



*Minutes of the
2017 Biennial General Meeting
of the
Newfoundland and Labrador
Teachers' Association*

April 18 – 21, 2017

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MINUTES OF THE 2017 BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

St. John's

April 18 – 21, 2017

The 2017 Biennial General Meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association was held at the Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland, St. John's, April 18-21, 2017. 159 registered – 82 delegates representing Branches; 11 delegates representing Special Interest Councils; 12 Provincial Executive members; 25 official Branch alternates; 4 Faculty of Education observers; 7 special guests/observers; and 18 staff members.

The following registered:

Executive

James Dinn	President
Dean Ingram	Vice-President
Derek Drover	Table Officer
Jeanne Williams	Table Officer
Bill Chaisson	Corner Brook
Maureen Doyle-Gillingham	Ochre Pit Cove
Craig Hicks.....	Carmanville
Trent Langdon	Mount Pearl
Donna Reddick.....	Conception Bay South
Sherri Rose	Deer Lake
Gabriel Ryan.....	Holyrood
Colin Short.....	Port aux Basques

Branches

(A) = Official Alternate

Appalachia	Jeffrey Blundon Dwayne Parsons Vicki Sheaves
Aurora.....	Sharon Young Stephanie Hedderson (A)
Baccalieu	Marlene LeShane Janine Foley (A)
Baie Verte Peninsula	Ryan White Amanda Ryan (A)
Bay d'Espoir	Rebecca Parsons-Burden Gwen Goodyear (A)

Branches (contd.)

- Bay Roberts Paul Sheppard
Terri Lee Bishop

- Belle Mer Della Way
Marsha Genge (A)

- Belleoram-Wreck Cove Derrick Baker
Andrea Penney (A)

- Bremco Hollis Cull
(A)

- Burgeo Wayne Vivian
(A)

- Burin-Marystown Colleen Scott
(A)

- Carbonear Kelly Loch
Gord King

- Churchill Falls Deana Rose
Danielle Reardon (A)

- Clarenbridge Heather Wells
Susanne Hawkins

- Coastal Labrador South Sean Weir
Mary Ward (A)

- Conception Bay Centre Jill Dawe
(A)

- Conception Bay South Danielle Stanley-Genge
JoAnne Taylor
Scott Fifield
Laura Winnett
Greg Oliver

- Deer Lake Jim Davis
Brian Leslie

- Exploits Valley Paul Moore
Paulette Colbourne
Cameron Snow

Branches (contd.)

- Fogo Island Susan Crawford
Trevor Taylor (A)

- Ganova..... Clifford Budgell
Tim Goodyear
Russell Stockley
Lee Anne Johnson (unfunded alternate)

- Granforline..... Dale Parsons
Allison Parsons (A)

- Green Bay..... Kevin Flynn
Alex Hutchings (A)

- Hamilton SoundDarren Goodyear
Kieran Smith (A)

- HartonBernetta Delaney
Sandra Hynes (A)

- Humber..... Tracey Payne
Darren Hutchings
Ian Adey
Paul May

- Ingornachoix..... Connie Myers
Tammy Young (A)

- Labrador WestArlene Johnson
Sandy Crowley

- Lake Melville Sharon Mugford
Sandra Quigley

- Landfall Heather Rice
Yvonne Pevie (A)

- Long Range Sonya Lewis
Tara Tobin (A)
Terri Lynn Organ (unfunded alternate)

- Marconi..... Chesley West
Stephen Wade Lambert
Valerie Ryan
Krista Houlihan

Branches (contd.)

Marconi (contd.)	Christine Tessier Robert Johnson John Veitch
	Zachary Welsh
Northern Light	Maurice Smith Amanda Anthony-Chubbs (A)
Notre Dame	Craig Tucker Kristin White
Nutak Labradorimi	Tony Tibbo Heather Denine (A)
Placentia	Sheldon Slaney (A)
Port aux Basques.....	Steve Drover (A)
Rameaux	Catherine Poole Verna Hatcher (A)
Rushoon-Terrenceville	Patrick Whiffen Dolorosa Murphy (A)
St. John's Centre.....	Jamie Jenkins Angela Dawe Karen Yetman
St. Mary's Bay	Patti Corcoran Jennifer Pilgrim (A)
Seagaulher	Wade Tibbo (A)
Southern Shore	The branch was not represented (A)
Table Mountain.....	Heather Brake Courtney Williams (A)
Taylor's Brook.....	Janice House Donna Fudge (A)

Branches (contd.)

- Trinity-Deadman's BayThe branch was not represented
(A)
- Trinity, Trinity Bay Earle Pike
Peggy Sacrey (A)
- Upper Trinity South Kim Siegfriedt
Robyn Norman (A)
- Waterford ValleyJoseph Santos
Stuart MacGillivray
Jeff Ivany
Catherine Best
Brandon Field
Neal Tremblett
Kimberly Fifield

Special Interest Councils

- Counsellors and PsychologistsBoyd Perry
- Health Kellie Baker
- Math/Science..... Yvonne Dawe
- MusicMichelle Collins
- Physical Education Luke Neville
- School Administrators.....Kyran Dwyer
- Second Languages The council was not represented
- Small Schools..... Natasha Aylward
- Special Services.....Sonya Lee
- Speech-Language Pathologists Kirsten Haynes
- Teacher-LibrariansHeather Godden
- Technology EducationJason Aue

Guests/Observers

- Chairperson for Convention..... Don Ash
- Canadian Teachers' FederationHeather Smith
Sandra Lane
- Guest SpeakerDr. Eva Oberle
- Chairperson, Electoral Committee Tina Matthews
- Electoral Committee Ed Buckingham
Debra Sparkes-Mercer

Guests/Observers (contd.)

MUN Faculty of Education Observers Laura Jane Taylor
Rebecca Smith
Douglas Clark
Jane Walsh

Staff

Executive Director Steve Brooks
Assistant Executive DirectorStefanie Tuff
Senior Administrative Staff Officer, Programs and Services Beverley Park
Administrative Staff Office, Programs and Services Ian Crewe
Administrative Staff Officer, Programs and ServicesPerry Downey
Administrative Staff Office, Programs and Services Miriam Sheppard
Administrative Staff Officer, Programs and Services George Tucker
Manager of Corporate ServicesWade Rogers
Communications Officer Lesley-Ann Browne
Employee Assistance Program OfficersJudy McCann-Beranger
Gail Carroll
Executive Assistant, GovernanceGeraldyn Costello
Assistant to Senior ManagementSusan Cardoulis
Assistant, Programs and ServicesJoann Russell
Assistant, Programs and ServicesJeanine Warford
Assistant, Communications Michelle LaMarche
Accountant/Assistant, Corporate ServicesRita Tee
Systems AnalystScott Jackson
IT Administrator.....Jason Brenton

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

I. PRE-CONVENTION SESSIONS

A number of pre-Convention sessions were held on Tuesday, April 18, as follows:

A. Orientation Session for New Delegates

During this session, Mr. Steve Brooks, Executive Director, provided information to new delegates on the functioning of the Convention.

B. Pension and Group Insurance Benefit Statement Information Session

During this session, staff members from Programs and Services reviewed group insurance and pension benefit statements with participants who had registered for the session.

C. Pre-Budget Briefing Session

This session was held by the Finance and Property Committee to review and answer questions from delegates on the proposed NLTA Budgets for 2017-19.

