

**DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 16**

**MINUTES  
May 8, 2012**

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

LeRoy Silliker  
Levi Sock  
Lisa Watters  
Marilyn Underhill

Nancy Boucher, Superintendent  
Brenda Dunnett, Executive Assistant

Absent: Kevin McPherson  
Quentin Smallwood

	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>A.</b>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p> <p>Mrs. Lee called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Bryannah James, a reporter with the Miramichi Leader; Danny Scully, Principal of Eleanor W. Graham Middle School; Ginette Pellerin, Manager of Public Health Services; the <i>Building A Future for our Children</i> Committee members; and Annette Hendry, K-2 Literacy Consultant.</p>	
<b>B.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b></p> <p>Mrs. Lee noted that a letter was received from the Principal and PSSC Chair of Bonar Law Memorial High School and indicated this would be added to Correspondence. By consensus, the agenda was approved.</p>	
<b>C.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p> <p>By consensus, the minutes of the April 10, 2012 meeting were approved.</p>	
<b>D.</b>	<p><b>INFORMATION ITEM</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>i) EWG Cafeteria Service</b></p> <p>Mrs. Lee welcomed Mr. Danny Scully, Principal of Eleanor W. Graham Middle School. Mr. Scully commenced his presentation on cafeteria services offered at Eleanor W. Graham by distributing information on EWG Food Services Inc. This organization is in its seventh year of operating the cafeteria at Eleanor W. Graham Middle School. Mr. Scully noted that the philosophy of this organization is to provide quality and quantity of food over profit. Any profit that is realized is returned to the Eleanor W. Graham Student Council. The cafeteria has three employees</p>	

who prepare fresh and delicious food, which is often made from homemade recipes. He noted that there is always a great variety of food, and that food is often prepared for students with special dietary needs. Mr. Scully noted that the average cost of the daily special is \$4.50. Each year, students are able to enjoy a free Christmas Dinner. As well, the cafeteria provides meals to students who come to school without a lunch. He stated that the cafeteria workers are efficient in their cooking time and they enjoy their work. He was pleased to note that there has never been a complaint about the food. Mr. Scully indicated that he continually monitors the food to ensure it is in compliance with Policy 711, and outlined several areas where he would still like to make changes and improvements. He also noted that the Board of Directors plays an important role in communicating with the school and assisting in the year-end evaluation of EWG Food Service Inc.

Council congratulated Mr. Scully on operating such a successful cafeteria and for being such a fine example to other cafeterias in the district. Mrs. Lee thanked Mr. Scully as well as Ginette Pellerin, Manager of Public Health Services, who accompanied Mr. Scully during his presentation.

#### **ii) Building a Future for our Children Committee**

Mrs. Lee welcomed Mrs. Eileen Bowes, Chair, and members of the *Building a Future for our Children Committee*. She also acknowledged MLA Bill Fraser and Mayor Gerry Cormier, who also attended the meeting in support of the committee. Mrs. Bowes began her presentation by stating that the committee has grown and become stronger in their vision to see a new K-5 school constructed in Miramichi East, and that they have the support of many community partners. She outlined the meetings that have been previously held at the district and provincial levels in moving forward with their proposal for a new school. She thanked Mrs. Lee for forwarding a request to Minister Jody Carr for a meeting with the committee. She indicated that although a meeting has not yet been scheduled by the Minister, her committee will continue to pursue a meeting with him.

Mrs. Bowes distributed a brochure drafted as a result of requests to have tangible information available to parents explaining the committee's rationale for a new K-5 school. Mrs. Bowes highlighted some of the information contained in the brochure and invited Council to provide feedback. Mrs. Lee indicated that Council would like the opportunity to review the brochure and verify the information for accuracy. She will report back to Mrs. Bowes in the near future.

Mrs. Bowes raised concern about inequitable spending across the province and noted that capital spending is considerably higher in other districts. She displayed a map illustrating capital spending in the province within the last ten years and felt that District 16 is being overlooked, even though the number of students and the needs of the students are

Mrs. Lee

comparable to other areas. A short discussion also followed concerning the need for new infrastructure in Miramichi West.

