



Planning & Priorities Committee

Regional Office, Berwick

11:15 a.m.

October 16, 2017

I N D E X

PP17:026	Approval of Agenda	[Approved]
PP17:027	Approval of Minutes of September 18, 2017	[Approved]
PP17:028	Recommendation to the Board – Approve Revisions to Board By-laws	[Approved]
PP17:029	Recommendation to the Board – Board to Undertake a Professional Development Session with Irene Corman Consulting and Coaching	[Approved]
PP17:030	Recommendation to the Board – Board to Undertake a Board Self-Assessment/Legislation Self-Assessment	[Approved]
PP17:031	Adjournment	[Approved]



Planning & Priorities Committee

Regional Office, Berwick

11:15 a.m.

October 16, 2017

MINUTES

Present: Sue Ritchie, Chair; Donna Johnstone, Vice Chair; Peter Cromwell, Sandy Fraser, Pat Parker, Lavinia Parrish Zwicker, Phil Van Zoost; Roberta Kubik, Superintendent of Schools; Stephen Amirault, Regional Education Officer; Kim Grimard, Board Secretary

Also Present: Nancy Bigelow-Acker, Jackie Foster

Sue Ritchie, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

► **PP17:026**

Approval of Agenda

[Approved]

On motion of Phil Van Zoost, seconded by Pat Parker, it was moved to approve the agenda.
Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

► **PP17:027**

Approval of Minutes of September 18, 2017

[Approved]

On motion of Donna Johnstone, seconded by Lavinia Parrish Zwicker, it was moved to approve the minutes of September 18, 2017.
Motion Carried

BUSINESS ARISING

REVIEW BY-LAWS' REVISIONS

The members reviewed the proposed revisions to the By-laws.

► **PP17:028**

Recommendation to the Board – Approve Revisions to Board By-laws

[Approved]

On motion of Sandy Fraser, seconded by Phil Van Zoost, it was moved to recommend to the Board that the revisions to the Board By-laws agreed upon at the April 26th, September 18th and October 16th Planning and Priorities Committee meetings be approved.
Motion Carried

(A copy of the revisions is attached to the official minutes and forms part of this document.) Once the revisions are approved by the Board, the proposed revisions will be sent to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development for final approval.

Stephen Amirault left the meeting with permission at 11:43 a.m.

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Ms. Ritchie presented a Board self-assessment update that highlighted the following areas in which the governing Board is performing well: student achievement; social justice and equity; school board member interpersonal relationships: member to member as well as member to the Superintendent. She will present the update at the next Board meeting. (A copy of the update is attached below in these minutes.)

FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT FROM IRENE CORMAN CONSULTING AND COACHING

Roberta Kubik, Superintendent, confirmed the Board has 10 hours of follow-up support remaining from the professional development (PD) session facilitated by Irene Corman in March 2017. There is no cost as the follow-up is part of the PD provided. She suggested the following ways in which the Board could choose to utilize the support: one-on-one sessions; a group session; or a blend of both. All sessions would be via conference call. **The members agreed to offer a 45-minute private one-on-one session to all 12 board members and use the remaining time for a group session.** The Board Secretary will keep track of the time used by Board members and any unused time from each 45-minute session will be added to the group session. **Although there is no timeline to use the 10 hours, the members agreed the one-on-one sessions should be completed before the end of December 2017 and the group session would follow sometime in the new year.** The Superintendent will advise Irene Corman. Board members will be emailed the details. The Planning and Priorities Committee will work with Irene Corman to determine the best use of the time remaining for the group session.

The members noted they found great value in the professional development session on strengthening their working relationships facilitated by Irene Corman Consulting and Coaching and discussed their desire to have another professional development session in the spring, topic to be determined.

► PP17:029

Recommendation to the Board – Board to Undertake a Professional Development Session with Irene Corman Consulting and Coaching

[Approved]

On motion of Pat Parker, seconded by Peter Cromwell, it was moved to recommend to the Board that the Board members undertake a professional development session facilitated by Irene Corman Consulting and Coaching in spring 2018.

