

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
SCHOOL DISTRICT 16**

**MINUTES
October 24, 2005**

Present:	Patricia Lee, Chair Winnie Wilson, Vice-Chair Judy Breau Jennifer Doucet Pamela Beers-Sturgeon Hal Somers	Levi Sock Jody Holmes Kim Beers Bev Hubbard Edgar Mahoney Chris Wiseman
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Kathy Baldwin, Superintendent
Sheila Bowie, Administrative Assistant

	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mrs. Lee called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She welcomed Nancy Whyte, Administrator for the District Education Councils, and Dan Benoit, a reporter from the Miramichi Leader/Weekend.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee also welcomed Chris Wiseman as the newest member of the District Education Council. Mr. Wiseman was appointed to fill the vacancy in Sub-District 9. At this time, Ms. Beers-Sturgeon, a commissioner of oath, officiated over the swearing in of Mr. Wiseman.</p>	
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>By consensus, the agenda was approved.</p>	
C.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>By consensus, the minutes of the September 19, 2005 meeting were approved.</p>	
D.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i) "School District 16" Sign</p> <p>As a follow-up to our last meeting, Mrs. Baldwin advised that the City of Miramichi could not accommodate our request for sandstone to build the posts for a new "School District 16" sign.</p>	

	<p>She noted that the district looked into purchasing the sandstone and a supplier was found outside the area, but the cost was too expensive. Mrs. Baldwin indicated that other alternatives to the sandstone posts were then sought. She is awaiting the final estimate on wooden posts with the "School District 16" sign in the middle, at an anticipated cost of approximately \$1,000.00.</p> <p>ii) DEC Vacancy</p> <p>The vacancy in Sub-district 9 has been filled by Chris Wiseman.</p> <p>iii) Update on Cyber Bullying Workshop</p> <p>Mrs. Baldwin gave a brief update on the day-long Cyber Bullying Workshop held on October 3. In the morning, Rick Hayward gave an Internet Safety Presentation to the administrators, guidance counsellors and a group of approximately 122 participants from outside the district. In the afternoon, Dr. Parry Aftab addressed the group on Cyber Bullying. She indicated that both of these sessions went well. In the evening, Dr. Aftab presented to a group of approximately 100 people. She noted that this session did not go as well as the day session because Dr. Aftab's presentation was on what cyber bullying is, and parents were more focused on how to prevent it. Mrs. Baldwin noted that Dr. Aftab is willing to come back and do a hands-on workshop with parents. She also indicated that Mr. Hayward could do a parent session that would be most beneficial.</p>	
<p>E.</p>	<p>INFORMATION ITEMS</p> <p>i) Programs for Modifying Behavior</p> <p>Kora Hayward, Positive Learning Environment Coordinator, gave a presentation on Programs for Modifying Behavior. She related that the district employs 15 intervention workers who can work with students on a one-on-one basis. Mrs. Hayward circulated a list of strategies and programs that are used to make the environment positive in the schools, and provided details on each. These included intervention strategies, proactive strategies, incentive programs and strategies, and school programs. Mrs. Hayward concluded her presentation by stating that all of these strategies and programs are used for the purpose of working on changing behavior. Mrs. Lee thanked Mrs. Hayward for a very informative presentation.</p>	

<p>F.</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Mrs. Lee circulated the correspondence which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A copy of a letter to Chris Wiseman from Hon. Madeleine Dubé confirming his appointment to the District 16 Education Council, Sub-district 9. ➤ A copy of letters to Districts 2, 8, 17, and 18 Education Councils from the Hon. Madeleine Dubé, Minister of Education, in response to their request that the two curriculum implementation days be reinstated into the 2005-06 calendar. ➤ A copy of a letter to Hon. Madeleine Dubé from Patricia Lee, Chair, expressing District 16's support for the continuation of the two curriculum implementation days. ➤ A copy of a letter to Annita Dignam, Sunny Corner Enterprises Inc. from Patricia Lee, Chair, and Kathy Baldwin, Superintendent, expressing District 16's gratitude to the employees of Sunny Corner Enterprises Inc. for their generous donation. ➤ A copy of letters to Katie MacDonald, Amy Doucette, Kelly King, Eleanor McLaughlin, Marg Hendsbee, Emily Comeau, and Nancy Hutt from Patricia Lee and Kathy Baldwin regarding their contribution to the production by Miramichi Energy. ➤ A letter to Patricia Lee, Chair, from Krista Carr, The New Brunswick Association For Community Living, requesting feedback on how their association can work with the District Education Council and district in the future. 	
<p>G.</p>	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>i) Minister's Forum Update</p> <p>Mrs. Lee gave a brief update on the Minister's Forum which was held in Fredericton on September 30 and October 1. Some of the highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Council of DEC Chairs have elected Leo Johnson and Gaye Kirkpatrick as chair and vice-chair, respectively, and they will take agreed upon concerns to the Minister of Education between Forums. ➤ The Student Services Review has been extended to November/December to allow Dr. MacKay to review programs in Finland and Saskatchewan. ➤ There is still no word from the Minister of Education on the two curriculum implementation days. It was noted that every DEC has submitted a letter to her requesting 	