II. OPENING SESSION

A. The 2017 Biennial General Meeting was officially opened at 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. The opening session commenced with the singing of "O Canada" and the "Ode to Newfoundland" led by the duo Johnson and Lear, substitute teachers with the NL English School District. Mr. Jim Dinn, NLTA President and Chairperson for this session, welcomed delegates and special guests to the BGM. In particular, he welcomed the following special guests who were in attendance:

Ms. Heather Smith, President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF)
Mr. Guy Arsenault, President of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association
Ms. Nancy Lawlor, Vice-President of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
Mr. Duncan Ford, former member of Provincial Executive
Mr. Gary Bambrick, former branch president
Dr. Kirk Anderson, Dean of the Faculty of Education at Memorial University
Ms. Sandra Lane, Executive Assistant, Governance, with the CTF
Ms. Tina Matthews, Mr. Ed Buckingham and Ms. Debra Sparkes-Mercer, members of the Electoral Committee

B. Election Statements by Provincial Executive Candidates

During this session, which was chaired by Ms. Tina Matthews, Chairperson of the Electoral Committee, candidates for positions on the Provincial Executive Council for 2017-19 were afforded the opportunity to address Convention delegates.

The business session recessed at 8:35 p.m.

Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 8:35 a.m.

III. FIRST GENERAL SESSION

The President informed the assembly that it had been a decision of Provincial Executive to continue to use an independent chairperson for all sessions of the Convention. He then introduced Mr. Don Ash who had agreed to be the Chairperson for Convention.

Chairperson: Don Ash

The following change in seated delegates was recorded: Mark Thorne replacing Amanda Ryan for Baie Verte Peninsula Branch.

The Chair welcomed the following observers to Convention from the Memorial University Faculty of Education:

*Laura Jane Taylor representing the Student Society for Primary/Elementary First Degree
Rebecca Smith representing the Student Society for Primary/Elementary Second Degree
Douglas Clark President of the Student Society for Intermediate/High School Degree*

A. Greetings from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

The Chairperson noted that the Minister of Education was not available to bring greetings.

B. President's Address

Following an introduction by the Chairperson, NLTA President James Dinn delivered his address to delegates. *(The speech is available as a digital recording and a copy is attached to the Official Minutes.)*

IV. SECOND GENERAL SESSION

A. Adoption of Agenda

Blundon-Dwyer: That the agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

B. Appointment of Convention Committees

Executive recommended appointment of the following Convention committees:

Electoral Committee

Tina Matthews (Chair)
Ed Buckingham
Debra Sparkes-Mercer
Miriam Sheppard (Staff)

Steering Committee

James Dinn (Chair)
Derek Drover
Dean Ingram
Jeanne Williams
Steve Brooks (Staff & Parliamentarian)

Resolutions Committee

Ryan White (Chair)
Sandy Crowley
Angela Dawe
Heather Godden
Russell Stockley
Ian Crewe (Staff)
Perry Downey (Staff)

Scrutineers Committee

Kim Siegfriedt (Chair)
Patti Corcoran
Darren Goodyear
Earle Pike
Sharon Young
Beverley Park (Staff)
George Tucker (Staff)

Finance Committee

Craig Hicks (Chair)
Maureen Doyle-Gillingham
Trent Langdon
Colin Short
Wade Rogers (Staff)

Santos-Weir: That the proposed committee members be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

C. Suggested Duties of Convention Committees

The suggested duties of Convention Committees, as outlined in the Convention Kit, were accepted.

D. Convention Policies**1. Rules of Procedure**

The Chairperson noted that all sessions of this Convention will be governed by "Advice on the Conduct of Meetings", published by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, and **Robert's Rules of Order**.

2. Chairperson of the Finance Committee re Convention Expenses

Mr. Craig Hicks, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, briefly outlined for delegates the various expense guidelines in effect for the Convention.

3. Processing of Resolutions

The Chairperson reviewed with delegates the procedures in place for BGM resolutions received from branches and special interest councils and for resolutions from the floor.

E. Minutes of the 2015 Biennial General Meeting

1. Adoption

Loch-Sheppard: That the Minutes of the 2015 Biennial General Meeting be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising

a) Report on Resolutions from the 2015 BGM

Discussion took place on the Report on Resolutions from the 2015 BGM, which contained information on the actioning of resolutions that had been accepted or referred to Executive at that BGM. *(A copy of the Report is attached to the Official Minutes.)*

F. Proposed By-Law Changes

The Chairperson noted that a two-thirds majority is required in order for by-law changes to be approved. Throughout these proposed changes, additions to current policy appear in **bold print** and deletions appear in ~~strike through~~.

1. From Provincial Executive

a) **By-Law XI. – Nominations and Election for Executive** [*Nomination for Executive by Signatures of Members*]

Dinn-Ingram: That Sections A.(1), C. and G. of By-Law XI. – Nominations and Election for Executive be amended to read:

“A. Any member of the NLTA in good standing* is eligible for nomination and election to the Executive, providing:

(1) Nomination papers are signed by at least 10 members in good standing*, each signature being witnessed by

- (a) an officer of a branch; or
- (b) a member of the NLTA Executive; or
- (c) a Commissioner for Oaths.

and submitted to the Electoral Committee, appointed by the NLTA Executive.

~~(1) Nominations for the Executive shall be provided by the branches and by groups of 10 or more teachers where no branch exists. Any number of nominees may be submitted by each regional and unattached local branch providing that the consent of each nominee is obtained by the branch, and the nomination is approved by a motion at a duly constituted general branch meeting.~~

- C. Nominees are free to contact branches and special interest councils in any way they see fit keeping in mind the professional Code of Ethics. ~~and B~~ branches and special interest councils may or may not instruct delegates to the Convention as they see fit, with the understanding that after the first ballot is cast at the Convention, delegates are released from their instructions and may vote at their discretion.
- G. No member shall be eligible to be a member of the Executive unless such person is residing in, or actively teaching in, the province of Newfoundland Labrador during the term of office.”

And that this by-law change take effect following BGM 2017.

CARRIED

b) New By-Law XIII. – Nominating and Election Procedures for Vice-President [*Election of the Vice-President at BGM*]

Dinn-Drover: That a new By-Law XIII. – Nominating and Election Procedures for Vice-President of the NLTA By-Laws be added to read:

“A. Any member of the NLTA in good standing is eligible for nomination and election to the office of Vice-President, providing:

- (1) Nomination papers are signed by at least 10 members in good standing*, each signature being witnessed by
 - (a) an officer of a branch, or
 - (b) a member of the NLTA Executive, or

(c) a Commissioner for Oaths

and submitted to the Electoral Committee, appointed by the NLTA Executive.

