Nova Scotia Accessibility Advisory Board Meeting Summary

Friday, March 29, 2019, 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA), 5940 South Street, Halifax

Attendance

Board: Doug Foster (Chair), Rosalind Penfound (Vice-Chair), Barry Abbott, Cynthia Bruce, David Caswell, Alex Peeler, Gus Reed, Kevin Russell, Marcie Shwery-Stanley.
Regrets: Anne Sinclair

Staff: Gerry Post (Executive Director), Terri Lynn Almeda, Joshua Bates, Kathaleen Fitzgerald, Amy Middleton, Lashauna Smith

Guests: Michelle Simpson and Linda Rankin, Procurement Services, Department of Internal Services

1. Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2019 Meeting

Motion: Cynthia Bruce moved to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2019 meeting, as presented. Rosalind Penfound seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes of February 25, 2019 Meeting

Motion: Marcie Shwery-Stanley moved to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2019 meeting, as amended. Kevin Russell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. AAB Values, Priorities and Activities, Work Plan

Lashauna Smith reviewed the revised Values document, with amendments discussed by the Accessibility Advisory Board at their February 8, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Cynthia Bruce moved to approve the Accessibility Advisory Board Values document, as presented. Barry Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Cynthia Bruce moved to approve the Accessibility Advisory Board Priorities and Activities and Work Plan documents, as presented. Alex Peeler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Awareness and Communication Sub-Group

Terri Lynn Almeda, Accessibility Directorate, provided an overview of the report from the Board's Awareness and Communication Sub-Group's March 21, 2019 meeting. The Sub-Group discussed upcoming awareness and communications activities, including a proposal to develop a three-year awareness campaign, sponsorship agreement with the Rick Hansen Foundation to promote awareness of accessibility in Nova Scotia, and a survey of Nova Scotians' awareness of accessibility. The Sub-Group recommended that the

Accessibility Advisory Board provide input on the development of the awareness campaign and that a presentation be developed for Board members to use to increase awareness about the Board and the Accessibility Act.

Lashauna Smith, Accessibility Directorate, provided an overview of opportunities for the Accessibility Advisory Board to participate in Nova Scotia events during National AccessAbility Week.

Action: The Accessibility Directorate will distribute information on National AccessAbility Week to the Accessibility Advisory Board.

5. Standard Development Committees

Amy Middleton, Accessibility Directorate, provided an overview of the communications of the Standards Development Committees membership, which was announced on March 28, 2019, as well as plans for consultations related to the education and built environment standard areas, which will include an online survey in Spring 2019 and focus groups in Winter 2020.

a. Education Standard Development Committee

Amy Middleton, Accessibility Directorate, provided an overview of the plans for the first meeting of the Education Standard Development Committee, scheduled for April 15-16, 2019. The first day will focus on sharing information about relevant policies and funding frameworks in Nova Scotia, and on topic areas in accessible education. The second day will focus on the committee's mandate and how it will complete its work , including reviewing terms of reference and work plan. Jurisdictional research is underway.

b. Built Environment Standard Development Committee

Joshua Bates, Accessibility Directorate, provided an overview of the plans for the first meeting of the Education Standard Development Committee, scheduled for April 29, 2019. The morning will include presentations and the afternoon will include business items, such as the terms of reference and work plan. Jurisdictional research is also underway.

Action: Directorate staff will ensure an onboarding approach is developed to provide for consistency, as appropriate, between the two committees as well as future standard development committees.

6. Municipal Update

Joshua Bates, Accessibility Directorate, provided an overview of municipal work underway, including the Provincial/Municipal Working Group, the Town of Wolfville Pilot Project, and the development of Interim Accessibility Guidelines and Handbook.

7. Internal Services – Procurement Services

The Accessibility Advisory Board received a presentation from Michelle Simpson and Linda Rankin, Procurement Services, Department of Internal Services, to seek the Accessibility Advisory Board's input on supporting departments to purchase accessible goods and services.

8. Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan

Lashauna Smith, Accessibility Directorate, provided an update on the Government of Nova Scotia Accessibility Plan, including progress on departmental commitments.

9. Other Business

    a. Accessibility Advisory Board Member Resignation

Motion: In recognition of loyalty, provocative thought and diligence, Gus Reed moved to recognize and thank Amy Parsons for her service to the Accessibility Advisory Board and to provide a certificate of appreciation. Doug Foster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

    b. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Action: The Accessibility Directorate will distribute potential meeting dates for September/October and November/December.

    c. Housing

The Accessibility Advisory Board discussed options for supporting the development of community based housing for persons with disabilities.

Action: The Accessibility Advisory Board will include Housing as an agenda topic at a future meeting.

    d. Technology for Accessibility Advisory Board Meetings

Action: The Accessibility Directorate will look into the audio technology used at APSEA for availability for Accessibility Advisory Board meetings.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.