

History of the Board of Education

The Board was formed in January of 1995, with twelve (12) members and an Executive Secretary. The late Mr. Christopher Manasseh O'Mard was appointed Chairman and Mr. Sam Aymer was Deputy Chairman.

The composition of the Board in 1995 was as follows:

<i>Mr. Christoper M. O'Mard</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Chairman</i>
<i>Mr. Sam Aymer</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Deputy Chairman</i>
<i>Mr. Cottrille George</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mrs. Ruth Limerick</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Dean William Lake</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Dr. Alister Francis</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mrs. Cynthia Crump</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mr. Wilbur Harrigan</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mr. Kevin Belizaire</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mrs. Eusalyn Lewis</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Dr. Hezekiah Farrell</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mr. Eustace Peters</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Mr. Eustace Hill</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>Executive Secretary</i>

The first meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday 7th February 1995 at the O. E. C. S. Secretariat Conference Room.

Up until his death in late July 1995, Mr. O'Mard chaired fourteen meetings of the Board, the last meeting being Wednesday July 19th, 1995.

Mr. Cottrille George, was appointed Interim Chairman, on 2nd August 1995 and chaired one meeting which was held on 2nd August 1995 (15th Meeting).

Mr. Sam Aymer was appointed Chairman of the Board in August 1995 and chaired his first meeting on 28th August, 1995. Mr. George was subsequently appointed Deputy Chairman of the Board of Education. Mr. Aymer sat as Chairman for nearly a year until his promotion to Ministerial Duties, in June 1996. Mr. Aymer's last meeting as Chairman was 28th May, 1996 – 28th meeting.

Mr. Kevin Belizaire was then appointed Chairman and chaired his first meeting on June 24th, 1996, which was the 29th meeting of the Board.

Permanent Secretary:

Mrs. Eusalyn Lewis was the first PS on the Board and served as the Ministry's representative until her transfer, she was subsequently replaced by Ms. Elaine Samuel who attended her first meeting on 8th May 1995 (9th meeting of the Board).

Ms. Samuel was also transferred and was replaced by Mr. Vincent Benjamin, who attended his first meeting on 15th January 1996 (22nd meeting of the Board).

In June 2000, Mr. Benjamin was transferred and was subsequently replaced by Mrs. Enis Nathaniel who attended her first meeting in August 2000.

In December 2001, Mrs. Enis Nathaniel was transferred and was replaced by Mr. Eden Weston who attended his first meeting on Tuesday 19th March, 2002. However, it is prudent to note that Mrs. Rosita Francis was the acting Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Education while the substantive PS, Mr. Weston, was on vacation. In that capacity Mrs. Francis attended the 85th Meeting of the Board of Education held on Tuesday 22nd January, 2002, which was her only meeting as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education. Mr. Weston served on the Board until March 2004 when the Board was dissolved.

Since the reconstitution of the Board in May 2004, the position of Permanent Secretary was not represented.

ABUT's representative

Mrs. Cynthia Crump was the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers' representative on the Board until, she was replaced by Mrs. Paula Francis-Spencer who attended her first meeting on 24th June, 1996 (29th meeting of the Board).

Mrs. Spencer served on the Board for two years until she was replaced by Miss Bernadette Semper who attended her first meeting on 29th June 1998 (52nd meeting of the Board).

Due to Mr. Aymer's departure, another member was added to the Board via a Cabinet Decision, Mr. Lionel Walling attended his first meeting on 23rd September, 1996 (32nd meeting of the Board).

New Chairman of the Board:

As a result of the position of Project Manager – Civil Works of the CDB Basic Education Project, Mr. Kevin Belizaire had to resign his position as Chairman and member of the Board to take up his new position.

Therefore a new Chairman in the person of Mr. Wilbur A. Harrigan was appointed and chaired his first meeting on 29th June 1998 (52nd meeting of the Board).

Mr. Harrigan was subsequently replaced in November 2002, and Senator Samuel Aymer took up Chairmanship in December 2002 until the Board was dissolved in March 2004. Dr. Ermina Osoba now heads the Board.