- (2) The Electoral Committee shall receive nominations for the office of Vice-President up to the commencement of the opening day of Convention sessions in accordance with By-Law XIII.A.(1). Such nominations must be accompanied by a short biographical sketch, an election statement, and a signed statement by the candidate of willingness to serve under conditions from time to time established by the Convention and applicable during the term sought.
 - (3) Subject to XIII.A.(1), for publication in the Convention *Bulletin* nominations must be postmarked or hand delivered to the NLTA Head Office not later than the date which is two months prior to the opening date of Convention.
- B. Photographs and information on candidates referred to in XIII.A.(3) must be published in The Bulletin at least one month prior to the opening date of Convention.
- C. Nominees are free to contact branches and special interests councils in any way they see fit, keeping in mind the professional Code of Ethics. Branches and special interest councils may or may not instruct delegates to the Convention as they see fit, with the understanding that after the first ballot is cast at the Convention, delegates are released from their instructions and may vote at their discretion.
- D. Balloting

The Vice-President shall be elected by ballot on the first day of Convention, as per the following:

- (1) Voting shall be by written secret ballots issued to voting delegates to Convention as defined by Section 10 of the NLTA Act;
- (2) Ballots shall be collected and counted by the official scrutineers appointed by the Convention, in the presence of the Electoral Committee, and one representative for each candidate, if s/he so desires;
- (3) The results of each ballot shall be announced by the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee;

- (4) In the event that the names of more than two candidates appear on a ballot, the candidate receiving the most votes must have a majority of the registered delegates to be declared elected;
 - (5) If no majority of votes is registered on the initial or succeeding ballots, where more than two candidates are involved, the candidate receiving the least number of votes shall be dropped and balloting will continue;
 - (6) On a ballot containing the names of two candidates, the candidate receiving most votes shall be declared elected;
 - (7) In the event of a tie on a ballot with only two candidates, a further ballot shall be held after each candidate has been given the opportunity to address the Convention. If another tie then results, each member of the Electoral Committee shall cast a secret ballot to break the tie before the results of the ballot are released. Such a ballot shall be conducted by the Chairperson of the Scrutineers Committee.
- E. Anyone alleging irregularities in nomination or election procedures must make such allegations known in writing to the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee at the Convention not later than 30 minutes after the announcement of the results of the election. Upon receiving such allegation, the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee must appoint a committee of three registered delegates, excluding nominees, who will investigate the allegation and report their findings and recommendations to the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee before 10:00 a.m. of the session of the following day of the Convention. In the event that the allegation of irregularities is accepted as proved, by a majority of the committee appointed to investigate the matter, the matter and conclusions must be reported to the Convention by the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee. After receiving the report of the Electoral Committee the Convention shall, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of registered delegates, allow the election to stand or otherwise a new election shall be held in respect of the Executive positions affected by the irregularity.”

DEFEATED

The Chairperson informed delegates that since the proposed new By-Law XIII. had been defeated, the proposed changes to current By-Law XII. – Nominating and Election Procedures for Officers and current By-Law XV. – Elections would not be presented.

The business session recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

Chairperson: Don Ash

G. Proposed By-Law Changes (contd.)

1. From Branches

- a) **By-Law X. – Convention [Number of Delegates Per Branch to Attend BGM] (Appalachia Branch)**

Blundon-Sheaves: That By-Law X – Convention be amended in part to read: “Delegates shall be elected from the legally constituted local and regional branches in the ratio of one to every 85 ~~100~~ members, or fraction thereof, in the branch.”

It was agreed to replace the number “85” with the number “75”.

Santos-Vivian: That the motion be tabled.

CARRIED

- b) **By-Law XV. – Elections [Timing of Election for NLTA President and Vice-President] (Appalachia Branch)**

Blundon-Dwayne Parsons: That By-Law XV.A. – Elections be amended to read as follows:

“Elections for President and Vice-President shall be held on a day selected by the Electoral Committee, as appointed under section B. of the By-Law, **within three weeks of the Convention referred to in By-Law X** ~~on the first Tuesday in December in the year prior to the year of the expiry of the term of office for that position.~~ Election information shall be published in *The Bulletin* at least one month prior to the date of the elections.” and

That By-Law XIII.A.(1) – Duties of Officers (Office of the President) be amended to read as follows:

“The term of office shall be for a two-year period from August 1 in the year ~~following the year~~ the President was elected to July 31 of the second year following.”

DEFEATED

c) **By-Law XII. – Nominating and Election Procedures for Officers and By-Law XV. – Elections [Electronic Voting for President and Vice-President] (Appalachia Branch)**

Blundon-Sheaves: That By-Law XII.D.(1) and (2) – Nominating and Election Procedures for Officers (Balloting) be amended as follows:

“The President and Vice-President shall be elected by ballot on election day as per the following:

(1) Voting shall be by ~~written~~ secret ballots issued to active members as defined by By-Law III.

~~(2) Ballots shall be collected and counted by the Branch Executive, in the presence of one representative for each candidates, if s/he so desires.”, and~~

That By-Law XV. – Elections be amended by adding a new Section C to read:

“Notwithstanding any other provisions in these by-laws with respect to ballots and voting procedures for President and Vice-President elections, the Provincial Executive Council may determine that voting may be done by electronic means, in whole or in part, in accordance with procedures in NLTA policy approved by the Provincial Executive Council.”

CARRIED

d) **By-Law XIII.A. – Duties of Officers (Office of the President) [Term of Office of the President] (Humber Branch)**

Adey-S. Fifield: That By-Law XIII.A(3) – Duties of Officers (Office of the President) be amended to read: “The office shall not be held for more than successive terms by the same person. A portion of a term shall be considered as a full term.”

Following the vote on the motion, division was called. Votes were then counted by a show of hands and the ruling of the chair that the *Adey-S. Fifield* motion had been defeated was upheld.

MOTION - DEFEATED

President Jim Dinn left the room for discussion of the following proposed by-law change due a possible conflict of interest.

e) **By-Law IV.B. – Associate Membership (Privileges) and By-Law V.B. – Life Membership (Privileges) [*Privileges of Associate and Life Members*] (St. John's Centre Branch)**

Jenkins-A. Dawe: That By-Law IV.B. (1) and (2) – Associate Membership (Privileges) be amended to read:

“(1) General – Associate Members in this category may attend and speak at meetings of the Association, but not at meetings or portions of meetings relative to collective bargaining. They shall not be entitled to hold office in the Association, nor vote, nor be members of the Executive, **except in the case of a retiring President who shall be eligible to serve fully on the Executive in the position of Past-President as an Associate Member for the year immediately following his or her term of office as President.**

(2) Retired Teachers – Retired teachers in this category may attend and speak at meetings of the Association, but not at meetings or portions of meetings relative to collective bargaining. They shall not be entitled to hold office in the Association, nor vote, nor be members of the Executive, **except in the case of a retiring President who shall be eligible to serve fully on the Executive in the position of Past-President as an Associate Member for the year immediately following his or her term of office as President.** Other privileges may be granted as per Association Policy.” and

That By-Law V.B. – Life Membership (Privileges) be amended to read:

“Life Members may attend and speak at meetings of the Association, but not at meetings or portions of meetings relative to collective bargaining. They shall not be entitled to hold office in the Association, nor vote, nor be members of the Executive, **except in the case of a retiring President who shall be eligible to serve fully on the Executive in the position of Past-President as a Life Member for the year immediately following his or her term of office as President.** Other privileges may be granted as per Association policy.”

DEFEATED

H. Resolutions to the 2017 BGM

Mr. Ash, Chairperson, noted that the Executive recommendations on resolutions to the 2017 BGM had been forwarded to delegates in their Convention kits. He reminded delegates of the current policy of the Association regarding resolutions to BGM in that all resolutions for which the Executive recommendation is to **Carry** or **Amend and Carry** are presented in a block motion. Delegates who wish to discuss any particular resolution within the block must ask to have it removed prior to the motion being passed by the assembly.

Dinn-Ingram: That the following resolutions be accepted as per the Executive recommendations to Convention: Resolutions 4-5, 7-20.

It was agreed to remove Resolutions 4, 5, 7, 8, and 13 from the block of motions.

MOTION AS EDITED – CARRIED

The Chairperson noted that Resolution 21 from the St. John's Centre Branch is **CURRENT POLICY** of the Association and no vote is required.

Resolution 21 reads: "That the NLTA review, and make changes, if deemed necessary, to the composition of the Negotiating Team to ensure the make-up of the team reflects the make-up of the teaching population."

