

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
SCHOOL DISTRICT 16**

**MINUTES
May 4, 2010
Miramichi Valley High School**

Present: Patricia Lee, Chair
Jody Holmes, Vice-Chair
Nora Wilson
Levi Sock
Raymond Murphy
Marilyn Underhill

Andrew Donovan
LeRoy Silliker
Bev Hubbard
Mitchell Donohue
Quentin Smallwood

Laurie Keoughan, Superintendent
Sheila Bowie, Executive Assistant

Absent: Lisa Watters Luc Dubé

	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mrs. Lee called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
B.	<p>SWEARING IN CEREMONY</p> <p>Ms. Pamela Beers-Sturgeon, a commissioner of oaths, officiated over the swearing in of Marilyn Underhill (Sub-district 3) as a member of the District 16 Education Council.</p>	
C.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>One item was added to the agenda under I) New Business, iv) DEC Meeting Dates for 2010-11. By consensus, the agenda was approved as amended.</p>	
D.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>By consensus, the minutes of the April 6, 2010 meeting were approved.</p>	
E.	<p>PRESENTATION - Delalene Foran, President, CUPE Local 1127</p> <p>Delalene Foran, President of New Brunswick Council of School District Unions, CUPE Local 1253, and President of CUPE Local 1127, accompanied by Vallie Stearns, and Jean-Yves Maillet, gave a presentation on P3 (Public-Public Partnership) schools. They addressed the DEC on concerns related to the construction and maintenance of P3</p>	

	<p>schools. Numerous provincial and Canadian examples of P3 constructions were highlighted to accentuate higher construction and maintenance costs, and to illustrate how tax dollars become siphoned away from education. Their main issue was the contracting out of the custodian jobs, with specific reference to the new Eleanor W. Graham Middle School. The presenters sought council's support in CUPE's effort to keep public school custodians in P3 schools. Mrs. Lee thanked Ms. Foran, Ms. Stearns, and Mr. Maillet for bringing their message to them.</p>	
F.	<p>INFORMATION ITEM</p> <p>i) Local Option Courses</p> <p>Marjorie Sinclair, Learning Specialist, spoke on Locally Developed Courses. Her presentation provided information on Policy 303, Locally Developed Courses, and the locally developed courses that are in our high schools. She indicated that locally developed courses are unique, stand-alone courses that serve to fill a particular need unmet by currently prescribed high school curriculum. She outlined the guidelines and approval process for applying for a locally developed course. Ms. Sinclair gave a brief overview of the online courses that are currently in our five high schools.</p> <p>Kathy MacDonald, Teacher at Miramichi Valley High School, gave a presentation on the Focus on Information Technology (FIT) program at M.V.H.S. with a special focus on Computer Networking (CISCO). She noted that FIT is a national high school program for students interested in pursuing a career in the IT area. Students acquire technology and business/entrepreneurial skills, essential workplace skills and work related experience. Students are also given the opportunity to complete FIT certification which will allow them to have dual credits in specified post-secondary business and IT programs.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee thanked Ms. Sinclair and Mrs. MacDonald for a very informative presentation.</p>	
G.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>i) Update on Spring Symposium</p> <p>Mrs. Lee gave a brief update on the Spring Symposium held on April 16 and 17 at the Rodd in Miramichi. She indicated that the keynote address was on 21st Century Learning, and noted that there will be continuous updates forthcoming on this topic. Those who attended agreed that the organizer(s) of the event did an excellent job, especially with the participation of the students. Council requested that notes of appreciation be sent to those individual(s).</p>	Mrs. Lee