MLA Bill Fraser addressed the DEC and indicated his support in having the new K-5 school in Miramichi East placed as a number one priority on the Capital Projects List. He stressed the importance of everyone, including the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, the district, MLA's and the MP, working together in order to see this project move forward.

The *Building a Future for our Children Committee* was advised to have a plan in place for fund-raising, in the event that this committee chooses to enhance the original specifications of the new school. It was noted that the specs are currently under embargo, and Mrs. Lee indicated that she would look into the status of these specs. In closing, Mrs. Bowes urged Council to designate the new K-5 school in Miramichi East as a number one priority on the Capital Projects List, in order that the committee can proceed further with its planning.

Mrs. Lee thanked Mrs. Bowes and the *Building a Future for our Children Committee* members for attending and making their presentation at the meeting.

### **iii) Reading Comprehension Strategies**

Mrs. Lee welcomed Annette Hendry, K-2 Literacy Consultant, to the meeting. Mrs. Hendry outlined various strategies that are used to help students become effective readers. She indicated that effective readers recognize points of confusion and can apply various strategies to correct them. The teachers' goals are to teach children how to recognize when they do not understand and to teach them what to do in these situations. She described various strategies children can use in order to become more effective in reading, such as making connections to the text before reading, making connections during reading, making connections after reading, visualizing, retelling, and summarizing. She also explained the different methods children use when answering questions about something they have read.

A discussion followed concerning the challenges First Nations students often face with reading. It was noted that the First Nations language is an oral language and not written. This causes a great deal of difficulty among these students with reading and comprehension. Mrs. Hendry noted that teachers use assessment results to identify strengths and weaknesses among these students. It was mentioned that First Nations students should have access to reading material that is cultural and of particular interest to them in order to facilitate their reading comprehension. Mrs. Lee thanked Mrs. Hendry for her presentation.

Mrs. Lee

E.	<p><b>ANNUAL COUNCIL PLANNING CYCLE MONTHLY REVIEW</b></p> <p><b>i) Policy 2.1 – Leadership Style</b>  <b>ii) Policy 2.4 – Chair’s Role</b>  <b>iii) Policy 2.6 – Council Members’ Code of Conduct</b></p> <p>Mrs. Lee noted that these policies are covered on the DEC checklist, which was distributed to the members.</p> <p><b>iv) Policy 1.1 – Community Communication</b></p> <p>Mrs. Lee indicated that the MLA’s and Mayor Cormier met with her and Ms. Boucher. At that time, they were given the opportunity to tour the District 16 office and observe the facilities that the building can offer as an Education Center and the District Office location for the Anglophone North District. District 16’s communication also involves groups being given opportunity to present at DEC meetings, which was evident at this particular meeting.</p> <p><b>v) Policy 2.2 – Council Job Description</b></p> <p>Mrs. Lee reviewed the DEC card on governance.</p> <p><b>vi) Policy 2.7 – Communication Protocols</b></p> <p>Ms. Boucher indicated that District 16 is in compliance with this policy. There have been clear lines of communication with staff, schools and PSSCs. District 16 has met with individual groups. MLA’s attended a meeting at District Office to discuss anti-bullying initiatives.</p> <p><b>vii) Policy 2.8 – Parent School Support Committee Budget</b></p> <p>Ms. Boucher referred to the 2011-2012 PSSC Expenditure Breakdown which was distributed to the members outlining the expenditures from each school’s PSSC budget. It was noted that there are schools showing over-expenditure. Ms. Boucher explained that in these situations, schools are expected to reimburse the PSSC budget using Student Council funds. Concern was raised about cell phone usage in some schools. Ms. Boucher indicated she plans to address this issue with school principals.</p> <p>Ms. Boucher also noted that the Expenditure Breakdown does not include information from Millerton Elem./Jr. High School, but assured Council that this information will be obtained from Millerton before the end of the school year. In closing, Ms. Boucher assured the District Education Council that the district will continue to look for more accountability with regard to expenditures.</p>	<p>Ms. Boucher</p> <p>Ms. Boucher</p>
----	---	---------------------------------------

