



SCHOOL DISTRICT 17

DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL MINUTES (APPROVED)

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Geary Elementary Community School, Geary

Council Members Present:

Debbie Blyth – Sub-district 1
Marty Forsythe – Sub-district 5 and Chair
Carol Ward – Sub-district 6
Elizabeth Nason – Sub-district 7
Mark Noël – Sub-district 8
LeRoy Washburn – Sub-district 9
Tom Barrett – Sub-District 11
Dustin Taylor – Student Rep

Regrets:

Stephanie LeFait – Sub-district 2
Jason Randall – Sub-District 3
Blair Cummings – Sub-district 4
Anne Marie MacDonald – Sub-district 10 and Vice-chair

District Office Staff Present:

Sue Haanstra – Director of Human Resources
Rick Demmings – Director of Education
David McTimoney – Superintendent
Cathy Buck – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
and DEC Secretary

Guests:

Media (3)
Public

I. Call Meeting to Order

Marty Forsythe called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Marty welcomed parents, students, and others guests. He thanked Bonnie Worrall, the school principal, for the hosting the DEC meeting.

II. Geary Elementary Community School

- School Choir - Directed by Ted Beach and accompanied by Brent Hodgson on the guitar, students from the school choir entertained the DEC and the public.
- Roberta Akcakiryan presented the A.P.P.L.E. DVD which makes folks aware of the importance of buying locally from NB apple growers. She also spoke enthusiastically about the “Big Chef, Little Chef” segment in the DVD. Many partnerships were developed through the making of this DVD and she thanked all participants.
- Laura Smith and Jessica Greer, grade 5 students, presented a book they made for the Intensive French program. This was part of an ILF grant that the school received.
- Mrs. Worrall welcomed the DEC and thanked them for coming to the school.

III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda and the March minutes were approved by consensus.

IV. Adopt Policies

- I.A – Governing Style - Members discussed the reporting style of the self-monitoring checklist.

Motion

...that the results of the self-evaluation form be shown in a statistical manner and presented once per year at the January Public DEC Meeting.

Moved: Mark Noël

Seconded: LeRoy Washburn

M/C

- I.C – Councillor’s Code of Conduct - This policy had been discussed at length and approved in the March meeting and was back for the members to replace in their binders.
- I.D – Consultation - No change in this policy.
- I.J – DEC Professional Development - Marty reported on the Spring Symposium that several of the DEC members attended.

V. Presentation

Before the presentation began, Marty mentioned the Turnaround Achievement Awards, which had taken place the week before. Dustin Taylor, the DEC student rep, received an award for making big changes in his life. That same evening, Kathryn Downe, was awarded the educator award for District 17. This led into an introduction, by David McTimoney, to the presentation.

Kathryn Downe, Learning Specialist for High School Programs, Science, Physical Education, and Professional Development, walked through her portfolio which includes the aforementioned areas; she addressed each in a more detailed manner and provided a handout.

- Wellness Through Physical Education 110 will be piloted in September.
- New Teacher PD - After-school support meetings for beginning teachers. The Beginning Teacher Induction Program (BTIP) is no longer funded for, therefore, this is a method of providing mentoring for new teachers.
- Susan Allen, the Healthy Learner for the District, runs a Roots of Empathy Program, which involves a monthly school visit with 2-4 month old baby and his/her parent and promotes a strong family connection.

VI. Burton Sustainability - Project Team

David mentioned the timelines since the decision was made by the DEC on February 22nd to look at the sustainability of the Burton Elementary School.

- February 23rd - DEC Chair, Marty Forsythe, wrote to the Honourable Jody Carr, Minister of Education, to formally advise of the decision (Section 6.4.1 of Policy 409).
- March 16th - David McTimoney, Superintendent, and Marty met with the Burton PSSC Chair and Principal to outline the process. The DEC Vice-chair, Anne Marie MacDonald, was not available to join them.
- April 4th - David met with the staff of Burton Elementary School to explain the process.

- April 4th - David wrote to the parents of students at Burton Elementary to outline the process and included the timeline and the means to access Policy 409.
- May 10th - David will write to parents of children at Burton Elementary to invite them to public meeting #1.
- May 16th - David and Marty will meet with the Burton PSSC.
- May 17th - Public meeting #1 to take place at the Burton Lion's Club. Marty and David will chair the meeting and will present facts and information as researched by District Office staff.
- Public meeting #2 to take place in October; this will be an opportunity for stakeholders and community members to present to the DEC.
- Public meeting #3 will take place at the Public DEC Meeting in November, at which time the DEC will vote on the sustainability of the Burton Elementary School.

VII. Bursary - Marilyn Ball

Two bursaries will be awarded, each for \$875, in Marilyn Ball's name. Marilyn was the former Superintendent who retired in December, 2010. Applicants must show sound academics marks, community involvement, and commitment to post secondary in arts and education. Application forms will be sent to the Guidance Counsellors in District 17's four high schools.

VIII. Information Items

- Lincoln Elementary Community School Update
 - Transition plans are in place for students to attend Gesner Street Elementary (K-2) and Summerhill Street Elementary (3-5) for the next two years while the new school in Lincoln is being built.
 - Meeting has taken place with parents and staff to discuss the transition process.
 - ADI is working on drawings for the new school and will likely be available for DEC viewing in May-June.
 - Staffing and costs associated with this move have not been finalized.
 - Demolition of the current school will likely be mid to late July.
- School News – Handout distributed. David highlighted some school events.
- Superintendent's Report – David reported on the past month.
 - Military Symposium - Research findings were presented regarding life as an adolescent living in a military community. The report is available to the public.
 - NBELA Project - Job shadowing at District Office
 - Day spent with the Superintendent in Bathurst
 - Intervention Centre Program Graduations - Although a very successful program, there has been no confirmation for future funding.
 - Turnaround Achievement Awards - Eight students received an award; as well, Kathryn Downe received the Teacher Education Award.
 - Take your MLA to work took place on April 11th.
 - Met with the Friends of Gagetown School.
 - Hosted Skills Canada provincials at the Oromocto High School. District 17 received five gold medals, two silver, and one bronze.

- Received the budget and FTE. Classroom FTE will remain the same for this school year despite declining enrolment. Comment made on the Government's expectation that District budget cuts should have minimal effect on students and schools; upset that these cuts are being made to Districts, and yet the Department is still promising every teacher \$250 for the next school year for the cost of supplies.

IX. Self-monitoring Checklist – Form Completion

Members took a few minutes to complete the form.

X. Next Meeting – May 24th, 6:00 p.m., District Office, Oromocto.

XI. Adjournment – Marty thanked Bonnie and the staff of Geary Elementary Community School for hosting the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Marty Forsythe, Chairperson
District Education Council

Date

Cathy Buck
Secretary, District Education Council

Date