

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

4:00 p.m.

Minutes

Trustees Present: Chairperson - W. Goetz Vice-Chairperson - N. Bethune
Members - M. Lemme, D. Slosser, J. Vanhaelemeesch, C. Zettel
Board Officials: V. Batte, C. Colton, J. Contois, P. Cureton, J. Sheppard
Student Trustees: M. Weber, S. Varsava
Absent: B. Herney
Recording Secretary: A. Dietz

- A. 1) The Board was led in prayer by Norm Bethune.
2) Adoption of the Agenda

Addendum:

- i) School Year Calendar

01-176 **Motion By:** *Norm Bethune* and seconded by *Dave Slosser* that the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting on April 24, 2001 be accepted as amended.
Carried

- 3) **Conflict of Interest** ~ *None were declared*

B. Approval of Minutes

01-177 **Motion By:** *Jules Vanhaelemeesch* and seconded by *Norm Bethune* that the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on April 10, 2001 be approved as printed.
Carried

C. Committee of the Whole Report

01-178 **Motion By:** *Christine Zettel* and seconded by *Jules Vanhaelemeesch* that the Board accept the recommendation from Superintendent Jane Contois, regarding Reshaping our Board Program and Student Services Support.
Carried

01-179 *Motion By: Dave Slosser and seconded by Christine Zettel that the Board approve the Staff Report J.S. 2001-04-24 and the recommendations contained therein, with an amendment regarding student services*

Carried

D. DELEGATIONS / SUBMISSIONS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Chepstow Project (Marlene Yen, Ed Goetz)

Jane Contois introduced Marlene Yen and Ed Goetz to talk about a new partnership that is happening at Mary Immaculate School in Chepstow. The community of Chepstow was selected as one of six areas for the development of a pilot project to enhance Early Learning Programs.

As Marlene and Ed explained, research proves that a child's brain development, especially in the first three years of life, sets the foundation for lifelong learning, behaviour and health. Marlene is acting as the Research Coordinator for two projects, The Parent Focus Group and the Play Group.

The purpose of the Parent Focus Group is to investigate the factors involved in the area's readiness to learn results. We need to assess parents' understanding of the important connection between early learning experiences and school successes.

The purpose of the Play Group is to support the Board's proposal to encourage pre-school play opportunities for children in the Chepstow community. The Play Group will be held at Mary Immaculate School, two mornings per week, beginning May 1st.

Jane thanked Marlene and Ed for their outstanding involvement and enthusiasm with these new projects.

2. Final Class Size Reporting

The Ministry of Education requires boards to report class sizes of secondary schools. Cathy Colton shared this information which shows Bruce-Grey's average size of secondary school classes is 20.29.

3. Draft Policy on Foreign Students

Cathy Colton presented revisions to the Policy on Foreign Students. She asked the trustees to review the draft policy prior to the next board meeting, at which time Cathy will be seeking board approval. Cathy has asked for feedback from our secondary school principals and the Ministry of Education.

4. Transfer Payments and Financial Reporting

Cathy referred to correspondence from the Ministry of Education advising that the Board will receive additional grants in the amount of \$64,000 to offset the higher cost of natural gas. Cathy also noted that an amendment to the teacher compensation grant will now recognize partial years of teaching experience for funding purposes. Some changes have been made to ISA funding, but we do not know the implications for our Board.

5. Throne Speech

Vern Batte referred to the Throne Speech and focussed on issues relating to education,

recognizing that Premier Harris will be releasing details on various initiatives. Vern briefly commented on the three priorities identified by the government: Growth, Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability.

6. **Secondary School Rankings**

Vern Batte stated that the secondary school rankings that were published in the National Post last week were flawed. The success rate published for our schools was 49%. When Vern asked our secondary school principals to do a quick analysis, the results showed a .02% failure rate for the 1st semester of this school year. Vern has contacted the Fraser Institute and requested their basis for the report, but has received no response.

Vern asked student representatives, Sarah Varsava and Matt Weber, for their comments. They both mentioned that their student bodies were shocked to hear the rankings. Sarah commented that students have transferred to other schools (including West Hill who ranked highly in this report) from St. Mary's High School and have excelled due to their training at St. Mary's. Sarah felt the rankings were ridiculous and disgusting and should not be taken seriously. Matt agreed with Sarah, and added that students at SHHS know who they are, they are not failures. They do not need a survey to tell them who they are. Matt added that the report may have a positive effect in that it has brought the school closer together.

7. **AGM Report**

Vern asked the trustees to comment on the recent AGM Conference that was held in Cornwall. The general consensus was that it was a worthwhile meeting with enthusiastic and motivational speakers. The interesting topics of discussion rejuvenated some of our own thoughts and feelings ~ we should be proud of our schools and the heritage they have come from.

8. **School Year Calendar**

Jane described the process used by the Bi-Board School Year Calendar Committee. The consensus was for school to begin after labour day, with a two week break at Christmas, spring break in the 3rd week of March and four professional development days throughout the year.

<p>00-180 <i>Motion By:</i> Norm Bethune and seconded by Mike Lemme that the Board approve the School Year Calendar for the year 2001-2002 as recommended by the Bi-Board School Year Calendar Committee.</p>
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Carried

E. INFORMATION and REPORTS

–For Information Only:

1. Correspondence from Ministry of Education
 - Mike Harris gov't continues to invest in quality education
 - Confirmation re Appointment of Patrick Cureton to position of Superintendent
2. Thank You Notes:
 - Cathy Wakeford & family
 - Theresa Coburn

Dave Slosser mentioned that he had been to a Mass being celebrated in memory of Fr. Paul Reilly.

The mass, organized by Charlotte Lahey's class, was very meaningful and showed the impact Father Paul left on the community.

F. FUTURE BUSINESS

- Plant Maintenance Tour Dates: June 5, 12 and 13
- Budget for next school year ~ tentative schedule:
 - June 19 ~ special Board Meeting for budget presentation
 - June 21 ~ presentation to principals
 - June 26 ~ approval at Board Meeting
 - Submission to the Ministry of Education ~ end of June
 - School Councils ~ presentation in the fall.

Next Committee of the Whole Meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting at 4:00

Tuesday, **May 8**, 2001

G. ADJOURNMENT

01-181 Motion By: *Norm Bethune* and seconded by *Mike Lemme* that the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Carried

William Goetz
Chairperson of the Board

Vern Batte
Director of Education and Secretary