The following resolutions were **CARRIED** or **CARRIED AS AMENDED** as per the Executive recommendations:

Resolutions in Category B – Programs and Services

Resolution 9 –

That the NLTA lobby school boards to ensure, to the extent possible, that student Individual Education Plan meetings occur during school hours. **(Conception Bay South)**

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Resolution 10 –

That the NLTA lobby school boards to split Kindergarten classes whenever class size exceeds the cap of 20 students. **(Conception Bay South)**

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Resolution 11 –

That the NLTA lobby the Department of Education and school boards to ensure each teacher who is responsible for students has adequate physical space in which to teach those students. **(Conception Bay South)**

CARRIED

Resolution 12 –

That the NLTA lobby the Department of Education and school boards to move to a true needs based teacher allocation model as opposed to a budget based model. **(Green Bay)**

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Resolution 14 –

That the NLTA enter into discussions with the Department of Education and school boards to come up with a fair, responsible and ethically sound allocation formula for speech-language pathologists taking into consideration workload and geographical responsibility. **(Speech-Language Pathologists Council and Labrador West)**

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Resolution 15 –

That the NLTA Collective Bargaining Committee consider for inclusion in the opening proposals for the next round of negotiations a proposal for one non-teaching day during each reporting period for the purpose of report preparation. **(Labrador West)**

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Resolution 16–

That the NLTA Collective Bargaining Committee consider for inclusion in the opening proposals for the next round of negotiations a proposal to place a cap on multi-grade classrooms of a maximum of two grades per class. **(Labrador West)**

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Resolution 17 –

That the NLTA enter into discussions with the Department of Education and school boards to address the issue of recruitment and retention of school based speech-language pathologists in this province. **(Speech-Language Pathologists Council)**

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Resolution 18 –

That the NLTA enter into discussions with the Department of Education and school boards regarding the specific professional development (PD) needs of speech-language pathologists. **(Speech-Language Pathologists Council)**

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Resolution 19 –

That the NLTA lobby the school boards to ensure an appropriate dedicated space is provided to teachers who are required to complete online PD within their schools. **(Conception Bay South)**

CARRIED

Resolution 20 –

That the NLTA discuss with officials at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development the need to review, and possibly change, the current “Recommended Time Allotments” for each subject area. **(St. John’s Centre)**

CARRIED

I. Resolutions in Category A – Association**Resolution 1 –**

Blundon-Sheaves: That, commencing in 2017, an additional branch executive member (other than the branch president or his/her designate) be permitted to attend one regularly scheduled Joint Council meeting per year; that such additional delegates be divided as equally as possible between the two yearly meetings with the method of division determined by Provincial Executive; that all costs associated with this arrangement be borne by the Association; and that this arrangement continue unless a job action or other event significantly affects the availability of funds. **(Appalachia)**

DEFEATED

Resolution 2 –

Blundon-Dwayne Parsons: That the NLTA investigate the viability and desirability of a three-year term of office for President and Vice-President, such findings to be

presented at the second Joint Council meeting for
2017-18. (Appalachia)

DEFEATED

Resolution 3 –

Blundon-Sheaves: That the NLTA investigate the viability and desirability of changing to a triennial Convention rather than a biennial Convention such findings to be presented at the second Joint Council meeting for 2017-18. (Appalachia)

DEFEATED

Resolution 4 –

Blundon-Sheaves: That the NLTA move to electronic voting for Provincial Executive with the goal of having this system ready for the 2021 BGM. (Appalachia)

Dinn-Ingram: That Resolution 4 be amended to read: “That the NLTA investigate the feasibility of electronic voting at BGM with the possibility of having this system ready for the 2021 BGM.”

CARRIED

MOTION AS AMENDED - CARRIED

Resolution 5 –

Wells-Hawkins: That the NLTA pay the travel expenses of teachers attending the pre-retirement seminar at the full rate of mileage, meals and accommodations. (Clarenbridge)

Dinn-Ingram: That Resolution 5 be amended to read: “That the NLTA pay the travel expenses of teachers attending the pre-retirement seminar at the full rate of kilometres.” (Clarenbridge)

CARRIED

MOTION AS AMENDED - CARRIED

The business session recessed at 12:35 p.m. and reconvened at 1:35 p.m.

V. THIRD GENERAL SESSION

Chairperson: Don Ash

- A. A minute of silence was observed in memory of the following teachers who had died since the 2015 Convention:

Maxwell Adams	Lloyd Curtis	Gerald Hall
Caroline Andrew	Jose Dalisay	Susanna Hannam
Doris Andrews	Sadie Davis	Stella Hapgood
Luz Aramil	Frank Denney	Millicent Harris
Eldon Baker	Desiree Dichmont	Sr. Columba Hartery
Roy Baker	Patricia Doody	Mary Haynes
Catherine Bartlett	Joseph Downey	Paul Hepditch
Margaret Bennett	Teresita Doyle	Margaret Hewitt-Barney
Sarah Beresford	William Doyle	Sister Anne Hickey
Elizabeth Best	Emma Drodge	Pleman Hicks
Mabel Bickford	Aloysius Drover	Audrey Hiscock
Betty Bissell	Catherine Dunne	Clarissa Hiscock
David Blagdon	Edna Earle	Bernice Hogan
Linda Blagdon	Catherine Elliott	Elizabeth Hollett
Goldie Bradbury	Kay Elliott	Philip Hu
Ronald Brewer	Margaret Elms	Leander Hussey
Bertram Brown	Alphonse Farrell	Bernard Hynes
Agnes Bruce	Samuel Fiander	Patricia Hynes
William Burry	Harold Fillier	Linda Janes
Gerald Burton	Noreen Fitzpatrick	Albert Jenkins
Douglas Bussey	Glenys Fleming	William Jones
Beverly Butler	Dorothy Ford	Debra Ann Kearney
Leonard Button	Rayfield Fowlow	Archibald Keeping
Milagros Cadorna	Bertram Freake	Paul Kelly
Isaac Caravan	Freda French	Sister Mary Kelly
Clara Case	Angela Furey-Demas	Ann Kennedy
Eileen Churchill	Loretta Gardiner	Sr. M. Mark Kennedy
Edward Clarke	Carl George	John Keough
Gordon Clarke	Viola Gillingham	Daniel King
Linda Coates	Archelaus Goodland	Gordon King
Leveson Cocarell	Ruby Gough	James King
Kimberley Cole	Elsie Goulding	Sharon King
Clide Collins	Lester Goulding	Jocelyn Lane
Daphne Collins	William Greeley	Madonna Lee
Maude Collins	Jane Green	Annie Leyte
Dana Cox	Charles Gregory	Roseanne Linehan
Melvin Critch	Dave Hackett	Daisy Littlejohn
Selby Critch	Michael Haley	John Lynch
Jacqueline Cumby	Barbara Hall	Irene MacPherson

