

NEWS RELEASE

June 8, 2017

Trustees Continue Focus on Achieving Improved Outcomes for Students

The Board of Trustees of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board held meetings from June 2 – 4, 2017 at Corner Brook Regional High and continued their focus on student achievement and board governance. Along with the public meeting held on Saturday, sessions included strategic planning, board governance, a presentation from the Whitbourne Elementary School Council, and a school presentation on literacy initiatives. The board also had an opportunity to meet with Minister Dale Kirby to discuss a number of educational matters of interest to the trustees.

“As the board continues to meet, the commitment and knowledge the elected trustees bring to the table is impressive,” said Goronwy Price, Chair of the Board of Trustees. “While there certainly remains a learning curve with respect to governance of the K-12 public education system, we have a dedicated group who are interested in improving educational experiences and outcomes for our students.”

Following an examination of the current School Review policy, trustees voted to begin the process of reviewing six school systems:

- Zone 4 - White Hills Academy (St. Anthony) & James Cook Memorial (Cook’s Harbour);
- Zone 6 - Our Lady of Mercy Elementary & Appalachia High School (St. George’s);
- Zone 6 - St. James Regional High (Port aux Basques) & LeGallais Memorial (Isle aux Morts);
- Zone 7 - Leading Tickles Primary (Leading Tickles) & Point Leamington Academy (Point Leamington);
- Zone 7 - H.L. Strong Academy (Little Bay Islands);
- Zone 11 - Swift Current Academy (Swift Current) & Tricentia Academy (Arnold’s Cove).

As well, school attendance zone reviews will occur for the following areas:

- Zone 14 - Mt. Pearl Senior High system (MPSH, Mount Pearl Intermediate, Elizabeth Park Elementary, Morris Academy and Paradise Elementary) and Zone 17 - Holy Spirit High system (HSH, Villanova Junior High, Holy Family Elementary, Octagon Pond Elementary, and Topsail Elementary); and,
- Zone 16 - Holy Heart of Mary Regional High system (East Point Elementary and Mary Queen of Peace Elementary).

At the public meeting held on June 3, the Board of Trustees approved a new policy for Assessment and Evaluation after extensive consultation with educators and school councils, review of policies of the former English boards in the province and jurisdictions in Canada, as well as educational research on assessment and evaluation. The development of the policy included work through numerous staff and Board committees and attempts to strike a balance between accountability and understanding what students know.

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“Thorough consultations that have taken place we received important feedback from our staff within schools and from school councils about the Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting policy of the District,” continued Chair Price. “We want to ensure there are standards set by administrators, allow teachers to retain autonomy in dealing with situations, and have students committed to their work and completing assignments. The policy has been provided to schools and will be in effect for September 2017.”

Teachers from C.C. Loughlin Elementary in Corner Brook also presented to the Board about their efforts to engage both students and families in literacy and through this engagement increase literacy levels of their students. Staff informed trustees about their program which included reading sessions in school with family members, and lunches with families which emphasized the importance of literacy at home as well as in school.

“The presentation from C. C. Loughlin demonstrated the dedication of our teachers to improve educational outcomes for our students, and also to impress upon families the importance of literacy and engagement with their child’s education,” concluded Chair Price. “This presentation has also been shared with administrators in the region and I want to thank the teachers for sharing it with us and encourage our schools to ensure we are engaging our students and families and helping to achieve improved literacy outcomes, which has been a keen focus of our district.”

The Board of Trustees for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District is composed of 17 elected trustees responsible for the governance of 66,300 students and 10,000 employees.

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Media contact:

Ken Morrissey | Director of Communications | Newfoundland and Labrador English School District
O: 709-758-2371 | M: 709-730-0798 | kenmorrissey@nlesd.ca | [@NLESdCA](https://twitter.com/NLESdCA) | www.nlesd.ca