

Present:

Bill Christie, Chairperson
Barb Hall, Trustee
Lyn Hall, Trustee
Michelle Marrelli, Trustee
Fred McLeod, Trustee
Patricia Wick Thibault, Trustee

Dick Chambers, Superintendent of Schools
Bryan Mix, Secretary-Treasurer
Wendy De Marsh, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Absent:

Bev Christensen, Vice-Chairperson

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- Item 4.4 – Budget issues coming forward from July 2 meeting
- Item 6.2 – An update on class sizes

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

3.1 Public Consultation Meetings

The minutes of the public consultation meetings held May 16, May 22, May 23, May 29, May 30, June 4, June 12, June 13, June 17, June 19 and June 20 were approved as circulated.

3.2 Regular Meeting

The minutes of the regular meeting held June 25, 2002 and the special meeting held July 2, 2002 were approved as circulated.

3.3 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The Chairperson noted that a report on the items discussed and decisions made at the in camera meetings held on June 25, June 27 and July 9, 2002 were included in the agenda booklet.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

4.1 District Configuration Committee

MOVED:

That a District Configuration Committee be formed with the mandate to provide the Board with options for elementary school closures that could be implemented in September 2003, and, to achieve this mandate, that the committee consider, but not be limited to, the following criteria when examining possible closures:

- Financial savings
- Condition of building
- Safety issues
- Transportation costs
- Distance to possible receiving school
- Availability of space at receiving school
- Impact on receiving school
- Impact on the school's community
- Number of students who would be relocated
- Impact on future zonal configuration

and that the committee report to the Board by January 8, 2003.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Education thanking them for striking a task force on rural education and requesting that the Ministry release the task force's report as soon as possible after receiving it.

CARRIED.

4.2 Choice

MOVED:

That the Board continue to take the steps necessary to establish a fine arts school in the district for September 2003, and that a principal for the fine arts school be selected by November 30, 2002.

CARRIED.

Mr. Chambers explained that the Choice Management Committee had convened a subcommittee to identify options and issues related to the establishment of a fine arts school in the district and that, based on the subcommittee's findings, the committee would then bring recommendations to the Board. The timeline for the Board's final decision regarding the establishment of the school would be January 29, 2003.

4.3 Small Rural Schools

Mr. Mix reported that a meeting had been held with administrators from the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to discuss their draft proposal related to rural schools. He explained that the process was still in the exploratory stages, that no formal proposal had been received from the regional district, and that once some of the details had been ironed out, meetings would be expanded to include trustees and regional district directors.

4.4 Budget Suggestion List

MOVED:

That a committee, consisting of two trustees and two members of senior administration, be appointed to immediately begin studying the potential cost-saving measures that were brought forward during the budget consultation process.

CARRIED.

Mr. Christie appointed Mr. Hall, Ms. Marrelli, Mr. Mix and Director David DeVore to the committee.

5. **EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**

5.1 Five-Year Capital Plan Summary

MOVED:

That the 2003/04 Capital Plan Summary, totaling \$18,275,633, be approved.

CARRIED.

Mr. McLeod noted that the Ministry of Education rules and processes related to capital planning had changed. Only three of the projects that were previously on the district's capital plan qualify to be included under the new rules. In addition, the district's implementation of the Green Buildings Initiative is addressing many of the projects that had been on the district's previous plan.

6. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

6.1 Prince of Wales Scholarship Winner

Mr. Chambers announced that D.P. Todd Secondary School student Alex Hemingway had been awarded this year's Prince of Wales scholarship.

6.2 Enrolment and Class Size Update

Mr. Chambers reported that only preliminary enrolment data was available at that point, but that the numbers were coming in fairly close to what had been expected and that average class sizes have increased but that the district had been able to comply with provincial regulations regarding average class sizes.

7. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

7.1 BC School Trustees' Association

This item was withdrawn.

7.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Mr. Chambers reported on the items discussed at the DPAC meeting held the night before, which included public health nurse services, the council's budget for the year and an orientation workshop and trustee candidate forum that are being organized.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 Attendance at BCSTA Northern Interior Branch Meeting

MOVED:

That up to four trustees have their expenses paid to attend the Northern Interior Branch meeting being held October 4-6, 2002 in Fort Nelson.

CARRIED.

10. **ATTACHMENTS FOR INFORMATION**

Mr. Christie drew the Board's attention to the items included in the agenda for information, which were:

- Letter dated June 18, 2002 to the Minister of Education from the Valemount Secondary School Parent Advisory Council re: Replacement of School
- Letter dated June 18, 2002 to the Minister of Advanced Education from the Valemount Secondary

Approved minutes of the regular meeting held September 10, 2002

School Parent Advisory Council re: Replacement of School

- Letter dated July 10, 2002 from the Minister of Education re: Phasing Out of Formula Buffer Grant
- Letter dated July 16, 2002 from Shirley Bond, MLA, Prince George-Mount Robson re: Phasing Out of Formula Buffer Grant

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.