

**MINUTES**  
**April 28, 2008**

Jennifer Doucet  
Pamela Beers-Sturgeon  
Jody Holmes  
Bev Hubbard

Absent: Patricia Lee, Chair

	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
A.	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>  Mrs. W. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.	
B.	<b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>  By consensus, the agenda was approved.	
C.	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>  By consensus, the minutes of the March 31, 2008 meeting were approved.	
D.	<b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b>  i) <b>PISA Presentation</b>  Mr. Keoughan advised that Mr. Rob Laurie will be coming to the May 26 <sup>th</sup> District Education Council Meeting to give a presentation on PISA (Program for International Student Assessment). He noted that PISA focuses on Literacy, Numeracy and Science, the three areas identified by the Department of Education in its improvement targets and in its current focus – NB3. The principals, and at least one representative from each Parent School Support Committee, have been invited to attend. Mr. Laurie’s presentation will be at the beginning of the meeting.	DEC

	<p><b>ii) Premier's Awards of Excellence in Education</b></p> <p>Mr. Keoughan advised that the nominations for the Premier's Awards of Excellence in Education were received and reviewed by the District Selection Committee, and that the names of the chosen candidates were submitted to the Department of Education.</p>	
<b>E.</b>	<p><b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b></p> <p><b>i) Musical Literacy Intervention</b></p> <p>The presenters, Eleanor McLaughlin, Charlotte Loggie and Heather Little, gave a positive address on a new music literacy intervention targeted at grade 3-8 students who were previously targeted as "fitting top academic criteria". Though this criteria gives the project somewhat of an elitist spin, it does, however, engage participants in Type 3 activities, which form the basis of the Enrichment work. The intervention sets out to accommodate the range of learning styles in this target group by using a matrix of learning activities. It was noted that each student has researched and presented a project dealing with an artist, a performer, a musical group, a genre or instruments, and many of these projects will be displayed at the S.T.O.P. Fair in May. Mrs. McLaughlin concluded the presentation by saying that the students are able to be creative, do something they truly enjoy and really want to do. Mrs. Wilson thanked Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Loggie, and Miss Little for an interesting presentation.</p> <p><b>ii) Zoo Phonics</b></p> <p>Mrs. Lee Walsh, Learning Specialist, gave an interesting, interactive presentation on instructional practices of zoo phonics to help children process information through movement and sound production. The integral involvement of parents was highlighted, as were the essences of zoo phonics, and the results of independent research. Mrs. Walsh featured the programs ability to successfully target special needs children and to accelerate those considered to be "gifted" and talented. Mrs. Wilson thanked Mrs. Walsh for an excellent presentation.</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan noted that both Mrs. Walsh and Mrs. McLaughlin will be retiring at the end of this school year.</p>	
<b>F.</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>Mrs. Wilson circulated the correspondence which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter to Hal Somers, District 16 Education Council Member,</li> </ul>	

	<p>from Patricia Lee, Chair, accepting his resignation from the DEC, with regret.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter to Patricia Lee, Chair, from Charles Cirtwill, Atlantic Institute for AIMS, announcing the release of the Sixth Annual Report Card on Atlantic Canadian High Schools.</li> <li>• Letter to David Roberts, Assistant Deputy Minister, from Patricia Lee, Chair, advising him of the District 16 Education Council's selections for the Premier's Awards of Excellence in Education.</li> </ul>	
<b>G.</b>	<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>i) DEC Election Nominations and Vacancies</b></p> <p>Mr. Keoughan advised that the nominations for the DEC elections have closed. He reported that District 16 has vacancies in sub-districts 5, 6 and 10. In most of the other sub-districts, the candidates have been acclaimed, except in sub-district 3 where there will be an election. He indicated that council will have to start thinking about compiling a list of possible candidates to fill the vacant positions. He noted that the Department of Education has assured districts that the appointment process will be done as quickly as possible. As well, a First Nations representative will be appointed by the Minister, and Mr. Keoughan advised that the First Nations directors will be submitting the name of their candidate to him shortly. The new District Education Council will be sworn in sometime in July, 2008.</p>	Agenda
<b>H.</b>	<p><b>ANNUAL COUNCIL PLANNING CYCLE MONTHLY REVIEW</b></p> <p><b>i) Policy 2.1 – Leadership Style</b>  <b>ii) Policy 2.4 – Chair's Role</b>  <b>iii) Policy 2.6 – Council Members' Code of Conduct</b></p> <p>Policies 2.1, 2.4, and 2.6 are covered on the DEC checklist.</p> <p><b>iv) Policy 2.2 – Council Job Description</b></p> <p>Council feels that they are providing high quality education by monitoring their policies.</p> <p><b>v) Policy 2.8 – Parent School Support Committee Budget</b></p> <p>Mr. Keoughan indicated the schools have sent in their reports on how they have spent their PSSC budget. Some of the expenses were related to talk mail, cell phones, business meeting expenses and photocopying. He reported that the budgets have not been</p>	

