

Public Schools Branch
Twenty Second Public Board of Directors Meeting
December 12, 2018

Minutes

The Board of Directors for the Public Schools Branch met on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at St. Jean Elementary.

Present: Susan Willis, Board Chair
Harvey MacEwen
Dale Sabean

Also in Attendance:

Parker Grimmer, Director of Public Schools Branch
Erin Johnston, Assistant Director
Becky Chaisson, Director of Corporate Services
Karen Redmond, Manager of Policy and Planning
Blake Crockett, Financial Services Coordinator
Wendy Bernier, Director of Human Resources
Janet Perry-Payne, EAL Program Administrator
Sheri Gauthier, Confidential Board Secretary

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. The Board Chair welcomed those in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda

12/12/01 **It was moved by Dale Sabean and seconded by Harvey MacEwen that the agenda be approved with the deferral of item #6 – Proposed Policy – Student Transportation Policy.**

Motion carried.

3. St. Jean Elementary Presentation

The Board Chair welcomed Principal, Maureen Cassivi to share a few words about her school.

Principal Cassivi introduced Vice-Principal Mark Kelly and Amanda MacIntosh, Grade 6 teacher at St. Jean Elementary. Principal Cassivi provided an update on current events at St. Jean Elementary.

The Board Chair expressed her appreciation to Principal Cassivi for hosting the Board of Directors' meeting.

4. Minutes of the November 14, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting

12/12/02 **It was moved by Dale Sabean and seconded by Harvey MacEwen that the minutes of the November 14, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting be adopted as presented.**

Motion carried.

5. Director's Report

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

1. Capital Budget 2019-2020 Highlights

The P.E.I. capital budget for 2019-2020 includes \$38 million for the construction of a new high school in Stratford. The school will be built in co-operation with the town. Details, including where the school will go, are still to be worked out. The school is expected to be completed in three to four years. With the new high school, Donagh and Stratford students will be able to finish school in their home community, but will still need to be bused to Charlottetown for Grades 7 to 9.

Other new investments in education include 20 new school buses, at a cost of \$2.1 million, new classrooms in West Royalty at a cost of \$4.7 million, and \$19.1 million for the new elementary school in Sherwood.

The government also set aside \$500,000 for a comprehensive review of school infrastructure, to determine which schools will require renovation or replacement over the next few years.

2. Parent Teacher Interviews

In a very rare occurrence, system wide Parent Teacher Interviews had to be cancelled and reschedule twice because of poor weather and dangerous driving conditions. Due to the weather warnings issued throughout the province, all Parent Teacher Interviews scheduled for this November 22 were postponed for one week to Thursday, November 29.

More wintery weather on November 29 meant all classes needed to be cancelled for the day and all events at schools needed to be cancelled/rescheduled as well.

As we have a wide variety of events previously planned at schools for this time of year (i.e. Christmas concerts, student events, etc.) schools were left to their discretion to reschedule their interviews to a time that works best for their individual school community within the next week.

Parents who were unable to accommodate the rescheduled dates were asked to make alternative arrangements with their school. We thank our students, parents, and staff for their patience and understanding as we worked to ensure these purposeful and helpful meetings happen.

3. Branch-Based Professional Development

The PSB held Branch Based Professional Learning at Colonel Gray Library on Friday, November 23, 2018. Branch staff participated in RIM Training with Lisa Hashie, and Anne Marie Maclsaac, and took in information sessions on Personal Wellness, the School Food Initiative, School Review and Construction Update, and Cannabis Legislation.

4. Seasonal Concerts and Holiday Greetings

Seasonal concerts and plays are planned or have already taken place at many of our schools during the month of December. These events are important moments in the lives of students and their families. The success of these events also require a lot of work on the part of school staff and volunteers. The Public Schools Branch

thanks these people for their extra efforts, especially at this busy time of the year. We echo the messages given through music and words at these events: All the best to everyone for a peaceful, safe, and happy holiday season.

5. **Good Things Happening In Island Schools**

PEI Heritage Fair Students Selected to Attend Canada's History's Young Citizens Youth Forum

Two PEI Heritage Fair students have been selected to attend Canada's History's Young Citizens Youth Forum in Ottawa in January 2019. Canada's History, the national coordinating body of the Heritage Fair and Young Citizens programs, has selected 6 students from across Canada to participate in their Youth Forum in Ottawa in January 2019, and 2 of the students are from PEI!

Basel Al Rashdan, a Queen Charlotte Intermediate student was selected for "As Long as the Sun and Moon Shall Endure I am a Treaty Person".