	<p><b>viii) Policy 4.1 – Staff Treatment</b></p> <p>Ms. Boucher advised that District 16 is in compliance with this policy.</p> <p><b>ix) Policy 4.5 – Asset Protection</b></p> <p>Ms. Boucher indicated that District 16 is in compliance with this policy and that all assets are adequately maintained. She noted that rental agreements are not being completed in some instances; therefore, principals have been directed to ensure rental agreements are completed at all times when outside groups and organizations request the use school facilities.</p> <p><b>x) Policy 1.2 – Outstanding Volunteers</b></p> <p>No nominations for outstanding volunteers were reported.</p>	
F.	<p><b>BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>i) Drug Prevention &amp; Awareness – Police Canines</b></p> <p>Ms. Boucher indicated that she inquired into the use of police canines for the purpose of drug prevention and that it is currently resting with the Crown. Council agreed that this is a timely issue due to the amount of drugs that is available to the students.</p> <p><b>ii) Policy 409 – Miramichi West</b></p> <p>Mrs. Lee reported that the first public consultation meeting of the Policy 409 process for Miramichi West was held on April 25, 2012 at Miramichi Valley High School. The next meeting will be held on May 22, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Theatre at Miramichi Valley High School. Principals will be requested to include this information in their newsletters and Talk Mail. As well, notices will be prepared for parents, and a link to this meeting information will be placed on the District 16 website.</p>	Ms. Boucher
G.	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>Mrs. Lee circulated the correspondence which included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter from Kathy Fullerton, Chair of Bonar Law Memorial High School PSSC, dated May 7, 2012, requesting approval to name the new sports field at Bonar Law, “The Shawn Graham Sports Facility”. <b>IT WAS MOVED BY</b> Raymond Murphy, seconded by Levi Sock, that the new sports field at Bonar Law Memorial High School be named, “The Shawn Graham Sports Facility”. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></li> <li>• Letter to Patricia Lee, Chair, from Hon. Jody Carr, Minister of</li> </ul>	

	<p>Education and Early Childhood Development, dated May 4, 2012, confirming that the District Education Council can remove the Tabusintac School project from the priority listing of capital projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memo to Superintendents and District Education Chairs from Deidre Green, Executive Director, Accountability &amp; Quality Assurance Division, dated April 24, 2012, reminding districts of the various provincial audit functions.</li> <li>• Letter to Hon. Jody Carr, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, from Patricia Lee, Chair, dated April 24, 2012, requesting a meeting between the Minister and the <i>Building a Future for our Children Committee</i> and inquiring into whether the new Tabusintac School can be removed from the priority list.</li> <li>• Letter to Mrs. Beth McCarthy, on behalf of <i>Building a Future for our Children Committee</i>, from Patricia Lee, Chair, dated April 24, 2012, requesting the nature, length, and name of spokesperson for the Committee's presentation to the DEC.</li> <li>• Letter to Patricia Lee, Chair, from Eileen Bowes, Chair, <i>Building a Future for our Children Committee</i>, dated April 17, 2012, inviting the District 16 Education Council to attend the committee's meeting on April 23, 2012</li> <li>• Copy of letter to parents of Croft Elementary School, Gretna Green Elementary School, Harkins Elementary School, Harkins Middle School, and Miramichi Valley High School, dated April 16, 2012, from Nancy Boucher, Superintendent, inviting them to a public consultation meeting, pursuant to Policy 409, to be held on April 25, 2012.</li> <li>• Letter to Hon. Jody Carr, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, from Patricia Lee, Chair, dated April 12, 2012, advising him of the two public consultation meetings that have been scheduled.</li> <li>• Letter to Eileen Bowes, Chair, <i>Building a Future for our Children Committee</i>, from Patricia Lee, Chair, dated April 6, 2012, confirming that a new school in Miramichi East remains as a priority.</li> <li>• Letter to Patricia Lee, Chair, from Hon. Jody Carr, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, dated March 27, 2012, confirming the quorum for the District 16 Education Council.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>H. NEW BUSINESS</b></p>	<p><b>i) North &amp; South Esk Regional School</b></p> <p>Ms. Boucher gave an update on arrangements made to help support the learning community at North &amp; South Esk Regional School. She indicated that Dean Mutch has been appointed Acting Principal and Angie Murphy has been appointed Acting Vice-Principal. She reported that a crisis team had been on site at the school along with Guidance and District support</p>	