	<p>received from the Department of Education for the 2008-09 school year.</p> <p><b>vi) Policy 4.2 – Budgeting/Forecasting</b></p> <p>Mr. Keoughan reported that the district ended the fiscal year with a surplus of \$91,600, due primarily to the number of storm days (savings in transportation and electricity) and to a surplus in ILF funds (technology/equipment not able to be supplied by March 31<sup>st</sup>).</p> <p><b>vii) Policy 1.2 – Outstanding Volunteers</b></p> <p>No nominations for outstanding volunteers were reported. Mr. Keoughan indicated that the principals felt they have already honored those who are outstanding in their schools.</p>	Agenda
<b>I.</b>	<p><b>“BRAG” SESSION</b></p> <p>Mrs. Doucet reported that Croft Elementary School held a school-wide spelling bee. The school raised \$1,621 which will go towards books for browsing boxes, trophies, plaques, etc.</p> <p>Mrs. Doucet indicated that the Croft Home &amp; School is sponsoring a Whale and Shark Show. This is an information session for kids on wildlife habitats. Kids will be able to walk inside an inflatable fin back whale and great white shark.</p> <p>Mrs. Doucet advised that six staff members will be going to a conference on Differentiated Instruction in Las Vegas this summer as a follow-up of an Innovative Learning Fund project. Mr. Keoughan reported that the three pilot schools, Croft Elementary, Dr. Losier Middle and Bonar Law Memorial, will each mentor another school, and that all of our schools will be on line in this training in five years.</p> <p>Mrs. Hubbard reported that, at the Annual General Meeting of the New Brunswick Federation of Home &amp; Schools, District 16 brought home two second place awards for membership – Napan Elementary for small schools and Gretna Green Elementary for large schools.</p> <p>Ms. N. Wilson advised that Heritage Day was held at Bonar Law Memorial School.</p> <p>Ms. N. Wilson indicated that Bonar Law Memorial School will be participating in the Relay for Life coming up in May.</p> <p>Mrs. W. Wilson advised that Science East held an event at Rexton</p>	

	<p>Elementary School on April 17. She noted that she was very impressed with the number of young students in attendance. There was also a display of Rexton Elementary School student science projects. She indicated that Science East will be coming back next year.</p> <p>Mrs. W. Wilson told the group that Grade 4 and 5 students at Rexton Elementary School have an opportunity to become part of a “knitting club”. One of the mothers teaches knitting twice a week during the noon hour to those students who want to participate.</p> <p>Mrs. Doucet advised that the Grade 8 French Immersion students at Harkins Middle School participated in an exchange trip to Quebec. Astrid Miousse and Jayme Campbell accompanied the students. This is part of a twinning project, and the students from Quebec will be visiting here sometime in May.</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan advised that the S.T.O.P. fair will take place on the evening of May 14<sup>th</sup> and the afternoon of May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Eco Center. This year, the S.T.O.P. Fair and the Heritage Fair are being combined, with the theme of the general fair being “Heritage”.</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan reminded council members that the ATCON Turnaround Achievement Awards will take place on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Rodd Miramichi River Lodge.</p>	<p>DEC</p> <p>DEC</p>
<b>J.</b>	<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Bowie  
Administrative Assistant