

Nova Scotia School Boards Association 55th Annual General Meeting and Conference



Handbook and Program Guide



* Please note: The web version of the annual report does not include materials from the 2009 Annual General Meeting, therefore page numbers may not match table of contents. You may request a copy of the complete annual report by calling (902) 491-2888 or e-mail mkelly@nssba.ednet.ns.ca.

Hosted by the Strait Regional School Board

NSSBA
Nova Scotia
School Boards Association

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2009

Executive and Board of Directors



Front row (left to right):

Ken Gaudet
Ron Marks
Jenny White

NSSBA 1st Vice President
NSSBA President
NSSBA 2nd Vice President

Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Annapolis Valley Regional School Board

Back Row (left to right):

Donna Tidd
Charlie Keagan
Wanda Bezanson
Vic Fleury
Elliott Payzant
David Myles
Keith Coughlan
Marg Forbes

Board Member
Board Member (alternate)
NSSBA Treasurer
Board Member
NSSBA Past President
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member

Tri-County Regional School Board
Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
South Shore Regional School Board
Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
South Shore Regional School Board
Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
South Shore Regional School Board

Missing

Gary Fraser
Rosalee Parker

Board Member
Board Member

Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Strait Regional School Board

President's Message



It has been a busy and challenging year for the Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA). The challenges have spurred us on to achieve some great things. 2008-09 has been a year of strong partnerships and I have confidence that as we continue to focus our efforts and collaborate with like-minded partners, we will increase our effectiveness.

A downturn in the global economy had implications for all regions of Canada this year and Nova Scotia was no exception. Many education stakeholders were concerned that public education would suffer.

A group of education partners including school boards, administrators, teachers and parents has been working collaboratively on the issue of education funding. During the winter the group developed a joint action campaign that utilized print and radio ads, a website, Facebook and meetings with MLAs to drive home the message that an increase in public education funding was necessary to avoid drastic cuts. This campaign, entitled *Public Education: Our Best Investment!*, culminated in a rare joint

news conference on January 15th. A great deal of media interest accompanied the campaign and it was clear that when groups representing different stakeholders deliver a consistent message across Nova Scotia, people take notice.

I am pleased to say that I believe our lobby efforts were very successful. We received a funding announcement in April that came close to our target: we asked for \$45-50 million and will be receiving \$44.8 million. The government's news release noted the strong lobby effort.

School Board Elections were held in October 2008. The elections provided an opportunity for the Halifax Regional School Board and the Strait Regional School Board to be re-constituted after disbandment, and they also enabled boards to highlight the valuable work they do. NSSBA provided leadership to a joint partners' committee to develop tools and strategies with which to raise awareness of school boards, increase the number of candidates running for office, and improve voter turnout. Joining NSSBA on the committee were representatives from school boards and the Department of Education, administrators, teachers and parents. This positive partnering experience reduced duplication of effort and improved communication between the partners and the public.

The fall elections brought some new faces to school boards across the province. NSSBA offered an Orientation Seminar in November. New and experienced board members gathered to network and to hear presentations on relevant, timely topics with a focus on school board governance.

The NSSBA has continued to collaborate with the Department of Education, the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and other partners to deliver training and informal sessions on a variety of issues affecting students.

NSSBA entered the 2008-09 year without the Halifax Regional School Board as a member. I am hopeful they will re-join the association this year, as Halifax's membership is incredibly important in shaping education in the province. With complete provincial membership, all of the 135,000 students in Nova Scotia could once again reap the benefits of having a united voice advocating on their behalf. A united voice is a strong voice.

The Canadian School Boards Association Congress 2009 is shaping up to be a great conference. We are looking forward to hosting this national event. Registration numbers from western and central Canada are high so let's ensure that representation from Atlantic Canada is strong too.

And lastly, I would like to recognize the commitment and dedication of the executive, the board of directors, executive director Ken Meech and the NSSBA staff for the support and guidance given to me as president. The contributions made by all of these groups ensure that the NSSBA continues to serve the needs of its members. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as president of such a valuable organization.

Executive Director's Message



Highlights

The school board elections last October will be remembered for the reinstatement of democracy, with all eight elected school boards again in place. As an information item, the proposed changes by the province to enhance governance have yet to be proclaimed and there has been no update on implementation.

The joint memorandum of understanding (MOU) committee commenced meeting in 2008 with a number of productive sessions. However we are experiencing difficulty in having the meetings regularized with the minister's participation. The next meeting of the committee with the deputy minister and staff is scheduled for May 20. We must give this process high priority and assert our voice for the need to dialogue on the broader issues facing the system. We must be prepared to contribute in a constructive and reflective manner to identify improvements to enhance the student learning

process. We must also practice our belief in endorsing change based on empirical evidence.

The major activity in the past six months has been the successful joint action campaign which we delivered with our education partners. The president has covered this in adequate detail. The success of this campaign is evidenced by the funding announcement for 2009/2010.

The Lead & Achieve committee has met to update the educational plan which includes our priorities on the education front. It should be noted that the yearly adoption and update is critical, as this balances the association's key focus of funding and education program priorities needed to achieve our vision for EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION. The composition of the committee was revised to include the executive and board chairs.

The board of directors has given approval to proceed with a strategic planning process to reflect on the role, mandate and purpose of the NSSBA. This exercise will also define our key focus for the next several years. We have retained an accomplished facilitator, Lawrence Ryan, to guide us through the process. We plan to conclude the exercise with a membership meeting in the fall to review the outcome prior to board endorsement of the plan. This represents your opportunity to ensure the association is aligned with the direction and focus of the membership.

As you know, the school capital process was reactivated this past year. The province has announced the list of projects which represents a significant commitment to the construction of new schools and major additions /alterations. The Department of Education deserves high marks for this initiative.

A major accomplishment this past year has been the Department of Education's approval to proceed with the implementation of the Student Information System (SIS). The SIS is a tool that provides teachers, system administrators and boards with the ability to track individual student progress and achievement. We acknowledge the leadership of the superintendents in partnership with the deputy minister that made this a reality.

Observations

Our major reason for existence is to work towards EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION with the following

values:

- 1) We believe in accountability.
- 2) We believe all students are entitled to an education.
- 3) We believe the public education system must meet the diversity of needs.

