

These Minutes are a brief overview of the meeting; not a verbatim account of discussions.

**SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
Programs and Student Services Committee Meeting
Regional Office – Board Room
Bridgewater, Nova Scotia
September 13, 2017, 2:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

Call to Order

Committee Chair Crossland called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Record of Attendance

The following five Board Members and nine Board employees were in attendance:

Board Members

Elizabeth Crossland, Committee Chair
Pat Garrison, Board Member
Theresa Griffin, Ex-Officio
Jennifer Naugler, Committee Member
Elliott Payzant, Ex-Officio

Board Employees

Beth Collins, Consultant of Youth Pathways
Jeff DeWolfe, Director of Programs and Student Services
Denise Dodge-Baker, Coordinator of Assessment and Quality Instruction
Lamar Eason, Coordinator of RCH
Paige Ferguson, Coordinator of FSL
Darren Haley, Coordinator of Student Services
Stephen Jamieson, Coordinator of Literacy
Scott Milner, Superintendent
Cheryl Veinotte, Recording Secretary

Board Member Simms sent regrets.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Board Member Naugler, seconded by Board Member Griffin, to approve the Agenda. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Board Member Naugler, seconded by Board Member Griffin, to approve the Minutes of the June 14, 2017, Programs and Student Services Committee meeting.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Business Arising from the Minutes

Update on Revisions of Policy 225: Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding, and Human Rights

Work on this policy continued over the summer. Feedback was sought and received from school advisory councils, schools staffs, students, Board staff, and outside partners and groups, such as Sexual Assault Lunenburg and Queens. It is non-Board feedback that provides different lenses and viewpoints. There was also a consultation in four of our schools.

The following changes were noted:

- Addition of documents – Guidelines for Supporting Transgender and Gender-nonconforming Students, Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy, Program Planning Process
- Assessment and Placement section was removed (Board has policies that address assessment and placement)
- Section on Homophobic Acts renamed to LGBTTTQI with some direction on homophobic acts
- A section on policy was added
- Parts of the Sexual Harassment section were moved to Harassment, Bullying, and Discrimination
- Three deliverables added
- Appendix with contact information was added
- Appendix with examples of proactive strategies and actions was added

Once approved, the rollout will include professional development with RCH liaisons and other staff. There will be a campaign in schools promoting the revised policy, as well as links on school and Board websites and posts to Facebook and Twitter.

New Business

Pre-Primary

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development recently announced that pre-primary programming would be provided to all Nova Scotian children over the next four years. Chester District School and West Northfield Elementary School are SSRSB's sites.

Gillian Keily, the Board's newly hired Pre-Primary Lead Facilitator, explained that the curriculum focuses on the development of social and emotional skills and is play-based. The expectation is that children will be at or near the same level entering grade primary because they will have had access to early literacy, early math, and other learning opportunities. Children with special needs would be directly supported by external partners, not Board staff. Board staff will, however, collaborate with and support the Pre-Primary Program staff. Other points include:

- School principals do not administer the program
- CDS has two Pre-Primary classrooms with capacity for 24 students in each; 24 registered; two more support ECEs will be hired
- WNES has six students registered; working with school to share information with families and find out what barriers could be holding people back from registering; Pre-Primary information will be included in the school's first newsletter and posted on their Facebook page
- Awaiting furniture and materials from EECD
- Teacher : Student = 1 : 10; each classroom would have a lead and a support ECE
- Class start and end times are just before and after busses come and go at respective schools

- Request for Proposals is out for after school care

Mr. Milner acknowledged the work of Board staff – Gillian Keily, Denise Dodge-Baker, Jeff DeWolfe – that took place during the summer and into September. He is proud that our Student Services staff will work collaboratively with Pre-Primary Program staff. Other school boards are not doing that because the Pre-Primary Program is not part of the Public School Program.

Instructional Coaches

Mr. Milner reviewed the presentation (Appendix B) he made to school administrators at their first meeting this school year. Research shows that the quality of the system cannot exceed the quality of its educators. This supports our instructional coaching model to develop and grow teachers by training them in the classroom.

Ms. Dodge-Baker distributed Coaching 2017-2018: Proposal Process & Expectations (Appendix C). SSRSB continues to capitalize on and expand upon the model the province already has in place with the literacy and math coaches. Our Instructional Coaching “Fleet” includes two literacy coaches, five Math coaches, one Culturally Responsive Pedagogy coach, and three learning disabilities facilitators. The Fleet will work with teachers in their classrooms to develop and maintain a “consistent level of effective instruction ...”

Coaches Angela Stewart (Math Coach, P-3), Erin Dunn-Keefe (Instructional Coach, 4-12), Ken Fells (Cultural Responsive Pedagogy Coach), and Liz Brideau-Clark (Literacy Coach, 4-12), shared some of their knowledge and experiences:

- School staffs have been very welcoming
- Coaches’ passion resonates with teachers/staff in the schools
- Model is so student-centered that teachers are more open-minded to coaches coming into their classrooms
- Uptake is strong
- Involved in planning and delivering lessons, follow-up, and follow-through
- Every school had a presentation on instruction and what our coaches can offer
- In schools every day
 - In-service on Math vocabulary and common assessment
 - Discussions with teachers are about the students
 - Delivering for every child
 - Specialized PD for teachers
 - Supporting teachers with the utilization of their Learning Commons with curriculum-based activities
 - Support with running records
 - Working on preparing students for the upcoming provincial grade 6 assessment

All SSRSB teachers are encouraged to contact a coach for in-class support.

Board Member Crossland thanked staff for their presentation and for their passion about the work they are doing to support students.

Future Topics/Presentations

Future topics/presentations include:

1. International Students

Review of items to bring forward to Committee of the Whole and Board Meeting

1. Update on Revisions of Policy 225: Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding, and Human Rights

Date of Next Meeting(s)

The next meeting dates are:

1. October 11, 2017
2. November 8, 2017

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.