

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
SCHOOL DISTRICT 16**

**MINUTES
September 16, 2008**

Present: Patricia Lee, Chair
Jody Holmes, Vice-Chair
Edgar Mahoney
LeRoy Silliker

Brenda Fahey
Nora Wilson
Luc Dubé
Quentin Smallwood

Laurie Keoughan, Superintendent
Sheila Bowie, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Andrew Donovan

	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
A.	CALL TO ORDER Mrs. Lee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.	
B.	SWEARING IN OF DEC MEMBERS Mr. Edgar Mahoney, a commissioner of oaths, officiated over the swearing in of Quentin Smallwood (Subdistrict 6) as a member of the District 16 Education Council.	
C.	APPROVAL OF AGENDA One item was added to the agenda under I) New Business, iv) 2008-09 Budget. By consensus, the agenda was approved as amended.	
D.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES IT WAS MOVED BY Jody Holmes, seconded by Nora Wilson, that the minutes of the June 9, 2008 meeting be approved. MOTION CARRIED. By consensus, the minutes of the July 8, 2008 meeting were approved.	

E.	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>i) P3 (Public-Private Partnership) Schools</p> <p>Delalene Harris Foran , Provincial President of New Brunswick Council of School District Unions and President of CUPE Local 1127, accompanied by Vallie Stearns, Jean-Yves Maillet, and Gerry Prosser, spoke about their concern regarding the government's recent announcement about new schools being built using the public-private partnership model. Specific references were being made about two schools in particular, one in Moncton and one in Rexton. She outlined the main reasons why CUPE recognizes this model as financially risky and expressed concern about the contracting out aspect in relation to various projects. Ms. Harris Foran circulated copies of a brief entitled, "Documents on Public-Private Partnerships", and requested that council review the information and support CUPE in their efforts. She noted that they have already met with some government officials and MLA's, will be making a presentation to the District 2 Education Council next month, and will be doing an ad campaign. Mrs. Lee thanked Ms. Harris Foran for her presentation.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion on the DEC's role in a P3 school, especially in terms of lease agreements. Mrs. Lee and Mr. Keoughan will make inquiries of the Department of Education regarding questions raised. She requested that council read the brief and submit any comments to her or Mr. Keoughan. This item will be brought back to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Mrs. Lee/ Mr. Keoughan</p> <p>DEC Agenda</p>
F.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>i) DEC Vacancies</p> <p>Mrs. Lee advised that the appointment for the vacancy in Subdistrict 6 has been completed. She reported that Bev Hubbard, a former DEC member, has agreed to let her name stand for the vacancy in Subdistrict 5. A letter has already been submitted to the Minister of Education concerning the same. She noted that there is still a vacancy in Sub-district 10, and indicated that the search will continue for possible candidates.</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan reported that the First Nations Directors of Education have agreed that Levi Sock will be the First Nations appointment on the DEC. He indicated that we are awaiting the signatures of the First Nations Chiefs before the appointment can be finalized.</p>	<p>Agenda</p>

	<p>ii) Parent School Support Committee Budget</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan briefly went over the DEC budget. He outlined the expenditures to date, the projected costs for the PSSC budgets (based on the same criteria as last year) and DEC/PSSC dinner, and the projected amount for the per diem for DEC members. He indicated that there would be approximately \$3,000 left in the DEC budget for the remainder of the 2008-09 fiscal year to cover business and other expenses associated with the DEC meetings. He noted that based on projected figures for these expenses, this amount would not be enough to cover the cost.</p> <p>Discussion ensued on the per diem reimbursement of expenses for DEC members, approved by the Department of Education in June. Council raised the point that the Department, after approving the reimbursement, has indicated that this expense is to be charged to the existing DEC budget. IT WAS MOVED BY LeRoy Silliker, seconded by Luc Dubé, that council send a letter to the Minister of Education regarding the DEC budget. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>Council reviewed the criteria for last year's PSSC budget. After a brief discussion on whether or not to stay with the status quo, council decided to make a change to the criteria. IT WAS MOVED BY Jody Holmes, seconded by Nora Wilson, that a PSSC budget be allotted to schools based on \$3.00 per pupil with a minimum of \$500.00. MOTION CARRIED. Council will send a letter to the Parent School Support Committees in this regard.</p> <p>iii) Update on DEC Orientation</p> <p>Mrs. Lee reported that the DEC orientation was held in Fredericton on August 15-16. Laurie Keoughan, Patricia Lee, Brenda Fahey, LeRoy Silliker, Edgar Mahoney, and Quentin Smallwood attended from District 16.</p> <p>The workshops held during the conference included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Making a Difference for Kids" • "Rules of the High Seas" – Legislated Responsibilities • "Steering the Ship" – The Do's and Don'ts of Good Governance • "Your Turn at the Wheel" (round table discussion groups) • "Charting the Course" (question & answer session) • "Navigating by the Stars" (student discussion panel) <p>Mrs. Lee indicated that approximately 75 people were in attendance. The overall feedback was very positive.</p>	<p>Mrs. Lee</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan</p> <p>Mrs. Lee</p>
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G.	<p>INFORMATION ITEMS</p> <p>i) Boomerang Project</p> <p>Kora Hayward, Learning Specialist, and Kirk Matheson, Coordinator of the Boomerang Project at Miramichi Valley High School, described the parameters of the Boomerang Project. The novelty of this program is the built in assistance that senior high school leaders provide for identified grade 9 students who may need a little boost or assistance in a particular area. The project, through the leaders in particular, helps grade 9 students know and understand the places and people with whom they can connect for help. It also helps them explore how different perspectives can co-exist. The presentation concluded with an opportunity for council members to ask questions. Mrs. Lee thanked Mrs. Hayward and Mr. Matheson for an excellent presentation.</p>	
H.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Mrs. Lee circulated the correspondence which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter to Theresa MacKnight, teacher at Miramichi Valley High School, from Patricia Lee, Chair, congratulating her on the success of her solo art exhibition. • A copy of a letter to Lawrence Keoughan, Superintendent, from the Hon. Kelly Lamrock, Minister of Education, confirming the appointment of Quentin Smallwood to the District 16 Education Council. • E-mail to Patricia Lee, Chair, from Delalene Harris Foran, CUPE 1127 President, requesting to be put on the agenda for the September 16th meeting. • Education Outline – June, 2008. 	
I.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>i) Report on Opening Day</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan reported that opening day went very well. He noted that the preliminary enrolment is 6003, down by 158 students. He indicated that the official enrolment is taken on September 30th. Some classes at Miramichi Valley High School were full, and a number of transfer requests had to be denied because there was no space. There were also a few transportation issues whereby buses were at their maximum capacity. He requested that staff check on class numbers and bus capacity when dealing with transfer requests. He noted that he had one call from a concerned parent which was</p>	