Lloyd Martin	Selma Payne	Brother Leo Taylor
Marguerite Martin	Evelyn Pelley	Brahma Tewari
Bernadette	George Penney	Jacob Thomas
McCormack	Benjamin Perry	Ida Tilley
Allan Mercer	Patricia Piercey	Elizabeth Toms
Graham Mercer	Shirley Pinksen	Robert Toms
James Mercer	Elizabeth Piper	Mary Tremblett
Keith Mercer	Shannon Pittman	Brenda Tricco
Sr. Amelia Mooney	Sr. Margaret Pittman	Olive Troake
Donald Morris	Douglas Power	Roy Trowbridge
Henry Morris	Jerry Pryor	Raymond Tucker
Sr. Rosalie Morrissey	Darrell Pye	Dr. Otto Tucker
Mary Moss	Marcella Quinlan	Ruby Tucker
Bramwell Moulard	Randolph Ralph	Linda Vatcher
David Murphy	Anna Regula Schule	Lester Vey
Donald Murphy	B. Joan Rideout	Sr. L. M. Wakeham
Sister Marie Murphy	Raymond Riggs	Andrew Walach
Anna Myers	Eli Rogers	Nathan Walters
Edward Neil	Thomas Rossiter	Joyce Warren
Harris Noftle	James Ryan	Rose Warren
Peter Noftle	Audrey Sceviour	Lloyd Webber
Esperanza	Wanda Skinner	Dellena Wells
Noseworthy	Gordon Smith	Gilbert Wells
Lawrence O'Leary	Benjamin Snook	Lorna Whalen
Bernadette O'Neil	Dorothy Snow	Sandra Whiffen
Kathleen O'Quinn	Lorraine Steeves	Lewis Williams
David Organ	Austin Stewart	Douglas Woolgar
Carrie Penney	Hector Swain	

B. Keynote Address – “It’s all about relationships: Strategies to buffer children as well as educators from stress, and promote health, wellbeing and success in schools.”

The Chairperson introduced Dr. Eva Oberle, Assistant Professor, School of Population and Public Health, The Human Early Learning Partnership, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia. Dr. Oberle spoke to delegates on the topic “It’s all about relationships: Strategies to buffer children as well as educators from stress, and promote health, wellbeing and success in schools.” Her presentation was followed by a question period. *(Dr. Oberle’s presentation is available as a digital recording.)*

Blundon-Flynn: That the Convention move to a closed session.

CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION

C. Group Insurance Auditor's Reports and Budgets

Mr. Bill Chaisson, Chairperson of the Group Insurance Managers, informed delegates that the Group Insurance Auditor's Reports for the years ending August 31, 2015 and August 31, 2016 and the budgets for the Group Insurance Managers for 2017-18 and 2018-19 were being presented for the information of delegates. *(Copies are attached to the Official Minutes.)* Questions were then entertained on the documents.

D. Auditor's Reports and Financial Statement

1. Auditor's Reports

Mr. Craig Hicks, Chairperson of the Finance and Property Committee, informed delegates that the Association's Auditor's Reports for the years ending August 31, 2015 and August 31, 2016 were being presented for the information of delegates. *(Copies are attached to the Official Minutes.)* Questions were then entertained on the documents.

2. Financial Statement

The Association's Financial Statement to February 28, 2017 was presented for the information of members. *(A copy is attached to the Official Minutes.)*

E. Tabling of the Proposed Budgets for 2017-18 and 2018-19

Hicks-Short: That the proposed NLTA Budgets for 2017-18 and 2018-19 be placed on the table.

CARRIED

Short-Santos: That Convention rise from closed session.

CARRIED

OPEN SESSION

F. Report to Convention

The Chairperson reported that the Association's Report to Convention to April 2017 was being presented for the information of delegates. *(A copy is attached to the Official Minutes.)* Questions were then entertained on the contents of the Report.

G. Resolutions in Category A – Association (contd.)**Resolution 6 –**

Blundon-Sheaves: That the Association establish a maximum amount of funds which branches are permitted to accumulate in their account, such amount to be determined by Provincial Executive in consultation with branch presidents at the Fall 2017 Joint Council meeting. **(Appalachia)**

Dinn-Drover: That Resolution 6 be referred to Executive.

CARRIED

H. Resolutions in Category B – Programs and Services**Resolution 7 –**

Blundon-Dwayne Parsons: That the NLTA survey its members to determine how parent-teacher interviews are conducted across the province with the goal of working with the school district to have common parent-teacher interview times based on similar school configurations and teacher workload, such findings to be presented at the first Joint Council meeting for 2017-18. **(Appalachia)**

Dinn-Ingram: That Resolution 7 be amended to read: “That the NLTA survey its members to determine how parent-teacher interviews are conducted across the province with the goal of working with the school district to have common parent-teacher interview times based on similar school configurations and teacher workload, such findings to be presented at a ~~the first~~ Joint Council meeting ~~during for~~ 2017-18.”

CARRIED

MOTION AS AMENDED – CARRIED

Resolution 8 –

Blundon-Dwayne Parsons: That the NLTA lobby the Department of Education to provide principals with three days of annual leave to be used at principals’ discretion in recognition of the additional time spent at school before classes begin in September and after school closes in June. **(Appalachia)**

Santos-K. Fifield: That Resolution 8 be amended by replacing the word “principals” with the words “school administrators”.

DEFEATED

Dinn-Williams: That Resolution 8 be amended to read: “That the NLTA Collective Bargaining Committee consider for inclusion in the opening proposals for the next round of negotiations a proposal ~~to be~~ by the Department of Education to provide principals with three days of annual leave to be used at principals’ discretion in recognition of the additional time spent at school before classes begin in September and after school closes in June.”

Quigley-Mugford: That the amendment be amended by replacing the word “principals” with the word “teachers”.

DEFEATED

AMENDMENT – CARRIED

Debate on the resolution was suspended as the adjournment time for the session had been reached.

The business sessions for the first day of Convention concluded at 4:05 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AND THE PRESIDENT’S AWARD

The Association’s dinner to confer Honorary Membership and the President’s Award was held at the Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland. Special guests were welcomed by the President.

Following an introduction by Mr. Duncan Ford, Honorary Membership in the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers’ Association was conferred upon Ms. Doreen Noseworthy. Ms. Noseworthy then addressed the group.

The President’s Award, given to an active member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers’ Association who has served at the provincial, executive, branch, or special interest council level, who is recognized as a person who has given of him/herself to the Association and who is an exemplary educator, was presented to Ms. Jeanne Williams. Ms. Williams briefly addressed the gathering.

Thursday, April 20, 2017, 8:35 a.m.

VI. FOURTH GENERAL SESSION

Chairperson: Don Ash

The following changes in seated delegates were noted:

Stephanie Hedderson replacing Sharon Young for the Aurora Branch

Mary Ward replacing Sean Weir for the Coastal Labrador South Branch

Donna Fudge replacing Janice House for the Taylor's Brook Branch

Courtney Williams replacing Heather Brake for the Table Mountain Branch

Amanda Ryan replacing Mark Thorne for the Baie Verte Peninsula Branch

Luke Neville of the Physical Education Council is not present for today's session and is not being replaced.

A. Report of the Electoral Committee – Election of Executive

Ms. Tina Matthews, Chairperson of the Electoral Committee, chaired this and all subsequent sessions dealing with the election of Executive. She then introduced the other members of her Committee: Ed Buckingham and Debra Sparkes-Mercer.

Ms. Matthews noted that the election of Executive is governed by By-Law XI., subsections A.(2) and D. which state, respectively:

“The President shall, provided s/he so desires, be an ex officio Executive member for the year following the completion of the President's term of office.”

“Seventeen Executive members shall be elected biennially, and the 10 who have the greatest number of votes shall, with the President, the Vice-President and a person holding office under XI.A.(2), where applicable, form the Executive Council. The remaining Executive members shall be classified as alternate members.”

She informed delegates that no additional candidates had declared themselves as of the deadline for nominations. She then introduced each of the 13 declared candidates to the assembly.

Ms. Matthews noted that delegates must vote for not more than 10 candidates of their choice and that there are 105 eligible voters.

Ballots sheets were distributed and the vote was conducted.

Mr. Ash took the Chair.

