

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
SCHOOL DISTRICT 16**

**MINUTES
November 3, 2009**

Present: Patricia Lee, Chair
Jody Holmes, Vice-Chair
Nora Wilson
Quentin Smallwood
Raymond Murphy

Andrew Donovan
LeRoy Silliker
Bev Hubbard
Levi Sock
Mitchell Donohue

Laurie Keoughan, Superintendent
Sheila Bowie, Executive Assistant

Absent: Edgar Mahoney Luc Dubé

	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mrs. Lee called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.</p>	
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>One item was added to the agenda under F) New Business, iii) Update on DEC Vacancy. By consensus, the agenda was approved as amended.</p>	
C.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>By consensus, the minutes of the October 6, 2009 meeting were approved.</p>	
D.	<p>PRESENTATION – Donna Hebert, President, CUPE 2745</p> <p>Mrs. Hebert did not come to the meeting for her scheduled presentation.</p>	
E.	<p>INFORMATION ITEM</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i) 21st Century Learning</p> <p>Bill Kierstead, Learning Specialist, presented on the topic, “21st Century Learning”. He explained that 21st Century Skills represent a shift in the way educators think about teaching and learning. Within ten years, the challenges to face the workforce will be unknown, employees will be required to work in jobs that don’t yet exist, and solve problems that they currently don’t know to be problems. This reality makes it imperative that we revisit our curriculum and the way</p>	

	<p>we deliver it. The 21st Century Skills movement proposes to increase both the relevance and rigor of education by altering the curriculum to include “Soft Skills” such as citizenship and self management to give students the edge when faced with situations that require thought and innovation. Currently, the Department of Education is working to identify which of these “Soft Skills” will be essential competencies for our province, and this is being done with input from the many stakeholders of education. Once these competencies have been identified, the work of deciding how we will deliver and measure them will begin. In the end, education will have a very different face. Schools, classrooms, assessment and reporting will all need to change to reflect this change in culture. Investment by community and industry will also be key factors to the acquisition of these skills by students. There will be content with context, and meaningful tasks to give opportunities for soft skill development. Examples of current projects with 21st Century characteristics were highlighted, i.e. racing physics and the model school in Blackville.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee thanked Mr. Kierstead for a very interesting and informative presentation. She noted that 21st Century Learning will be the topic at the DEC/PSSC Dinner. In this way, the DEC can help spread the word.</p>	
F.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>i) District Improvement Plan</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan briefly reviewed the District Improvement Plan. He explained that the plan is basically the same as presented previously with the addition of the assessment portion. He noted that the assessments results are in graph form depicting a three year performance rate. He indicated that the monitoring reports for the identified objectives and strategies in the district implementation plan will be reviewed in December, and council members will be invited to attend that meeting. Mr. Keoughan will also distribute an update at the January meeting.</p> <p>IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy, seconded by Bev Hubbard, that the District Improvement Plan be approved. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Keoughan will have the plan forwarded to the Department of Education.</p> <p>ii) Tabusintac School Update</p> <p>Mr. Holmes gave a brief update on the status of the Tabusintac School. He noted that the Tabusintac group met with the Hon. Roland Haché, Minister of Education, in September. At that meeting, the Minister indicated that no decision had been made and he would get back to them once he reviewed the file for himself. Mr. Holmes</p>	<p>DEC Mr. Keoughan January Agenda</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan</p>

	<p>also reported that a complaint has been filed with of the Office of the Ombudsman under Article 16.1 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. So far, there has been no response from the Minister or the Office of the Ombudsman.</p> <p>i) Update on DEC Vacancy</p> <p>Mrs. Lee advised that another memo was sent to the Parent School Support Committees of the four schools in the Sub-district 10 area asking for their help in identifying possible candidates to fill the DEC vacancy. She noted that one name was put forth. A follow-up will take place with this individual prior to going through the nomination process.</p>	Mrs. Lee/ Mr. Keoughan
G.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Mrs. Lee circulated the correspondence which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to Kim MacPherson, Office of the Comptroller, from Lawrence Keoughan, Superintendent, regarding the action plan in response to the recommendations contained in the Addendum of the Internal Auditor's Report. • Pamphlet on Provincial Assessments. • Letter to Patricia Lee, Chair, from Rheel Poirier, Secretary, Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET), with a copy of their action plan in response to the call of the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) entitled, "Literacy: Key to Learning and Path to Prosperity – An Action Plan for Atlantic Canada 2009-2014". 	
H.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>i) Assessment Results</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan advised that he will look at district and individual school assessment results at the next meeting. He noted that there has been improvement in some areas, and not the improvement hoped for in others. He has already met with the district educational staff and principals to address those areas of concern.</p> <p>He made reference to the pamphlet, "Provincial Assessments – Be Engaged In Improving Student Learning". He drew attention to the contact information, and indicated that individual school and district results can be viewed on the Government of New Brunswick website. As well, the Department of Education will be issuing individual school report cards for parents, and these should arrive at District Office by the middle of November.</p>	Agenda

