

**Public Schools Branch**  
Fourteenth Public Board of Directors Meeting  
February 21, 2018

Minutes

The Board of Directors for the Public Schools Branch met on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at Montague Consolidated School.

Present: Susan Willis, Board Chair  
Harvey MacEwen  
Dale Sabean (via GoTo Meeting)

Also in Attendance:

Parker Grimmer, Director of Public Schools Branch  
John Cummings, Director of Corporate Services  
Karen Redmond, Manager of Policy and Planning  
Terri MacAdam, Director of Student Services  
Sheri Gauthier, Confidential Board Secretary

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Board Chair welcomed those in attendance. The Board Chair expressed appreciation to Principal Norbert Carpenter and students for hosting the meeting and to their presentations to the Board.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

02/18/01 **It was moved by Harvey MacEwen and seconded by Dale Sabean that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.**

**3. MONTAGUE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

Norbert Carpenter, Principal, provided a presentation and shared information about current happenings in the school.

Montague Consolidated Students, Lila Johnston and Samuel Campbell also provided a presentation regarding Character Traits. Each month Montague Consolidated students focus on a different virtue and recognize their work through school announcements, assemblies with guest speakers and prizes.

The Board Chair thanked Norbert, Lila and Samuel for their presentations and noted the value of the information shared this evening. The Board Chair showed appreciation for Lila and Samuel for their involvement with the Character Traits program and noted how impressed she was with what they are teaching other students in their school. The Board Chair wished the students all the best in the remainder of their school year.

**4. MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

02/18/02 **It was moved by Harvey MacEwen and seconded by Dale Sabean that the minutes of the December 13, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting be adopted as presented. Motion carried.**

#### **4.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Harvey MacEwen asked if an update was available from Mr. Andy Doran's presentation to the Board of Directors on December 13, 2017 regarding transportation concerns. John Cummings, Director of Corporate Services, provided a response and noted that a meeting occurred with the Departmental Advisory Committee (DAC). The issues were brought forward and discussed with the committee. A working group will be struck to determine next steps. More details will follow as the group develops.

#### **5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

(The complete Director's Report will be filed with the official minutes.)

##### 5.1 Grade 9 Students at Queen Charlotte, Stonepark and Birchwood Receive Letters

Director Grimmer reported that grade 9 students brought home letters on January 30 that confirmed which high school they will attend following the completion of grade 9. The recommendation was previously made to review the catchment areas of Charlottetown high schools. There will be no change in these attendance zones for at least the next two school years.

##### 5.2 Late French Immersion Parent Information Meetings

Director Grimmer noted that information meetings were held at intermediate schools in Charlottetown and Kensington for parents of Grade 6 students who plan to enroll in Grade 7 Late French Immersion for September 2018. A meeting will be held at Birchwood Intermediate at 7 p.m., February 27, 2018. Registration week is March 5-9.

##### 5.3 Update on School Construction

Director Grimmer provided an update to the L.M. Montgomery and Stratford Elementary/Glen Stewart Primary construction projects. Planning Committees continue to meet on a regular basis and are making significant progress in developing plans for additions to these schools with architects from Bill Chandler Architecture.

Public meetings are being held for the community to view construction plans and schedules.

##### 5.4 February 12 - 16 was Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week

Director Grimmer commended PSB teachers and staff for their incredible efforts, hard work and support. Appreciation week is a time when students and parents thank teachers and staff for the incredible work they do to create wonderful learning environments for students that inspire self-awareness, confidence, hope and a sense of belonging.

##### 5.5 Congratulations to Alberton Elementary Principal Shanna Perry

Director Grimmer congratulated Shanna Perry on receiving the Canada's Outstanding Principals award. Principal Perry is very dedicated, hardworking, and extremely well respected by students, staff and parents. She is committed to trying to find innovative ways to meet the needs of her students and works collaboratively with her staff and community so students can achieve success. Principal Perry will be awarded her accomplishment at the annual Canada's Outstanding Principals gala on February 27, 2018 in Toronto.

### 5.6 Staffing News

Terri MacAdam was the successful candidate for the Director of Student Services. Terri began serving her new role on January 3. Alison Campbell was the successful candidate and accepted the position of Student Services Manager in early January. Sawyer Murphy has joined our transportation staff and Nathan MacKinnon is our new property services manager east Mike MacDonald is new to our Stratford office at reception. The following joined the Summerside office: Cindy Mandoza (inclusion Education, Karen Milligan (Counsellor/Consultant) and Kathy Constable (Inclusion Education). We wish Terri, Alison, Sawyer, Nathan, Cindy, Karen, Kathy and Mike much success in their new positions.

