

**Public Schools Branch**  
Twenty Sixth Public Board of Directors Meeting  
December 16, 2019

Minutes

The Board of Directors for the Public Schools Branch met on Monday, December 16, 2019 at Glen Stewart Primary.

Present: Bethany MacLeod, Board Chair  
Norman Beck  
Mary Jane Ready

Also in Attendance:

Parker Grimmer, Director of Public Schools Branch  
Erin Johnston, Assistant Director  
Becky Chaisson, Director of Corporate Services  
Dave Gillis, Leader of Corporate Services  
Karen Redmond, Manager of Policy and Planning  
Kelly Drummond, Director of Human Resources  
Terri MacAdam, Director of Student Services  
Janet Perry-Payne, EAL Program Administrator  
Paula Annear, Manager of Human Resources  
Sheri Gauthier, Confidential Board Secretary

**1. Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 6:51 p.m. The Board Chair welcomed Norman Beck and Mary Jane Ready to their new roles as directors of the Board. Norman recently retired as Principal at Stonepark Intermediate and Mary Jane Ready is a former principal from Gulf Shore Consolidated. The Board Chair also welcomed those in attendance and thanked Principal Anne Hall for hosting the Board.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

12/16/01 **It was moved by Norman Beck and seconded by Mary Jane Ready that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**3. Glen Stewart Primary School Presentation**

The Board Chair welcomed Principal Anne Hall to share a few words about her school. Anne welcomed everyone in attendance and shared highlights at Glen Stewart Primary.

**4. Minutes of the June 26, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting**

12/16/02 **It was moved by Mary Jane Ready and seconded by Norman Beck that the minutes of the June 26, 2019 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).

### **5.1 Welcome to Our Two Newly Appointed Board of Directors**

The Public Schools Branch would like to welcome two new Board of Directors who were recently appointed by the Honourable Brad Trivers, Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning, to fill existing vacancies on our board. Mary Jane Ready and Norman Beck are well respected retired educators and their knowledge, experience and commitment to education will greatly benefit the board of the Public Schools Branch.

Mary Jane Ready will fill the vacancy left by Harvey MacEwen whose term expired recently. Ms. Ready is a former principal of Gulf Shore Consolidated School. She brings 34 years of experience to the position as a teacher and school administrator.

Norman Beck, former principal of Stonepark Intermediate, will fill a vacancy left by Dale Sabean who retired from the board to pursue professional opportunities. Mr. Beck has 31 years of experience as an educator, including 16 years as a principal and vice principal. Welcome Mary Jane and Norman. These new board members will join board Chair, Bethany MacLeod for the next public meetings.

### **5.2 Student Enrolments**

Director Grimmer provided an update and noted the official student enrolment for the PSB was 19,690 as of September 30. The official student enrolments for all schools for the 2019-2020 school year can also be found on our website or at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/student-enrolment>

### **5.3 Staffing News**

Wendy Bernier retired on December 10, 2019 on the fourth anniversary of her time as Director of Human Resources at the PSB, and after more than three decades of dedicated service to students and the education system in Quebec. In all her capacities, Wendy has been a wonderful ambassador for education and an advocate for learning, health, fitness, and supporting staff so students have better opportunities to succeed. We thank Wendy for her service at the PSB and wish her the best in retirement.

Ann Ramsay, our receptionist at our PSB Summerside office has announced her retirement! Her last day with us is January 3, 2020. We thank Ann for her work at the Branch and wish her the very best as she moves into this next and best phase of life.

We are pleased to announce that Kelly Drummond was the successful candidate for the Director of Human Resources, Corporate Planning and Principal Support position at the Public Schools Branch. We are excited that Kelly, with her leadership experience in public education and successful track record building cohesive and high performing teams, will join the branch in her new role. Kelly has extensive experience in senior human resources management, most recently serving as the Director of Human Resources for Health PEI. Kelly will official start with us in January and wish her much success.

Congratulations are extended to Noreen Lannigan, Administrative Officer in the Property Services Division of the PSB Stratford office, on her incredible 45 years of outstanding service to students, staff, and schools. While recognizing this milestone achievement, we thank Noreen for her continuing commitment to the work she loves and does so well!