I believe we have to stop and reflect on the path ahead to continue to move forward. The world is changing rapidly - the knowledge and skills necessary for the future are much different from those required in the past. Part of the challenge has been to build a system that meets the needs of individual students, or as they say, customization of the public education system. To improve on that model, research says that we need to implement a Professional Learning Community (PLC) model which empowers schools and teachers to identify, via mentorship, collaboration and professional development, the tools and resources necessary to address individual student needs. The implementation of the SIS should assist teachers with their task. We must give schools the latitude they need to develop the means to achieve this end. A key ingredient is having the process imbedded in the culture and practices of our system. There are many examples of this practice being championed by the leadership of teachers and school administration. However the challenge is to define a framework which enables this approach for all school sites. My belief is that the collective bargaining table is not the means to the solution, as the rigidity of that process and the outcomes work contrary to the necessity of flexibility in the process.

We need to advocate the process and work with key stakeholders to find a solution that respects all of the key participants in this effort. Teachers and school administrators should be given greater latitude in the design of these processes, thus assuming responsibility for their success or failure. To move forward, the NSSBA should play a role in fostering open and transparent collaboration among the partners.

To conclude, my purpose in sharing these thoughts is to make a call for stakeholders to work together in an inclusive and collaborative environment for the best interests of the student, with the collateral benefits of social and economic prosperity.

Our greatest strength comes from speaking with one voice in our advocacy role on behalf of all students in Nova Scotia. This is also a call for the Halifax Regional School Board to rejoin the association so the school boards of Nova Scotia can speak with a united voice. Given the economic challenges facing governments, a single message is a must.

It has been a rewarding year and I want to thank the board of directors for their continued support and wise counsel. I am fascinated by Ron Marks' energy and excitement to learn so that he can make a difference in enhancing student success.

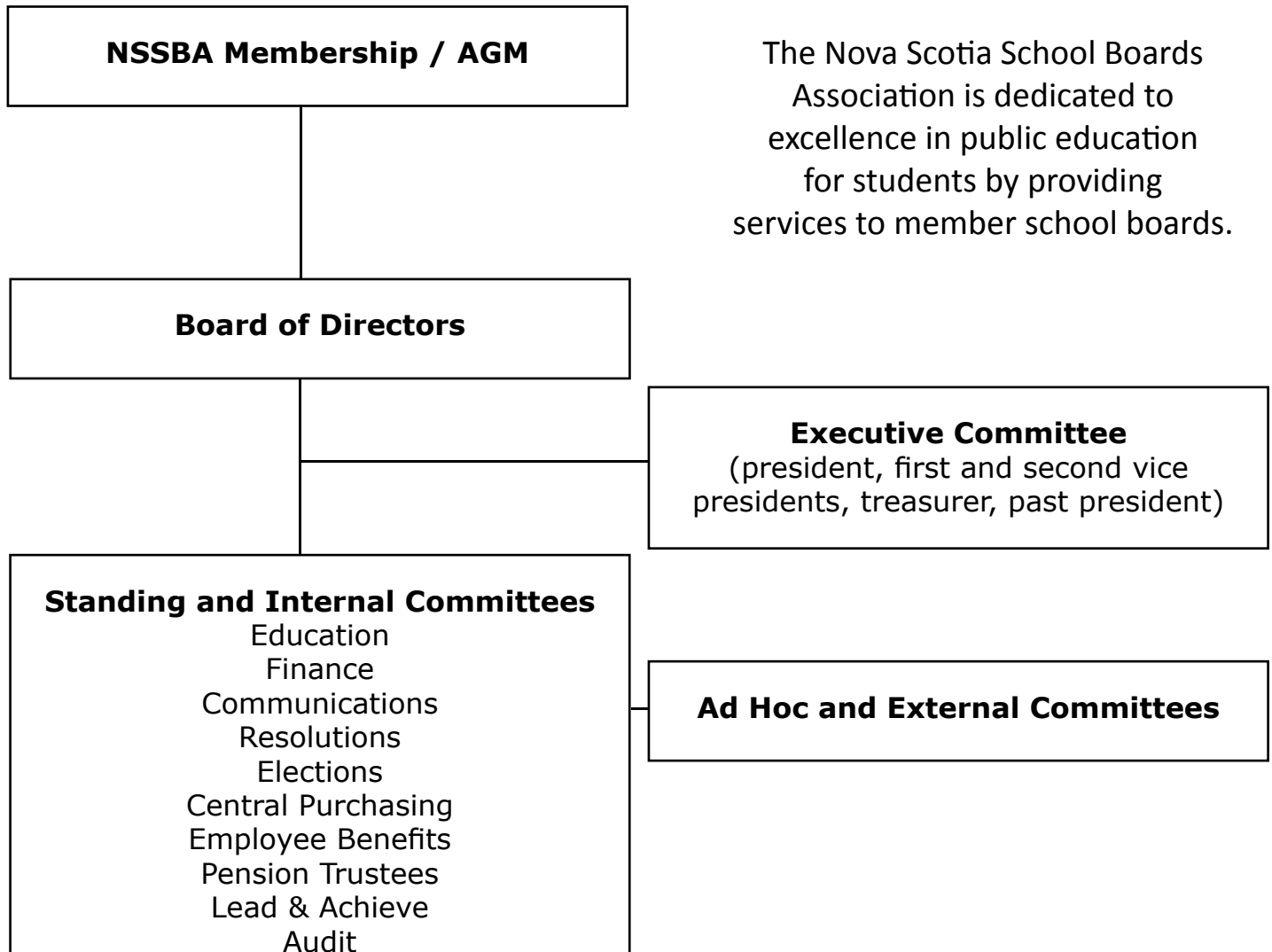
Also I want to thank the NSSBA staff: Sharon, Karen, Marie, Meghan and our newest member Carmen for their efforts and their commitment.

My thanks also go to the boards, superintendents and school board staff for their trust, guidance, cooperation and most importantly, their friendship.

Our key initiative this past year has facilitated a closer and positive working relationship with our education partners who have demonstrated their commitment to public education.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the cooperation, trust and confidence that are a part of our relationship with the deputy minister and the Department of Education staff who have been helpful in providing information and guidance.

NSSBA Organizational Chart



The Nova Scotia School Boards Association is dedicated to excellence in public education for students by providing services to member school boards.