<p>H.</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Mrs. Lee circulated the correspondence which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mail to Sheila Bowie, Executive Assistant, from Delalene Foran, CUPE 1253 and CUPE 1127, requesting to make a presentation at the May 4th DEC meeting, and Mrs. Bowie’s reply granting the request. • Letter to Patricia Lee, Chair, from the Hon. Roland Haché, Minister of Education, confirming the appointment of Marilyn Underhill to the District 16 Education Council. • Summary Statistics – School Year 2009-10. • Accountability Report on the Targets of When Kids Come First. <p>Mrs. Lee circulated a list of DEC members with the names of the schools they would represent. Representatives designated to a particular school(s) were encouraged to attend their PSSC meetings.</p>	<p>DEC</p>
<p>I.</p>	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>i) Pupil Transportation</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan provided a follow-up to the information provided by Mr. Holmes from the last Minister’s Forum. In particular, three issues were given focus that related to pupil transportation: the funding formula, obligation/responsibility versus choice/incentive driven, and what should be done with any savings. With regard to the first issue, Mr. Keoughan noted that districts are funded on the basis of historical data averaged over a three year period. This includes the number of kilometers travelled, the average cost of fuel per liter in addition to the number of student contact days. Significant changes would not be reflected for two years, resulting in inequity. It was felt that there needed to be a more equitable way of dealing with year-to-year realities. He indicated that the second issue related to the regulation providing for transportation inside the 2.4 kilometer distance and the 1.5 side road regulation. Agreement was given to having some flexibility in interpreting those regulations. On the third issue, council agreed that decisions regarding savings should be left in the district.</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan reported that the Versatran software for transportation planning is currently being uploaded with the maps, and he will be able to provide some clarity in terms of data for a future multi-year infrastructure meeting. He also noted that there has to be some extensive training done on the program before this can take place.</p>	<p>Mr. Keoughan</p>

	<p>ii) 21st Century Consultation Process with PSSCs and Community</p> <p>Mrs. Lee indicated that DEC's are encouraged to continue to talk about 21st Century Learning at PSSC meetings, and are to request that the principal show the video that was produced by the Department. The Department will also provide a discussion outline that will explore what 21st Century Learning looks like, and provide links to research, books and videos. Mrs. Lee noted that one district is planning on having a public forum, and council may be able to get some valuable insight from this district before they decide on whether a public session is needed in District 16.</p> <p>iii) DEC Input on Having a Student Rep</p> <p>Mrs. Lee reported that the feedback that she received on having a student DEC rep was very positive. She noted that she and Mr. Keoughan will be attending the student leadership group meeting which will be held sometime in May, and have asked that they be put on the agenda to talk about the election of a student DEC rep for the upcoming school year. Mitchell will be chairing the meeting, and he will share his personal experiences with the students on what it is like being a DEC member.</p> <p>iv) DEC Meeting Dates for 2010-11</p> <p>Mrs. Lee distributed the proposed DEC meeting dates for the 2010-11 school year – September 14, October 19, November 16, December 14, January 18, February 15, March 22, April 19, May 17 and June 14. She requested that council start with these dates. If for some reason (storm, etc.) one of these meeting dates had to be changed or cancelled, a new date would be determined at the time.</p>	Mrs. Lee/ Mr. Keoughan
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>Mrs. Lee advised that these policies are covered on the DEC checklist.</p> <p>With regard to Policy 2.6, Mrs. Lee noted that the council members' code of conduct is on the agenda for the teleconference with the Council of DEC Chairs slated for this week. It is hoped that the draft document is ready. Mrs. Lee also reminded council members to let Mrs. Bowie know if they are unable to attend a DEC meeting. She noted that this is one area that must be revisited so that council fully understands the DEC attendance policy.</p>	DEC Mrs. Lee

On Policy 2.4, Mrs. Lee reported that since the last meeting, she and Mr. Keoughan met with Gail Savoy and Charlene MacKenzie, from the Miramichi Leader, to determine ways the press could get information on what is happening in our schools. To this end, arrangements were made for them to attend a principals' meeting so that a mechanism could be put in place to ensure good coverage results. Mr. Keoughan also noted that at the initial meeting with the reporters, concern was expressed about the accuracy of what was being reported. A plan has been put in place to help achieve more accuracy in the future.

iv) Policy 1.1 – Community Communication

Mrs. Lee reported that she will continue to send out the District 16 Education Council Communication Update. She also made reference to the meeting with the reporters from the Miramichi Leader. She also provided a heads-up that the Northumberland/Kent Council of Home & School Associations is talking about holding another workshop for parents, and this would be another good opportunity to talk about 21st Century Learning.

v) Policy 2.2 – Council Job Description

Mrs. Lee reviewed the “DEC Governance Basics” card. She noted that this is a reminder of how governance works.