B. Summary Report on NLTA Priorities for 2015-17

The Chairperson reported that the Association had set five priorities for the 2015-17 school years. They are: Teacher Health, Workload, Inclusive Education, Membership Engagement and Awareness, and Fostering and Maintaining Relationships with External Agencies. These priorities appear on the agenda of each Executive and Joint Council meeting where an update on the progress of each of the priorities is presented and discussed. The priorities were then reviewed on a page-by-page basis with questions/comments entertained from the assembly. *(A copy of the document is attached to the Official Minutes.)*

C. Resolutions in Category B – Programs and Services (contd.)

Resolution 8 –

Discussion continued on the once amended *Blundon-Dwayne Parsons* motion which had been suspended at the end of the last session. The resolution as amended reads:

“That the NLTA Collective Bargaining Committee consider for inclusion in the opening proposals for the next round of negotiations a proposal to provide principals with three days of annual leave to be used at principals’ discretion in recognition of the additional time spent at school before classes begin in September and after school closes in June.”

Following the vote on the amended motion, division was called. Votes were then counted by a show of hands and the ruling of the chair that the *Blundon-Dwayne Parsons* motion as amended had been defeated was upheld.

MOTION AS AMENDED – DEFEATED

The following change in seated delegates was recorded: Sean Weir replacing Mary Ward for the Coastal Labrador South Branch.

Resolution 13 –

Crowley-Mugford: That the NLTA lobby the government during negotiations to have a separate teaching unit allocation for French Immersion.

Dinn-Drover: That Resolution 13 be amended to read: “That the NLTA lobby the government ~~during negotiations~~ to **develop** have as a separate teaching unit allocation for French Immersion.”

It was agreed to edit the amendment to read: "That the NLTA lobby government to apply the same classroom caps in French immersion as in English."

AMENDMENT AS EDITED – CARRIED

MOTION AS AMENDED - CARRIED

The Chair recognized the following guests to Convention:

Kevin Foley and Roger Simmons, Past-Presidents of NLTA

Ed Moore and Paula Smith, past NLTA Executive members

Doreen Noseworthy, President of the Retired Teachers' Association of NL

Blundon-Dwayne Parsons: That the once edited **Blundon-Sheaves** motion re the proposed amendment to By-Law X. – Convention be lifted from the table.

CARRIED

D. Proposed By-Law Changes (contd.)

1. By-Law X. – Convention [*Number of Delegates Per Branch to Attend BGM*] (Appalachia Branch) (contd.)

Blundon-Sheaves: That By-Law X – Convention be amended in part to read: "Delegates shall be elected from the legally constituted local and regional branches in the ratio of one to every 85 ~~100~~ members, or fraction thereof, in the branch."

The Chairperson noted that it had been previously agreed to change the number "85" to "75".

As had been requested by the assembly, the Executive Director provided information on the additional Convention delegate entitlement for branches if the proposed by-law change were approved with the ratio of one to every 75 members.

Sheaves-Blundon: That the motion be amended to read: "That By-Law X – Convention be amended in part to read: 'Delegates shall be elected from the legally constituted local and regional branches in the ratio of one to every 100 members, or fraction thereof, in the branch and that there be a minimum of two voting delegates regardless of branch size.'"

Ingram-Drover: That the *Blundon-Sheaves* motion be referred to Executive.

CARRIED

E. Proposed Changes to NLTA Policy

The Chairperson informed delegates that the proposed changes to NLTA policy statements will be voted on “in block”, and Convention delegates may alter or reject such policy statements. Changes, if desired, will be by way of an amendment to the motion to accept the policy statements. Included in this motion will be changes in the following policies:

1. Policy on Table Officers
2. Policy on Expense Claims
3. Policy on NLTA Investments
4. Policy on Committees
5. Policy on BGM Electoral Committee
6. Policy on Election of President and Vice-President by Province-wide Vote
7. Policy on Release of Membership Information
8. Policy on Group Insurance
9. Policy on Teacher Allocation (Specialists – Guidance Counsellors)

Dinn-Drover: That the proposed changes to NLTA policy be accepted as presented. *(The wording of the policy changes is attached to these Minutes as Appendix B.)*

Ingram-Williams: That the motion be amended by changing the Policy on the Election of the President and Vice-President by Province-wide Vote to reinstate references to the Vice-President being elected by province-wide vote.

CARRIED

Hutchings-Dale Parsons: That the motion be further amended by deleting section m)iii) from the Financial Guidelines section of the Policy on the Election of the President and Vice-President by Province-wide Vote.

Discussion on the motion was suspended for the report of the Electoral Committee

F. Report of the Electoral Committee – Election of Executive (contd.)

Ms. Matthews reported that 104 ballots had been cast in the election of Executive and that there were no spoiled ballots and no ties. She then announced the names and vote totals of all candidates for Executive including the newly elected Executive as follows:

Ryan, Gabriel	76
Drover, Derek	75
Hicks, Craig	70
West, Chesley	66
Doyle-Gillingham, Maureen	64

Santos, Joseph	61
Chaisson, Bill	59
Loch, Kelly	57
Reddick, Donna	55
Short, Colin	52

The alternates, in order of votes polled, are as follows:

Jenkins, Jamie	46
Weir, Sean	44
Flynn, Kevin	23

Ms. Matthews reported that all elections had been completed. She noted, for the information of candidates, that under Association by-laws a recount procedure is available for up to thirty minutes after the adjournment of the session on the second day of Convention. She thanked the other members of the Electoral Committee, the Scrutineers Committee, and the staff members involved with the Committee for their work prior to and during the Convention.

On behalf of the Association, the Chairperson thanked the members of the Electoral Committee for their work during this BGM.

The business session recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

G. Canadian Teachers' Federation Report

The Chairperson introduced Ms. Heather Smith, President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, who brought greetings and addressed the assembly on the work of the Federation on behalf of Canadian teachers. *(Ms. Smith's speech is available as a digital recording.)*

H. Presentation of 2017 CTF International Program Volunteer Recognition Award

Ms. Smith presented the 2017 CTF International Program Volunteer Recognition Award to Ms. Beverley Park, Senior Administrative Officer, Programs and Services, with the NLTA. The award, which was established in 2007, is given annually to a volunteer who has enhanced one or more of the CTF international projects by participating in Project Overseas and/or other international initiatives and who displays exceptional leadership, creativity and decision-making skills. Ms. Park briefly addressed the assembly.

I. Address by the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

Following an introduction by the Chairperson, Ms. Doreen Noseworthy, President of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, brought

greetings and addressed delegates on behalf of the retired teachers of the province. *(Ms. Noseworthy's remarks are available as a digital recording.)*

J. Address by the President-Elect

Mr. Dean Ingram, President-elect for 2017-19, addressed delegates. *(Mr. Ingram's remarks are available as a digital recording.)*

K. Address by the Vice-President-Elect

Mr. Trent Langdon, Vice-President-elect for 2017-19, addressed delegates. *(Mr. Ingram's remarks are available as a digital recording.)*

The following changes in seated delegates were recorded:

Jennifer Pilgrim replacing Patti Corcoran for the St. Mary's Bay Branch

Sharon Young replacing Stephanie Hedderson for the Aurora Branch

L. Proposed Changes to NLTA Policy (contd.)

Discussion continued on the *Hutchings-Dale Parsons* motion to amend the motion to accept the proposed policy changes.

