



SCHOOL DISTRICT 17

DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL MINUTES (APPROVED)

Tuesday, May 24, 2011
District Office, Oromocto

Council Members Present:

Debbie Blyth – Sub-district 1
Stephanie LeFait – Sub-district 2
Jason Randall – Sub-District 3
Blair Cummings – Sub-district 4
Marty Forsythe – Sub-district 5 and Chair
Elizabeth Nason – Sub-district 7
Mark Noël – Sub-district 8
LeRoy Washburn – Sub-district 9
Anne Marie MacDonald – Sub-district 10 and Vice-chair
Tom Barrett – Sub-District 11
Shelley Sabattis – First Nation

Regrets:

Carol Ward – Sub-district 6
Dustin Taylor – Student Rep

District Office Staff Present:

Gail Gould – Learning Specialist (in part)
David McTimoney – Superintendent
Cathy Buck – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
and DEC Secretary

Guests:

Media (2)
Public

I. Call Meeting to Order

Marty Forsythe called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Marty welcomed everyone but especially, Shelley Sabattis, latest DEC member, representing Oromocto First Nation.

II. Presentation – International Student Program

Gail Gould, Learning Specialist with International Students as part of her portfolio, introduced Germany student, Elena Fuhler, and her host family, Tanya and Shane Parsons and their two little girls, Ava and Zoë. Elena spoke about her experience at Oromocto High School and living with a Canadian family. The Parsons spoke very positively about the experience of having a teenager from another country living with them. Although Elena will be returning to Germany to graduate from high school, it is her hope to return to Canada to attend university

Anyone wishing to host an international student should get in touch with Gail Gould at the District Office.

III. Routine Matters

- Marty again welcomed Shelley Sabattis and, at this point, had everyone introduce themselves and say which sub-district they represented. All members expressed their appreciation at having the First Nation position filled.

- By consensus, the agenda and the April minutes were approved.
- There were no changes to Policy III.F, Financial Conditions/Budgeting and Forecasting, since its last reviews.

IV. Presentation

Terry Currie, Learning Specialist for Middle Level and Intensive French, walked through his portfolio. Besides the aforementioned areas, Terry is also responsible for the seven shops in the District, home schooling, and supervising the Shad Valley student during his/her 5-week placement.

V. Budget

David mentioned that District 17 had responded to the Minister of Education's request to cut 2.23% from the District's budget. Some of the cuts were targeted, while others had to be found. The District is awaiting Department approval. There was great discussion and the following points were made:

- The DEC would prefer to have that amount cut right from the top before District budgets are given out. *Superintendents wanted to have input on these decisions.*
- How can money be found if salaries keep going up? *If salaries increase, Districts get the equivalent dollar amount.*
- How many positions have been cut? *The District has been funded the same amount of classroom FTE for September 2011.....315.8 FTE regardless of enrollment.*

VI. Correspondence

- Letter from Minister Carr, notifying receipt of letter from DEC re review of Burton sustainability
- Letter from Friends of Gagetown School requesting an opportunity to present to DEC at June Public Meeting

VII. Information Items

- Lincoln Elementary Community School Update
 - Transition plans are moving ahead.
 - Staffing is still being worked out. All permanent staff will be employed even though they will be in different buildings over the 2 years while the new school is being built.
 - Open House invitation for June 9th.
- Burton Elementary School Sustainability – Update
 - The DEC and District Office personnel held a public meeting on May 17th. About 25-30 people attended.
 - District has opened a website which contains updated information on the study.
 - Public is welcome to communicate by e-mail, blog, or mail.
- School News – Handout distributed. David highlighted some school events.
- Superintendent's Report – David reported on the past month.
 - Staffing ongoing.

- Working on reducing the number of acting positions with regards to principals and vice-principals.
- Postings have begun in schools and in the newspaper.

VIII. Self-monitoring Checklist – Form Completion

Members took a few minutes to complete the form.

IX. Next Meeting – June 14th, 6:00 p.m., District Office, Oromocto.

X. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Marty Forsythe, Chairperson
District Education Council

Date

Cathy Buck
Secretary, District Education Council

Date