Staff Support:

Executive Director
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NSSBA Budget 2009-2010

	Approved February 19, 2009					
		Audited	2008/2009	Unaudited	2009/2010	07/08 Actual vs.
		March 31, 2008	Budget	March 31, 2009	Budget	08/09 Budget
	REVENUE:					() Decrease in Budget
1	Membership Dues	591,411	460,331	460,356	460,331	(25)
2	Central Purchasing Fees	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	-
3	Communications Fees	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	-
4	Group Insurance Administration	38,840	25,000	26,580	26,000	(580)
5	Pension Plan Administration	4,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	-
6	Conference & Seminars	20,523	12,000	4,920	22,000	17,080
7	Interest	25,013	20,000	13,716	10,000	(3,716)
8	Rent Revenue	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	-
9	Surplus/Deficit at Beginning of Year	42,844	61,837	61,837	41,222	(20,615)
10	Transfer from Reserve (Depreciation) & Legal			17,722	14,571	(3,151)
11	Transfer from Dues Stabilization Fund		31,078	31,078	45,396	14,318
	TOTAL REVENUE	760,631	657,246	663,209	666,520	3,311
	EXPENSES:					
12	Central Purchasing	3,021	3,500	5,371	3,500	(1,871)
13	Communications	24,722	30,000	30,581	30,000	(581)
14	Lead & Achieve	23,033	21,347	2,661	10,000	7,339
15	MEB Expenses	855	1,000	486	500	14
16	Legal Fund - Boards	2,918		3,151		(3,151)
17	School Board Member PD	5,000		-		-
18	NSSBA Governance	49,066	40,000	28,066	30,000	1,934
19	NSSBA Standing Committees	25,367	27,000	22,732	20,000	(2,732)
20	External Committees	15,306	18,000	18,762	14,000	(4,762)
21	CSBA	34,837	35,000	36,902	35,000	(1,902)
22	Audit Fees	5,650	6,000	8,027	8,000	(27)
23	Mtg.Consulting Fees	3,600		-		-
24	E & O, Property, Crime,& Liability Ins.	13,678	6,000	6,154	6,200	46
25	Equipment Expense	32,982	20,000	32,758	32,000	(758)
26	Grants & Membership Fees	1,265	1,265	1,243	1,243	-
27	Misc. Legal Services - NSSBA	-	3,000	-		-

28	Occupancy Costs	27,404	27,600	27,362	27,600	238
29	Office Administration Costs	5,993	4,000	4,076	3,000	(1,076)
30	Postage & Shipping	1,096	1,500	1,434	1,500	66
31	Staff Professional Development	7,760	5,000	5,082	3,000	(2,082)
32	Research Material	3,034	2,500	1,542	2,500	958
33	Staff Salaries & Benefits	368,314	386,534	366,493	424,477	57,984
34	Sundry	7,223	5,000	4,175	3,000	(1,175)
35	Telephone	12,074	13,000	11,251	11,000	(251)
36	Special Project - Web Design	24,117				
37	French Translations	479				-
38	School Board Elections			3,677		(3,677)
	TOTAL EXPENSES	698,794	657,246	621,987	666,520	44,532
	Excess(Expenditures) Revenue	61,837	0	41,222	0	(41,221)
	for the Year					

NSSBA Budget Notes

Revenue:

1. Membership Dues

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
\$	\$	\$
460,356	460,331	(25)

The 2009/10 Dues remain the same as for 2008/2009. Attachment #1 shows the breakout of amounts by board. The \$25 difference represents an associate membership fee.

2. Central Purchasing Fees

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
\$	\$	\$
3,500	3,500	0

The central purchasing committee is comprised of the purchasing representatives from the school boards, a board member chairperson and NSSBA staff. The role of the committee is to organize joint tenders for participating boards, when it is deemed by the committee that there will be a mutual cost and administration benefit to boards. Products currently being managed by the NSSBA include petroleum products, photocopiers, photocopy and instructional paper.

3. Communications Fees

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
\$	\$	\$
30,000	30,000	0

The fee covers the following items:

NSSBA promotional materials/brochures/manuals/bulletins

Advertising -this item includes the use of print media, the newswire service, media scanning.

The development and maintenance of the NSSBA website.

4. Group Insurance Administration

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
\$	\$	\$
26,580	26,000	(580)

The employee benefits committee passed a motion that the NSSBA apply an administrative charge of 1/3 of 1% against the premiums collected by Blue Cross under the Employee Benefit Program for the purpose of defraying annual administration costs. In addition to the administrative support agreement Johnson Incorporated will pay an administrative fee for Home-Auto premiums.

5. Pension Plan Administration

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
9,500	9,500	0

This fee is charged to the NSSBA Pension Plan for Non-Teaching staff of school boards to help offset office administration and salary costs.

6. Conferences & Seminars

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
4,920	22,000	17,080

It was agreed by the board of directors that any revenue from the AGM, Fall Conference & Atlantic Conference would appear on this line. The budgeted amount of \$22,000 is for the AGM and Congress 2009.

7. Interest

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
13,716	10,000	(3,716)

This item reflects interest on the account balance and interest from IDMP. It is anticipated that the balance in the IDMP will continue to decrease in 2009/2010.

8. Rent Revenue

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
4,000	4,000	(0)

Rent revenue from the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium.

9. Surplus/Deficit at the Beginning of the Year

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
61,837	41,222	(20,615)

The surplus from 2008/09 will be rolled over into revenue for 2009/10.

10. Transfer from Reserve (Depreciation)(Legal)

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
17,722	14,571	(3,151)

The NSSBA office was renovated in 2007/2008. The board of directors approved a total renovation not to exceed \$75,000 and that it would come from the excess reserve. The auditors advised that in order to maintain

consistency with accounting practices the renovation would have to be written off over five years. Therefore \$14,571 will be transferred from the reserve to the annual revenue for five years. At the end of 2007/2008 there was a \$20,000 legal reserve, in 2008/09, \$3,151 of that amount was used.

11. Transfer from Dues Stabilization Fund

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
31,078	45,396	14,318

To balance the 2009/10 budget a transfer from the dues stabilization fund is required.

Expenses:

12. Central Purchasing

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
5,371	3,500	(1,871)

This expense item covers the cost of meetings of the central purchasing committee and the costs of advertising, copying and binding tender packages and other costs associated with tendering.

13. Communications

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
30,581	30,000	(581)

See description #3 above.

14. Lead & Achieve

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
2,661	10,000	7,339

15. MEB Committee Expense

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
486	500	14

This item includes any expenses incurred by the NSSBA in the administration of the province wide Group Insurance Plan for School Boards including costs for employee benefits committee meetings.

16. Legal Fund - Boards

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
3,151	0	(3,151)

The NSSBA legal reserve is \$16,849 at the end of 08/09.

17. School Board Member PD

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

This line is to assist with School Board Member PD.