	<p>dealt with right away. As well, he indicated that the response to the Boomerang Project has been superb.</p> <p>ii) DEC Representation on Parent School Support Committees</p> <p>Mrs. Lee advised that for the purpose of improving communication, individual DEC members are assigned to a particular school(s) to facilitate the exchange of information between the DEC and school PSSC groups. Representatives designated to a particular school are encouraged to attend regular PSSC meetings so that communication goals can be achieved.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee asked council members to indicate which schools they would like to represent. Because there are still vacancies on the DEC, a temporary list was compiled so that all schools would be represented. At a subsequent meeting, a master list will be finalized showing which DEC member will represent which school(s).</p> <p>iii) Extra-Curricular Transportation</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan indicated that a recent announcement, by the Minister of Education, stated that the interdepartmental working group on extracurricular transportation has completed its review and released its recommendations. The group's recommendations, currently being reviewed by the government, are designed to minimize the risk of student travel to extracurricular activities. The use of multi-functional activity buses, the mandatory compliance for transportation and vehicle specifications, and improved driver training are among the recommendations. Mr. Keoughan noted that this will put an end to the use of 15 passenger vans. He will keep council updated.</p> <p>iv) 2008-09 Budget</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan outlined the expenditure plan for the 2008-09 budget. He indicated that 85% of the \$49,701,862 budget goes towards Salary/Benefits Cost, 7% towards Plant Operation Cost, 5% towards Transportation Cost and 3% towards Other. The 3% "other" funding is earmarked as follows: 53% is provided to the schools, 2% is DEC funding, 12% is District Office Operations, 13% is Special Initiatives – Student Services, 7% is Computer Information Systems – Equipment & Repairs, and 13% is Professional Development, Travel, and Telephones. He noted that the district has two mandated reductions totaling \$143, 512. One is a general reduction, and the other is carried over from last year in transportation and</p>	<p>Agenda</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan</p>
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	<p>maintenance. IT WAS MOVED BY Luc Dubé, seconded by Edgar Mahoney, that the 2008-09 budget be approved as presented by Mr. Keoughan. MOTION CARRIED.</p>	
J.	<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 2.2 – Council Job Description</p> <p>Mrs. Lee indicated that council ensures high quality education through their policies. She asked council members to go over the policies and become familiar with them.</p> <p>v) Policy 4.3 – Financial Condition</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan reported that the district is forecasting a deficit in electricity, transportation, and student services. He indicated that by moving money around, the district will have a balanced budget, although it will be tight.</p> <p>vi) Policy 4.4 – Emergency Superintendent Succession</p> <p>Mrs. Lee informed council that in the event of the sudden loss of the chief executive services, the Director of Education, the Director of Finance/Administration, and the Director of Human Resources shall assume responsibility for their respective departments.</p> <p>vii) Policy 4.7 – Complaints</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan indicated that there have not been many complaints. He noted that he is always accessible by phone or e-mail. He reported that most of the parental contact was during the French Second Language debate. He reiterated that any issues are dealt with himself or somebody designated by him.</p> <p>viii) Policy 1.2 – Outstanding Volunteers</p> <p>Mrs. Lee indicated that council acknowledges the important contribution of volunteers. Mr. Keoughan reported that there were no nominations for outstanding volunteers. He indicated that we have already thanked those organizations that donate school</p>	DEC

	supplies, donate money to the breakfast program, etc.	
K.	<p>“BRAG” SESSION</p> <p>Mrs. Lee indicated that this is the section of the agenda where council members can report on events happening in the schools.</p> <p>Mr. Silliker noted that at a recent North & South Esk Elementary Home & School meeting, there were 32 parents in attendance – a record high.</p>	
L.	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Bowie
Administrative Assistant