



SCHOOL DISTRICT 17

DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL MINUTES (APPROVED)

Tuesday, March 22, 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
Tom Barrett – Sub-District 11
Dustin Taylor – Student Rep

Regrets:

Jason Randall – Sub-District 3

District Office Staff Present:

Ed Hogan - Manager of Transportation (in part)
Amanda Knorr - Special Projects, Transportation (in part)
Mark Fisher – Director of Finance and Administration
Rick Demmings – Director of Education
David McTimoney – Superintendent
Cathy Buck – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
and DEC Secretary

Regrets:

Sue Haanstra – Director of Human Resources

Guests:

Media (3)
Public (6)

I. Call Meeting to Order

Marty Forsythe called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Marty added "budget" under the information section. That being said, the agenda and the February minutes were approved by consensus.

III. Presentation

David McTimoney introduced Ed Hogan, Transportation Manager, and Amanda Knorr, Special Projects. The presentation was on VersaTrans, a transportation tool to help track students and bus routes.

Ed explained that due to declining enrolments and targeted reductions in the area of transportation, the District faces challenges. With the help of software called VersaTrans, boundary planning is made easier. As well, an e-link will soon be set up which will make it easier for parents to access bus routes and arrival times for buses.

Some of the pressures and challenges that are faced are:

- fuel prices;
- vehicle repairs and asset replacement;
- trip requests (i.e. sports events after the instructional day) - A driver can only be available for a certain number of hours per day;

- recruitment of replacement drivers (which also pertains to the point above) - This presents a problem, particularly in the rural areas;
- long bus rides for outlying area students;
- amount of drop-off places for children - Although the district has always tried to accommodate families, this is especially difficult for younger children who may have several different placements during the week; this could result in an error in drop-off area.

Some of the questions that were asked:

- How do you get a bus pass? Schools know which buses can handle extra passengers; if there are more than 48 passengers on a bus, bus passes are usually refused. Buses cannot be overloaded.
- Is there bulk buying of fuel? District is billed back the true price of fuel; as well, drivers generally try to fuel up at Department of Transportation pumps or at the bus garage.
- Why aren't there seatbelts on buses? Buses are built with padded compartments and seats for protection. There does not seem to be any consideration for seatbelts at this time, other than restraints on special needs buses.
- Any thought to looking at staggered entry times for students to save on costs? It could be looked at. Programming and instructional times have to be considered. Studies have shown that older students learn better with a later start time.
- What is the longest bus ride time? Approximately an hour and a half, one way.
- How can we make bus riding better and safer for Kindergarten children? We do have Kindergarten orientation and introduction to buses. We have to work with schools to make it better. Bus drivers have to become more knowledgeable about their students without students putting name tags on their bags (becomes a privacy issue).
- What will the timelines be for the Lincoln students who will be attending school in Oromocto while the new school is being built? Students will have the same instructional day. The District is considering adding two buses to the current system. District will be holding an information session with parents and staff of Lincoln.

IV. Policy Review and Monitoring of Reports

- IV.B - Positive Learning Environments
 - This year, the Director of Education and the Learning Specialist for Students Services have conducted a PLEP audit to determine if the District is providing the best service for our dollar. A number of those students who are suspended, will come back through the PLEP program.
 - Student and parent perception surveys will be shared publicly in the fall of 2011 through the school report card process.
 - The Learning Specialist of Student Services meets with principals and school student services teams to review and refine protocols and procedures involving individualized behaviour support plans, alternate site documentation, special education plans, and district referrals.
 - There is no change to the number of complaints received for the 2010-2011 school year. It is important for parents to follow the process; that is.....start with the teacher; if not satisfied, go to the Principal, then to the Learning Specialist, then to the Director of Education, and finally the Superintendent.
 - Every month there is an obligation to submit any Health and Safety concerns. A committee reviews them.

- There were three investigations under Policy 701 completed during the April 2010 to March 2011 period. There is still one ongoing.
 - The number of suspensions appears to be less than at this same time last year. The Director of Education makes the decision for any extension beyond five days. The bulk of suspensions happen at the high school level, in grade 11. There was discussion on fighting vs defending oneself.
- Revised Policy - DEC Code of Conduct

Motion

...to accept the revised policy.

Motion: Carol Ward

Seconded: Elizabeth Nason

Mark Noël suggested the following amendments

...that 5.3 c) read "Chair and Vice-chair (or another DEC member in the event that the complaint is against the Chair or Vice-chair) suspend the offending member immediately pending a review or resolution by the DEC."

Motion: Mark Noël

Seconded: Elizabeth Nason

M/C

...in 3.3, change the word "outside" to read "unlawful/illegal".

Motion: Mark Noël

Seconded: Elizabeth Nason

M/C

...in 2.5, spelling error....."different" should be "differ".

Motion: Mark Noël

Seconded: Elizabeth Nason

M/C

Marty asked if all were in favour of the new policy with the above mentioned amendments. **All were in favour. The policy was adopted.**

V. Information

- Lincoln Elementary Community School - Update
 - DSS and the architect from ADI have presented detailed plans for the new school. Will likely present to the DEC sometime in the spring.
 - David met with the Lincoln staff.
 - Will meet with the Gesner and Summerhill staff on March 23rd.
 - There are different levels of teams working towards the transition of the students.
- Burton Elementary School Sustainability - Update
 - David presented the timelines. This will now be sent to parents of the school.
 - DEC members will be contacted for meetings.

- School News - David highlighted some of the school events:
 - Cambridge-Narrows Community School - Evening of the Arts on Thursday, March 24th.
 - Geary Elementary Community School - Eat for Education at the Lions Club; Launch of the DVD "Wonders and Beauties of the Apple".
 - Summerhill Elementary School - DARE Graduation at the Grade 5 level; hosted the district chess tournament.
 - UNB gave 500 free hockey tickets so that students from SD17 could attend national playoff games: 250 will go to Harold Peterson students and 250 to Ridgeview students; students will learn about their respective teams and will cheer for that team.
 - Chipman Forest Avenue School - Will host a Youth Forum in early April.
- Superintendent's Report
 - Health and Wellness in District - package available if DEC wishes to review.
 - Update from questions asked at the February meeting:
 - * Reported on the number of students enrolled in physical education at the high school level: CNS-29; CFAS-90; MMHS-181; OHS-536.
 - * Continue to work towards 120 to 150 minutes of physical education per week. There are four schools at the K-8 level that are not at 120 minutes.
 - * The District is in compliance with Policy 711.
 - * Roots of Empathy will be covered under Kathryn Downe's presentation in April.
 - * There are 9 Kindergarten students registered at Gagetown School for September.
- Budget - Superintendents had a conference call with the Minister. Confirmed that there will be a 2% cut to all Districts' budgets which will be taken from the onset. Each District will have an individual meeting with the Department of Education. Details will be given prior to April 15th, after the Minister sits in the Legislature.

VI. Self-monitoring Checklist – Form Completion

Members took a few minutes to complete the form.

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

VIII. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

 Marty Forsythe, Chairperson
 District Education Council

 Date

 Cathy Buck
 Secretary, District Education Council

 Date