DeWolfe, Jeff; Director of Programs & Student Services
Ferraina, Lori; Board Secretary & Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Morrison, Misty; RCH Coordinator
Munro, Tina; Director of Human Resources
Pynch-Worthylake, Nancy; Superintendent of Schools
Prest, Steve; Director of Programs and Student Services
Tattie, Wade; Director of Finance

Other

Amirault, Stephen; Regional Education Officer

Regrets

Smith, Trish; Communications Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Naugler called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

EDUCATION PRESENTATION & ORDER OF THE DAY

Board Chair Naugler explained that the Board has agreed to suspend the Education Presentations and Orders of the Day for February and March. This has been done to accommodate the Board's focus on School Review

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

The Board Secretary recorded attendance. Eight Board Members and seven Staff Members were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Board Member Payzant, seconded by Board Member Garber, that the agenda be approved, as amended.

Motion Carried Unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MOTION by Board Member Griffin, seconded by Board Member Stevens, that the Board approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2013. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

MOTION by Board Member Fougere, seconded by Board Member Crossland, that the Board approve the Board Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2013. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

MOTION by Board Member Payzant, seconded by Board Member Fougere, that the Board approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2013. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

MOTION by Board Member Stevens, seconded by Board Member Garber, that the Board move into Committee of the Whole. (7:10 p.m.) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

MOTION by Board Member Payzant, seconded by Board Member Stevens, that the Board move In Camera. (7:11 p.m.) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

MOTION by Board Member Payzant, seconded by Board Member Griffin, that the Board move back to Committee of the Whole. (8:13 p.m.) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

MOTION by Board Member Griffin, seconded by Board Member Crossland, that the Board move back to the regular Board Meeting (8:13 p.m.) **Motion Carried Unanimously**

Board Chair Naugler stated that the Board met In-Camera to discuss personnel matters as well as confidential budget matters, including a discussion of shared financial services.

MOTION SS028-13 by Board Member Simms, seconded by Board Member Fougere, that the Board accept and approve the Joint Management Committee Report # 1301. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

Board Member Fougere suggested that staff report back in approximately one year to see how things are progressing.

Funding & Estimated Budget Shortfall 2013-2014

Wade Tattie, Director of Finance, reviewed the following document with Board Members and gave a brief explanation of how the province arrived at the profile sheet funding this year:

SSRSB Profile Sheet Funding 13/14	
Actual 12/13 Profile Sheet Funding	66,346,800
1% Wage Increase For 13/14 Added by Province	550,000
Full Funding Reductions if Hogg Formula had been fully applied in 13/14	- 3,270,600
13/14 Profile Sheet Funding if Hogg Formula Funding had been fully applied	63,626,200
Hogg Formula Funding for 13/14 Not Cut	2,720,600
Reduction In 13/14 Funding - Capped at 1.5%	- 995,200
Actual 13/14 Profile Sheet Funding	65,351,600

Mr. Tattrie explained that the Board will continue to receive cuts unless the province backs down from using the true Hogg formula over the transition period which is going to be three years. Year 13-14 is year one. In 14-15 and 15-16 it is almost certain that we will be hit with reductions. The province has not given any specifics but we have been told that there will be a transition period of at least three years before the full Hogg formula is going to be implemented. This year could have been much worse.

SSRSB Estimated Budget Shortfall 13/14	
Reduction In 13/14 Funding - Capped at 1.5%	995,200
Cost of Living Adjustments	850,000
Shortfall due to Funding Reduction and COLA	1,845,200
School Maintenance Issues	358,000
Staffing Issues	422,500
Total	2,625,700
Savings Due to Milton Closure	- 146,000
Savings due to Ten Teacher Reductions July 2013 due to Enrollment Decline	- 402,000
Savings due to Teacher Retirements July 2013	- 268,000
Savings due to Teacher Stub Period April to July 2012	- 396,000
Line by Line Budget Reductions	- 733,000
Outstanding Shortfall Remaining	680,700
Total Teacher Reductions Needed to Balance Total Budget Shortfall	17
Total Non-Teacher Reductions Needed To Balance Total Budget Shortfall	34

Steve Prest, Director of Operations, spoke about the school maintenance. The average age of all of our schools is 39 years. In public infrastructure, schools are built to last 35 – 50 years and that's following a good maintenance program. In analysing the maintenance budget, approximately \$100,000 will bring us in line with what was spent in other years. Money has been put aside for the following: Every three years sprinkler tanks have to be cleaned. Building studies need to be completed to pin point where we should be spending the money we do have. We have recently discovered that we do have some issues with some school roofs that have to be dealt with. There is a detailed list and these are just some examples. In past years, we haven't budgeted enough for plumbing and electrical. This is taking our historical expenditures in our schools which are at minimum levels and we have budgeted on that. If we don't increase the budget, then we spend less on plumbing, electrical, environmental, paving, flooring, carpentry, etc. We don't have to spend that total amount but there are some looming issues with some schools. Over and above the TCA process, there is a repair fund. We do not have any details on the fund yet. We could use this fund to repair a school roof. This school maintenance line is strictly our operating maintenance budget for electrical, sprinkler, sewage, elevators, fire safety etc.