personnel. There has been a great deal of communication with the school, and District 16 continues to monitor the situation daily by checking with the school and Guidance staff. She acknowledged the work of the administrative team at the school for stepping in and ensuring that it continues with business as usual. She indicated that Connie Daley, Guidance/Crisis Consultant, is planning a presentation at the school entitled, "It's Not Your Fault", an anti-abuse project prepared by the Red Cross. The RCMP will also be doing a presentation on internet safety for students and parents.

### ii) Reorganization and Plan of Establishment

Mrs. Lee, on behalf of the District 16 Education Council, congratulated Nancy Boucher for being appointed as Superintendent of the Anglophone North School District. Because of the tremendous amount of work that is necessary before amalgamation takes place on July 1, and in order to allow Ms. Boucher sufficient time to complete the staffing process, **IT WAS MOVED BY** Bev Hubbard, seconded by Jody Holmes, that the District 16 Education Council support the appointment of an Interim Superintendent and that the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development be notified accordingly. By consensus, Council went in camera. Upon their return to regular session, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mrs. Lee

A brief discussion followed concerning the need for fairness with regard to budget cuts being made to the Anglophone and Francophone districts. **IT WAS MOVED BY** Raymond Murphy, seconded by Lisa Watters, that the District 16 Education Council write a letter stating its concerns about fair and equitable treatment in the reorganization of districts. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mrs. Lee

### iii) Porter Report on Inclusion

Ms. Boucher stated that this report is due in the near future.

### iv) FSL Meetings

Ms. Boucher indicated that two French Second Language meetings within the district were very well attended. There was a short discussion about the possibility of adding immersion programs to the rural schools. Ms. Boucher indicated that this first would involve a consultative process and that she would be willing to meet with parents if interest was expressed.

### v) Dr. David Bardsley – *The Less than Perfect Child*

Mrs. Lee recently attended the presentation by Dr. David Bardsley, author of the book, *The Less Than Perfect Child*. Dr. Bardsley, whose presentation was arranged by the Eel Ground School, spoke about his life experiences from being misdiagnosed with mental retardation at the age

of six to growing up and becoming an oral surgeon. Dr. Bardsley had never-ending support from his parents, and he is now an advocate for people not to give up on students with challenges.

#### **vi) Minister's Forum**

Ms. Boucher and Mrs. Lee attended the Minister's Forum on May 4-5, 2012 and highlighted the following:

- French Immersion will remain status quo for this year.
- The Education Plan is progressing.
- There was an update on demonstrations schools. Thirty-seven schools are continuing the program. There was a discussion about e-readers being brought from home to be used in the classroom, and how this will occur.
- There was discussion about the ISD (Integrated Service Delivery) Pilot and bringing it into the schools. There are challenges in inter-departmental sharing of information. A central record system is needed for staff who work with students. There has been discussion about piloting this for another year.
- A lot of the information in the Inclusion Action Plan will be released in the Dr. Porter Report.
- There was a presentation by Nicole Gervais on how Early Childhood will fall under the auspices of Education.
- The Minister of Education has been asked to reconvene the Governance Committee to discuss DEC roles and responsibilities, meeting times and places, etc. The First Nations representative should be appointed as rapidly as possible to ensure that all positions for the Education Council are established before September, 2012.
- There was discussion about the possibility of renaming the new school districts.
- Because there will be fewer superintendents and DEC chairs attending the Minister's Forums following amalgamation, there was discussion about inviting vice-chairs to future meetings. The Minister will make a decision concerning this matter.
- Remuneration for DEC members is still not finalized.
- Discussion was held about the possible shuffle of Cabinet Ministers and concern about the possibility that the current Minister of Education could be given a new portfolio. The District 16 Education Council agreed that with reorganization in progress, a letter be sent or a meeting be held with the Premier requesting that the Hon. Jody Carr, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, remain in his current portfolio.

