

Minutes

Nova Scotia Education Common Services Bureau

Members' Employees' Benefits Committee

Minutes October 19, 2018

9:30 am

NSECSB

395 – 3 Spectacle Lake Drive, Dartmouth, NS B3B 1W8

ATTENDANCE

Corinne Carey, Chair	NSGEU
Wendy King	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education
Grant Dart	CUPE
Jackie Swaine	SEIU
Bruce Joshua	Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Brian Bonia	South Shore Regional Centre for Education
Chris Grover	Strait Regional Centre for Education
Charmaine Romkey	Tri-County Regional Centre for Education
Nicole McKim	NSGEU
David Potter	NS EECD

Staff:

Jayne Miller	NSECSB
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Regrets:

Lisa deMolitor	CUPE
Lesley MacDonald, Vice Chair	Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education
Leanne Chesnutt	Non-Union
Mindy MacDonald	NS EECD

Guests:

Todd Blackwood	Johnson Inc.
Janine McInnis	Johnson Inc.

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

2. Record of Attendance

Attendance was recorded.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Add item 6(f) Glucose Monitoring Update – Wendy King.

It was MOVED and SECONDED (McKim / Romkey)

that the revised agenda be approved.

MOTION carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2018

It was MOVED and SECONDED (Dart / Swaine)

that the minutes of June 8, 2018 be approved.

MOTION carried.

The Chair welcomed Bruce Joshua, interim representative from CSAP, to the committee. Corinne Carey also welcomed Janine McInnis of Johnson Inc.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Terms of Reference Review re: Dissolution of Boards & NSSBA

David Potter spoke to the implications of the dissolution of NSSBA. Legislation was written so that all remains the same as before dissolution. However, the Province wants to ensure that all agreements are reviewed to change the wording from NSSBA.

The Province has Medavie Blue Cross as provider for other insurance plans with a reduced rate. The Province will be the policy holder rather than NSSBA / NSECSB.

Discussion on fee structure and payment to NSECSB is needed. Where will those funds be paid now? They will not be paid to the Province.

It was MOVED and SECONDED (Dart / McKim)

That the chair, the vice chair, a Johnson representative, and a representative from the Bureau be given the authorization to act as liaisons with the Province in reviewing the contracts / agreements for any subsequent changes in line with the Education Reform Act (Bill 75).

MOTION carried.

Corinne Carey stepped down as Chair in order to make a motion. Nicole McKim assumed the chair.

It was MOVED and SECONDED (Carey / Swaine)

That the chair, the vice chair, a Johnson representative, a representative from the Bureau, and a representative from the Province of NS, review the fee structure with respect to the administration fees with insurers, and the association allowance, and the potential impact on the financial position.

MOTION carried.

Corinne Carey assumed the chair.

b) Insurance Cards – New Word Mark & Electronic Card System

Todd Blackwood reported that there is no cost for new cards with the NSECSB word mark. The cards can be accessed online as well.

6. New Business

a) Financial Update – Johnson Inc.

Todd Blackwood presented the Administrative Service Only (ASO) reports for November 2016 to October 2017, and for November 2017 to October 2018 at August 31, 2018.

Todd Blackwood also presented the Unrestricted Deposit Account (UDA) reports for November 2016 to October 2017, and for November 2017 to October 2018 at August 31, 2018.

It was MOVED and SECONDED (King / Bonia)

That the financial report be accepted as presented.

MOTION carried.

b) EFAP Update – Todd Blackwood

Todd Blackwood noted that when EFAP bulletins are sent out by Medavie Blue Cross, not all MEB Committee members are on the mailing list. It was agreed that all MEB Committee members will receive the EFAP bulletins.

Action: Todd Blackwood will ensure that the EFAP bulletin mailing list includes all MEB Committee members.

c) Johnson Invoice 291 for Approval

The committee reviewed invoice 291.

It was MOVED and SECONDED (Romkey / Grover)

That invoice 291 be approved for payment.