18. NSSBA Governance

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
<i>28,066</i>	<i>30,000</i>	<i>1,934</i>

The following items are included in this Budget line:

Presidents Honorarium	\$5,040
Board of Directors Meetings:	
4 regular meetings @ \$4,300/meeting	\$17,200
For Special meetings & conference calls	<u>1,800</u>
	\$19,000
Executive Committee Meetings:	
4 regular meetings @ \$1200 /meeting	\$4,800
For Special meetings & conference calls	<u>1,160</u>
	\$5,960
Total	\$30,000

19. Standing Committees

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
<i>22,732</i>	<i>20,000</i>	<i>(2,732)</i>

Standing Committees:

Education Committee Meetings (4) (\$1200 /meeting)	4,800
Finance Committee Meetings (3) (\$1,400 /meeting)	4,200
Audit Committee Meetings (1) (\$1,400/meeting)	1,400
Elections & Resolutions Committee Mtg (1)(\$1,300/meeting)	1,300
Communications Comm. (3) (\$800 /meeting)	2,400
Attendance to special meetings & visits to the boards	5,900
Total	\$20,000

20. External Committees and Conferences

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
<i>18,762</i>	<i>14,000</i>	<i>(4,762)</i>

To cover the NSSBA board and staff involvement on committees to which direct expense and/or per diem charges for elected members are charged.

21. CSBA

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
36,902	35,000	(1,902)

The \$35,000 Budget for 2009/2010 will cover membership dues for a full year as well as travel cost for the president and executive director to attend meetings and conferences.

22. Audit Fees

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
8,027	8,000	(27)

The cost of the annual audit.

23. Mtg. Consulting Fees

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
0	0	0

24. E & O Insurance, Property, Crime, & Liability

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
6,154	6,200	46

Insurance coverage for the activities of NSSBA directors and officers pertaining to NSSBA operations. This line also includes property, crime & liability insurance.

25. Equipment Expense

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
32,758	32,000	(758)

The 2009/10 Budget includes the following:

Depreciation	3,487
Equipment Maintenance & Supplies	1,921
Equipment Purchases under \$200	600
Computer Consulting	5,396
Equipment Leases	6,025
Renovations	14,571
	\$32,000

26. Grants & Membership Fees

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
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1,243	1,243	0
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Educational Leadership Consortium Membership

27. Legal Services (NSSBA)

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
\$	\$	\$
0	0	0

Legal opinions required to support NSSBA committees, regular referrals as directed by directors, etc. and also in-house referrals.

28. Occupancy Costs

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
\$	\$	\$
27,362	27,600	238

This item includes rent, parking and Mac/Passes.

29. Office Administration Costs

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
\$	\$	\$
4,076	3,000	(1,076)

This budget line includes cost of stationery and office supplies.

30. Postage & Shipping

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
\$	\$	\$
1,434	1,500	66

31. Staff Professional Development

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
\$	\$	\$
5,082	3,000	(2,082)

It is agreed that the association and the employee share the desire to improve professional standards.

32. Research Material

<i>Actual 2008/09</i>	<i>Budget 2009/10</i>	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i>
\$	\$	\$
1,542	2,500	958

This item covers the cost of material for the NSSBA resource collection.

33. Staff Salaries & Benefits

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
366,493	424,477	57,984

This figure provides for salaries and benefits (CPP, EI, pension and group insurance) for six employees. There is an allowance for a 2.9% cost of living increase for five employees and step increase where applicable. Increases to pension and group insurance are also included. Increases to the executive director's salary is in accordance with his contract.

The 2009/10 budget Includes:

Gross Salaries	\$357,811.71
Co Paid Pension	35,072.41
Employer CPP/UIC	18,065.54
Employer Grp Ins.	13,527.20

34. Sundry

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
4,175	3,000	(1,175)

Petty cash, repairs, water, coffee supplies, plus any NSSBA office expense not covered under other categories.

35. Telephone

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
11,251	11,000	(251)

This item includes the cost of phone system, fax, cell phones and Internet e-mail.

36. Special Project – Web Design

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
0	0	0

This is a one time expense to cover the cost of revamping the existing website to improve the appearance and functionality.

37. French Translations

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
0	0	0

38. School Board Elections

<i>Actual 2008/09</i> \$	<i>Budget 2009/10</i> \$	<i>Increase(Decrease)</i> \$
3,677	0	(3,677)

NSSBA 2009/2010 Annual Membership Dues and Fees

Approved February 19, 2009

Attachment #1

	Actual			Central Purchasing	Planning & Promotion	
School Board Name	Enrolment	Dues based on	% of Total	\$500		Total
	2006/2007	# of Students	Dues	per Board	(Equalized)	Dues & Fees
Acadien Provincial	4,124	28,950.48	6.29%	500	4,285.72	33,736.20
Annapolis Valley Regional	15,936	78,086.40	16.96%	500	4,285.72	82,872.12
Cape Breton-Victoria Regional	17,068	83,633.20	18.17%	500	4,285.72	88,418.92
Chignecto Central Regional	23,912	109,516.96	23.79%	500	4,285.72	114,302.68
South Shore Regional	8,160	53,692.80	11.66%	500	4,285.72	58,478.52
Tri County Regional	7,933	52,199.14	11.34%	500	4,285.72	56,984.86
Strait Regional	8,245	54,252.10	11.79%	500	4,285.72	59,037.82
	85,378	460,331.08	100%	3,500	30,000	493,831.12
Student Fee Structure						
Total Board Student Population		Student Fee				
<5,000		7.02				
<10,000		6.58				
<15,000		6.12				
<20,000		4.90				
<25,000		4.58				
<30,000		4.44				
30,001 >		3.61				

Board of Directors' Report

Members:

Ron Marks	President	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Ken Gaudet	First Vice President	Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Jenny White	Second Vice President	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Wanda Bezanson	Treasurer	South Shore Regional School Board
Elliott Payzant	Past President	South Shore Regional School Board
Vic Fleury	Director	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Gary Fraser	Director	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
David Myles	Director	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Keith Coughlan	Director	Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Marg Forbes	Director	South Shore Regional School Board
Rosalee Parker	Director	Strait Regional School Board
Donna Tidd	Director	Tri-County Regional School Board

Meetings:

The NSSBA board of directors held seven meetings during the 2008-09 year. Meetings took place on May 8, 2008, June 4, 2008, June 6, 2008, June 7, 2008, September 25-26, 2008, December 4-5, 2008 and February 19-20, 2009.