Hutchings-Dale Parsons: That the motion be further amended by deleting the proposed new section m)iii) from the Financial Guidelines section of the Policy on the Election of the President and Vice-President by Province-wide Vote, which reads:

“Candidates receiving no less than ten percent (10%) of the overall votes cast on the initial ballot are entitled to reimbursement, subject to an audit of the disclosure of all financial contributions and expenditures, of the lesser of \$2,000 or forty percent (40%) of eligible expenses. Eligible expenses for reimbursement include the cost of travel, unpaid leave, printing and communications, but does not include the value of “in kind” contributions. The maximum funds to be made available to all candidates under this policy is set at \$10,000. In situations where the amount of eligible reimbursement for all candidates exceeds \$10,000, the reimbursement will be prorated as a share of \$10,000. For example, in a situation where six candidates are all entitled to the maximum \$2,000 reimbursement, each candidate will receive \$1666.66.”

DEFEATED

Discussion continued on the once amended *Dinn-Drover* motion to accept proposed policy changes.

Adey-Hutchings: That the motion be further amended by deleting the following words from the proposed new section m)iii) of the Financial Guidelines section of the Policy on the Election of the President and Vice-President by Province-wide Vote: “receiving no less than ten (10%) of the overall votes cast on an initial ballot”.

CARRIED

Discussion continued on the twice amended *Dinn-Drover* motion to accept the proposed policy changes and was then suspended for the lunch break.

The business session recessed at 12:15 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF ASSOCIATION AWARDS

The Association’s luncheon to present provincial awards was held in the Court Garden of the Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland, St. John’s. The Vice-President, who chaired the luncheon, informed guests that since the Association has now moved to biennial general meetings, awards for both 2016 and 2017 would be presented to the recipients.

The Bancroft Award, established by the Association to recognize outstanding service by active members at the branch level, was presented by the President to Jamie Jenkins, nominated by the St. John’s Centre Branch, Peter McCormack, nominated by the Labrador West Branch, and Katherine Rowsell, nominated by the Humber Branch, for 2016, and to Christina Cox, nominated by the St. John’s Centre Branch, for 2017.

The Barnes Award, established by the Association to recognize outstanding professional development service by teachers at the special interest council level, was presented by the President to Robert Matthews, nominated by the School Administrators’ Council, for 2016, and to Kellie Baker, nominated by the Physical Education Council, for 2017.

The Special Recognition Award, instituted by Johnson Inc. to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers’ Association, was presented by Mr. John Thompson, Senior Vice-President, Business Development and Marketing of Johnson Inc., to Robert Parsons, nominated by the Granforline Branch, for 2016, and to Deborah Green, nominated by the Humber Branch, for 2017. The award is presented annually to an active member of the NLTA who, while a teacher in the province, made a major contribution to the cultural, social and/or community life of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Patricia Cowan Award for Support and Promotion of Education is named in honour of the first woman president of the NLTA. Established in 2007 to recognize individuals or groups outside the K-12 school system for their outstanding contribution to teachers and to the teaching profession either through their role as advocates or through a relationship with the

NLTA resulting in a positive impact on teaching and learning, the award is presented at Convention during the final year of a President's term. The President presented the award for 2017 to GERALYN COSTELLO for her contributions to the Association during her almost 42 years of service as an employee of the NLTA.

The business session reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

VII. FIFTH GENERAL SESSION

The following changes in seated delegates were recorded:

*Janice House replacing Donna Fudge for the Taylor's Brook Branch
Heather Brake replacing Courtney Williams for the Table Mountain Branch*

The Chair recognized Jane Walsh who is replacing Douglas Clark as a representative for the Society for Intermediate/High School Studies at the Faculty of Education

Gillingham-Doyle/Quigley: That Convention move to a closed session.

CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION FOR DELEGATES AND TEACHERS

A. Proposed Budgets for 2017-18 and 2018-19

Young-LeShane: That the proposed NLTA Budgets for 2017-18 and 2018-19 be lifted from the table.

CARRIED

Mr. Hicks, Chairperson of the Finance and Property Committee, informed delegates that an amendment had been made by Provincial Executive to the proposed budgets for 2017-18 and 2018-19 that had been printed in the Convention kit. This amendment added amounts in the Emergency Fund for the continuation of the Association's public awareness campaign for the next two budget years – \$700,000 for 2017-18 and \$1,050,000 for 2018-19. The revised document had been distributed to delegates at the BGM registration.

Hicks-Langdon: That the proposed NLTA Budgets for 2017-18 and 2018-19 be accepted. *(The Budgets are attached to these Minutes as Appendix A.)*

CARRIED

Blundon-Budgell: That Convention rise from closed session.

CARRIED

OPEN SESSION

The Chair recognized the following guest to Convention: Clayton Rice, Treasurer of the Retired Teachers' Association of NL.

B. Proposed Changes to NLTA Policy (contd.)

Discussion continued on the twice amended *Dinn-Drover* motion to accept the proposed policy changes.

MOTION AS AMENDED - CARRIED

Dwyer-Jenkins: That the proposed changes to By-Law IV.B. – Associate Membership (Privileges) and By-Law V.B. – Life Membership (Privileges) be reconsidered.

Following the vote on the motion, division was called. Votes were then counted by a show of hands and the ruling of the chair that the *Dwyer-Jenkins* motion had been defeated was overturned.

MOTION - CARRIED

C. Proposed By-Law Changes from Branches (contd.)

1. By-Law IV.B. – Associate Membership (Privileges) and By-Law V.B. – Life Membership (Privileges) [*Privileges of Associate and Life Members*] (St. John's Centre Branch)

Jenkins-A. Dawe: That By-Law IV.B. (1) and (2) – Associate Membership (Privileges) be amended to read:

“(1) General – Associate Members in this category may attend and speak at meetings of the Association, but not at meetings or portions of meetings relative to collective bargaining. They shall not be entitled to hold office in the Association, nor vote, nor be members of the Executive, **except in the case of a retiring President who shall be eligible to serve fully on the Executive in the position of Past-President as an Associate Member for the year immediately following his or her term of office as President.**

(2) Retired Teachers – Retired teachers in this category may attend and speak at meetings of the Association, but not at meetings or portions of meetings relative to collective bargaining. They shall not be entitled to hold office in the Association, nor vote, nor be members of the Executive, **except in the case of a retiring President who shall be**

eligible to serve fully on the Executive in the position of Past-President as an Associate Member for the year immediately following his or her term of office as President. Other privileges may be granted as per Association Policy.” and

That By-Law V.B. – Life Membership (Privileges) be amended to read:

“Life Members may attend and speak at meetings of the Association, but not at meetings or portions of meetings relative to collective bargaining. They shall not be entitled to hold office in the Association, nor vote, nor be members of the Executive, **except in the case of a retiring President who shall be eligible to serve fully on the Executive in the position of Past-President as a Life Member for the year immediately following his or her term of office as President.** Other privileges may be granted as per Association policy.”

Johnson-Veitch: That the motion be amended by adding the words “without voting privileges” after the words “fully on the Executive” in each section of the proposed by-laws.

There was a lengthy discussion on the motion.

Santos/Stanley-Genge: That the question be put.

CARRIED

AMENDMENT – DEFEATED

Discussion continued on the original motion.

Field-Blundon: That the question be put.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL MOTION - DEFEATED

D. Resolutions from the Floor

Resolution 1 –

Loch-Goodyear: That the NLTA establish an Ad Hoc Committee of NLTA members to review the policy, procedures and regulations for the province-wide vote for Vice-President and President.

CARRIED

Resolution 2 –

That the NLTA investigate possible ways of supporting candidates for Vice-President financially or through release time with a report to Joint Council in 2018.

