

NEWS RELEASE

June 21, 2018

Trustees Approve New District Policies, Postpone Aspects of School Review Process

Trustees of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board held a meeting on June 16, 2018 at the District Conference Center in St. John's. The public meeting was live broadcast on the District's website, for the benefit of school community members who wish to view the discussions of trustees.

Discussions took place during study sessions on the Provincial Government's upcoming review of the Schools Act, 1997. Trustees began a review of the current legislation to examine any changes they feel may need to be considered. In light of the anticipated review of the Schools Act, trustees also voted to postpone any further school reviews with the potential of school closure, with the exception of any schools with emerging issues that may need to be addressed in the upcoming school year.

"After the process undertaken last year for School Review, which was a first for our elected Board, we are all very aware of the amount of work necessary on the part of both staff and trustees to examine any school for potential closure," said Goronwy Price, Chair. "As there may be potential changes or additions included through the Provincial Government's review of the Schools Act, trustees felt it was prudent to hold off pending the result of the updating of the legislation. School Reviews with an eye to catchment or grade adjustments or any that materialize because of emerging issues will continue to move forward."

New policies were also passed by two standing committees of the Board. The Programs and Human Resources Committee brought forth the French policy, while the Finance and Operations Committee endorsed the Facility Security and Access Control policy. Trustees also approved new names for two schools in the District; Bayview Academy was chosen for the name of the new K-12 school created from the consolidation of the former Appalachia High and Our Lady of Mercy Elementary in St. George's and the new elementary school in Conception Bay South, located in Kelligrews, will now be known as Admiral's Academy. Members in attendance also approved the recent sale of the former MacPherson Elementary, Booth Memorial High and Bishops High school properties in St. John's through public tender, pending Ministerial approval.

Meetings concluded with trustees approving the board meeting schedule for the 2018-19 school year, which, for the first time for the provincial Board, includes the opportunity to meet in Labrador.

A recording of the June 16 meeting is available on the District's website, www.nlesd.ca

The Board of Trustees for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District is composed of 17 elected trustees, responsible for the governance of 65,300 and 10,000 employees.

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