Major Topics Addressed by the Board of Directors:

- o Budget 2009-10
- o Canadian School Boards Association - Congress 2009
- o Atlantic Conference 2008
- o Province-wide Student Information System (SIS)
- o Resolutions – selection of top five priority resolutions
- o Lead & Achieve committee composition (board chairs and executive committee)
- o Stipend review
- o School board governance
- o board chair term extended to 2 years
- o role of the Department of Education
- o ingredients of good governance
- o Halifax Regional School Board membership
- o Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey associate membership
- o Under-funding in public education
- o Education Partners' Joint Action Plan (Public Education: Our Best Investment!)
- o Timing of provincial budget
- o NSSBA strategic program review
- o NSSBA representation on the Minister's Advisory Committee on Teacher Education
- o Halifax Chamber of Commerce membership
- o Updated by-laws booklet

Presentations Made to the Directors:

- o Transportation for Extra-curricular Trips & Sporting Events with the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation (Tom Fahie, executive director, Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation)
- o Early Childhood Development (Theresa Griffin, maritime coordinator, Council for Early Child Development)

Executive Committee Report

Members:

Ron Marks	President	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Ken Gaudet	First Vice President	Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Jenny White	Second Vice President	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Wanda Bezanson	Treasurer	South Shore Regional School Board
Elliott Payzant	Past President	South Shore Regional School Board

Meetings:

The NSSBA executive committee held four meetings during the 2008-09 year. Meetings took place on September 24, 2008, December 3, 2008, January 7, 2009 and February 18, 2009.

Major Topics Addressed by the Executive:

- o Halifax Regional School Board membership
- o Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth
- o Stipend review
- o School board governance
- o Food and nutrition in Nova Scotia schools
- o Canadian School Boards Association dues
- o NSSBA dues 2009-10
- o Education Partners' Joint Action Plan (Public Education: Our Best Investment!)
 - radio ads
 - newspaper ads
 - news conference
- o NSSBA strategic program review

Finance Committee Report

Members:

Wanda Bezanson, chair	NSSBA Treasurer, Board member	South Shore Regional School Board
David Myles, vice chair	Board member	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Dwight Johnson	Board member	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Charlie Keagan	Board member	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Ken Gaudet	Board member	Conseil scolaire acadien Provincial
Clarence Reddick	Board member	Strait Regional School Board
Donna Tidd	Board member	Tri-County Regional School Board
Ron Marks	Ex officio, NSSBA President	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board

Staff:

Ken Meech	Executive Director
Karen Tavenor	Finance & Office Manager

Meetings:

The NSSBA Finance Committee held three meetings during the past year. The next finance meeting will coincide with the September Board of Director Meeting.

Major Topics Addressed by the Finance Committee during the past year were:

- o Election of vice chair
- o Financial projections
- o 2009/2010 dues & fees
- o 2009/2010 budget

Audit Committee Report

Committee Members:

David Myles	Board member, chair	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Wanda Bezanson	NSSBA Treasurer, Board member	South Shore Regional School Board
Dwight Johnson	Board member	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Charlie Keagan	Board member	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Ken Gaudet	Board member	Conseil scolaire acadien Provincial
Clarence Reddick	Board member	Strait Regional School Board
Donna Tidd	Board member	Tri-County Regional School Board
Willie Cormier	Lay Representative	
Ron Marks	Ex officio, NSSBA President	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board

Staff:

Ken Meech	Executive Director
Karen Tavenor	Finance & Office Manager

Meetings:

The NSSBA Audit Committee held one meeting during the past year. The next audit meeting will coincide with the annual audit.

Major Topics Addressed by the Audit Committee:

- o Audited financial statements for NSSBA

Communications Committee Report

Committee Members:

Jenny White	2 nd Vice President , chair	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Vic Fleury	Board Director, vice chair	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Elliott Payzant	Past President	South Shore Regional School Board
Keith Coughlan	Board Director	Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Gary Fraser	Board Director	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Donna Tidd	Board Director	Tri County Regional School Board
Jamie Stevens	Board Member	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Norma Baxter	Communications Officer	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Deanna Gillis	Manager of Communications & Community Relations	Strait Regional School Board

Staff:

Ken Meech	Executive Director	Nova Scotia School Boards Association
Sharon Findlay-MacPhee	Communications Manager	Nova Scotia School Boards Association
Meghan Kelly	Communications Co-ordinator	Nova Scotia School Boards Association

Meetings:

The communications committee held three meetings during the past year. The meeting dates were September 25, 2008, December 4, 2008 and February 19, 2009.

Major Topics Addressed by the Communications Committee:

- o 2008 School Board Elections
- o School board member public profile
- o Board member/staff development
- o French translation
- o Promotions and advertising
- o Communications budget

Education Committee Report

Committee Members:

Ken Gaudet	NSSBA 1st Vice President, chair	Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
George Kehoe (until 05/08)	NSSBA 1st Vice President, chair	Strait Regional School Board
George MacDonald (until 05/08)	Treasurer	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Jenny White	NSSBA 2nd Vice President	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Gary Fraser	Board Member	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Charlie Keagan (until 09/08)	Board Member, Alternate	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Myrtle Turnbull-Campbell (until 05/08)	Board Member	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Gordon Anderson	Board Member, vice chair	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Keith Coughlan	Board Member	Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Marg Forbes	Board Member	South Shore Regional School Board
Rosalee Parker	Board Member	Strait Regional School Board
Nick Pippy	Board Member	Tri-County Regional School Board
Dave Jones	Director of Programs & Services	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Margo Tait (until 12/08)	Director of Programs & Services	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Gary Clarke	Director of Programs & Services	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Monica Williams	Director of Programs & Services	Strait Regional School Board
Jack Beaton (until 12/08)	Director of Programs & Services	Strait Regional School Board
Bill Curry	Director of Programs & Services	Tri-County Regional School Board
John Astephen	Director of Programs & Services	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Steve Prest	Director of Programs & Services	South Shore Regional School Board

Ex-officio:

Ron Marks	President	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
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Staff:

Ken Meech	Executive Director
Sharon Findlay-MacPhee	Communications Manager
Carmen Archibald	Administrative Assistant

Meetings:

The NSSBA education committee held four meetings during the past year. Meetings took place on May 8, 2008, September 24, 2008, December 3, 2008 and February 18, 2009.

