



SCHOOL DISTRICT 17

DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL MINUTES (APPROVED) Tuesday, October 25, 2011 District Office, Oromocto

Council Members Present:

Debbie Blyth – Sub-district 1
Stephanie LeFait – Sub-district 2
Blair Cummings – Sub-district 4
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
Anne Marie MacDonald – Sub-district 10 and Vice-chair
Shelley Sabattis – First Nation
Brooke Pilmer – Student Rep

Regrets:

Jason Randall – Sub-District 3
Tom Barrett – Sub-District 11

District Office Staff Present:

Mark Fisher - Director of Finance and Administration
Sue Haanstra – Director of Human Resources
David McTimoney – Superintendent
Cathy Buck – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
and DEC Secretary

Guests:

Media (1)

I. Routine Matter

- Marty Forsythe called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Marty thanked Linda Dempsey-Nicholson and her culinary class for providing the break foods for the evening.
- With the following additions, the agenda was approved:
 - Motion to send a letter to the Comptroller's Office
 - Policy Review.
- By consensus, the September minutes were approved.

II. Presentation - Friends of Gagetown School

Marty welcomed the Friends of Gagetown School (FROGS): Lorna Scott, Renée Houlihan, and John Tarrel. Lorna mentioned Rob Stoney who was not able to be there. Some of the points that were mentioned:

- Gagetown is seen as a community that has a steady growth; however, it is attracting the wrong age level for enrolment in the school;
- some of the challenges: declining enrolment, loss of French Immersion, and the per capita funding formula;
- have written to the Minister regarding after-school care, community school designation, and enhanced funding for rural schools;
- have strong community and school involvement: Frogs, Home and School, Parent School Support Committee (PSSC), school principal, and MLA.

The group mentioned some of their accomplishments:

- grants received for both the naturalist club and the playground;
- a pamphlet, “101 Engaging Facts About the Village of Gagetown”;
- created a licensed after-school care program in partnership with Gagetown and District Recreation Council Inc.;

They walked through their short-term and long-term goals and the fact that everything mentioned above happened over a six-month period.

The DEC was given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Marty mentioned that a letter had gone from the DEC to the Minister requesting that Gagetown School be designated a community school.

III. Internal Auditor’s Report

Mark Fisher, Director of Finance and Administration, presented the Internal Auditor’s Report for the 2010-2011 school year. As it past years, it was a very positive report, with the exception of the two recommendations:

- 7.5 School Raised Funds – We recommend that the school district report results of operations and financial position of school raised funds on an annual basis.
- 7.6 Misallocated Journal Entry – We recommend that the school district ensure that journal entries are recorded accurately to the proper account.

Mark Noël expressed his concern about the continual mention of school raised funds year after year. It is not the District’s issue that there is no provincial policy written on the process.

Motion

...That a letter be sent to the Minister of Finance saying that the DEC is not in agreement with, nor is willing to accept, 7.5 of the report.

Moved: Mark Noël

Seconded: Blair Cummings

M/C

Recommendation that the letter also include the suggestion that “spot” audits be made. The cost of these audits must be extreme. District 17 has never been an issue and the DEC does not feel the need to repeat the process year after year.

IV. Policy Review

A discussion on forming a committee in order to review the DEC policies took place. The following members volunteered their time if such a committee were to go forward: Mark Noël, LeRoy Washburn, Carol Ward, and Marty Forsythe. A schedule of meetings would be set for November and December. Any DEC member could bring changes forward to the Committee.

Motion

...To strike a committee to review the policies and report back to the DEC upon completion.

Moved: Mark Noël

Seconded: Debbie Blyth

M/C

V. Monitoring Report

LI - District Hiring Process - The Council selected nine (9) competition files to review by the DEC Chair and Vice-chair. They were pleased with the outcome and were happy to report that the policy is being followed. They are confident with the process and feel the Superintendent is in compliance. Marty thanked Sue Haanstra, Director of Human Resources, and her staff for a job well done.

VI. Information Items

- Burton School Sustainability Update – David spoke about the second public meeting whereby members of the community presented. DEC members who were not at that meeting were provided with a taping of the evening which gave them an opportunity to view the community presentations.

David encouraged communication by mail, e-mail, and the blog. He announced that the third public meeting would be on November 22nd where a recommendation on the sustainability of Burton School would be made. This recommendation would then go to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. The Minister will review the recommendation, examine the process, and render a final decision within 30-60 days.