MOTION carried.

d) Report from CPBI Atlantic 2018 Conference

Corrine Carey and Wendy King reported. It was a great conference attended by Wendy King, Lesley MacDonald, and Corinne Carey. All 3 attended the benefits and governance sessions. Corinne is of the opinion that the best presentation was the pension side.

Wendy King attended the Medicalization of Unhappiness session. It covered depression – most people diagnosed do not have depression, those who do are not properly treated. Information in the session indicates that children in the school system who don't hear the word 'no', are protected from feeling sad, which brings up the question – have we given people the coping skills to deal with difficult situations? Do people think they are depressed when they are only sad? Should this be included in future PD sessions? A memorable quote from that session: "If you walk into a physician's office with feelings of distress, they write you a prescription."

Wendy King also attended the presentation on diabetes. The prevalence of diabetes is increasing after 40.

The conference was well done; the speakers in the general sessions are very good. Wendy King recommends that MEB members attend if they can. The conference will be in PEI next year.

Action: Corinne Carey will download all presentations. Kathy Alcorn will circulate the presentations to committee members.

e) Governance Review – Johnson Inc.

It was MOVED and SECONDED (Dart / McKim)

That all references to the Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA) in the MEB Committee Governance documents be changed to Nova Scotia Education Common Services Bureau (NSECSB); and that all references to school boards, with the exception of Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP), be changed to regional centres for education.

MOTION carried.

It was MOVED and SECONDED (Dart / McKim)

That a Document Review committee be created to include the Chair, Vice Chair, a representative from Johnson Inc., a representative from the Bureau, and a representative from the Province of Nova Scotia.

MOTION carried.

Action: The Document Review Committee will look at all action items resulting from this review.

Review of Governance Principles

Action: The Document Review Committee will look at items:

- 1.1
- 2.1
- 6.1
- 7.1
- 9.1

11.1 in its entirety
Principle 12 in its entirety
Strike article 10.1.1 from principles.

Education Policy

Action: The Document Review Committee will review the amendment: strike the phrase ‘attend a conference’ and replace with ‘the application to the MEB Committee’.

Action: The Document Review Committee will review the last page – Members’ Employee Benefits Committee new representative form to orientation

Code of Conduct & Conflict of Interest Policy

Action: The Document Review Committee will amend the Terms of Reference approval date shown in the first paragraph of the Overview.

Ad Hoc Sub-Committee Operating Guidelines

Action: The Document Review Committee will review the amendment: Change “An NSSBA staff” to “An NSECSB / Province of Nova Scotia staff” in the first paragraph, to read:

An NSECSB staff / Province of Nova Scotia representative is expected to be in attendance at all Sub-Committee meetings.

Action: The Document Review Committee will review the amendment: Replace “minimum of” with “balance of members”, to read:

*It is recommended that representation should include **a balance of members:***

f) Glucose Monitoring – Wendy King

Wendy King provided information on scanner glucometers. She got a request from a member to have that covered, but we were unable to provide coverage at the time. Discussion on this topic is needed. The scanner glucometer replaces lancets and test strips, but is only for insulin dependent diabetics. Medavie Blue Cross has a chronic disease management program. The standard Medavie Blue Cross benefit for sensor only is \$3000/year. This does not include the monitor.

Action: A representative from Medavie Blue Cross will provide a presentation on Managing Diabetes – Blood Glucose Monitoring at the December MEB meeting. Todd Blackwood will follow up on this item.

7. Dates of Next Meetings

November 15, 2018 (evening) & November 16, 2018 – PD session

December 14, 2018 – regular MEB meeting

January 10, 2019 – tentative hold, reschedule date for Dec. 2018 regular meeting

February 14, 2019 – regular MEB meeting

March 14, 2019 – tentative hold, reschedule date for February 2019 regular meeting

April 11, 2019 – renewal meeting

June 13, 2019 – regular MEB meeting

9. Adjournment

It was MOVED at 11:48 am (King)
that the meeting be adjourned.
MOTION carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

APPROVED

Kathy Alcorn - Recorder

Corinne Carey – Chair

Approved at the January 10, 2019 MEB Committee meeting.