

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)

October 13, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Brian Pepper, Superintendent of Schools  
Bryan Mix, Secretary Treasurer

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

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RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Superintendent of Schools establish and chair a District Sustainability Committee to prepare a report to be presented to the Board at a special public meeting on January 19, 2010, with a progress report at an in camera meeting in December
2. That the report include recommendations and a mid-to long-term plan to direct district operations with respect to, but not limited to, the following:
  - a. Support structures and services.
  - b. School configurations.
  - c. School viability, including recommended closures.
  - d. School and feeder school boundaries.

APPROVED  
BY THE BOARD

OCT 13 2009

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RATIONALE

1. The district continues to experience enrolment decline. Understandably, this translates into fewer available resources for the delivery of services to students and schools.

2. The financial outlook for 2010 onward is very uncertain. The Board has established a plan to deal with a structural deficit that was to be addressed by 2012. New information regarding the Harmonized Sales Tax, the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Act*, medical services premium increases, the elimination of the Annual Facility Grant and the implementation of full-day Kindergarten require inclusion in long-term planning.
3. The Board of Education desires to have meaningful consultation with partner groups and the public with regards to district planning. This consultation will be more effective if the groups have options to consider. Furthermore, timelines related to the establishment of the 2010/11 budget and school organization, provisions in union contracts and legislation regarding school closures are such that there is considerable urgency.
4. The examination of all district operations is a complex task which requires significant expertise. Given the tight timelines, an "in-district" solution is recommended.

BP/BM/wd