

Board of Governors – Regular Meeting

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the NSCC Board of Governors, held on June 24, 2021 remotely via Microsoft Teams.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Judith Ferguson (Chair)
Howie Doiron (Vice Chair)
Dima Aburub
Mike Buist
Lore Bowers
Trevor Capern
Karen Churchill
Jim King
John Lindsay
Sara Napier
Jackie Poirier
Quentrel Provo (absent 3:30-4:30)
Jeff Ransome
Yvan Silva
Rustum Southwell

Also Present:

Don Bureaux, President
Monica Foster, CFO & VP College Services
Anna Burke, VP Academic
Lynn Hartwell, VP Campuses & Communities
Christabell Pinchin, Secretary, Board of Governors
Erin Elliott, Executive Assistant to the President

Chris Daly, Director, Policy, Planning & Research
Michelle Bussey, Executive Director, NSCC Foundation
Joanne O'Neill, Executive Assistant to CFO & VP College Services
Janet Byrne, Director, Organizational Development
Bruce Kelloway, HR Manager, Labour & Employee Relations
Gord MacKenzie, Principal, Annapolis Valley Campus
Greg Russell, Principal, IT Campus & Akerley Campus
Vivek Saxena, Principal, Strait Area Campus

Board Members Regrets:

Daniel Abbott
Marlene Usher

1. Call to Order

Quorum being present, Judith Ferguson, the Chair, called the meeting to order. She noted that earlier today a small event was held to officially recognize the completion of the IT Campus capital project held in the new wing. The Premier was joined by our Minister of Labour and Advanced Education and past Student Governor, Joe Kidston who spoke at the event along with the campus principal, Greg Russell and president, Don Bureaux.

The Chair acknowledge the news today where an additional 751 unmarked graves children in residential schools were uncovered. She quoted NSCC's Jude Gerrard, Senior Advisor Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Initiatives who said that schools are no place for graveyards then shared Murray Sinclair's statement that education got us into this mess and education will get us out. She then took time acknowledged that we are in traditional Mi'kmaq unceded territory and ancestral homeland of the Mi'kmaq Nation. Our relationship is based on a series of Peace and Friendship treaties between the Mi'kmaq Nation and the Crown, dating back to 1725. In Nova Scotia we recognize that we are all Treaty people.

She reminded Governors that we act in the best interest of the College, we demonstrate good judgement and act in an ethical manner, maintain confidentiality and comply with the Board's By-Laws and policies. She noted we encourage diverse conversation but leave with one voice.

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2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared for the regular portion of the meeting.

3. Consent Agenda

It was moved by John Lindsay / Rustum Southwell

That the Board of Governors approve the consent agenda for the June 24, 2021 meeting as presented. (Agenda and Minutes, April 22, 2021)

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

4. Move to In-Camera

<<See In-camera Minutes>>

It was moved by Jim King / Yvan Silva

That the NSCC Board of Governors Meeting of June 24, 2021 move to In-Camera.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

5. Celebrations (NSCC Capital Projects / NSCC Foundation)

The Chair began by welcoming guests Michelle Bussey, Greg Russell, Vivek Saxena, and Gord MacKenzie. She reminded Governors that the Board's annual planning cycle allows time each June to celebrate success in various forms. The campus principals each presented a video and overview of the capital projects that were completed at their respective campuses. This provided Governors the opportunity to view the construction virtually until such time that it is permissible for in-person tours. After each principal presented Governors engaged in conversation and were provided time to ask questions.

Next, John Lindsay and Michelle Bussey presented. John spoke about the success of the NSCC Foundation. They shared a video on Limitless, a program expanding post-secondary educational access for incarcerated Nova Scotians. The program is designed to strengthen skills and abilities of participants through career development and self-evaluation; support participants during transition from incarceration to and through college; and provide participants with short-term work experience during their program. Michelle provided an overview of the \$1.6M that has been granted out and detailed the Foundation's Key Performance Indicators. Due to time, there was a second video that was unable to be shared and it was agreed that a copy of the presentation and link to that video would be shared after the meeting.

The Chair of the Board thanked the guests for joining the meeting and presenting.

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6. President's Update

Don Bureaux provided an update. He referenced enrolment and noted there are 10 weeks to the beginning of class in September. Applications are up 30% and the College is at 91% of target – up about 10% from this time last year. Enrolment is tracking strong. Convocation will be held in October. June 18th there were 3,300 students who had completed their programs and officially graduated. In October it is expected there will be 4,500 students recognized at the virtual convocation ceremony.

