

Minutes
Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board meeting
Annapolis Valley Regional School Board, Berwick
Saturday, January 24, 2015

Present:

Councillor Shirley Pineo, West Hants, Chair
Councillor Tony Bentley, Kentville
Councillor Jane Bustin, Berwick
Jill Cox, Middleton
Lesley MacDonald, Province
Janet Ness, Wolfville, Vice-Chair
Councillor Emma Van Rooyen, Kings County
Lorraine McQueen, Interim CEO, Secretary

Regrets:

Councillor Bob Best, Kings County
Councillor Rob Frederick, Hantsport
Councillor Scott Geddes, Windsor
Councillor Timothy Habinski, Annapolis County
Lillian Stewart, Annapolis Royal
Councillor Martha Roberts, Annapolis County
Councillor Grant Wright, Bridgetown, Treasurer

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 12 noon.

Approval of the Agenda:

The Chair noted the need for urgent Board action in the following matters:

1. Ratify the decision to obtain legal advice throughout the Union Certification process
2. Direction following information from the Funding Formula Review Committee
3. Clarification on HQ Committee direction
4. Request from LBANS
5. Follow-up on Board Development Session
6. In Camera Session

Members approved this agenda.

1. Legal Advice

AVRL was served with an Application for Certification of a Union on December 31, 2014. The Interim CEO reported that all necessary steps have been taken to respond to this and we are now waiting for the Labour Board to make a decision. We do not expect to hear the result for some weeks. The Chair explained that given the time constraints imposed by the Labour Board during the Union Certification process, it was necessary to make a quick decision on the hiring of a lawyer. The Interim CEO sought advice on an appropriate lawyer with Labour Law expertise. The Chair informed the Board by email of the need for legal advice; however the hiring of Sarah Manning of

TMC Law needs to be ratified by the Board.

**MOTION: It was moved by Jill Cox and seconded by Tony Bentley
THAT the Board ratify the hiring of a lawyer to see us through the Union
Certification process. Approved.**

2. Funding Formula Review Committee:

The Chair gave an update on the information from this committee. A Working Group composed of 3 chief Librarians and 3 provincial bureaucrats brings recommendations to the main Committee on the best way to distribute funding to the province's libraries. To date distribution has been based on circulation. The Working Group looked at basing distribution on service but this would have had a disastrous effect on some regions. The Working Group is now looking at population density and is suggesting that we need less library buildings.

The message from the Province is this:

- The Province will support the core services document and approves the partnership document
- The Deputy Minister is fighting to hold on to last year's funding levels
- There will be no new money – this will mean cuts and some regions will be forced to close libraries and lay-off staff
- Boards must look at their internal structures and reallocate resources
- Local Boards must act like corporations and make business decisions
- Boards need to think about the future and do things differently
- Libraries should not be in separate buildings but be located in partnership locations
- Public communications on these matters will be forthcoming from the Province

3. Clarification on HQ Committee Direction:

The Chair reviewed the steps taken by the HQ Committee since the dmA Consulting report was received by the Board in November. There is some confusion in the November minutes about the direction given the HQ Committee, however a meeting was held and the Committee asked Jim Morgenstern to draw up a proposal for Phase 2 of the study. The resulting proposal from dmA was circulated to all Board members however no action has been taken. An additional concern is that the cost of the proposed study is high.

General discussion considered this situation and the implications of the library funding report outlined above. **It was agreed** to explore an alternate way forward and to develop an RFP for the location of HQ. This was supported by the HQ Committee members present. The points to be covered in an RFP will be:

- HQ location would be in the geographic area of Bridgetown to Kentville
- Co-location with other service points would be preferred
- HQ requirements for space would be reviewed and included
- Determination of the site will include consideration of all economic and financial implications to the Board

**MOTION: It was moved by Janet Ness and seconded by Tony Bentley
THAT an RFP be developed for the location of AVRIL Headquarters.
Approved.**

It was agreed that the HQ Committee would develop the full criteria for the RFP. **The HQ Committee Chair will call a meeting for 11:00am on January 30/15 in Kentville Town Office.**

4. Request from LBANS

The Chair has been requested to share the AVRL Employee Satisfaction Survey with other Library Boards. **It was agreed** that the Chair could send the survey form to other Regional Library Boards.

5. Follow-up on Board Development Session:

The Chair expressed appreciation for the content of the Board Working Session organized by Lesley MacDonald. **It was agreed** that Board Development was an important matter and should be an agenda item at every regular Board meeting.

6. In-Camera Session:

**MOTION: It was moved by Janet Ness and seconded by Tony Bentley
THAT the Board move *in-camera* to discuss a personnel issue.
Approved**

**MOTION: It was moved by Jill Cox and seconded by Tony Bentley
THAT the Board move out of *in-camera*.
Approved**

No motions or direction were given in the in-camera session.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be on **February 12, 2014 at 5:00 pm**, with a light meal served. It will be held in Orchard Room of the Kings County Municipal Building.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lorraine McQueen, Secretary
January 26, 2015