Motion Carried

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT ON LEGISLATION

Ms. Ritchie noted that the Board approved to undertake the NSSBA Legislation Self-Assessment referred to in Action 2 of the Board Self-Assessment. The members discussed the importance of undertaking Board governance self-assessments on a regular basis and agreed that a new governance self-assessment as well as a legislation self-assessment could be undertaken together at the same time. It was noted that the NSSBA offers to facilitate and support the assessments at no cost to school boards.

► PP17:030

Recommendation to the Board – Board to Undertake a Board Self-Assessment/Legislation Self-Assessment

[Approved]

On motion of Sandy Fraser, seconded by Phil Van Zoost, it was moved to recommend to the Board that the Board members undertake a new Board Self-Assessment together with a Legislation Self-Assessment in the new year (2018) with the Nova Scotia School Boards Association providing facilitation and support.

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items.

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 20, 2017 at 11:15 a.m. in the Education Room

ADJOURNMENT

► PP17:031

Adjournment

[Approved]

On motion of Sandy Fraser, seconded by Phil Van Zoost, it was moved to adjourn at 12:27 p.m.

Motion Carried

Kim Grimard, Board Secretary

Sue Ritchie, Committee Chair

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AVRSB Self-assessment update #3

Areas to celebrate:

Category #7 Student Achievement

1. **(7.1) The school board's priority and focus are on curriculum, student achievement and student success.**
The board scored 100% in this area. One of the board's goals is to improve Student achievement.
2. **(7.2) The school board follows a procedure(s) to ensure that provincial programs and services are implemented.**
3. **(7.4) The school board follows a procedure(s) to ensure that staffing and resource allocations are based on student achievement priorities.**
Number 2 and 3 speak to the board's strength in understanding the importance of program needs and ensuring resources are available to those who need them to accomplish the board's goals and priorities.
4. **(7.6) The school board follows a policy(s) to ensure the identification of and programming for students with special needs.**
AVRSB scored extremely high on this question. Recognizing and respecting the needs of vulnerable students within the school system is a focus for the board.
5. **(7.8) The school board ensures that the superintendent provides for the professional development of staff to ensure they are familiar with the latest developments in curricula and pedagogy.**
6. **(7.10) The school board receives reports from the superintendent on educational programs and outcomes.**
The score results in Category 7 on student achievement is reflective of the board's understanding of its role in student-focused decision making. The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board's mission is to create a supportive, student-centered environment where each student succeeds and all education partners are respected and valued. Our vision is: "Working Together for Students".

Category # 8 Social Justice and Equity

1. **(8.2) The school board follows a procedure to ensure that individual employees are treated fairly and equitably.**

2. **(8.3) The school board supports initiatives to provide access to programs, activities and events.**
3. **(8.5) The school board follows a procedure to access interagency support for students.**
4. **(8.10) The school board follows a policy to ensure student safety and well-being.**

One of AVRSB's goals is to enhance race relations, cross cultural understanding, and respect for human rights. The board continues to make progress in this area by focusing on equity and social justice in the region.

Category # 9 School Board Member Interpersonal Relationships: Member to Member

1. **(9.2) Every school board member has the opportunity to speak on each subject under discussion**
2. **(9.3) Once a decision is made, school board members support the decision.**
3. **(9.5) The school board makes decisions based on the merits of issues.**

All board members respect and comply with the Code of Ethics. Members continue to engage in PD that provides the skills required to support a cohesive work environment.

Category #10 School Board Member Interpersonal Relationships: Member to Superintendent

1. **(10.1) A climate of courtesy, respect and trust is maintained between the school board and the superintendent.**
2. **(10.3) The school board and the superintendent jointly participate in planning processes to establish clear school board goals.**
3. **(10.5) The school board keeps the superintendent informed of issues, needs and complaints so that problems can be resolved in a professional manner.**
4. **(10.7) The school board is kept informed by the superintendent on emerging issues.**
5. **(10.8) A respectful relationship is maintained between school board members and senior staff.**

The relationship between the board and the superintendent must be reinforced by mutual respect and confidence. The high scores in this category reflect the board's willingness to maintain a good working relationship with the superintendent.