	<p>reinstatement of these days. It was felt that a follow-up call is warranted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Concern was expressed that there was not enough money in the capital improvement budget, and that some DEC's are looking at the viability of strategic planning for schools. ➤ The Food & Nutrition Policy will be out shortly. Some feedback included concern from groups, i.e. Home & School Associations, providing the hot lunch program in schools. ➤ The Minister of Education will be in Brantville on November 8 to make an announcement regarding the Tabusintac School. Mr. Holmes and Mrs. Lee indicated that they would be in attendance. Mrs. Baldwin noted that the official list of capital budget priorities will be announced sometime in December. ➤ Serious concern was expressed that the \$45/student added to the Student Services funding, as new money, is not a top up as was requested. Every district currently faces a deficit in this area. Mrs. Baldwin advised that the Department is also monitoring fuel and electricity costs and are looking at what they can do about the deficit being incurred by the districts. <p>ii) Accountability Framework</p> <p>Mrs. Baldwin advised that Department of Education representatives met with District 16 administration on October 18 to review the Provincial Improvement Plans (PIP), District Improvement Plan (DIP), and School Improvement Plans (SIP). She indicated that the accountability framework is being developed to align collaboration on student achievement, to identify areas that are working well, and to identify where gaps may exist and where improvements can be made. She noted that the Department provided our achievement results in comparison with other districts. She briefly went over the graphs, and indicated that District 16 continues to score above the provincial average. Council commended Mrs. Baldwin and her staff for their efforts in this regard.</p> <p>iii) Mock Disaster</p> <p>Mrs. Baldwin gave a brief update on the Mock Disaster that occurred in Miramichi on October 4. She noted that the purpose of the event was to check the emergency crisis plans of the community partners involved, including that of School District 16, and to identify any weaknesses in the current plan. She indicated</p>	<p>Mrs. Lee/ Mr. Holmes</p>
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	<p>that overall, everything went well.</p> <p>iv) Canadian Space Agency</p> <p>Mrs. Baldwin advised that the representatives from the Canadian Space Agency will be in Miramichi on November 24 to produce a video series. Since District 16 is the first pilot site in Canada to be a beta testing center for the CSA, our students will be involved in the project. She advised that the CSA reps will talk on Careers and Space Exploration. She briefly outlined the itinerary for their visit.</p> <p>v) Smart Board Update</p> <p>Mrs. Baldwin advised that District 16 currently has 140 smart boards in classrooms. She indicated that 25 participants from other districts recently attended a Smart Board Workshop in District 16, and their comments were phenomenal. She noted that she will put “Smart Board Presentation” on the list of possible topics for the annual planning cycle to be discussed at our December meeting.</p>	December Agenda
H.	<p>ANNUAL COUNCIL PLANNING CYCLE MONTHLY REVIEW</p> <p>i) Policy 2.1 – Leadership Style ii) Policy 2.4 – Chair’s Role iii) Policy 2.6 – Council Members’ Code of Conduct</p> <p>Policies 2.1, 2.4, and 2.6 are covered on the DEC checklist.</p> <p>iv) Policy 1.1 – Community Communication</p> <p>Mrs. Lee indicated that council communicates with the community by organizing parent sessions like the Cyber Bullying Workshop. She also noted that another way of informing parents is by way of the DEC pamphlets.</p> <p>Mrs. Baldwin advised that she would like to include the pre-school screening pamphlet, Teddy Bear’s Picnic, in the Transition to Kindergarten packets that are being made up for parents of students entering kindergarten next year. She informed council that she wanted to include the pamphlet so that parents would understand the process and encourage them to become involved. To this end, she was unsure if there were enough pamphlets available for this purpose. IT WAS MOVED BY Winnie Wilson, seconded by Judy Breau, that council pay for the printing of</p>	

	<p>additional Teddy Bear Picnic pamphlets. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>v) Policy 2.2 – Council Job Description</p> <p>Mrs. Lee asked that council members continue to attend Parent School Support Committees, and to keep them abreast of their mandate regarding School Improvement Plans. Mrs. Baldwin indicated that she will advise the principals of the dates of the DEC meetings, so they can schedule their PSSC meetings around those dates.</p> <p>vi) Policy 2.7 – Communication Protocols</p> <p>Mrs. Baldwin advised that the communication protocols are being followed.</p> <p>vii) Policy 1.2 – Outstanding Volunteers</p> <p>No nominations for outstanding volunteers were reported.</p>	Mrs. Baldwin
I.	<p>“Brag” Session</p> <p>Council requested that a letter be sent to Dr. Losier Middle School for being named among the top 40 schools in country by Today’s Parent Magazine and to North & South Esk Regional School for being one of their top schools for sports on the MacLean’s website.</p> <p>Mrs. Baldwin provided a copy of the CD “Miramichi Energy – Reborn” to each council member. She noted that their performance this summer was wonderful.</p> <p>Mrs. Wilson apprised the group of a unique fundraiser by Eleanor W. Graham Middle School in which the school brings in frozen pies and sells them for \$5.00 each. She indicated that she is willing to take orders from anyone wishing to try them.</p> <p>Mrs. Baldwin advised that the Department of Indian & Northern Affairs contacted her and commented that on a national level, it was noticed that District 16 and the First Nations work very well together.</p> <p>Mrs. Baldwin outlined the schools involved with the AIMS program. She noted that 8 – 10 people from those schools will be going to Halifax to be trained. As well, on Wednesday, the district will be bringing in 30 people to be introduced to the</p>	Mrs. Lee/ Mrs. Baldwin Mrs. Wilson

	<p>program. She indicated that this is the new way to teach French. Mrs. Baldwin will add AIMS Program to the list of possible topics for the annual planning cycle.</p> <p>Mrs. Beers advised the group that this would be her last meeting as a council member. She has chosen to resign her position to pursue a teaching career. Mrs. Lee thanked her for her contribution and presented her with a gift. Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Baldwin, in conjunction with Mrs. Wilson, will compile a list of names to fill the DEC vacancy in Zone A, and it will be sent to the Minister of Education prior to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Mrs. Baldwin</p> <p>Mrs. Lee Mrs. Wilson Mrs. Baldwin</p>
J.	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Bowie
Administrative Assistant