

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL
SCHOOL DISTRICT 16**

**MINUTES
March 22, 2012**

Present: Patricia Lee, Chair
Jody Holmes, Vice-Chair
Alex Loggie
Raymond Murphy

Quentin Smallwood
Levi Sock
Lisa Watters

Nancy Boucher, Superintendent
Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant

Absent: Kim Aridano
Bev Hubbard
Kevin McPherson

LeRoy Silliker
Marilyn Underhill

	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
A.	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p> <p>Mrs. Lee called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. and welcomed everyone.</p>	
B.	<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</p> <p>By consensus, the agenda was approved.</p>	
C.	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</p> <p>By consensus, the minutes of the February 7, 2012 meeting were approved.</p>	
D.	<p>INFORMATION ITEM</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i) Reading and Writing Achievement Standards</p> <p>Elizabeth Price, Literacy Learning Specialist, gave a presentation on Reading and Writing Achievement Standards. She distributed a package of information to Council members for their review. She indicated that the standards information contains three items – the Standards Document, the pull-outs for reading and writing for each grade level, and the parent information brochure. She explained that educators, district/provincial documents, and professional resources are utilized in composing the reading and writing achievement standards. Standards</p>	

	<p>are established in order to define the level at which students should be reading and writing independently at the end of their respective grade levels. Mrs. Price reviewed the components contained in the reading and writing standards pull-outs. She also reviewed the brochure for parents entitled, "Understanding Provincial Achievement Standards in Reading and Writing". This brochure is available for all grade levels and can be accessed on the GNB website.</p> <p>Mrs. Price indicated that students answer questions on the assessments based on the following format: 20% - literal; 60% - inferential/interpretive; and 20% - higher level responses. She concluded her presentation by mentioning that all teachers receive professional development on standards. Mrs. Lee thanked Mrs. Price for her presentation.</p>	
E.	<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 noted that these policies are covered on the DEC checklist that was distributed to the members.</p> <p>iv) Policy 1.1 – Community Communication</p> <p>Ms. Boucher indicated that District 16 continues to be active in communicating with the community. She noted that a meeting was held with PSSC’s of Croft Elementary School, Gretna Green Elementary School, Harkins Elementary School, Harkins Middle School, and Miramichi Valley High School regarding infrastructure review. Ms. Boucher will also be communicating about amalgamation as information is released.</p> <p>v) Policy 2.2 – Council Job Description</p> <p>Mrs. Lee reviewed the DEC card on governance.</p> <p>vi) Policy 2.7 – Communication Protocols</p> <p>Ms. Boucher indicated that she continues to enjoy her communication with Mrs. Lee, DEC Chair. Ms. Boucher and Mrs. Lee have met with Mayor Gerry Cormier, Hon. Robert Trevors and Serge Robichaud, MLA, petitioning their support in keeping the District Office in Miramichi. Ms. Boucher has also been working to resolve a bullying issue at Harkins Middle School. As well, she was pleased to announce that on June 1, 2012, middle school students will be bused to the Lord Beaverbrook</p>	

	<p>Arena for a motivational speech by Theo Fleury, who will share his life experiences as a result of being abused as a young man.</p> <p>vii) Policy 4.3 – Financial Condition</p> <p>A financial report for the period ending February 29, 2012 was distributed to Council members for review. Ms. Boucher briefly explained the reasons for deficit areas. She noted that District 16 is waiting for a budget transfer from the province to cover the deficit in Employee Benefits. A balanced budget is projected for the end of the fiscal year.</p> <p>In response to a question about the status of costs incurred in replacing employees, Ms. Boucher indicated that the costs are higher this year due to the increase in interventions and workshops. The number of employees who are absent as a result of sickness is on par with other years. She noted that supply teachers with Local Permits 4 and 5 are back in the AESOP system as a result of a shortage of supply teachers.</p> <p>viii) Policy 1.2 - Outstanding Volunteers</p> <p>Four nominations for outstanding volunteers were reported – Debbie Martin, Lori O’Neill, Karen Matchett, and Ryan Somers. Each will receive a Certificate of Appreciation.</p>	Ms. Boucher
F.	<p>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>i) Plan of Establishment</p> <p>Ms. Boucher distributed a memo from Wendy McLeod MacKnight, Deputy Minister, outlining the timeline for amalgamation. Ms. Boucher indicated that a Plan of Establishment has yet to be determined but the beginning date for the new amalgamated districts is July 1, 2012. She noted that the District Office staff is experiencing stress associated with amalgamation; however, everyone is continuing to work diligently. District 16 will begin the staffing process when it receives the Plan of Establishment.</p> <p>ii) FSL Update</p> <p>The FSL report has not yet been released but it is expected within the next few weeks.</p> <p>iii) Report on Inclusion Update</p> <p>The report on Inclusion has not yet been released but it is expected within the next few weeks.</p>	

