

Public Schools Branch
Fifth Public Board of Directors Meeting
December 20, 2016

Minutes

The Board of Directors for the Public Schools Branch met on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at Somerset Elementary School in Kinkora.

Present: Susan Willis, Board Chair
Harvey MacEwen
Pat Mella

Also in Attendance:

Parker Grimmer, Director of Public Schools Branch
John Cummings, Director of Corporate Services
Karen Redmond, Manager of Policy and Planning
Becky Chaisson, Financial Services Coordinator
Cindy MacLean, Confidential Board Secretary

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. The Board Chair welcomed those in attendance and acknowledged Principal Arsenault and his staff for hosting the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

12/16/01 **It was moved by Pat Mella and seconded by Harvey MacEwen that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.**

The Board Chair noted there had been no requests for public input during the meeting, but members of the Board and the Director would be willing to provide time after the meeting to answer any questions.

SOMERSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Principal Derik Arsenault welcomed the Board and provided an overview of student activities, school goals, programs, staff and community involvement at Somerset Elementary School. Mr. Arsenault expressed appreciation to the Board for providing opportunity for public input into the school review.

The Board Chair expressed appreciation for the presentation, and thanked Principal Arsenault for hosting the meeting at Somerset Elementary.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

12/16/02 **It was moved by Harvey MacEwen and seconded by Pat Mella that the minutes of the November 15, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting be adopted as presented. Motion carried.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

1. Report on the Review of Schools

Mr. Grimmer reported that the Public Schools Branch completed the second round of public consultation meetings as outlined by the School Change Policy in November.

Aided by information received through this process, School Reorganization Project Manager, Bob Andrews, is developing a report with recommendations for change for the 6 families of schools that he will present to the Board of Directors for their consideration in January of 2017.

2. School Visits

Director Grimmer has visited 40 schools to date and was very pleased with the level of student engagement during his visits.

3. PISA Assessment Results

Mr. Grimmer indicated that there are many positive things for students, staff, and members of the educational community to reflect on as a result of the latest 2015 PISA test scores. Mr. Grimmer reviewed the interventions provided to assist students since they started school, and commented on Island student participation rates in the assessment.

4. Highlighting the Good Things Happening in Two Schools

Director Grimmer provided an overview of the NGO Project for the Grade 8 Global Citizens Unit in language arts offered to students at Montague Intermediate School, as well as the participation of Eliot River Elementary students in the first Canadian Plastic Bag Challenge which earned them first prize.

In response to a question from a Board Member, Mr. Grimmer offered to provide details at the next Board Meeting on the number of school days used for professional development and the number of school closures due to weather conditions in the current school year.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board Chair noted that the next meeting of the Board of Directors is expected to be scheduled for early January, and it is expected that the School Change Category II Study Report will be presented at that meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.