Major Topics Addressed by the Education Committee:

- o Revision of the committee's terms of reference
- o Student Information System (SIS)
- o Family Studies course
- o position in the public school program
- o teacher certification

Education Committee Report

- o Grade 12 course curriculum
- o Minister's Advisory Committee on Teacher Education
- o Status of distance education in Nova Scotia
- o Revision of the Public School Program (PSP)
- o External credentialing policy
- o Influx of primary students
- o Roles and responsibilities of School Advisory Councils (SAC)
- o Promotion of languages in schools
- o Junior high program / middle school curriculum

Presentations Made to the Education Committee:

- o Testing in Schools (Sue Taylor-Foley, coordinator of assessment & technology, South Shore Regional School Board)
- o Student Information System (John Fahie, director of information technology services, Department of Education)
- o Minister's Report to Parents (Beth Charlton, literacy assessment coordinator, Department of Education)
- o Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Youth Program (Walter Deagle, director of technology, Millbrook Technologies Ltd.)
- o Status of Distance Education (Michael Jeffrey, director of learning resources and technology, Department of Education)
- o External Credentialing Policy Implementation Process (Mary Fedorchuk, acting director, English Program Services Division, Department of Education)

Members Employee Benefits Committee Report

Members:

Catherine Guest	Committee Chair	NSGEU
Lesley MacDonald	Employee & Labour Relations	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
David Crouchman	Non Union Representative	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Beth MacIsaac	Human Resources	Cape-Breton Victoria Regional School Board
Cetus David	Human Resources	Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Willie Cormier	Human Resources	Strait Regional School Board
Gerry Purdy	Human Resources	Tri-County Regional School Board
Tina Munro	Human Resources	South Shore Regional School Board
Peter Baxter		CUPE
Ted Llewellyn		CUPE
Lorna Blair		NSGEU
Jackie Swaine		SEIU

Staff:

Ken Meech	Executive Director
Karen Tavenor	Finance & Office Manager
Carmen Archibald	Administrative Assistant

Meetings:

The NSSBA Members' Employees Benefits committee held five meetings during the 2008-09 year. Meetings took place on May 2, 2008, October 3, 2008, December 10, 2008, February 6, 2009 and March 6, 2009.

Major Topics Addressed by the Members' Employees Benefits Committee:

- o Johnson billing (detailed invoices, regular intervals, fixed fee items billed separately)
- o Fiduciary liability coverage
- o Medavie Blue Cross financial updates
- o Long term disability provincial plan
- o Benefits for retired employees
- o Thirteen principles of good governance (committee assessment)

Presentations Made to the Members' Employees Benefits Committee:

- o Plan Governance: The Importance of Proper Governance for the Administration of a Benefit Plan (Ronald Pink, Q.C., Pink Larkin)
- o Fiduciary Liability (Andy Horgan, Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc; Diane McRae, School Insurance Program (SIP); Helen Mary Green, School Insurance Program (SIP))

Pension Trustees Report

Members:

Ron Hines	Employer Representative, chair	Nova Scotia School Boards Association
Suzanne Huestis	Employer Representative	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Dayle Morris-Quinn	Employer Representative	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Allan Boudreau	Employer Representative	Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Willie Cormier	Employer Representative	Strait Regional School Board
Gerry Purdy	Employer Representative	Tri-County Regional School Board
Richard Smith (until 05/08)	Employer Representative	South Shore & Tri-County Regional School Board
Kathryn Keith	Employee Representative	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Dana Flemming	Employee Representative	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Greg Chisholm (until 05/08)	Employee Representative	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Céline Trahan	Employee Representative	Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Craig Thibodeau	Employee Representative	Tri-County Regional School Board
Cecilia Poirier	Employee Representative	Strait Regional School Board
Hilda Muise	Retired Member	
Cecil Hatt (until 05/08)	Retired Member	

Staff:

Ken Meech	Executive Director
Karen Tavenor	Finance & Office Manager
Carmen Archibald	Administrative Assistant

Meetings:

The NSSBA Pension Trustees committee held three meetings during the 2008-09 year. Meetings took place on May 16, 2008, December 12, 2008 and February 13, 2009.

Major Topics Addressed by the Pension Trustees Committee:

- o Current solvency situation
- o Investment manager scorecard
- o Review of US and international equity investment options
- o Annual audit of the fund
- o Recommendations from the provincial government's Pension Review Panel
- o Global economic market
- o Vesting for defined contribution
- o Pension information sessions
- o Updated transfer ratio
- o Pension contribution rate increase
- o Transfer of voluntary contributions (amendment to plan text)
- o Appointment of committee members for the 2009-2011 term

Presentations Made to the Pension Trustees Committee:

- o Annual Review of Investment Performance (Paul Loduca, CFA, director investments, Manulife Financial)
- o Pension Plans 101 (John Crouse & Ian Claveau, consulting actuary, Johnson Inc.)

Lead and Achieve Committee Report

Members:

Ron Marks	NSSBA President, chair	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Ken Gaudet	NSSBA 1st Vice President	Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Jenny White	NSSBA 2nd Vice President	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Wanda Bezanson	NSSBA Treasurer	South Shore Regional School Board
Elliott Payzant	NSSBA Past President	South Shore Regional School Board
Lavinia Parrish-Zwicker	Chairperson	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Lorne Green	Chairperson	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Trudy Thompson	Chairperson	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Mary Jess MacDonald	Chairperson	Strait Regional School Board
Faye Haley	Chairperson	Tri-County Regional School Board

Staff:

Ken Meech	Executive Director
Sharon Findlay-MacPhee	Communications Manager
Karen Tavenor	Finance & Office Manager
Carmen Archibald	Administrative Assistant

Meetings:

The NSSBA Lead & Achieve committee held two meetings during the 2008-09 year. Meetings were held on October 23, 2008 and December 11, 2008.

Major Topics Addressed by the Lead & Achieve Committee:

- o Updating the Briefing Deck
- o Impact of under-funding in education
- o Education Partners' Joint Action Plan (Public Education: Our Best Investment!)

Central Purchasing Committee Report

Members:

Wanda Bezanson	NSSBA Treasurer, Board Member, chair	South Shore Regional School Board
Gerry Wilson	School Board Staff	Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Gary MacVicar	School Board Staff	Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Valerie Tucker	School Board Staff	Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Janine Saulnier	School Board Staff	Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Brent Hickman	School Board Staff	South Shore Regional School Board & Tri- County Regional School Board
Shirley Hart	School Board Staff	Strait Regional School Board

Staff:

Karen Tavenor	Finance & Office Manager
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Meetings:

The NSSBA Central Purchasing Committee held two face to face meetings and two conference calls during the past year.

