

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, August 22, 2000

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Trustees Present: Chairperson - C. Zettel Vice-Chairperson - K. York
Members - N. Bethune, G. Fischer, W. Goetz, M. Lemme
Board Officials: V. Batte, C. Colton, J. Contois, P. Cureton, J. Sheppard
Absent: B. Herney
Recording Secretary: A. Dietz

NOTE: This meeting is being held in the Library at Sacred Heart High School, Walkerton.

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

00-145 *Motion By: Norm Bethune* and seconded by *Kathy York* that the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting on August 22, 2000 be accepted as printed. *Carried*

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

B. Approval of Minutes

00-146 *Motion By: Kathy York* and seconded by *Norm Bethune* that the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 27, 2000 be approved as printed. *Carried*

C. DELEGATIONS / SUBMISSIONS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Tour of Sacred Heart High School

The meeting commenced with a tour of Sacred Heart High School. Jim Aitken explained the retrofitting that has taken place at our schools in Walkerton as a result of the E.coli outbreak. Early in July we assumed it was essential to do whatever was necessary to utilize our facilities at Sacred Heart High School and Mother Teresa School. The alternate facilities were great in June but we need to get back to our own facilities. We hosted a meeting involving officials from the Ministries of Education, Environment and Health at which time we explained our position and fortunately were able to put together a plan. We received approval for \$595,000

which was the amount necessary to retrofit all 5 schools in Walkerton. Both boards worked cooperatively and installation has now been completed. We are in the midst of tendering for bottled water and hope to award the tender in the next few days. Inspections by the Ministry of the Environment and town officials took place today with everything being approved. The Medical Officer of Health will be visiting the sites on Wednesday, August 23 to inspect the retrofitting. Jim Aitken mentioned that we fully expect to be using this system for an extended period of time and any retrofitting we have in place will be viable during the winter months. Christine thanked Jim Aitken for his devotion of extra time, effort and assistance since the E.coli outbreak.

2. **Visit by Bill Murdoch**

Christine Zettel welcomed Bill Murdoch and Melissa Elder to the meeting. She mentioned that trustees have received a copy of the questions that Bill has been asked to address this evening. Bill thanked the Board for their invitation to attend the meeting and assured the Trustees that he is willing to work on their behalf. He mentioned that Melissa will be responding to the questions prepared in advance, and at any time, anyone should feel comfortable offering their thoughts/ideas, etc.

Student Transportation Funding: The government has announced an additional \$23 million for student transportation in 2000-01 ~ this board will be receiving an additional \$130,000. Melissa also noted that boards can access an additional \$7 million in interest free loans for to produce greater efficiency in transportation. Bill did not know when we can expect a plan for the New Funding Model for Transportation, but he feels it is necessary for rural boards to keep complaining to caucus that rural Ontario is very different from downtown London and Toronto.

Role of EIC - Yes, the E.I.C, is going to continue. It was originally formed to create greater accountability. Since their formation they have introduced three interim reports and they feel good things are emerging from their reviews. They feel district school boards are doing a good job in restructuring. The EIC sees more direction of money to classrooms, construction of pupil places, accommodation, policy/program harmonization and school councils.

School councils - The Ministry will be clarifying roles and responsibilities of school councils. They will be providing clear direction on the mandate of School Councils. The Ministry will also be providing training and resources to school councils along with guidelines printed in a handbook.

French Board - The issue of the payment of \$1.3 million to the French Board was identified as a major problem. The issue is tossed between the Ministry and the EIC. Bill Murdoch has written to the E.I.C. but has had no response. Bill will take another run at it.

Spec. Ed Funding - With only two weeks until the beginning of the school year, when will we receive details about the Special Ed. Funding . Bill has the understanding that the money will flow next week.

