



Labrador School Board News Release

January 25, 2010

The Labrador School Board held its regular meeting on January 22nd and 23rd in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The meeting began with the singing of *O'Canada* by the Mealy Mountain Collegiate School Choir. The Board would like to thank Mr. Nicholas Gibbs and the students from Mealy Mountain Collegiate for the opportunity to hear the choir, and Mr. Gibbs's work in promoting the music program at the school.

The Board received a presentation from Gary Barrett, Principal of Mealy Mountain Collegiate. Mr. Barrett provided an overview of initiatives and some areas requiring special focus. Mr. Barrett spoke about the overall growth and progress in student academic achievement at the school, particularly in the area of mathematics. Other initiatives included a discussion of modern technologies such as the use of Smart Boards and the positive impact that this technology is having on student motivation and learning. One special area of focus identified was absenteeism and its impact on curriculum completion. Following Mr. Barrett's presentation, the Board received a Smart Board presentation from Gus Pike, science teacher at Mealy Mountain Collegiate. Mr. Pike demonstrated the benefits and application of Smart Board technology and how it would be used in the classroom on a daily basis. The Board would like to thank Mr. Barrett and Mr. Pike for their engaging presentations.

New business included a discussion on the following topics: a district-wide student absenteeism strategy; the need for trustee representation from the communities of Nain and Hopedale; and a trustee orientation package was presented to the Board. Prior to the start of the meeting on Saturday the Board took the opportunity to tour the Lawrence O'Brien Auditorium.

Other business included a review and discussion of programming initiatives on student academic performance. The Board was provided with a review of data on student performance in all district schools. In addition, other topics included: a revised budget, which was accepted by the Board; an overview of maintenance and capital projects throughout the district; and an update on staffing was presented.

Mr. Price thanked trustees for their ongoing contribution to the Board and noted that the next School Board meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place in Postville during the month of March.

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