### 5.7 Extra Mile Award Recipients

Director Grimmer congratulated Todd Dymont, teacher at Kensington Intermediate High School, Graham Townshend, teacher at Souris Regional, Tanya Gaudet, teacher at O'Leary Elementary, George Trevor, Principal of Georgetown Elementary, Bev Campbell. Library, food services, and volunteer at Queen Elizabeth Elementary, and Elmer Croken, custodian at Kinkora Regional High on being recipients of this year's Home and School Extra Mile awards. The Extra Mile award is given to individuals who have gone above and beyond in their efforts for students making a huge difference in their respective school communities. These individuals were presented their awards during Teacher and Staff Appreciation week by the Home and School executive at their schools in the presence of students, colleagues, and friends. We thank these award winning members of our community for their excellent work with PSB students, parents, and staff.

### 5.8 Good Things Happening in Island Schools

#### Athena Consolidated Art Gallery Wall

Director Grimmer commended Athena Consolidated for putting their artwork on display. Showing student artwork builds confidence, pride, and a safe place. The 'Art Wall' started when Principal, Jerry MacAulay, and Guidance Counsellor, Krista Newman, recognized the need for an artistic outlet for students. They decided to put students' artwork on display to showcase their students' talents.

The gallery wall has been a great addition and students love submitting their art and seeing them hanging on the wall. Staff have seen, that for some students, art is an outlet for their feelings, emotions, and mental health. It has been a key part of the school's work on the four zones of regulation with their students, a way in which students learn about their feelings and why they may be feeling a particular emotion.

#### How a Backwards Shirt Led to a Lesson in Kindness for a Souris Regional Kindergarten Class

Director Grimmer shared Substitute teacher Marie McGaugh recently witnessed a remarkable act of kindness in her kindergarten class at Souris Regional School. It happened during the morning "circle time" when students were gathered around their ABCs carpet. One of the students in the circle looked at another and, meaning no harm, said, "Your shirt is on backwards." Some of the students started to laugh, so Ms. McGaugh decided to use the moment to gently talk to the kids about how someone could hurt others' feelings. As she spoke, she saw one student in the circle quietly turned her own shirt around. Then, one

by one, more children did the same. Within minutes, almost every child in the class was sitting with their own shirt on backwards.

Ms. McGaugh noted the event was so caring and pure-hearted, in that other students didn't want a classmate to feel bad. It was a silent but strong show of solidarity for a friend and one that left a lasting impression on Ms. McGaugh. Their actions that were powerful. It was a golden moment where students taught the teacher about kindergarten kindness.

Cathy O'Keefe, the children's regular kindergarten teacher, wasn't surprised to hear how the children supported their friend. She said her class has a lot of empathy for each other and a higher level of thinking.

Ms. McGaugh wrote a letter to the Editor for the Guardian, and then Sarah Keaveny-Vos of the CBC picked up the story. It was then picked up and ran on a national CBC radio show called The Story From Here. It was also on the main CBC News website page as the #1 story in the "Offbeat" section.

Director Grimmer noted that an information session for French Immersion was offered in the Montague area with 25 parents in attendance. A suggestion was made for packages to go out to communities with grade 6 students. 100 kids would go to Montague Grade 7. A late immersion program was required, but numbers were not there this year. As per the direction of the board this will also be the approach next year.

## **6. POLICY REPORT**

02/18/03

### **6.1 Proposed Policy – French Immersion Policy (408)**

The Manager of Policy and Planning reported that this policy identifies French Immersion programming opportunities and to establish the school attendance zones for students registering in a French Immersion **It was moved by Harvey MacEwen and seconded by Dale Sabeau that the proposed Policy, be adopted as presented. Motion carried.**

Harvey MacEwen asked for clarity in the policy for students who exit the French program mid-school year but reside out of the English zone. The policy doesn't specifically state that they can complete the school year in the said school. Karen noted that this ties back to the student transfer process. The Transfer Policy identifies that the student can apply to carry out the year in the current school.

## **7. PUBLIC INPUT**

### **7.1 Parent Presentation – Lindy McQuillan**

Lindy McQuillan provided a presentation to the Board of Directors as a concerned parent of Stratford and requested that the Board provide updated Jr. High numbers to the website and develop a plan to solve overcrowding issues in the Charlottetown family of High Schools. Also requesting the long-term plan for Glen Stewart Primary.

Harvey MacEwen thanked Ms. McQuillan for her presentation and noted that work continues on providing the updated numbers to the website.

The Board Chair indicated that the presentation would be considered and a response would be provided to Ms. McQuillan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.