DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL SCHOOL DISTRICT 16

MINUTES May 26, 2008

Present: Patricia Lee, Chair Jennifer Doucet

> Pamela Beers-Sturgeon Nora Wilson

Levi Sock Jody Holmes Judy Breau Bev Hubbard Edgar Mahoney

Laurie Keoughan, Superintendent Sheila Bowie, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Winnie Wilson, Vice-Chair

	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
Α.	PISA PRESENTATION – Mr. Rob Laurie	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
	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.	
	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 3 rd in Science, 4 th in Reading, and 7 th 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.	
В.	CALL TO ORDER	
	Mrs. Lee called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.	

C.	APPROVAL OF AGENDA	
	By consensus, the agenda was approved.	
D.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
	By consensus, the minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting were approved.	
E.	BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES	
	i) Parent School Support Committee Budget	
	Mr. Keoughan reported that there is no indication as to when the budgets will be finalized for the 2008-09 school year. This item will be placed on a future agenda.	Future Agenda
	ii) DEC Vacancies	
	Mrs. Lee thanked the DEC members who let their name stand, and congratulated Mr. Mahoney on his election. She reported that there are vacancies in sub-districts 5, 6 and 10, and the DEC will have to compile a list of names at the June meeting to put forth to the Minister. She noted that the First Nations representative can be appointed as soon as the First Nations communities determine who that individual will be.	DEC
F.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	The correspondence file was circulated. Council members each received a letter from Canadian Heritage.	
G.	NEW BUSINESS	
	i) Minister's Forum	
	Mrs. Lee advised that the Minister's Forum scheduled for May 10 in Fredericton was postponed, and no new date has been set.	
H.	ANNUAL COUNCIL PLANNING CYCLE MONTHLY REVIEW	
	 i) Policy 2.1 – Leadership Style ii) Policy 2.4 – Chair's Role iii) Policy 2.6 – Council Members' Code of Conduct 	
	Policies 2.1, 2.4, and 2.6 are covered on the DEC checklist. Mrs. Lee requested that council members provide feedback on tonight's PISA presentation.	

iv) Policy 1.1 – Community Communication

Mrs. Lee advised that the PISA presentation was another way to communicate with our Parent School Support Committees.

v) Policy 2.2 – Council Job Description

Council indicated that they are still pleased with what they are doing.

vi) Policy 2.7 – Communication Protocols

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 lan Baillie Primary this week.

vii) Policy 4.1 – Staff Treatment

Mr. Keoughan advised that he has an open channel of communication, and individuals feel comfortable contacting him.

/iii) Policy 4.3 – Financial Condition

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.

DEC Mrs. Lee

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.

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

Mr. Keoughan if there was a possibility that that the DEC could have the money in lieu of the SmartBoard so that they could use it for another initiative. Mr. Keoughan indicated that some arrangement could be made in this regard.

Mr. Keoughan

ix) Policy 4.5 – Asset Protection

Mr. Keoughan advised that the district is following all the procedures and guidelines that are in place. He noted that the district saved some money in heating costs, and it will be put back into the upkeep of our buildings for painting and other minor repairs.

Mrs. Lee advised that the DEC will have to approve their Capital Construction and Improvement Projects priorities at the next meeting.

Agenda

Mrs. Lee indicated that the Atcon Turnaround Achievement Awards took place on May 15, and Mrs. W. Wilson attended on her behalf. Mrs. Wilson requested that a letter be sent to Atcon thanking them for their continued support of this endeavor. Council supported this request.

Mrs. Lee

x) 1.2 – Outstanding Volunteers

Mr. Keoughan nominated the Event Planning Class of NBCC – Miramichi for an Outstanding Volunteer Award for raising \$4,400.00 for the District 16 Breakfast Program. The class will receive a "Certificate of Appreciation".

I. "BRAG" SESSION

Mrs. Hubbard reported that three students from Miramichi Rural School participated in the New Brunswick Mathematics Competition. They ranked 11th, 13th, and 17th in District 16.

Ms. N. Wilson advised that Bonar Law Memorial School participated in the Heritage Fair. Catherine Theriault, a student of BLMS, won the regional competition and will be representing the province at the national competition in Vancouver.

Ms. N. Wilson reported that Michael Lawson won first place in the Grade 12 Late Immersion category at the Provincial Concours d'art Oratoire. He will be competing in the national competition in Ottawa on Friday.

Ms. N. Wilson indicated that students from Bonar Law Memorial School and Eleanor W. Graham Middle School had an opportunity to send in their ideas and design banners for the Banner Festival. A

number of students had their designs chosen, and their banners will be hung in Rexton and surrounding communities.

Ms. N. Wilson noted that four students from Bonar Law Memorial School are going to China.

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.

Mrs. Doucet reported that Miramichi Valley High School received numerous awards for their presentation of "Artistic Inspiration" at the Provincial Drama Festival in Fredericton.

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.

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.

Mr. Keoughan

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.

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.

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.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Bowie Administrative Assistant