

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
SCHOOL DISTRICT 16**

**MINUTES
May 26, 2008**

Present:	Patricia Lee, Chair Nora Wilson Levi Sock Judy Breau Edgar Mahoney	Jennifer Doucet Pamela Beers-Sturgeon Jody Holmes Bev Hubbard
----------	--	--

Laurie Keoughan, Superintendent
Sheila Bowie, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Winnie Wilson, Vice-Chair

	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
A.	<p>PISA PRESENTATION – Mr. Rob Laurie</p> <p>Mr. Robert Laurie, Department of Education (Francophone Sector), gave a presentation on PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) to members of the Parent School Support Committees in the Miramichi & surrounding areas. His presentation was video-conferenced to Bonar Law Memorial School, for PSSC members of the Rexton area schools, and to Blackville School.</p> <p>Mr. Laurie’s talk focused on understanding the “big picture”. He noted that PISA is an OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) initiative. PISA is an internationally standardized assessment that was jointly developed by participating countries and administered to 15-year olds in schools. PISA in 2006 focused on Science and approximately 400,000 students in 57 countries participated in the survey. In Canada alone, 22,000 students were involved and approximately 1000 schools. He noted that Math was the focus in 2003, and Reading in 2000. He stated that Canada ranks 3rd in Science, 4th in Reading, and 7th in Mathematics. He provided details on how the rankings are calculated and outlined contributing factors. Mrs. Lee thanked Mr. Laurie for the very interesting and informative presentation. She requested that PSSC members ask their principals about their school’s PISA results when they come out, and talk about the initiatives that are being put in place.</p>	
B.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mrs. Lee called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.</p>	

	<p>iv) Policy 1.1 – Community Communication</p> <p>Mrs. Lee advised that the PISA presentation was another way to communicate with our Parent School Support Committees.</p> <p>v) Policy 2.2 – Council Job Description</p> <p>Council indicated that they are still pleased with what they are doing.</p> <p>vi) Policy 2.7 – Communication Protocols</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan told council members that he has been receiving communications and e-mails regarding French Second Language. He also met with parents of Croft Elementary School to listen to their concerns. He also informed the group that he attended a PSSC meeting at Millerton School, and will be going to one at Ian Baillie Primary this week.</p> <p>vii) Policy 4.1 – Staff Treatment</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan advised that he has an open channel of communication, and individuals feel comfortable contacting him.</p> <p>viii) Policy 4.3 – Financial Condition</p> <p>Mrs. Lee noted that she was asked to speak to the auditors as part of a preliminary audit. Some of the topics that were discussed included the policy handbook, communication with the superintendent, etc. She noted that there may be a request for other DEC members to meet with the auditors during the week of June 2 when they are back to do the audit. Mrs. Lee will make contact by e-mail if this is the case.</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan confirmed that the district ended the fiscal year with a surplus of \$90,000, due primarily to savings in transportation and electricity related to the number of storm days and to a surplus in ILF funds (technology/equipment not able to be supplied by March 31st). He noted that professional development funding will be cut significantly, and that funding will be held at the Department level. As well, the top-up fund will not be re-instated. This coming school year, funds will have to be earmarked within the existing budget to make sure that the services and resources are the same. Mr. Keoughan also indicated that there will be no target reductions.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee advised that she has spoken to Mr. Keoughan about the DEC funds that were approved for the purchase a SmartBoard, for the conference room at the cultural center, at the former St. Michael's convent. Since this project is not going ahead, she asked</p>	<p>DEC Mrs. Lee</p>
--	--	-------------------------

	<p>number of students had their designs chosen, and their banners will be hung in Rexton and surrounding communities.</p> <p>Ms. N. Wilson noted that four students from Bonar Law Memorial School are going to China.</p> <p>It was noted that three former students from Bonar Law Memorial School gave a presentation to the PSSC on some of the difficulties they faced at university with regard to science courses they had taken.</p> <p>Mrs. Doucet reported that Miramichi Valley High School received numerous awards for their presentation of “Artistic Inspiration” at the Provincial Drama Festival in Fredericton.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee indicated that James M. Hill Memorial High School also received a number of awards for their presentation of “Seussical” at the Provincial Drama Festival.</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan advised that the Music Festival took place the latter part of April. He noted that he will be sitting down with Greg MacDiarmid to discuss the festival and look at the partnership with the Rotary Club especially in light of the introduction of more formalized music at the elementary level.</p> <p>Mrs. Doucet indicated that a group of Grade 8 students from Harkins Middle School had an opportunity to go to Mount Allison University on May 21 and 22. They stayed overnight on campus.</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan reported that three of our students scored in the top ten in the province at the New Brunswick Mathematics Competition. John MacMillan, a student at Miramichi Valley High School, scored the highest in the province with an average of 93.75.</p> <p>Mr. Holmes reported that Meagan Holmes, a student at Tabusintac Rural School, received the East Coast Music Spirit Award for her project, My Heritage of Gospel Music, at the District Heritage Fair.</p>	Mr. Keoughan
J.	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Bowie
Administrative Assistant