Public submissions will be permitted up until November 22nd. To date, there has been no mail, no e-mail other than for clarification, and very little on the blog.

In reviewing any of the material, DEC members can send any questions to Marty who will then consult with the Burton member. David will continue to monitor and answer any questions on the blog.

- Official Enrolment – September 30th student enrolment is 4,781, a decline of 108 from last year. Enrolment plays a significant role in the funding received. FTE will remain the same for the next school year, just as it did this year.

A comparison was made between a school in District 1 and a school in District 17 to see if FTE and the ratio to students matches. On September 30, 2010, École Arc-en-ciel, a K-8 school with a student population of 242, had 19.0 FTE; Sunbury West School, also a K-8 school with a student population of 260, had 18.4 FTE.

A discussion was held with the following:

- *Government's commitment to keep FTE intact for a three-year period* – Very little difference this year because there was only a decline of 21 students for the 2010 school year; this would have equated to the loss of one teacher. With the loss of 108

students in 2011, there would have been a loss of approximately 5 teachers. This will not happen due to this commitment.

- *Review of Boundaries for Oromocto West* – Some schools feel there is now an imbalance in student population because of the boundary changes a couple of years ago and are wondering if this will be reviewed for next year. A study of the boundaries is on the District’s radar and if there is a significant imbalance in schools, it will be looked at.
- *Does the local music teacher travel to all schools so that there is music in every school?* The music teacher is shared by three schools. It is expected the other schools will provide some form of music, if possible.
- Parent Series – An information letter went home with each student. The October 19th session was poorly attended. It is the hope that with better advertising, the remaining series will gather more interest.
 - *Healthy Eating and Physical Activity for Children and Adolescents*
Presenter: Dr. Krishnaswamy (“Dr. Swamy”)
Location: Oromocto High School
Date: November 16, 2011
 - *Mental Fitness and Addiction*
Presenter: Dr. Addleman
Location: Oromocto High School
Date: January 25, 2012
 - *Illness, Disorder, Disease, Contagion, and Control*
Presenter: Dr. Prendergast & Dr. Muecke
Location: Minto Elementary/Middle School
Date: April 4, 2012
 - *Healthy Family Practices*
Presenter: Dr. Sainz
Location: Oromocto High School
Date: May 30, 2012
- French Second Language Review – Rick Demmings, Director of Education, is sitting on the Liaison Committee. A Task Force has also been set up. This Task Force can ask questions of the Liaison Committee.

DEC comment was that money is being spent on this every three years and changes to French Immersion have not even been proven. Marty responded that this was part of the platform. David commented that if the program returns to the way it was, the District would require more teachers at the “Superior” level in speaking; this would be a challenge but is certainly do-able. Class sizes in FI make staffing more difficult.

- PSSC Orientation – Discussion took place.

Motion

...That the PSSC orientation be done by individual principals at the school level and that they each be given the appropriate documentation for consistent training.

**Moved: Blair Cummings Seconded: Debbie Blyth 7 in favour
3 against
M/C**

David will contact the principals about PSSC orientation, as well as to ensure that the DEC member responsible for that school receives an invitation.

DEC representative for each school should be getting invitations to school PSSC meetings. DEC was given a schedule of meetings; however, the principal should be notifying the DEC rep.

- School News – Handout distributed. David highlighted some school events.
- Superintendent’s Report – David reported some highlights over the past month.
 - Government Renewal presentation has been given to all district staff. DEC members were given a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.
 - First Nation Agreement has been signed and the first meeting has taken place.
 - The number of Principals’ meetings has been reduced because of cost.

VII. Other – Comments from the Audience

- Feel it’s unfortunate that PSSC orientation is not being done at the District. It gives a chance to meet the others. There is appreciation for the diversity of the group.
- Do not feel comfortable with DEC members voting on the sustainability of Burton School when they were not all in attendance at the meeting where the community presented. Marty gave assurance that by the time the vote was cast, all members would have viewed the video, would have been copied all of the documentation, and would be making an informed decision.

VIII. Self-monitoring Checklist – Form Completion

IX. Next Meeting – November 22nd, 6:00 p.m., District Office or OHS Library, Oromocto.

X. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Marty Forsythe, Chairperson
District Education Council

Date

Cathy Buck
Secretary, District Education Council

Date

