

**Public Schools Branch**  
Sixth Public Board of Directors Meeting  
January 10, 2017

Minutes

The Board of Directors for the Public Schools Branch met on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at East Wiltshire Intermediate School.

Present: Susan Willis, Board Chair  
Harvey MacEwen  
Pat Mella

Also in Attendance:  
Parker Grimmer, Director of Public Schools Branch  
Cindy MacLean, Confidential Board Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. and the Board Chair welcomed those in attendance.

**EAST WILTSHIRE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

Principal Windsor Wight welcomed everyone to East Wiltshire Intermediate School, and the following students highlighted school and student activities: Student Council President - Olivia Phillips, Sophie MacDonald, Grace MacFadyen, Sophia Vickerson, MacKayla Vos and Caleb Boswall.

The Board Chair extended appreciation to Principal Wight and acknowledged the excellent presentations made by the students.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

01/17/01 **It was moved by Harvey MacEwen and seconded by Pat Mella that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

01/17/02 **It was moved by Pat Mella and seconded by Harvey MacEwen that the minutes of the December 20, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting be adopted as presented. Motion carried.**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

(A complete copy of the Director's Report will be filed with the official minutes.)

### 1. School Visits

Director Grimmer reported that he had visited 44 schools to date on a scheduled basis that has him spending parts of a day in each of the 56 schools twice this year. A slide show highlighted some of the exceptional learning he witnessed during his school visits.

### 2. Good Things Happening in Island Schools

At Kinkora Regional, Ms. Pendergast's exploratory tech arts class recently participated in the Hour of Code event which was part of International Computer Science Education Week. Coding is an electronic language made up of keyboard symbols which tell the computer what to put on the screen, and it offers students the change to use their prowess for technology, and show their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

Students at Alberton Elementary shared a story with Director Grimmer about one of their parent volunteers, Melissa Williams, who is chair of the breakfast program and also prepares hot lunches three days a week. The students and staff see her as an important part of their school community. Ms. Williams is a wonderful example of the volunteers that make a huge difference in the lives of our students.

### 3. Home and School Associations and Parent Councils in Public Schools Branch Schools

Director Grimmer reported that all Public Schools Branch schools have an active home and school or parent council that follows a set of guiding principles which include:

- To obtain the best for each child in the school.
- To foster cooperation between parents and teachers, so that every child may grow to their full potential.
- To be informed, constructive partners with educators.
- To promote high standards of wellbeing in each child's life.

### 4. Professional Learning Days and Storm Days in the 2016-2017 School Year to Date

In response to a request at the last meeting, Director Grimmer reported there have been 5 Professional Learning Days to date, and school closures include 3 full day closures due to weather, 4 one-hour delays and 3 early closures due to weather, and 1 early closure related to the threat to schools and school evacuations.

A new provincial calendar committee has been formed to develop future school year calendars. This committee will include two Public Schools Branch principals and Director Grimmer.

### 5. Update on the School Change Process

A Category II Study of six families of schools was conducted from September 28, 2016 to January 9, 2017, following the process outlined in the Public Schools Branch (PSB) School Change Policy while respecting the powers and duties conferred on the PSB by the *Education Act* and Regulations.

Director Grimmer thanked everyone who shared their suggestions, ideas and concerns. All 337 online submissions, 271 written submissions, 30 emails, 82 public presentations and 67 individual and group presentations were important, with all submissions having been read and all voices have been listened to.

Mr. Grimmer indicated that the Category II report recommendations would be released later in the meeting with the intent to continue to engage Islanders in the next step of the school review. The recommendations will be posted on the Public Schools Branch website.

Phase four of the process will include 60 days where the public is invited to provide feedback. At the end of the 60 days, the Board of Directors of the Public Schools Branch will decide on the recommendations. This could be to agree with the recommendations in whole or in part, disagree, or the Board could come up with its own brand new recommendations.

A tremendous amount of work went into conducting an initial review for schools, consulting with stakeholders, attending public presentations, private meetings, reading on-line submissions, carefully reviewing the views of Islanders, writing and putting the report together, and making recommendations about viable options for change. Director Grimmer expressed appreciation to Bob Andrews and his team who worked tirelessly to see this process through.

### **TABLING AND PRESENTATION OF THE CATEGORY II CHANGE STUDY REPORTS**

01/17/03

**It was moved by Pat Mella and seconded by Harvey MacEwen that the Board of Directors receive the Category II Change Study Reports for the following:**

- **Charlottetown Rural and Colonel Gray Families of Schools, both contained within the Charlottetown Report**
- **Kinkora Family**
- **Montague Family**
- **Morell Family**
- **Westisle Family**

**Motion carried.**

The Board Chair introduced Bob Andrews, School Reorganization Project Manager, to speak to the recommendations. Mr. Andrews recognized a number of people for their support during preparation of the reports, then provided an overview of the Category II Change Study Reports and recommendations. Ms. Willis thanked Mr. Andrews for his work developing the study reports.

The Board Chair indicated that following the 60 days for public consultation, the Board of Directors will consider the input and make decisions on the recommendations at a public meeting of the Board. Any Board decision related to school closure would require approval of provincial Cabinet.

The public consultation process includes public meetings to provide the Board of Directors with feedback on the recommendations, opportunity to provide input online at the *Better Learning for All* website, and written input to the Board of Directors. Questions on the reports and requests for presentations at the public meetings are to be submitted to Bob Andrews.

The following public meetings were scheduled to provide the Board of Directors with feedback:

- Charlottetown Rural and Colonel Gray Families of Schools:
  - Wednesday, February 1, 7:00 p.m. at Colonel Gray High School
- Kinkora Family of Schools:
  - Thursday, February 2, 7:00 p.m. at Kinkora Regional High School
- Montague Family of Schools:
  - Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 p.m. at Montague Regional High School
- Morell Family of Schools:
  - Wednesday, February 8, 7:00 p.m. at Morell Regional High School
- Westisle Family of Schools:
  - Thursday, February 9, 7:00 p.m. at Westisle Composite High School

Time was provided for members of the public to participate in a question and answer session.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board Chair expressed appreciation to members of the public for their attendance and attention during the meeting, and thanked Principal Wight and his staff for their work setting up for the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.