Major Topics Addressed by the Central Purchasing Committee:

- o Preparation for the Photocopier Paper & Instructional Paper Supplies Tender. (Awarded in May 2008)
- o Preparation for the Petroleum Products Tender. (Awarded in March 2009)
- o Photocopier Tender Maintenance & Follow up
- o Presentation on Sustainable Procurement

Communications Report

Major Initiatives 2008/2009

1. School Board Elections

The NSSBA chaired a committee of the joint education partners to develop and implement a communications plan for the 2008 school board elections. Representatives of school boards, teachers, administrators and Department of Education officials met throughout the year to develop strategies and tools to promote greater public awareness of the elections. Goals were twofold – to encourage more people to run for school board office, and to encourage more citizens to vote. The partner model, which is believed to be the first of its kind in Canada, was an effective way to pool resources and ideas. The school board elections committee has recommended that this model be followed in 2012.

2. Joint Partners' Lobby Campaign

Since December 2008 the NSSBA has provided leadership in mobilizing the joint education partners to develop and implement a lobby campaign encouraging the government to continue its investment in public education. The association has also been vocal with regard to the timing of this year's budget. The campaign *Public Education: Our Best Investment!* garnered extensive coverage from the media and positive support from editorial boards. The campaign raised awareness of the issue to politicians and the public. All partners held numerous meetings with politicians, and strategic print and radio ads delivered key messages to the public. The partners were seeking a 4.5 per cent increase in funding for public education in order to maintain services to students. A rare joint news conference of the partners was held on January 15, with many reporters in attendance. It was effective to have all partners speaking with a united voice and a consistent message.

3. Board Member/Staff Development

a) Conferences/Seminars

- The NSSBA, in partnership with the Department of Education, hosted an orientation seminar for new and returning school board members, November 27-28 in Dartmouth.
- NSSBA was part of the planning committee for the Atlantic Conference 2009, *Where Have all the Students Gone? Implications for Governance*, January 29-31 hosted by the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association.
- The NSSBA worked closely with the Strait Regional School Board to prepare for the association's 55th annual general meeting and conference, May 14-16 at St. Francis Xavier University. The theme is *Celebrating Cultural Proficiency and Equity in Education*.

b) Communications Networking Group

The school board communications staff members meet several times throughout the year to discuss issues of provincial and local concern, share ideas and information, and receive updates on their national professional association, the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE). The NSSBA and the Department of Education host these meetings.

4. Canadian School Boards Association

NSSBA has worked closely over the past year with our colleagues throughout the country through the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA). Our president and executive director serve on CSBA's board of directors.

NSSBA is honoured to host colleagues from across the country at this year's annual CSBA Congress on Education. Congress 2009 will be held July 9 – 11 at the World Trade and Convention Centre and will focus on future trends in public education. *Class of 2020: Vision for the Future* will feature futurist Tod Maffin, aboriginal activist Candy Palmater, grocery guru Pete Lockett and Cape Breton educator Charles MacDonald, as well as a host of workshop presenters.

5. Technology

The group e-mail list for school board members has become a very efficient method of communication with our members. *Month In Review* and *Directors' Highlights* are sent via e-mail. Fax is also used for those members who do not have access

Communications Report



to e-mail. The association website continues to be a key communications tool and the communications committee is responsible for regularly reviewing its efficiency and timeliness.

6. Awards Programs

The NSSBA coordinates three award programs – the NSSBA School Board Member of the Year Award, the NSSBA Education Week Partner Award, and long service awards. For more information on these awards, please see the awards section in this annual report.

7. Media Relations

The NSSBA issues news releases to the media through an arrangement with CNW Group. The association also subscribes to a media scanning service. News conferences are held as needed.

8. Advertising

The association places ads in strategic publications – the Halifax Herald, the Cape Breton Post and Le Courrier de la Nouvelle Écosse.

9. Promotions

The communications committee provides direction on the promotional items purchased for marketing and for presenter gifts.

10. Hotel Liaison

The Holiday Inn Harbourview, Dartmouth, continues to be the NSSBA's preferred hotel for 2009.

Lead and Achieve Report

Major Initiatives 2008/2009

1. Education Funding Lobby Campaign

The main focus of the Lead & Achieve Committee for this past year was to ensure adequate funding for public education. Given that there was no increase in funding for the 2007/08 year, the committee was very concerned regarding the funding for 2008/09. This concern was heightened by the decline in the world financial markets and the fear that there would be no new dollars for education. Working with board chairs and superintendents, the committee was able to identify what the impact would be to the system if there were no funding increase.

In late 2008 the NSSBA provided leadership to an intensive lobby campaign involving the major education partners. The Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations, the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators and the Nova Scotia School Boards Association shared resources to develop the campaign Public Education: Our Best Investment! The initiative utilized print and radio ads, a website, Facebook and meetings with MLAs. A rare joint news conference was held January 15 to deliver the message that public education needs an increase of at least 4.5 per cent to avoid drastic cuts to personnel and programs. This percentage in real dollars is between \$45 – 50 million. The presidents of the four partners also met with editorial boards of two of the major papers. Media coverage was extensive. Throughout the winter the partners continued to meet with politicians, other partners and their own members.

The organizations involved in the partnership were pleased to hear the recent funding announcement of \$44.8 million dollars for education. While it is far from perfect, it does provide boards with a comfort level that in these tough economic times they can maintain the status quo with little disruption to programs and services for students.

The partnership approach has been viewed as a success by all participants and all agree it should be used again in the future, when appropriate.

2. Revised Briefing Deck

The Lead & Achieve Committee revised the Briefing Deck – a document for use with members, partners and politicians. The document outlines challenges of school boards, sets out the NSSBA's Six-Point Action Plan, discusses progress of school boards in curriculum areas, and indicates how additional dollars would be used. The Six-Point Action Plan is listed below.

3. NSSBA Six-Point Action Plan

1. Align curriculum with skills and outcomes required for the next generation.
2. Continue to support students with diverse needs via customized programs.
3. Improve inter-agency and governmental collaboration with organizations that help students at risk.
4. Focus on schools as "Professional Learning Communities" where teachers and principals have the resources to share best practices.
5. Foster collaboration between the NSSBA, the Department of Education, teachers, parents, students and other partners dedicated to improving academic performance.
6. Accelerate the implementation of the capital school program.

Finance Report

Major Initiatives 2008/2009

1. Budget Development

Costs and revenues were forecasted as part of the budget development process and budget text was prepared.

2. AGM Audited Statements and Budget Package

Committed to ensure the audit was completed quickly in order to provide the membership with Audited Financial Statements and a Budget Package in advance of the 2008 AGM.

3. Sponsorship for the AGM 2008

Raised \$5,800 in corporate sponsorships for the 54th Annual conference held at the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, NS.

4. Central Purchasing

Coordinated the Photo Copy & Instructional Paper tender, Petroleum Products Tender on behalf of participating boards.