As a result of Mr. Belizaire's resignation a new member, Mr. Carlton Jacobs, was appointed to the Board and he attended his first meeting on 29th June 1998 (52nd meeting of the Board).

Ministry of Finance Representative

Mr. Eustace Peters, Deputy Financial Secretary and Board member for five years, resigned his position and Mr. Ludolph C. Browne was his successor. Mr. Browne's appointment took effect from January 1st 2000.

In August 2000 Mr. Browne was transferred and was subsequently replaced by Mr. Milton Davis. His appointment took effect from 27th September 2000.

New members

As a result of Mr. Aymer's promotion and subsequent resignation from the Board and Mr. Belizaire's appointment as Chairman, a vacant position was on the Board. On September 23rd 1996, Mr. Lionel Walling joined the Board and attended his first meeting.

On March 1st 1999 Dr. Hezekiah Farrell resigned as a member of the Board to take up a new position and residence in Jamaica W.I.

A new member in the person of Dr. Rev. Cortroy Jarvis was appointed as Dr. Farrell's replacement. Dr. Jarvis attended his first meeting on October 4th 1999.

There has been no representative from the Antigua State College since the passing of Dr. Alister Francis in February 2000.

Members of the Board until November 30th, 2002

Mr. Wilbur Harrigan	--	Chairman
Mr. Cottrille George	--	Deputy Chairman
Mrs. Ruth Limerick	--	Member
Dean William Lake	--	Member
Mr. Lionel Walling	--	Member
Miss Bernadette Semper	--	Member
Mr. Carlton Jacobs	--	Member
Dr. Rev. Cortroy Jarvis	--	Member
Mrs. Eden Weston	--	Member
Mr. Milton Davis	--	Member

New Board (December 1st 2002)

Cabinet, in its decision of Wednesday November 6th, 2002, paragraph no. 72, agreed to the appointment of a new Board of Education with effect from December 1st, 2002.

Senator Samuel Aymer	---	Chairperson
Lenore Henry	---	Deputy Chairperson
Dr. Ermina Osoba	---	Member
Lionel Walling	---	Member
Bernadette Semper	---	Member
Eban Thomas	---	Member
Eden Weston	---	Member
Rev. Cortroy Jarvis	---	Member
Hendren Parker	---	Member
Dr. Judith Bird	---	Member
Yolanda Goodwin	---	Member
Malcolm Payne	---	Member
Sandra Yearwood	---	Member

The new Board held its first meeting on December 19th, 2002 at 3:00 p.m., at the office of the Board of Education, with Dr. the Hon. Rodney Williams in attendance.

**NB: The Board of Education Act, 1994 Section 4 (2) of the Act State:
“The members of the Board shall, subject to the approval of Cabinet, be appointed by the Minister by instrument in writing and shall hold office for a period of three (3) years.”**

With the change of Government in March 2004 the Board was dissolved and a new Board instituted in May 2004. The present composition of the Board is as follows: Instituted May 2004

Dr. Ermina Osoba	---	Chairperson
Mrs. Anne Jonas	---	Deputy Chairperson
Mr. Bruce Williamson	---	Member
Mr. David Matthias	---	Member
Mrs. Beverly Charles	---	Member
Ms. Jackquilyn Joseph	---	Member
Mrs. Yolanda Lake-Goodwin	---	Member
Mr. Cortwright Marshall	---	Member
Ms. Brenda Thomas	---	Member
Mrs. Cicely King	---	Member
Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis	---	Member
Mrs. Dorothy Symister	---	Member
Mr. Algernon Roberts	---	Member
Ms. Juliet Benjamin	---	Member
Ms. Keva Margetson	---	Member

The Executive Secretary

The Board started with a skeleton staff of five persons the Board has expanded, however, and now has 25 members of staff including a new Levy Compliance Unit. Further, the Executive Secretary, Mr. Eustace Hill has resigned his position effective 31st October 2000. As such, a new Executive Secretary in the person of Ms. D. Gisele Isaac was appointed effective February 1st 2001.