Mrs. Lee



	<p><b>vii) School Boundaries</b></p> <p>A discussion was held with regard to school boundaries and catchment areas. Council agreed that there must be consistency in defining boundaries and that there should be a good communication plan for parents. Ms. Boucher noted that the Director of Education has been responding to requests for out-of-zone transfers with a standard letter stating that decisions will be made at the time of staffing.</p> <p>It was suggested that the new District Education Council be given a list of items that will need to be addressed following amalgamation.</p>	Mrs. Lee
I.	<p><b>BRAG SESSION</b></p> <p>Mrs. Watters reported that one of the Grade 8 students at Dr. Losier Middle School, Alex Stockli, won gold at the District Science Fair, and a Grade 7 student at this school, Treyvan Munn, won bronze. Treyvan went on to win bronze at the provincial competition.</p> <p>Mrs. Watters also noted that the Grade 8 Exploratory classes at Dr. Losier Middle School organized their term around a theatre production. As part of this, these students hosted the entire District 16 Office staff for a luncheon – Tech made and delivered personalized invitations, Shop made the birdhouse for a door prize, Foods prepared and served an amazing meal, Drama entertained, and Art created and delivered hand-made thank you cards. The students and their teachers received many compliments, and the luncheon was really appreciated by the District Office staff.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee indicated that the Grade 8 students at Nelson Rural spent a day at NBCC visiting animation, computer design, carpentry, electrical, and heavy equipment repair classes. This is part of Nelson’s “Applied Learning” program. The purpose is to help students, especially those who are at risk of dropping out, realize that these career opportunities are available to them. NBCC is using Nelson Rural School as a pilot project with the goal of expanding it to the rest of the district and province.</p> <p>Mrs. Lee announced that Anne Gallant, teacher at James M. Hill, recently received the NBTA High School Council Annual Teacher Recognition Award. Another James M. Hill teacher, Tyson Theriault, received the Vocational Service Award, which is presented once a year by the Rotary Club of Chatham to a non-member who “exhibits exceptional dedication to advancing his/her profession and providing service to the community through his/her chosen vocation”.</p> <p>Ms. Boucher stated that the French Public Speaking Competition was held recently and District 16 students were among the winners. They are as follows:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cassandra Waugh (Blackville School) - 1<sup>st</sup> - Grade 9/10 Core French;</li> <li>• Vanessa Steinmann (Bonar Law Memorial High School) - 1<sup>st</sup> - Grade 11 Late French Immersion;</li> <li>• Corey Lawson (Bonar Law Memorial High School) - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Grade 12 Late French Immersion.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Holmes gave a brief update on the status of the new school in Tabusintac. He indicated that the committee has signed off on the architectural concept and hopes to present the plans or 3-D picture of the new school to the District Education Council in the near future. It is hoped that construction will start in August. He mentioned that the staff and students of Tabusintac worked hard recently in planning and hosting a Talent Night in Tabusintac. This event raised \$1,000 through a silent auction.</p> <p>Ms. Boucher mentioned that the Turn-Around Achievement Awards are scheduled for Thursday, May 17, at 6:00 p.m. at the Rodd Miramichi Hotel. She reminded Council members who are planning to attend to notify her as soon as possible.</p>	<p>DEC Members Ms. Boucher</p>
<p><b>J.</b></p>	<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p> <p>Mrs. Lee requested members to watch for emails giving direction for the next DEC meeting on June 5. She also thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and extended best wishes to the candidates who are running for District Education Council positions.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.</p>	<p>DEC Members</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Dunnett  
Executive Assistant

Patricia Lee, Chair  
District 16 Education Council