	<p>iv) Boundaries/Amalgamation Update</p> <p>Ms. Boucher was pleased to report that the Harcourt and Rexton area schools will remain in the Anglophone North District. She was very pleased with the support District 16 received from these communities.</p> <p>Since the Anglophone North District will cover such a large area following amalgamation, a concern was raised about the distance a student representative may have to travel when attending DEC meetings. Mrs. Lee invited Alex Loggie, the current DEC student representative, to obtain feedback and ideas from the student councils in the district with regard to this issue.</p> <p>Following a brief discussion, and considering that amalgamation is approaching, there was a consensus among Council members that a meeting be scheduled with the PSSC's of the five schools on the north side of the river to determine if they are prepared to move forward with a five-year infrastructure plan.</p>	<p>A. Loggie</p> <p>Ms. Boucher Mrs. Lee</p>
G.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Mrs. Lee circulated the correspondence which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of letter to Honorable Jody Carr, Minister of Education, from Shawn Graham, MLA for Kent County, requesting that the Kent Anglophone schools remain in the new northern educational district. • Letter from the Executive of the New Brunswick Association of School Psychologists proclaiming February as "Psychology Month". • Letter from Dialogue New Brunswick accepting nominations for the 2012 Lieutenant-Governor's Dialogue Award. • Letter to Beth McCarthy, Principal, Ian Baillie Primary School, from Patricia Lee, DEC Chair, congratulating her on being named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals. • Email from Kim Aridano resigning from her position as DEC member. 	
H.	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>i) Miramichi Learning Center</p> <p>Ms. Boucher indicated that the Miramichi Learning Center building no longer meets the requirements for District 16. IT WAS MOVED BY Raymond Murphy and seconded by Lisa Watters that the DEC Chair, Mrs. Lee, send a letter to the Department of Supply and Services declaring the building as surplus property effective April 1, 2012, and that the letter request a grace period allowing for the removal of contents from the building this summer. MOTION CARRIED.</p>	<p>Mrs. Lee</p>