vi) Policy 2.7 – Communication Protocol

Mr. Keoughan advised that this policy guides the communication with various groups, and all of the protocols are being followed. With regard to individual issues, there is nothing outstanding.

vii) Policy 2.8 – Parent School Support Committee Budget

Mr. Keoughan gave a brief overview on how the Parent School Support Committees spent their budgets. The majority of the budgets were spent on communication (photocopying, paper, postage, ink cartridges, talk mail, auto dialer, etc.) Other expenditures included paying for the secretary to take minutes, books, and subscriptions. All expenditures on the school reports met the spending guidelines.

viii) Policy 4.1 – Staff Treatment

Mr. Keoughan advised that this policy is being followed. He noted that he is currently engaged in two Policy 701 investigations in the district.

ix) Policy 4.5 – Asset Protection

Mr. Keoughan reported that that the district is in compliance with the fire

	<p>marshal's reports, with one exception, a latch on a fire door at Bonar Law Memorial School, and this will be fixed right away.</p> <p>x) Policy 1.2 – Outstanding Volunteers</p> <p>Three nominations for outstanding volunteers were reported – Eleanor Morrison, Billy Drisdelle and Patricia Lee. Each will receive a Certificate of Appreciation.</p>	Mr. Keoughan
K.	<p>BRAG SESSION</p> <p>Mrs. Hubbard reported that the grand opening of the Miramichi Rural Observatory took place on April 23rd. She noted that two hundred people were in attendance at this event.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee advised that two grade 11 students, Alana MacDonald and Sam Crowell, from James M. Hill Memorial High School attended two days of the Frye Literary Festival in Moncton. They participated in workshops and readings.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee indicated that Nadine Pesch, a student from James M. Hill Memorial High School, was a finalist in a national video competition for her video depicting “The Black Cat” by Edgar Allen Poe.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee reported that Nelson Rural School was one of six schools in Canada selected by Scientific Learning for Fast ForWord (Grade 2), due to exceptional results by the school. The school will receive two years of unlimited use of their products.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee advised that the Nelson Middle School Girls’ Basketball Team won the District 16 Tier 2 Championships.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee also noted that Nelson Rural School’s annual Spell-a-Thon earned a whopping \$12,981.92.</p> <p>Ms. Wilson reported that Bonar Law Memorial School hosted the District 16 Oratory Competition on April 21st.</p> <p>Ms. Wilson advised that Bonar Law Memorial School held its 1st Bengal’s Night Out on April 29, 30 and May 1, featuring the musical talent of BLMS students. She indicated that Megan Woodburn should be given credit for spearheading this event. She noted that the public reaction was very positive.</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan reported that Premier Shawn Graham visited James M. Hill Memorial High School on Monday. He took a tour of the school seeing various sights. A picture was also taken of the Premier wearing a Tommie hat.</p>	

	<p>Mr. Keoughan advised that the winner of the Provincial Science Fair was Neha Siddhartha, a student at Dr. Losier Middle School. She will represent New Brunswick at the National Science Fair.</p> <p>Mr. Holmes noted that Tabusintac School was chosen for a School Wide Enrichment Program. This program provides enrichment for all students based on their ability and interest as well as tapping the strengths of staff. Students, partnered with staff, are involved in different projects. The community will be invited to the school to see the projects and talk to the students about their experience on June 15th.</p> <p>Mr. Keoughan reported that the Provincial Reading and Writing Assessments at Grade 7 have been released. The district percentage of students at appropriate or strong achievement level was 70% in reading and 63% in writing, while the provincial average was 67% in reading and 52% in writing. He will provide council members with the individual school results at the next meeting.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee reminded council members that the June meeting will be held on Monday, June 7, at 6:00 p.m. A date for the next Multi-Year Infrastructure meeting will be determined at that time. As well, council requested that two items be added to the agenda under New Business – i) Substitute Teachers, ii) Extra and Co-curricular Regulations.</p>	<p>Agenda</p> <p>Agenda</p> <p>Agenda</p>
L.	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Bowie
Executive Assistant

Patricia Lee, Chair
District 16 Education Council