	<p>ii) H1N1 Update</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan reported that the vaccination program has begun in the schools. He indicated that there are fewer vaccines than originally anticipated, and on a daily basis, there may be changes to the timetables for the schools. The target groups are being vaccinated first. He advised that initially staff were to be vaccinated at the schools, but the district received notification that it would not take place. Vaccinations in the schools are supposed to be done by the end of November. He also noted that he received word that there may be a hold up at the middle school level.</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan advised that the Department of Education has initiated a data collection process whereby the absenteeism amongst staff and students during the H1N1 propagation must be reported and sent to them daily.</p>	
I.	<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>These policies are covered on the DEC checklist. With regard to Policy 2.4, Mrs. Lee advised that she attended the pre-budget consultation, and made a presentation to the Minister of Finance and Minister of Post Secondary Education. She noted that she will be attending a leadership conference for students in St. Andrews, and will be making a presentation on District Education Councils and their role on the same. She reminded council members to complete the survey on DEC Code of Conduct, and return it to Nancy Whyte by November 30th.</p> <p>iv) Policy 2.2 – Council Job Description</p> <p>Mrs. Lee reviewed the “DEC Governance Basics” Card to ensure that members are on the same page. She noted that the assessment results will be a measure of our success, and those will be reviewed at our next meeting.</p> <p>v) Policy 4.1 – Staff Treatment</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan advised that there are three grievances through various unions, and they are being dealt with through the proper channels.</p> <p>vi) Policy 4.3 – Financial Condition</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan reported that the third quarter financial forecast will be submitted to the Department of Education on December 11th, and will</p>	DEC

	<p>have a cutoff date of November 30th. A deficit of \$72,000 is projected in Special Needs on top of the \$260,000 that has already been supplemented. The district is hoping to cover this deficit with other operational funds. A deficit of \$23,000 is also forecasted in the teacher travel budget.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the DEC's role and responsibility pertaining to the monitoring of the budget. Mrs. Lee advised that under the governance structure, the current policy would have to be reviewed to determine if any changes are warranted. This item will be discussed no later than the January meeting.</p> <p>vii) Policy 1.2 – Outstanding Volunteers</p> <p>Four nominations for outstanding volunteers were reported – Patti LaFitte, Tracy Johnston, Anne Samms, and Cartier Coop Foundation. Each will receive a Certificate of Appreciation.</p> <p>In response to a question from Mrs. Lee, Mitchell Donohue indicated that being the student representative on the DEC is a great experience for a student from a small school. He noted that he has been receiving e-mails from student leaders asking for details on things in and around the district, and they are really supporting him.</p>	<p>Future Agenda</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan</p>
<p>J.</p>	<p>BRAG SESSION</p> <p>Ms. Wilson reported that the students of Bonar Law Memorial School participated in the Terry Fox Run, and raised \$1,240.00.</p> <p>Mr. Murphy indicated that he attended the Parent School Support Committee meetings at Rexton Elementary and Harcourt Schools, and was very impressed with both. He noted that for a small school like Harcourt, he was particularly impressed with the community use of the Access Center.</p> <p>Mr. Silliker advised that North & South Esk Elementary School is putting their morning announcements on the website. The school is really getting into multi-media.</p> <p>Mr. Holmes reported that a contest was held at Tabusintac School to determine the new logo and colors. The new logo will be a tornado, so the teams will be known as the Tabusintac Tornadoes, and the new colors will be red and black.</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan advised that the Home & School presidents will be invited to a breakfast with the principals again this year. The date for this event will be December 8.</p>	<p>Mr. Keoughan</p>

K.	ADJOURNMENT Mrs. Lee indicated that the December meeting will be a closed session held at District Office at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.	DEC
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Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Bowie
Executive Assistant

Patricia Lee, Chair
District 16 Education Council