	<p>ii) NBACL Award to Laurie Keoughan</p> <p>Ms. Boucher was pleased to announce that former superintendent, Laurie Keoughan, received a national award for inclusive education practices. Mrs. Lee will send a letter of congratulations to Mr. Keoughan on behalf of the District 16 District Education Council.</p> <p>iii) Pink Shirt Day</p> <p>Ms. Boucher noted that Wednesday, February 29, was designated as National Pink Shirt Day, a day to encourage people to take a stand against bullying. It was mentioned that MLA's were invited to attend anti-bullying activities being held in schools throughout their ridings.</p> <p>iv) Anti-Bullying Initiative</p> <p>Ms. Boucher indicated that DEC funds were used to help fund the purchase of two booklets – <i>Stand Up to Bullying</i> and <i>Bullying Prevention: A Guide for Parents and Leaders</i>. She indicated that these booklets are being distributed to every middle school student in the district to read and take home to their parents. She mentioned that positive feedback was already being received from the students at Harkins Middle School.</p> <p>Ms. Boucher distributed a list prepared by Connie Daley, Guidance/Crisis Consultant, outlining the many anti-bullying initiatives that have been implemented at all grade levels in District 16. She noted that Mrs. Daley works diligently to ensure that a difference is made in the area of bullying.</p> <p>v) Grade 7 Literacy Results</p> <p>Ms. Boucher distributed the results of the Grade 7 Literacy Assessment which was administered in October, 2011. She was pleased to announce that at the Appropriate or Strong Achievement Level in Reading, District 16 is leading the province with 74%. In Writing, District 16 is sharing the lead with District 2 in the Appropriate or Strong Achievement Level with 68%. She indicated that this is good news for teachers, students, and the teachers feeding into this program. Council members suggested that a letter be sent to teachers and the Learning Specialist to congratulate them on these results.</p> <p>vi) Resignation of DEC Member</p> <p>Kim Aridano, who is moving to the United States, submitted her resignation as a member of the DEC, effective immediately. Mrs. Lee will send a letter to Mrs. Aridano thanking her for her contribution to the DEC.</p>	<p>Mrs. Lee</p> <p>Ms. Boucher Mrs. Lee</p> <p>Mrs. Lee</p>
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	<p>Mrs. Lee expressed a concern in relation to the quorum required at meetings, taking into consideration there are currently two vacancies on the District 16 District Education Council. Council members agreed that Mrs. Lee send a letter to the Minister of Education requesting his approval in declaring these two positions vacant and excluding them from the composition of the quorum for the meetings that are remaining in the current DEC mandate.</p>	Mrs. Lee
I.	<p>BRAG SESSION</p> <p>Mrs. Lee reported that Nelson Rural School was selected by Big Brother to be the school to kick off the Anti-Bullying Campaign on February 29. An assembly was held with local officials present, and every student and staff had pink t-shirts on to support the cause. As well, the Middle School Girls' Varsity basketball team at Nelson Rural School captured the Bronze Medal in the Tier 1 Provincial Championships held in St. George in early March.</p> <p>Ms. Boucher indicated that she and Mrs. Lee attended the Middle Island Enrichment Project at St. Andrew's Elementary School on March 16. It featured dance, skits, presentations, and music. She felt that this was a good kick-off to St. Patrick's Day and that it was very well done by the school.</p> <p>Ms. Boucher acknowledged the overwhelming success of the 5th Annual CUTE Awards that were held on Wednesday, February 15, at James M. Hill Memorial High School. She noted that a great deal of time is invested into the organization of this event. One of the organizers, Mr. Rick Hayward, is retiring this year, and Council unanimously agreed to acknowledge the tremendous work that he and his team contributes to District 16.</p> <p>Ms. Boucher reported that Rick Hayward and his technical team held a SMART Conference at the Rodd on March 17, 2012 for Miramichi Tourism. One participant noted, "If I only attend one PD event this year, I would have to say it is this symposium".</p> <p>Students from the SMART Learner course, along with Rick Hayward and Joey Savoy, will be presenting at the national conference on "Positive Youth Development" in Halifax on May 10. District 16's presentation is entitled, "Miramichi: Hooked on Youthful Creativity".</p> <p>Ms. Boucher announced that Colleen Wilt, a District 16 Resource Teacher for Autism, has been named Autism Professional of the Year.</p> <p>The Miramichi Rivermen have made arrangements for Theo Fleury to be</p>	Mrs. Boucher Mrs. Lee

	<p>at the Lord Beaverbrook Arena on June 1, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. to deliver a motivational speech to Grades 6, 7 and 8 students.</p> <p>Premier Alward visited North & South Esk Regional School on March 20, at which time he took part in a Question & Answer discussion with Grade 12 students.</p> <p>Ms. Boucher indicated that District 16 is working closely with the Miramichi Fusion Festival. Derek Hutchison is leading this project.</p> <p>Andrew Tidby, of CBC, is partnering with Nassau and is planning to prepare a 3-4 minute video to support space education in schools. CBC will be at Miramichi Rural School within the next couple of weeks to launch this video with the Miramichi Star Troopers. The video will also feature Chris Hatfield. This will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the Star Troopers nationally and internationally.</p> <p>Ms. Boucher asked Council members to note that Tabusintac School will be celebrating the life of Charlotte Taylor on June 11, 2012. The Lieutenant-Governor, Premier Alward, and author Sally Armstrong will be invited to attend this special event.</p>	DEC Members
J.	<p>IN-CAMERA SESSION</p> <p>It was noted that the In-Camera Session was no longer required.</p>	
K.	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>Mrs. Lee thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Easter. The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2012. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Dunnett
Executive Assistant

Patricia Lee, Chair
District 16 Education Council