Wade Tattrie, Director of Finance, stated that school closures are not reflected in the numbers presented tonight. School closures would help narrow the gap. This is reality and it's not going to get any easier. The province will move towards the full Hogg formula. School closures help in 13-14 and continue to help in future years. The surplus cannot be applied to next year's shortfall. Part of the Finance Department's job is monitor and to take action to reallocate these funds elsewhere where

they were needed – schools supplies, technology in schools etc. If we did nothing and didn't use the surplus, the government takes it. There is a need to do longer term planning and look at what else has to go up for review.

Board Member Simms asked about a workload study for regional staff and using space in schools for regional office staff.

Nancy Pynch-Worthylake, Superintendent of Schools, stated that there would be a cost savings to move central office into a school. Also, a document will be prepared for the Board that outlines the reductions that have been made at regional office since the 2008-2009 fiscal year. We have stabilized now at regional office but have cut 19 positions from regional office. If the Board would like a workload study completed, this work would have to be contracted. The Board will have special meetings to review the budget in the near future.

Board Chair Naugler called a recess at 9:14 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 9:20 p.m.

Questions for the Board Meeting on Saturday, March 23rd

The following questions will be reviewed at the upcoming Special Meeting on March 23rd:

- Accurate student enrolment information for the receiving schools (CAMS, DJCWA, HA)
- School maintenance budget and the need for 358,000
- One section of the budget from Programs & Student Services to give Board Members an idea of how little there is left to support schools.

MOTION by Board Member Payzant, seconded by Board Member Garber, that the meeting be extended to 10:00 p.m.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- What is the percentage of students involved in the Review Process as compared to the rest of the Board?
- Table 6 - Pentz: Yearly cost savings for consolidation into a new school for all three schools - \$248,344. Some clarification? Will more savings come from some of the other options? (i.e.: moving the Pentz students to Hebbville Academy).
- The option for consolidation of all three schools does indicate a lower overall savings than the other three options. The most significant portion of this difference is because this scenario indicates far less savings (approximately \$80,000) in operating costs than the other three scenarios.
- Table 6 - Hebbville: Reduction in admin cost from moving the P-5 to the middle school building - \$248,827. Clarification on this number.
- Table 6 - Mill Village: Increase in bussing costs - \$3,040. Clarification.
- A question from a written response we received from a parent at Mill Village (in our Briefcase) around the bell time/bussing situation. Is it possible to get some concrete information before we make the school review decisions?
- Under Operations - A&A in relation to school review, under process, school review factor. Projects which are, or are anticipated to be, required as a result of school reviews where the reviews have identified programming benefits for students or reduced operating costs. Can we have a discussion around that statement? Would the Petite Plus model fall under this description?

- Is the cost per square foot higher at a new school? i.e.: Bluenose Academy or even Dr. J.C. Wickwire as compared to our older buildings.
- If we get a new school approved, what items come from the capital budget? When do we assume the operations budget for that? Upon completion? Clarification around the cost of maintaining 2 or 3 older/smaller schools, as compared to a new bigger school. Even though the build may not come out of our budget, the operations cost would.
- Could staff provide information on the yearly cost of the SSRSB Offices? The annual lease for the building and any other expenses, such as capital costs covered by the board?
- What has been cut from regional office?
- What would be the impact of further cuts?

CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION by Board Member Simms, seconded by Board Member Griffin, that the Board receive the correspondence presented this evening. A letter from the SSRSB Support Staff Pension Plan was received by the Board this evening.

Motion Carried Unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

Bridgewater Elementary School – School Advisory Council Letter of Agreement

MOTION SS029-13 by Board Member Stevens, seconded by Board Member Fougere, that the Board approve the Bridgewater Elementary School – School Advisory Council Letter.

Motion Carried Unanimously

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR’S REPORT

MOTION SS030-13 by Board Member Griffin, seconded by Board Member Simms, that the Board receive the School Board Chair’s Report presented this evening.

Motion Carried Unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

MOTION SS031-13 by Board Member Payzant, seconded by Board Member Stevens, that the Board receive the Superintendent’s Report presented this evening.

Motion Carried Unanimously

REGIONAL EDUCATION OFFICER’S REPORT

MOTION SS032-13 by Board Member Garber, seconded by Board Member Simms, that the Board receive the Regional Education Officer’s Report presented this evening.

Motion Carried Unanimously

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NSSBA Board of Directors

Board Member Griffin reported that she attended the NSSBA Board of Directors meeting on March 7th & 8th. The primary focus was the NSSBA Mission Statement, Strategic Plan, streamlining of the administrative structure, revamping the by-laws and the letter regarding the memorandum of understanding with the Department of Education. The chair of the NSSBA, Jamie Stevens, distributed documents to Board Members - “Shifting Minds” and “Future Tense”. Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting will be forwarded to Board Members when received.

OTHER REPORTS

There were no other reports presented this evening.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no agenda items presented for future agendas this evening.

NOTICE OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion this evening.

DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

- March 23, 2013 – Special Board Meeting – 9:00 a.m.
- March 25, 2013 – Committee of the Whole Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- March 27, 2013 – Special Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Board Member Payzant, seconded by Board Member Crossland, that the Board Meeting adjourn. (9:56 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

As stated in the SSRSB By-Laws, the Board will hear public comments, immediately following the adjournment of the regular Board Meeting. The Session will be for a maximum of 15 minutes. A person shall be entitled to speak for two minutes. One member of the public briefly spoke to the Board this evening:

- Leif Helmer – RE: Article - Hub Schools & School Review.

Lori Ferraina,
Board Secretary &
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Jennifer Naugler, Board Chair