5. Intergrated Data Management Project (IDMP)

NSSBA agreed to provide the Department of Education with bookkeeping services and process payments on their behalf for the project.

6. Timeliness of Reports

Provided the board of directors with regular reports throughout the year in order to keep them up to date on the financial activities of the association.

7. Sponsorship for Congress 2009

Raised over \$50,000 in Corporate Sponsorships for the Canadian School Boards Association National Conference being held at the World Trade and Convention Centre in July 2009.

8. NSSBA Pension Trustees Committee

As a staff resource, attends meetings of the NSSBA Pension Trustees Committee and acts as a liaison between the committee and the consultants. Participated in six information sessions around the province to bring members of the pension plan up to date and give them an opportunity to ask questions.

9. Members Employee Benefits Committee

As a staff resource, attends meetings of the MEB Committee and acts as a liaison between the committee and the consultant.

Other Areas of Responsibility

- o Monthly processing of Financial Reports
- o Office management
- o Payroll
- o Human resources
- o Equipment purchases
- o Conference budgets
- o Office renovations

School Board Member of the Year



George Kehoe

George Kehoe, vice chair of the Strait Regional School Board (SRSB), is the recipient of the 2009 NSSBA School Board Member of the Year award.

George is a retired educator of 31 years having taught mathematics, physics and computer science. Believing strongly in a holistic approach to student education, he has encouraged the involvement of parents, staff and educational partners in the classroom. Jack Beaton, superintendent of schools, worked with George and describes him as an excellent board member whose, “great understanding of public education continually supports the work of all board staff.”

George has been a member of the Strait Board for 15 years. He has served five years as the chair of the Strait Board and presently serves as the board vice-chair. As vice-chair, George is determined that the Strait Board will develop its governance model in a way that best ensures board members and staff are as effective as possible in their respective roles.

His involvement with the Nova Scotia School Boards Association is extensive. He has served several times as the Strait representative on the association’s board of directors, and has held positions of 1st and 2nd vice president on the executive. He has completed all five modules of the NSSBA school board governance development program.

Over the years he has been extremely active in the community working with a number of different groups including the Richmond Retired Teachers Association, St. Anne’s Hospital Board, Development Isle Madame Association and adult education programs. He has promoted “Roots of Empathy” programs in schools, working with community development groups to provide students with work term placements.

Community service, coupled with creating a well-rounded educational experience for students, has made George an extremely influential member of both SRSB and the Nova Scotia School Boards Association. We are happy to recognize George as this year’s award winner.

The 2009 presentation will mark the 11th year the NSSBA has offered the School Board Member of the Year Award. It was developed to recognize outstanding service as a school board member at the local and provincial level. This award highlights work that results in positive change for students.

A selection committee comprised of persons external to the association determines the recipient of the award. Rick Piper, director of corporate accounts, Medavie Blue Cross has served on the panel for two years and chaired the process this year. He was joined by Paul Sarty, VP, Manager Plan Benefits-Maritime Region, Johnson Inc , Ross Lloyd, product and concept specialist, Talbot Marketing and Alex Wilson, account executive, Halifax Herald.

Education Week Partner Award



Faye Haley accepts her award from Premier Rodney MacDonald and Education Minister Judy Stretch

To celebrate Education Week 2009, schools across Nova Scotia are “Bringing Arts to Life”. Drawing attention to the value of the fine arts in a well-rounded academic program is the goal of this year’s Education Week theme. The recipient of the NSSBA Education Week Partner Award is Faye Haley, chairperson of the Tri-County Regional School Board, who has been bringing arts to life both as an educator and as a school board member.

Faye’s involvement in the arts began in secondary school when she participated in drama, debate, public speaking and piano. During her years at Acadia University, Faye was a member of the university’s drama society, drama workshop, school newspaper and the Acadia Light Opera Society. She also took part in the Dominion Drama Festival.

While teaching, Faye spent more than 25 years as advisor to the school newspaper and the drama club. She assisted students with variety shows and local productions. Faye was a member of the provincial steering committee to develop drama courses for Nova Scotia schools, and taught the first drama course at Digby Regional High School. In class she encouraged students to convey their understanding of literary works by creating artistic pieces as an alternative to written submissions.

These days Faye continues to engage in a wide range of theatre activities. Her recent voluntary contributions to the arts include the following roles:

- one half of the popular comedy duo Mert & Gert
- member of the board of directors of the Digby and Area Theatre Society
- member of the Digby and Area Arts Council
- member of the organizing committee for the Maud Lewis Festival
- various functions with Basin Productions, a local theatre company
- volunteer with the Scallop Days Queen Pageant, including the talent competition

As a school board member, Faye was instrumental in forming the board library committee and has been a strong advocate for the value of arts in the Nova Scotia school system. She consistently reminds the board that the arts are not “frills”, but are essential to the development of a well-rounded child.

An integral part of the NSSBA for over ten years, Faye has participated as a voting delegate at its AGMs, has presented workshops at NSSBA conferences and currently sits on the Lead & Achieve committee.

Faye continues to build a legacy of enthusiasm for the arts - an enthusiasm which has been inherited by her children and grandchildren who are heavily involved in theatre as well.

Long Service Awards

The Long Service Award is designed to recognize school board members who have served the board 10 or more years. The recipient must be a current board member and fit in one of the following four categories:

- Level One: Three terms or ten years of service
- Level Two: 15 years of service
- Level Three: 20 years of service
- Level Four: 25 years of service

Service is defined as accumulated years serving the board as a school board member, not consecutive years. 2003 was the first year for the Long Service Award program.

NSSBA and the school boards are excited to honour their members who are deserving of this special recognition. This year's recipients are:

School Board	Level One 10 years	Level Two 15 years	Level Three 20 years	Level Four 25 years
Annapolis Valley Regional School Board		<i>Lavinia Parrish-Zwicker Dwight Johnson Robert Tumilty Jenny White</i>	<i>Paula Lunn Charlene Davies</i>	
Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board	<i>No recipients</i>			
Chignecto-Central Regional School Board		<i>Trudy Thompson</i>		<i>Ron Marks</i>
Conseil scolaire acadien provincial	<i>No recipients</i>			
South Shore Regional School Board		<i>Wanda Bezanson Elliott Payzant</i>		
Strait Regional School Board		<i>George Kehoe Mary Jess MacDonald</i>		<i>Rosalee Parker</i>
Tri-County Regional School Board	<i>No recipients</i>			

Total number of employees **X** Average daily wage **X** Average days absent **=** Total cost for absent employees

Total number of replacement workers needed **X** Average daily wage **X** Days required **=** Total cost for replacement employees

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