

**Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Education Committee
Motions Acted Upon or Recommended to the Board = 1
from Minutes of September 13, 2017**

ED17:24

Approval of Agenda

On motion of Charlene Davies, seconded by Pat Parker, it was moved that the agenda of the September 13, 2017, Education Committee meeting be approved.

ED17:25

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Charlene Davies, seconded by Sandy Fraser, it was moved to approve the June 14, 2017, Education Committee minutes.

Motion carried.

ED17:26

Recommendation to the Board-Student Success Plan Annual Report

On motion of Sandy Fraser, seconded by Pat Parker, it is recommended to the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board that the 2016-2017 Student Success Plan Annual Report be received.

Motion carried.

ED17:27

Approval of Adjournment

On motion of Charlene Davies, seconded by Pat Parker, it was moved that the Education Committee meeting adjourn at 11:23 am.

Motion carried.

**ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2017**

ATTENDANCE

Present: Donna Johnstone, Chair; Charlene Davies, Vice Chair; Pat Parker, Sandy Fraser, Gerry Burrell, Phil VanZoost; Lavinia Parrish Zwicker; Roberta Kubik, Superintendent of Schools; Dave Jones, Director of Programs and Services; and Melissa Tate, Recording Secretary

In Attendance: Mike Ouellette, Supervisor of School Support Services; Amie DeLeavey, Pre-Primary Facilitator; Cindy Dickie, Coordinator of Programs and Student Success Planning

Regrets: Jackie Foster, Susan Ritchie, and Stephen Amirault, Regional Education Officer

CALL TO ORDER

The Education Committee of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board met on September 13, 2017, in the Education Room of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board offices. Donna Johnstone, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ED17:24

Approval of Agenda

On motion of Charlene Davies, seconded by Pat Parker, it was moved that the agenda of the September 13, 2017, Education Committee meeting be approved.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ED17:25

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Charlene Davies, seconded by Sandy Fraser, it was moved to approve the June 14, 2017, Education Committee minutes.

Motion carried.

REPORTS

Focus Report:

Mike Ouellette, Supervisor of School Support Services, and Amie DeLeavey, Pre-Primary Facilitator, were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

Mr. Ouellette and Ms. DeLeavey presented on the new Pre-Primary Program (A copy is attached to the official minutes and forms part of this document).

Highlights of the presentation include:

- The Pre-Primary Program will focus on play-based learning. This is learning that occurs while children explore their own environment and engage in their own unique play.
- Play-based learning will be facilitated through our educators and their observations of the students and by asking open-ended questions to further develop the children's skills.
- One of the main goals of the Pre-Primary Program will be to help facilitate a successful transition to primary.
- We have currently completed the hiring process for all early childhood educators at all four of our sites. The current sites in our Board that will be running a Pre-Primary Program are Dr. Arthur Hines School, Three Mile Plains District School, St. Mary's Elementary School and Clark Rutherford Memorial School.
- The equipment necessary for the program has been purchased by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and is expected to arrive in the coming weeks.
- At this time all four programs are expected to be running by the end of September.

Amie DeLeavey and Mike Ouellette left the meeting at 10:17 am.

Director's Report

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

Mr. Jones informed the Committee of the upcoming High School Showcase that will take place on November 10th at Horton High School for all staff working with high school students. This showcase will follow the same model as last year's Middle Level Showcase.

The DEECD is in the process of reviewing the grades 7 and 8 curricula. We will be looking to identify staff in our Board to attend the upcoming team meetings organized by the DEECD starting in October.

This November/December AVRSB grade 7 students will have the option of participating in the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI). The MDI is a self-report questionnaire completed by grade 4 and grade 7 students and asks them how they think and feel about their experiences both inside and outside of school. The questionnaire includes questions related to the five areas of development that are strongly linked to well-being, health and academic achievement. The areas are Physical Health & Well-Being, Connectedness, Social and Emotional Development, School Experiences, and Use of After-School Time.

Cindy Dickie arrived to the meeting at 10:28 am

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

Mr. Jones informed the Committee that the Commission on Inclusive Education consultation is set for this fall. The Commission is looking to gather more feedback from the public and school boards on their initial recommendations in order to have as much information as possible when they begin to make final recommendations.

The province is currently working on a provincial math strategy and a provincial coding strategy to be released in the fall. As well, two AVRSB schools, Central Kings Rural High School and Bridgetown Regional Community School, are piloting a citizenship 9 course, replacing the Social Studies course traditionally offered in grade 9. This change will officially take place in the 2018-2019 school year.

The Homework Hub was originally created to support grade 10 math students but will be extended this year to include grade 11. Grade 9 support is expected to be available in the 2018-2019 school year.

We are currently awaiting the final report from the Commission on Inclusive Education before implementing new program planning modules.

In 2016 work began on Teaching Standards for Nova Scotia. The Province is currently conducting further consultations with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union regarding the standards. Starting in September the previously released standards will be re-released. In the following months more information and feedback gathering work will be done.

The Province has renewed their focus on culturally-responsive pedagogy (CRP) and has asked our Board to identify 11 teachers/staff for professional development around CRP.

The Ask the User Project has gathered information on the TIENET program. Service Nova Scotia is now sharing feedback gathered at information sessions that were held late last school year.

NEW BUSINESS

Student Success Plan Annual Report

Cindy Dickie, Coordinator of Programs and Student Success Planning, provided the Committee with the 2016/2017 annual report. (A copy is attached to the official minutes and forms part of the document.)

Ms. Dickie explained the change in process for reporting due to last year's job action. The streamlined report asked schools to report on what goals they were able to accomplish and how they felt the Board was supporting them with improved student achievement.

Schools focused on those items that were the most important and the most manageable for them to accomplish.

ED17:26

Recommendation to the Board - Student Success Plan Annual Report

On motion of Sandy Fraser, seconded by Pat Parker, it is recommended to the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board that the 2016-2017 Student Success Plan Annual Report be received.

Motion carried.

Cindy Dickie left the meeting at 11:04 am

SchoolsPlus Update

Mr. Jones provided an update on the recent additions to our SchoolsPlus programs. Additions for 2017-18 include adding support for the Middleton area schools to the Annapolis SchoolsPlus team by adding an additional 0.5 FTE facilitator, increasing support to the Kings West SchoolsPlus team by adding a 0.5 FTE facilitator (the two 0.5 FTE positions are combined to hire one person), and creating a new Kings East SchoolsPlus team (one Facilitator and one Outreach Worker) working out of Glooscap Elementary School (serving the NKEC family of schools for 2017-18). The Nova Scotia Health Authority have indicated they will be adding an additional Mental Health Clinician to the Kings West team as well as assigning a Mental Health Clinician to the new Kings East team.

In the future, we will look to add support for the Horton High School family of schools by expanding the Kings East SchoolsPlus team.

Attendance Policy Update

The provincial student attendance and engagement draft policy was released in April of this year. The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development will meet with the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions to discuss this document before a final policy is released.

Commission on Inclusion Update

Pat Murphy, Coordinator of Student Services, continues to represent our Board at meetings regarding the Commission on Inclusive Education. Consultations around the Commission's interim report (entitled **Turning Point**) will take place during the fall, with the Commission's final report expected following that.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be held on October 11, 2017, at 9:30 am in the Education Room at Regional Office.

ADJOURNMENT

ED17:27

Approval of Adjournment

**On motion of Charlene Davies, seconded by Pat Parker, it was moved that the Education Committee meeting adjourn at 11:23 am.
Motion carried.**

Melissa Tate, Recording Secretary

Donna Johnstone, Committee Chair