#### **5.4 Special Colonel Gray Professional Development Opportunity**

Every day at PSB schools there are thousands of interactions that take place between students and between students and staff. Overwhelmingly, these interactions are positive leading to supportive learning and success.

The Colonel Gray International Coffeehouse was an example of students and staff coming together in a very positive way under the 57 flags that represent the different cultures at the school. Schools are more inclusive than ever before and the diversity we see is ethnic, cultural, religious, gender, socio-economic, and academic. It has created opportunities and challenges for schools and society as a whole.

The Colonel Gray Diversity and Cultural Awareness day provided an opportunity for staff and students, with advocates from outside of PEI, to work together towards creating a more inviting, safe and inclusive environment.

Orlando Bowen from 'One Voice, One Team' worked with staff and presented to students on his personal and compelling story of forgiveness. He helped everyone understand that they play a role in creating a safe, inclusive and productive learning and working environment. His message: 'You build the community you want to live in' was well received by the school community and will be a theme the school continues to explore in the days ahead.

#### **5.5 PSB Career/Job Fairs**

The public was invited to attend PSB Career/Job Fairs held November 6 in Stratford and November 21 in Summerside where they could learn about the opportunities for substitute teachers, school bus drivers, educational assistants, youth service workers, and custodial staff. The branch also shared the ongoing needs for specialists in such areas as EAL, autism, Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology and School Psychology.

There were over 300 attendees, and a lot of interest expressed in working in areas where we are experiencing shortages. We were further encouraged by the diversity of people who attended, and it would be our hope that many of the people who visited these fairs may work for us in the near future.

We had solid media coverage with the CBC doing a segment and the Employment Journey conducting interviews for their next publication. We thank staff in all our departments for the ways they supported our Career/Job Fair initiative. With the collective effort and energy put forth, the event was an undeniable success.

#### **5.6 L.M. Montgomery and Stratford Elementary Official Opening Ceremonies for their New Additions**

Stratford Elementary held the official opening of their new addition on October 22. The new \$5 million addition to the school was completed for students and staff to move into for September.

The addition includes 13 regular classrooms, a music classroom, an auxiliary gym, which is half the size of a school gym, four breakout rooms, an elevator, two guidance offices as well as teacher planning rooms and more washrooms.

Based on parental input, the new addition includes two levels which take up less green space and means more room for the construction of a new natural playground which is

being led by the school community. The new play structures will be inclusive, accessible and available to the Stratford community.

Stratford Elementary has now become a grades 3-6 school, the first of its kind in PEI. The 24,000-square-foot addition provides 50% more space in the building. Glen Stewart Primary School, located next door, has become a K-2 school. With 177 Grade 3 students moving over to the elementary school, there is now more space for students and staff at Glen Stewart Primary where enrolment has decreased from 614 to 455 students. There are now 652 children enrolled at Stratford Elementary, with the renovations having even created more room to move in areas of the school that existed prior to the expansion. L.M. Montgomery students and staff moved into their new 10 classroom addition on November 19 and held the official opening of their new addition on December 12. The expansion provides room for future student population growth as development in the area is growing. The \$5.3 million addition includes eight classrooms which allows room for 160 new students, an activity room, a teacher planning center, student breakout rooms, washrooms, a gender neutral washroom and storage areas. New furnishings and equipment include classroom desks and chairs, LCD projectors and physical education equipment.

There were other school improvements completed during the project, including improved ventilation in the lobby, a new boot room, resurfacing the existing gymnasium floor, and a parking lot expansion to improve student safety.

The bright and spacious classrooms are conducive to learning, new teacher planning spaces provide more opportunity for teachers to collaborate, and the new breakout rooms mean that students can better receive one-on-one support.

### **5.7 Strategic Action Plan**

PSB staff are continuing to address many aspects of our Strategic Action Plan. Recently, Branch staff completed an inventory of the actions completed during the 2018/19, planned, and are actively working on the next steps during the 2019/20 school year. We thank our PSB principals, teachers, students, parents, and other education stakeholders who contributed and provided feedback on this work with us.

### **5.8 School Visits and Drop-Ins**

School visits and drop-ins by the Director and Assistant Director have begun for this year. The purpose of these visits include visiting classrooms and meeting with students, teachers and administrators. Erin Johnston, Assistant Director, will visit 27 schools and Parker will visit 29 schools respectively.