Economy of Bruce & Grey - Dealing with declining enrolment and now the E.coli issue in Walkerton, is there any plans for the government to promote industry, etc. in this area? Bill mentioned that he believes there will be upgrades to the jail and courthouse in Walkerton. The 410 will be extended to Hwy 10 and there are upgrades to roads from Hepworth to Warton. Bill would like to see a major highway connecting London/Kitchener to Bruce County. Ongoing meetings are being held with Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, Kinsmen/Kinettes, etc. to assist wherever possible.

Christine thanked Bill and Melissa for coming here tonight and for this opportunity to dialogue. She hopes we plan to talk again in the near future.

3. **Maintenance Projects Update**

Jim Aitken advised the Trustees that most of the summer projects have been completed. Some small jobs to be done in Durham, Port Elgin, CEC and Mildmay, which, hopefully, will be completed shortly.

4. **Coroner's Inquest ~ Recommendations**

Cathy Colton presented the trustees with a list of recommendations that resulted from the Myles Neuts fatality. Cathy suggested that the Board consider the purchase of pagers for each of our principals. OPHEA has issued guidelines to follow regarding chokers, etc. and these will also be shared at the next principal/admin meeting along with a copy of the Coroner's Inquest Recommendations.

5. **Cheque Registers, June and July 2000**

<p>00-147 <i>Motion By:</i> <i>Bill Goetz</i> and seconded by <i>Norm Bethune</i> that the Cheque Registers to June 30, 2000 and July 31, 2000 be approved as printed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Carried</i></p>

6. **Enhanced Funding for Student Transportation**

Cathy Colton referred to correspondence from Norbert Hartman in which the government announced an increase of \$23 million for student transportation ~ our Board will receive \$130,000. Cathy suggested that the Board may consider giving some kind of one-time payment to bus operators for gas escalation, etc. The Bus Operators' Association would like to make another presentation at a future board meeting.

7. **Employee Purchase Plan**

Pat Cureton asked for the Board's support to offer the Computer Purchase Plan again this year. Pat would like to immediately post the notice electronically to allow employees the opportunity to take advantage of the back-to-school promotions. Signed loan agreements must be forwarded to the Board Office by September 29th.

<p>00-148 <i>Motion By:</i> <i>Mike Lemme</i> and seconded by <i>Norm Bethune</i> that the Board approve the Computer Purchase Plan.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Carried</i></p>

8. **Trustee Distribution for the 2000 Election**

Cathy Colton informed the Trustees of the board's electoral groups who are responsible for receiving the nominations for school board trustee at the upcoming election on November 13th.

D. INFORMATION and REPORTS

–For Information Only:

1. Submission to Education Improvement Commission
RE: Best of Effective Practices ~ Work Plan
2. Ministry of the Environment ~ Media Backgrounder, August 8, 2000

RE: Protecting Ontario's drinking water

3. Ministry of the Environment ~ News Release, August 9, 2000
RE: Discussion Paper Released as phase 2 of Operation Clean Water
4. Ministry of Education ~ News Release, July 13, 2000
RE: Government moving forward with teacher testing program
5. Ministry of Education Correspondence
RE: 2000-01 Estimates Review
6. Ministry of Education Correspondence
RE: Acknowledging receipt of our correspondence dated June 27, 2000 (*supporting the motion from Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board to request the Ministry of Education to conduct an independent review of compensation levels for trustees*)
7. Correspondence from District School Board Ontario North East
RE: Supporting the Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB recommendation
8. Correspondence from Near North DSB
RE: Government has seriously under funded the DSB; adopts 2000-01 budget Under Protest
9. Correspondence from Knights of Columbus
RE: Recognizing staff members who donated their time during the Home Show in April
10. EQAO Newsletter
RE: June 2000
11. Excursion Requests
RE: April 18, 2000 to June 21, 2000
12. Thank you Notes:
RE: Retirement Dinner
Scholarships/Bursaries

E. FUTURE BUSINESS

Next Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, **September 12**, 2000

F. ADJOURNMENT

-Closing Prayer

00-149 Motion By: *Norm Bethune* and seconded by *Mike Lemme* that the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Carried

Christine Zettel
Chairperson of the Board

Vern Batte
Director of Education and Secretary

