



**Tri-County Regional School Board**  
Nova Scotia, Canada

**Students First**

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## **April 1, 2008 Board Meeting Highlights**

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### **Barrington Municipal High School (BMHS) Memorial Garden**

Helen Goreham – on behalf of the BMHS School Advisory Council, Staff, Student Council, and Environment Club – made a presentation to the Board regarding a planned *Memorial Garden* for the school. The design concept is based on Restorative Environmentally Aware Landscape (REAL) design, which lets nature run its course of natural plant selection & growth.

Not only will this project be an aesthetic & memorable addition to the school, but it is anticipated that it will reduce ground maintenance costs at the school because the concept calls for very little traditional landscaping. The Board passed a motion in support of BMHS in this endeavor.

### **Report from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair participated in the following during the month of March:

March 18 – Utility & Review Board (UARB) hearing via conference call. Tri-County's request to maintain status quo regarding the number of board members & electoral districts represented was granted. School boards in Nova Scotia are required to apply to the UARB every eight years for this purpose.

March 27 – Meeting of (Nova Scotia) Board Chairs with Ken Meech, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA). The Board Chairs chose the Chair of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board to represent them as part of the NSSBA team, with regard to the Memorandum of Understanding between NSSBA and the Department of Education.

### **Report from the Superintendent of Schools**

The Superintendent of Schools participated in the following during the month of March:

March 10 – 14 (March Break) – The Superintendent interviewed two school psychologists from Mount St. Vincent University and offered them positions with Tri-County. The Superintendent also met with Dr. Fred French who will be doing psychological assessments for Tri-County.

March 28 – Invitational round-table discussion with other Nova Scotia Superintendents. The discussion was on environmental issues with Dr. Gerald Farthing, Deputy Minister of Education for Manitoba. His message stressed the importance of dealing with environmental issues now and not later. A number of different organizations were present.

### **Report from the Director of Programs and Student Services**

The Director reported that the highlight from March was the finalizing of the Board's Business Plan which has since been passed on to the Department of Education. The Plan points out the strengths and the areas the Board needs to work on in the upcoming year.

The Board has refined its approach for its Literacy Support Teachers by placing Literacy support staff in every grade 7-12 school in Tri-County. The Mentoring program has also been tailored to have four people working with a specific Elementary grade level each year for the next three years to support staff development at the selected grade level & thereby promote student success.

All research states that the key to improving student success is improving instructional practice. Teachers welcome the additional support and Board central office staff is excited to have the ability to target support to schools to enable them to reach their School Improvement Goals.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, at 7:00pm at the Yarmouth Board office.

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