### **5.9 Inspire Awards**

The Inspire Awards Recognition Program has returned for a third year and we have already delivered over 180 packages to members of our PSB community. There is a new, easier to use, electronic process located on our website homepage for nominating someone for an Inspire Award. Thank you to everyone for continuing to recognize the great contributions of our students, staff, parents, volunteers, and other members of our educational community. The Inspire Award is just one reflection on the positive impact our PSB community makes for our students, staff, and volunteers.

### **5.10 Good Things Happening in PSB Schools**

Souris Regional Alternative Education Teacher Wins Gold

Congratulations to Souris Regional Alt Ed. Teacher, Larry Leblanc, who won Gold in the 100kg Division of the World Powerlifting Championships held in early October. Larry also returned from Calgary with a 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Open Division. Leblanc, and his former Souris student, Noah Manning, were among 200 participants who travelled to compete at the championships, where Noah also won Gold in the 85kg Division. Larry was very proud of Noah's and his own performance, and so are we! Congratulations again on your impressive results, Larry.

Morell Consolidated Receives the Verbal Abuse Prevention Canada Achievement Award

Congratulations to the students and staff of Morell Consolidated on receiving the Verbal Abuse Prevention Canada Achievement Award. Students and staff were presented the award by Tami Martell who also shared words of encouragement on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award.

PSB Students and Staff Mark Orange Shirt Day in Spirit of Truth and Reconciliation

On Monday, September 30, PSB students and staff, along with most schools across Canada, were seen wearing bright orange shirts to honour survivors of Canadian residential schools. Orange Shirt Day lands on September 30 because, traditionally, that is when Indigenous children would be heading to residential schools.

Orange Shirt Day is set aside to mark the residential school experience and recognize residential school survivors and their families in the spirit of truth and reconciliation. The origin of the orange shirt comes from the story of former student Phyllis (Jack) Webstad. On her first day at St. Joseph Mission Indian Residential School in B.C. in 1973, as a six year old, she wore a shiny new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother. However, it was taken from her, along with the rest of her clothes by staff at the school.

For many students and staff, it was important to wear an orange shirt to remember what Webstad and many other Indigenous people went through during the time of residential schools, and that people should respect others for who they are and the choices they make.

Montague Regional Student Attends Encounters with Canada Conference

Congratulations to Montague Regional High School Grade 12 student, Tansi Katz, for attending Encounters with Canada at the Terry Fox Canadian Youth Centre in Ottawa, from September 29 to October 5. The theme for her week of learning was sports and fitness.

**6. Invoice Approval**

Becky Chaisson, Director of Corporate Services, presented the following invoices for approval.

**6.1 Invoice 312839 – Minister of Finance – General Liability and Directors and Officers Professional Liability Insurance - \$409,476.00**

12/16/03

**It was moved by Norman Beck and seconded by Mary Jane Ready that the invoice be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**6.2 Invoice 312840 - Minister of Finance - Property Insurance, Crime, Boiler and Machinery Insurance - \$617,824.00**

12/16/04 **It was moved by Norman Beck and seconded by Mary Jane Ready that the invoice be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

6.3 Invoice 312841 - Minister of Finance - Automobile Liability Insurance - \$200,965.00

12/16/05 **It was moved by Mary Jane Ready and seconded by Norman Beck that the invoice be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

6.4 Invoice 310693 - Minister of Finance - June Fleet Charges for Charlottetown Depot - \$105,493.69

12/16/06 **It was moved by Mary Jane Ready and seconded by Norman Beck that the invoice be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

6.5 Invoice 312639 - Minister of Finance - September Fleet Charges for Charlottetown Depot - \$133,188.72

12/16/07 **It was moved by Norman Beck and seconded by Mary Jane Ready that the invoice be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**7. 2019-2020 PSB Operational Budget Approval**

12/16/8 **It was moved by Mary Jane Ready and seconded by Norman Beck that the 2019-2020 PSB Operational Budget be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**8. PSB Divisional Overviews**

The Public Schools Branch Leadership Team shared updates from each of their divisions.

**9. Other Business**

Nothing to report at this time.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.