

**Annapolis Valley Regional School Board  
Education Committee  
Motions Acted Upon or Recommended to the Board = 0  
from Minutes of October 11, 2017**

**ED17:28**

**Approval of Agenda**

On motion of Susan Ritchie, seconded by Gerry Burrell, it was moved that the agenda of the October 10, 2017, Education Committee meeting be approved.

**Motion carried.**

**ED17:29**

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Pat Parker, seconded by Gerry Burrell, it was moved to approve the September 13, 2017, Education Committee minutes.

**Motion carried.**

**ED17:30**

**Approval of Adjournment**

On motion of Gerry Burrell, seconded by Jackie Foster, it was moved that the Education Committee meeting adjourn at 11:36 am.

**Motion carried.**

**ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
October 11, 2017**

---

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Charlene Davies, Vice Chair; Susan Ritchie, Pat Parker, Gerry Burrell, Jackie Foster; Dave Jones, Director of Programs and Services; and Melissa Tate, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Sandy Fraser, Donna Johnstone, Chair; Lavina Parrish Zwicker; Stephen Amirault, Regional Education Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Education Committee of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board met on October 11, 2017, in the Education Room of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board offices. Charlene Davies, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ED17:28**

**Approval of Agenda**

**On motion of Susan Ritchie, seconded by Gerry Burrell, it was moved that the agenda of the October 10, 2017, Education Committee meeting be approved.**  
**Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ED17:29**

**Approval of Minutes**

**On motion of Pat Parker, seconded by Gerry Burrell, it was moved to approve the September 13, 2017, Education Committee minutes.**  
**Motion carried.**

**REPORTS**

**Focus Report:**

Dave Jones, Director of Programs and Services, presented on the Student Attendance and Engagement Policy (A copy is attached to the official minutes and forms part of this document).

Highlights of the presentation include:

- The purpose of this policy is to promote and increase student attendance. The policy will allow for a staged approach to responding to student absenteeism and chronic lateness.
- Ongoing communication between the school and the student's home is very important when promoting regular attendance.
- Per the policy, parents/guardians are responsible for communicating their student's absence to the school.
- Any students arriving late will need to sign in at the office prior to joining their class as well as signing out should they need to leave early.
- The policy states that teachers are not required to prepare materials in advance of the class.

- Students are encouraged to speak with their teacher ahead of a planned absence to ensure they do not fall behind in their work.
- Principals and teachers will use their professional judgement when responding to absences and chronic lateness. Many factors will be taken into consideration and the individual circumstances of each student will need to be considered.
- The policy expects that high school students are to be present for at least 80 per cent of class time in order to earn a credit for a given course. Students who miss 20 per cent or more in a given course may be at risk for losing credit in that course. Principals are ultimately responsible for the final decision around loss of credit and would make this decision in consultation with the student's teachers. This should only be done after strong efforts have been made and documented to improve the student's attendance.
- No student will lose credit within 3 weeks prior to writing a final exam.
- The principal's decision will be considered final and cannot be altered. Parents/Guardians who are unhappy with a principal's decision may still raise their concern through the school board, however the decision made at the school level cannot be altered.
- Students who lose credit(s) due to absenteeism are not eligible for credit recovery for that course.

## **Director's Report**

Mr. Jones reviewed his previously circulated Director's Report. (A copy is attached to the official minutes and forms part of the document.)

Culturally Responsive Pedagogy (CRP) Implementation is a student-centred pedagogy that improves achievement of students by connecting their cultural, social, family and language background to what they are learning. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has agreed to coordinate a province-wide implementation of CRP in the 2017-2018 school year. In the AVRSB we have created a team of 11 educators to participate in the CRP work this fall and winter.

The DEECD has updated the School Advisory Council (SAC) Handbook. Copies will be distributed to schools and school board members.

Work continues on meeting the existing and new provincial class cap guidelines. While there are situations where caps can be exceeded, the new guidelines set a cap of 30 students in grades 7-9 and a cap of 32 students in grades 10-12.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be bringing approximately 100 students together at Acadia University to learn more about how 21<sup>st</sup> century skills of creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking can combine to solve significant social issues and create opportunities. The intent is to encourage students to see opportunities in the classroom and community, and for participating teachers to embrace a new approach that encourages innovation across the curriculum.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **Council to Improve Classroom Conditions and Nova Scotia Education Action Plan Update**

The Council has created a Principals' Forum which will allow principals to express their thoughts and concerns to the Council to ensure they have a voice. Principals have been told they can put their names forward should they wish to be a part of this forum.

The Math Homework Hub is an online service that allows students to log on to a website and have access to tutors to help with their math homework. The Hub is up and running and the Province is pleased with the number of students who have been accessing the hub.

The Commission on Inclusive Education identified some key observations in its interm report. They are that there are gaps between student needs and the current model of inclusion, that while there is widespread support for the principal of inclusion there is a lack of support for how it is implemented, and that there is a need to redefine and redesign inclusive education.

The Ask the User Project, which sought input from teachers around the issues they face with the TIENET system, has recently reported on some of their findings. The project found that the program planning process is not meeting the differing support needs in classrooms. As well, teachers are not adequately trained in program planning and assessment given the complexity that exists. Currently the way the department, boards and schools communicate is adding confusion and ambiguity to an already difficult situation. The project also found that software updates to TIENET alone are not going to address these overarching issues.

The Council is currently investigating if an integrated grade 4-6 report card would be beneficial. They will be looking for feedback in the coming months on this issue.

The Council has recently reviewed their decision to schedule marking days prior to each reporting period as opposed to individual Boards deciding where to place them. At this time the Council has decided to maintain their original decision and keep marking days prior to reporting periods.

Student Success Planning processes have been streamlined allowing schools to select fewer measures to monitor achievement and to spend less time on planning. Rigid time frames associated with the process have been replaced with a more flexible time frame.

*Sue Ritchie left the meeting at 11:08 am and returned to the meeting at 11:10 am.*

### **Pre-Primary Update**

Currently all four of our Pre-Primary classes are up and running. Early reports from principals have been positive. Issues around pick-up and drop-off continue to improve with time.

*Sue Ritchie left the meeting with permission at 11:40 am.*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be held on November 8, 2017, at 9:30 am in the Education Room at Regional Office.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**ED17:30**

**Approval of Adjournment**

**On motion of Gerry Burrell, seconded by Jackie Foster, it was moved that the Education Committee meeting adjourn at 11:36 am.**

**Motion carried.**

---

Melissa Tate, Recording Secretary

---

Charlene Davies, Committee Chair