7. Committee Updates

Foundation Update:

John Lindsay indicated the Foundation report was included in the meeting package and noted that the Lead the Way Campaign is now on the road to seeking donations.

Finance, Audit & Risk Committee:

John Lindsay, Acting Chair Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provided a meeting update. He noted the audit and findings report and year end financial statements were reviewed by KPMG. There was an excellent report and private meeting with the external auditors and committee members. The Foundation year-end financial report was presented by Glenda Barrett and Bruce Spares, Internal Auditor presented his internal audit report. The ancillary operation report was presented.

It was moved by John Lindsay / Jeff Ransome

That the NSCC Board of Governors approve the Audited Financial Statements and accept the Year End Financial Summary as presented at the Regular Board Meeting of June 24, 2021.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

4th Quarter Business Plan Report Card

Chris Daly provided an overview of the 4th Quarter Business Plan. He indicated that like many things in the year due to the pandemic, the Business Plan actions were affected. Chris noted new additions were highlighted in green and some in the report were delayed and those are noted in red. He indicated that even though it was a tumultuous year there was significant progress made and he highlighted the following facts: 17 actions were fully completed of which 9 were additions added just this year; 18 were delayed and deferred, some into the current Business Plan; and the remaining 10 actions are on track for completion. Chris noted that the 18 that were deferred 9 are still being worked on and nearing completion. He highlighted some of the successes from the report.

Final Capital Projects' Update

Monica Foster referenced the three virtual walk throughs that happened earlier in the meeting and indicated all projects are complete and on budget.

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Downtown Sydney Campus Update

Monica Foster provided a brief update. She shared a picture of the construction site today and noted the steel that is in place. Several Tenders have been opened and prices are increasing. Some Tenders are on target, but many are coming in higher than anticipated. Monica indicated the College still feels as though managing within the planned budget allotment is feasible with some contingencies and the possibilities of fundraising opportunities through the Foundation. Some Tenders are being held back to review alternate fiscally reasonable options. The scope of the project will not be changed. Monica shared that the fire station is ready to move. The schedule will continue without disruption.

Programs Committee Update:

Sara Napier provided a brief update on the recent Programs meeting. The Workplan and Program Review were reviewed. Enrolment was discussed. Suspensions and name changes were also brought forward for 2022-2023 academic year. These items went to the Executive Committee for review based on turnaround time. A faculty member from Ivany Campus provided a presentation on the strength and resilience of faculty and students during a challenging year. Sara also noted there was a brief discussion at the committee about the overall committee plan and agenda at a very high level to talk about opportunities for committee members to have unique discussions around programming and planning. Sara will be reaching out to committee members over the summer.

Anna Burke presented the Admissions Policy which was also reviewed during the recent Programs Meeting. A competitive admission process is being recommended for select programs at NSCC. A first-qualified, first-admitted approach has been the standard to admit by order of application date. Anna referenced the Competitive Entry revisions and noted they would be for select programs, not all programs. The criteria is still being considered to make sure that it provides an equitable suite of consideration. There is one program, Med Lab, where there is much interest by accreditors and industry to be looking at a competitive entry process. NSCC is the only College across Canada that does not have competitive entry for this program. Feedback from partners has led to this work and consideration for change. There may be an interest to look at other programs down the road, but there would need to be compelling reasoning through accreditors and/or industry to consider introducing this clause to other programs.

It was moved by Sara Napier / Lore Bowers

That the NSCC Board of Governors approve the Admissions Policy as presented at the Regular Board Meeting of June 24, 2021.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

8. Student Governors' Comments

Yvan Silva provided a brief update on the International Student Ambassador program that is organized by students. Previous years have provided opportunity for events across the province but the past year due to the pandemic there have been virtual events that has proved to provide opportunities for more international students to participate in the events.

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9. Other Business

There was no other business discussed at this time. The Chair thanked the guests for joining today.

10. Adjourn

The Chair called to adjourn the meeting of June 24, 2021 and move to Governors' Forum.

It was moved by Yvan Silva / Rustum Southwell

That the NSCC Board of Governors regular meeting of June 24, 2021 adjourn and move to Governors' Forum.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

Approved by Board Motion: October 21, 2021