Scholarships to Date – October 2002 (for more details – see brochure attached)

1995/1996	134
1996/1997	95
1997/1998	102
1998/1999	109
1999/2000	181
2000/2001	139
2001/2002	77
2002/2003	127
2003/2004	108
2004/2005	163
2005/2006	
NSC	200
CSF	<u>23</u>
	<u>223</u>
	<u>1458</u>

National Scholarship Committee:

Since the Board's inception, the composition of the National Scholarships Committee (NSC) was as follows:

<i>Mrs. Evelyn Sheppard</i>	--	<i>Chief Education Officer (CEO)</i>
<i>Dr. Ermina Osoba</i>	--	<i>Resident Tutor – UWI</i>
<i>Mrs. Rosemarie MacMaster</i>	--	<i>Representative Chamber of Commerce</i>
<i>Mr. Alphonse Derrick</i>	--	<i>Budget Director</i>
<i>Dr. Alister Francis</i>	--	<i>Principal – ASC</i>
<i>Mr. Maclean Matthias</i>	--	<i>Representative - Public Service Commission</i>
<i>Mr. Whitfield Harris</i>	--	<i>Advisor to the Minister of Education</i>
<i>Mr. Alphonse Osbourne</i>	--	<i>Deputy Chief Education Officer</i>

Although the Board is unsure as to whether it was the position or the persons that was appointed to the Board, the following has been noted.

(a) Chief Education Officer:

Upon the retirement of Mrs. Evelyn Sheppard, Mrs. Violet Lewis replaced her as Chief Education Officer and Chairperson of the NSC.

Since then, Mrs. Lewis has also retired and Mr. Alphonse Osbourne was appointed CEO and consequently, Chairperson of the NSC. Presently, due to Mr. Osbourne's retirement as well, Mr. Michael Francis now holds both positions, that of CEO and Chairperson of the NSC. Mr. Francis also retired and Ms. Lenore Henry Acting Chief Education Officer is also Chairperson of the National Scholarship Committee. This trend indicates that it was the position of CEO that was appointed Chairperson of the NSC. However, the Board has no documented evidence to show.

(b) Deputy Chief Education Officer:

This position indicates the same trend as that of the Chief Education Officer, as such; one could conclude that the position of Deputy Chief Education Officer was appointed to the NSC.

(c) Principle of Antigua State College:

Since the passing of Dr. Alister Francis, Mrs. Agnes Jeffrey and now Miss Peecheeta Spencer have taken up the position on the National Scholarship Committee. This also indicates that the position and not the person was appointed to the NSC.

(d) Advisor to the Minister of Education:

Since the retirement of Mr. Whitfield Harris, there has been no replacement on the NSC. However, there has been no advisor to the Minister of Education since Mr. Harris retired.

(e) Resident Tutor to UWI:

There is uncertainty regarding this position since Dr. Osoba had never been replaced and has been with the NSC since its inception.

The same could be said of Mrs. MacMaster, representative for the Chamber of Commerce.

(f) Public Service Commission:

Mr. McClean Matthias had never attended meetings as far as the Board is aware and therefore no statement could be made regarding this position.

(g) Budget Director:

Mr. Alphonse Derrick even after his promotion to Financial Secretary and other positions within the Ministry of Finance remained on the committee and there was uncertainty and debate as whether that should have been the case.

The present composition of the National Scholarship Committee is as follows:

<u>Names</u>		<u>Positions / Organisation</u>
Mr. Leon George	--	Sagicor (Chairman)
Ms. J. Lenore Henry	-	Ministry of Education (Deputy chairperson)
Mr. Hiram Forde	--	Antigua State College
Dr. Ermina Osoba	--	Resident Tutor – UWI
Mr. Rolston Nickeo	--	Antigua & Barbuda Union of Teachers
Miss Sharon Proctor	--	Board of Education
Mr. Gladwin Henry	-	ABIIT
Ms. Muriel O'Marde	-	ABHTI
Mr. Joseph Gilbert	-	ABICE

NB: Miss Sharon Proctor, Scholarship Coordinator at the Board of Education, acts as Secretary to the NSC and Ms. Leslie-Ann Yearwood acts as advisor to the NSC, on behalf of the Board, re: annual budget.