Basel has excelled at the Provincial Heritage Fair having participated the last three years, twice as a finalist, and recipient of several prizes. He was interviewed, along with Mi'kmaq elder Charlotte Morris, for CBC's The Current radio program this summer. Basel was invited to speak at the UN in November 2017 on World Children's Day about his experience as a child refugee.

Oscar Cormier of West Kent Elementary was selected for his project, "The Spy from PEI" about his great-grandfather Clifton E. Stewart, a farm boy from Hampshire PEI and his work as a special operations spy for the Allies during WWII. Oscar and his family have relocated to Windsor, Ontario.

Congratulations Basel and Oscar!

School Food Think Tanks

School Food Student Think Tanks and Photovoice events recently took place at East Wiltshire, Kinkora Regional, and Montague Regional schools. These events involved hundreds of PSB students from the elementary, intermediate, and high school level, and members of the Home and School Federation, DEELC, Department of Health, and the PSB. Tasty, nutritious, locally sourced meals were prepared for students by high school culinary students. Student perspectives were gathered about their expectations around a new school food program.

The School Food program aims to support student learning and students in food secure conditions, and to increase food literacy among students, staff and families. Student engagement is a priority and the program will reflect student voices and the input of communities. The plan includes utilizing a centralized kitchen and pay-as-you-can model. Nine champion schools have stepped forward to pilot projects that will begin next year.

Work has begun to establish non-profit organizations, educate the people involved and test the model before it is implemented Island-wide.

Informative banners were created out of these discussions and videos highlighting the work of each Think Tank event can be found at

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RNQCblieLdkfEqJJ7x1HT7GyXtuGnlb2?usp=sharing>

The hard work and efforts of Morgan Palmer, Food Environment Officer, leading this work is appreciated.

6. Policy Report

The Board of Directors deferred this item until a future meeting.

7. Financial Services Invoices

7.1 Invoice 305045 – General Liability and Directors/Officers Professional Liability Insurance

Ms. Chaisson presented Invoice 305045 – General Liability and Directors/Officers Professional Liability Insurance in the amount of \$382,689 to be approved.

12/12/03

It was moved by Harvey MacEwen and seconded by Dale Sabean that invoice #305045 - General liability and Directors/Officers Professional Liability Insurance for premiums for the 2018 fiscal year be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

7.2 Invoice 305014 – Property Insurance, Crime and Boiler and Machinery

Ms. Chaisson presented Invoice 305014 – Property Insurance, Crime and Boiler and Machinery in the amount of \$570,546 to be approved.

12/12/04

It was moved by Harvey MacEwen and seconded by Dale Sabean that invoice #305014 for Property Insurance, Crime and Boiler and Machinery be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

Ms. Chaisson noted that there could potentially be a 5% increase to this expense in future years.

7.3 Invoice 305025 – Automobile Liability Insurance

Ms. Chaisson presented Invoice 305025 – Automobile Liability Insurance in the amount of \$188,663 to be approved.

12/12/05

It was moved by Dale Sabean and seconded by Harvey MacEwen that invoice 305025 – Automobile Liability Insurance be approved as presented.

Motion carried.

7.4 Invoice 305245 – October 2018 Fleet Expenses

Ms. Chaisson presented Invoice 305245 – October 2018 Fleet Expenses incurred at the Charlottetown Garage in the amount of \$126,878.96 to be approved.

12/12/06

It was moved by Harvey MacEwen and seconded by Dale Sabean that Invoice 305245 – October 2018 Fleet Expenses be approved as presented.

Mr. MacEwen noted that these types of invoices wouldn't normally be presented to the Board of Directors. Ms. Chaisson advised that Board approval was required due to the invoice being over the amount of \$100,000.

Motion carried.

8. Charlottetown Area School Review Update

At the September 13, 2018 meeting, The Board of Directors requested that the Director of the Public Schools Branch complete further analysis of the implications of Elementary Options 1 and 2 on class composition and programs. This work was provided to the Board of Directors by the Director of the Public Schools Branch.

12/12/07

It was moved by Dale Sabean and seconded by Harvey MacEwen that the Public Schools Branch reject Elementary Option 2 and accept Elementary Option 1 of the Charlottetown Family of Schools Study Report 2017-2018, effective September 1, 2019, to rezone students living in the Orchard Hill/Lewis Point Park catchment area who are in the English program at Spring Park Elementary to West Royalty Elementary, starting only with students who would be in grades K-2 September 2019. French immersion students from this catchment area will continue to attend Spring Park Elementary.

Motion carried.

The Board Chair thanked the Public Schools Branch staff for providing data for review during this process.

Mr. MacEwen expressed best wishes to students and staff for a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

9. Other Business

Nothing to report at this time.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.