With the concurrence of the assembly, Resolution 2 was WITHDRAWN.

Resolution 3 –

Goodyear-Stockley: That the NLTA Collective Bargaining Committee consider for inclusion in the next round of negotiations, a proposal to reinstate sick leave provisions to those that were in place prior to 2006 and that this be done for all teachers.

CARRIED

The business session recessed at 4:20 p.m. and reconvened at 4:45 p.m.

VIII. SIXTH GENERAL SESSION

Chairperson: Don Ash

A. Resolutions from the Floor (contd.)

Snow-Davis: That Resolutions 6, 9 and 10 be carried in block.

CARRIED

These Resolutions 6, 9 and 10 read as follows:

Resolution 6 –

That the NLTA Collective Bargaining Committee consider for inclusion in the opening proposals for the next round of negotiations a proposal that would require school districts to take a stronger approach in imposing and enforcing consequences for students who exhibit extreme and/or chronic misbehaviour.

CARRIED

Resolution 9 –

That the NLTA Collective Bargaining Committee consider for inclusion in the opening proposals for the next round of negotiations a proposal that the first week of school be for teachers only to prepare their classes.

CARRIED

Resolution 10 –

That the NLTA Collective Bargaining Committee consider for inclusion in the opening proposals for the next round of negotiations a proposal to provide teachers with three days of annual leave to be used at teachers' discretion for promotion of teacher wellness/health.

CARRIED

With the concurrence of the assembly, Resolution 13 was dealt with at this time.

Resolution 13 –

Collins-Baker: That the NLTA policy re Negotiating Team for Provincial Negotiations be amended to include a specialist teacher (e.g. music, physical education or fine arts teacher).

Dinn-Drover: That Resolution 13 be referred to Executive.

CARRIED

Resolution 4 –

Brake-A. Dawe: That the NLTA lobby school districts to ensure that if students require the use of technology to meet outcomes, the school district must provide the necessary devices.

CARRIED

The following change in seated delegates was recorded: Jenine Foley replacing Marlene LeShane for the Baccalieu Branch.

Resolution 5 –

Brake-A. Dawe: That the NLTA lobby school districts to institute and enforce a ban on students having/using their own personal electronic devices in school.

Adey-Hutchings: That Resolution 5 be amended to read: "That the NLTA lobby school districts for a consistent policy on the use of personal electronic devices in schools."

Langdon-Short: That Resolution 5 be referred to Executive.

CARRIED

Resolution 7 –

Blundon-Dwayne Parsons: That the NLTA investigate the feasibility and desirability of holding BGM during August instead of the Easter break.

Jenkins-A. Dawe: That Resolution 7 be amended by replacing the word “August” with the word “summer break”.

Ingram-Drover: That the amendment be amended to read: “That Resolution 7 be amended by replacing the words “during August instead” with the word “outside”.

Baker-Way: That Resolution 7 be referred to Executive.

Following the vote on the motion to refer, division was called. Votes were then counted by a show of hands and the ruling of the chair that the *Baker-Way* motion had been carried was upheld.

MOTION TO REFER - CARRIED

Resolution 8 –

Blundon-Dwayne Parsons: That the NLTA report back on the feasibility of electronic voting at future BGMs at a 2017-18 Joint Council meeting.

CARRIED

Resolution 11 –

Aylward-Collins: That the NLTA enter into discussions with districts and the Department of Education to include teaching methods for multiage/grade in the program of study documents and curriculum guides provided by the Department of Education.

It was agreed to add the words “and combined grades” after the word “grade”.

MOTION AS EDITED - CARRIED

Resolution 12 –

Aylward-Collins: That the NLTA enter into discussions with districts and/or the Department of Education to provide a clear definition of what constitutes a small school.

CARRIED

Resolution 14 –

White-Jenkins: That the NLTA consider reserving a pool of surplus funds that branches can apply for to fund alternates to BGM and Joint Council to improve member engagement, such to be discussed at a future Joint Council meeting.

CARRIED

Resolution 15 –

Smith-Dale Parsons: That the NLTA lobby the Department of Education to have limits placed on the amount of supervision time teachers can be required to do in a given day/cycle.

It was agreed to add the words “and school districts” after the word “Education”.

MOTION AS EDITED - CARRIED

The business sessions for the second day of Convention recessed at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 21, 2017, 8:30 a.m.

Chairperson: Don Ash

IX. FINAL SESSION

The following changes in seated delegates were recorded:

Marlene LeShane replacing Janine Foley for the Baccalieu Branch

Luke Neville of the Physical Education Council is present for this session.

Kellie Baker of the Health Education Council is not present for this session and is not being replaced.

A. President's Closing Remarks

Mr. Ingram presented Mr. Dinn with the gavel he had used during his term of office as President, a past president's pin and a President's ring, which was a gift from the Association. On behalf of all members of the NLTA, he thanked Mr. Dinn for his dedication to teachers and to education during his years of involvement with the Association and particularly during his four years as President. Mr. Dinn then briefly addressed the assembly. During his address he referred in particular to Mr. Perry Downey, Administrative Officer, Programs and Services, who would be retiring from his position at the end of April, and thanked him for his service to the Association.

B. Remarks from Retiring Executive Member

The President thanked Ms. Sherri Rose and Ms. Jeanne Williams, members of the 2015-17 Provincial Executive who would not be returning to Executive, for their service to the Association. Ms. Williams briefly addressed the assembly.

C. Installation of the President

Mr. Dinn administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Dean Ingram, NLTA President for 2017-19, who then briefly addressed delegates.

D. Convention Committee Reports

1. Scrutineers

Ms. Kim Siegfriedt, Chairperson of the Scrutineers Committee, reported that the election of Executive had been carried out in accordance with the Association's by-laws and no irregularities had been reported. She thanked the members of her Committee and the Electoral Committee for their work during the Convention.

Siegfriedt-D. Goodyear: That the ballots from the election of the 2017-19 Executive be destroyed.

CARRIED

2. Resolutions

Mr. Ryan White, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, reported that all resolutions, with the exception of New Business resolutions, had been dealt with. He thanked the members of his Committee for their assistance during Convention.

3. Steering

Mr. Jim Dinn, Chairperson of the Steering Committee, stated that all business had been completed with the exception of New Business resolutions, the acceptance of the date for the next BGM and the closing of Convention. He thanked the members of his committee for their assistance during Convention. In particular, he thanked Mr. Don Ash for taking on the role of the Chairperson of Convention.

E. New Business Resolutions

The Chairperson noted that in order for New Business resolutions to be dealt with at BGM there must be unanimous consent of the assembly. Consent was obtained and the following resolutions were introduced.

Resolution 1 –

Field-K. Fifield: That the NLTA establish an ad hoc committee to investigate the feasibility of remuneration for the Vice-President and NLTA Executive.

CARRIED

Resolution 2 –

Davis-Leslie: That the NLTA challenge any school board policy that directly relates to teaching and learning that is not supported by evidence-based research.

DEFEATED

F. Date of the Next Biennial General Meeting

Dinn-Ingram: That the 2019 Biennial General Meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association take place from April 23-26, 2019, or at a time designated by the Provincial Executive.

CARRIED

G. Closing of Convention

Mr. Ash thanked all delegates for their attendance at the BGM and wished all a safe journey home.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

K. Fifield/Doyle-Gillingham: That the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The Chairperson declared the 2017 Biennial General Meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association closed at 10:00 a.m.

CONFIRMED:

PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE

DATE

GMC

NOTE: All sessions of the Biennial General Meeting were digitally recorded and are on file at the NLTA Office.