

Public Schools Branch
Sixteenth Public Board of Directors Meeting
April 10, 2018

Minutes

The Board of Directors for the Public Schools Branch met on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at Central Queens Elementary School.

Present: Susan Willis, Board Chair
Harvey MacEwen
Dale Sabean

Also in Attendance:

Parker Grimmer, Director of Public Schools Branch
John Cummings, Director of Corporate Services
Terri MacAdam, Director of Student Services
Sheri Gauthier, Confidential Board Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The Board Chair welcomed those in attendance. The Board Chair expressed appreciation to Principal Tara Deglan-Gallant for hosting the meeting and for presenting to the Board.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board Chair added the following item to the agenda:
9.1 Special Meeting of the Board

04/18/01

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

3. CENTRAL QUEENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Tara Deglan-Gallant, Principal, provided a presentation and shared information about the PATHS pilot project.

The Board Chair thanked Tara for her presentation and appreciated the initiative from the school and the long-term interest in the program from both Central Queens Elementary and Parkdale Elementary schools.

4. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2018 & MARCH 5, 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

04/18/02

It was moved by Harvey MacEwen and seconded by Dale Sabean that the minutes of the February 21, 2018 & March 5, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

4.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Board Chair addressed Lindy MacQuillan, in the audience, and noted that consideration of her presentation to the Board on February 21, 2018 continues.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

5.1 Update on School Construction

Director Grimmer provided an update on L.M. Montgomery and Stratford Elementary/Glen Stewart construction.

5.2 Congratulations to Krista Gallant for Receiving the CPF PEI Educator of the Year Award

Director Grimmer congratulated Krista Gallant, French Immersion teacher at Sherwood School, for receiving this award. This award is presented annually to a person who has shown exceptional support and dedication to the quality and availability of French language programs in PEI schools. Krista will receive a trophy, banner, gift card and an allowance to support learning in her classroom.

5.3 Staffing News

Director Grimmer noted that Tanya Tremere was the successful candidate for the PSB Information Officer position. Nicole A. Eldershaw was successful in Tanya's previous role as Payroll Officer. Nicole commences her new role on April 11, 2018.

The PSB also welcomed Dr. Brent MacDonald, Private Psychologist to his new role on April 6, 2018.

5.4 Good Things Happening in Island Schools

PEI Boy with Down syndrome Fulfills Dream of Playing Hockey

Director Grimmer noted that Ben Matheson, Grade 8 student at East Wiltshire, has been playing with the Hockey Skills Academy since Grade 7. Ben has a real interest in hockey and with the help of his teachers and members of his community, he was able to take to the ice.

To say Ben loves hockey is an understatement. He talks about hockey from October to March. "We put some gear together for him, got him on the ice and spent a lot of time preparing him to be here. There's lots of lessons learned, but the biggest most positive thing that's happened from it is this inclusive environment, which is incredible." said Natalie MacKinnon, the inclusive education teacher at East Wiltshire.

Ben's passion has helped him learn other skills, like learning to follow a schedule, waiting his turn and working with other kids. MacKinnon said that Ben was nervous when he first started, but he's become much more confident as his hockey skills have improved and he's become friends with the other players.

Ben said 'yep' when coach and teacher John Cusack asked him if he especially enjoy scoring goals. Ben has also taught the other hockey players what he's capable of and he has also started playing with a minor hockey team outside of the hockey academy at school.

His hockey academy teammates didn't know Ben prior to playing hockey with him, but now consider him their friend. "It makes you feel really lucky, because it's also fun that Ben looks forward to coming out and playing with us. It makes you feel good," said one teammate.

PEI Science Fair

Director Grimmer had the pleasure of attending the 2018 PEI Science Fair held at UPEI in the Chi-Wan Young Sports Centre. More than 210 young scientists from 27 Island Schools were recently awarded for their outstanding projects. More than \$15,000 in prizes, provided by 47 community partners, were also presented to young scientists at this event.

Director Grimmer congratulated all of the award winners.

6. Psycho-Educational Update

Terri MacAdam provided an update on the Psychology Strategy. Terri spoke to the psychologist's role and highlighted the wide range of services that support the learning needs of students.

The Board Chair commended Terri and her team on the work completed on the Strategy.

7. Mental Health Literacy Training

Maribeth Rogers, K-12 Health and Physical Education Leader, provided a presentation on Mental Health Literacy for Schools. Maribeth shared her experience in becoming a master trainer on Mental Health Literacy.

The Mental Health Literacy curriculum guide is being introduced in Phys Ed classes at the High School level.

The Board Chair thanked Maribeth for her presentation and noted that this was a good initiative and great supports are in place for our students.

8. School Food Initiative

Morgan Palmer, Food Environment Officer, provided an overview and update to the School Food Initiative. The three schools involved in the initiative were; Tignish Elementary, East Wiltshire Intermediate and Morell Regional High. Morgan shared the outcomes from the initiative and next steps.

The Board Chair thanked Morgan and showed appreciation for the presentation.

9. Other Business

9.1 Special Meeting of the Board

A special meeting of the board is scheduled for Monday, April 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., location to be determined.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.