

Present:

Bill Christie, Chairperson	Dick Chambers, Superintendent of Schools
Bev Christensen, Vice-Chairperson	Bryan Mix, Secretary-Treasurer
Barb Hall, Trustee	Wendy De Marsh, Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Lyn Hall, Trustee	
Michelle Marrelli, Trustee	
Fred McLeod, Trustee	
Patricia Wick Thibault, Trustee	

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:29 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda items 10.2 District Parent Advisory Council and 10.3 District Student Advisory Council were withdrawn. They were replaced with reports from the Corporate Sponsorship Task Force and the Budget Review Committee.

The agenda was approved as amended.

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

3.1 Regular Meeting

The minutes of the regular meeting held October 29, 2002 were approved with the following corrections:

- In the heading for Item 8.7, the words "Bylaw No. 4 Health Services" were corrected to read "Bylaw No. 3 Health Services."
- In the heading for Item 9.2, "1002-2002" was corrected to read "2001-2002."

3.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The Chairperson noted that a report on the items discussed and decisions made at the in camera meeting of October 28, 2002 were included in the agenda booklet.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 Student Leadership Initiatives in the Lakewood/D.P. Todd Zone

Principal Tim Yule and students Mike Sokolowski, Gillian Knox and Sarah Kennedy gave a presentation on activities and events that foster school spirit and develop students' leadership skills.

4.2 International Student Program

Teresa Saunders, Principal of Continuing Education and coordinator of the district's international student program, gave a presentation on her recent trip to Asia, where she made contacts and laid the groundwork for future student exchanges and programs for international students.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

5.1 Configuration of Proposed Fine Arts School

MOVED:

That the fine arts school proposed for implementation in September 2003 be configured as a Kindergarten to Grade 5 school.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That the fine arts school proposed for implementation in September 2003 be a single-track fine arts school.

This motion was POSTPONED to the January 28, 2003 public meeting.

MOVED:

That the curriculum at the fine arts school proposed for implementation in September 2003 be delivered with discrete fine arts blocks, supplemented by integration in the core subject areas.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That any Kindergarten to Grade 5 student in the district be eligible for enrolment in the fine arts school proposed for implementation in September 2003, pending space availability, on a first come, first served basis.

This motion was POSTPONED to the January 28, 2003 public meeting.

The Board directed administration to hold a competition for the position of principal of the proposed fine arts school as soon as possible.

MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.2 Committee Report

Mrs. Christensen reported on the items discussed at the last meeting, which included, in addition to the items brought forward to the Board, plans to reorganize the central office and one property matter that had been dealt with by the Board at its in camera meeting earlier in the evening.

5.3 Blackburn Jr. Secondary School Building

MOVED:

That the Board request the Minister of Education's approval to take the necessary steps to demolish and remove the Blackburn Jr. Secondary School building.

CARRIED.

It was noted that the school had been closed permanently in September 2002 and that whether the project to replace the building were to go ahead or not, the existing building would have to be demolished.

5.4 Haldi Road Elementary School Property

MOVED:

That the Board call for "expressions of interest" for the lease or sale of Haldi Road Elementary School.

CARRIED.

It was noted that no action regarding the property would be taken without further Board discussion and approval.

5.5 North Nechako Elementary School Building

MOVED:

That the Board approve the removal of the detached portable and modular units at North Nechako Elementary School.

CARRIED.

It was noted that the demolition of the modular units at the school had been included in the district's capital plan prior to the school's closing and that the district was incurring considerable expense to heat and maintain these areas.

6. EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

6.1 Committee Report

Mr. McLeod reported on the topics discussed at the last meeting, which included an update on the Green Buildings initiative and a presentation

on playground equipment from a representative of the district's insurance provider. He noted that work was being undertaken to remove from school grounds equipment that no longer meets safety standards, and that this included equipment at both open and closed schools. Mr. McLeod also noted that the treated wood in some playgrounds was a concern and that eventually equipment of this type would also have to be removed or replaced.

Mr. McLeod reported that as a result of the discussion at the meeting, the signs at closed schools would be changed. "No trespassing" signs would be placed on the school buildings; signs at playgrounds would note the infrequency of inspections and ask the public to report any problems with the equipment.

7. **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

7.1 Committee Report

Ms. Hall reported that the committee was continuing to work on amendments to policies affected by recent changes in legislation.

In response to questions that had arisen at the previous public meeting, Ms. Hall explained that a reference to the School Operations Handbook had been placed in Policy 1240 Provision of Volunteer Services and that the committee had investigated the issue of fees for criminal record checks and had determined that volunteers were not required to pay a fee.

7.2 Draft Policy 5119 School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers

MOVED:

That Draft Policy 5119 School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers be approved for distribution to reference groups for input.

CARRIED.

7.3 Draft Policy 7550 Opening and Closing of Schools

MOVED:

That Draft Policy 7550 Opening and Closing of Schools be approved, as amended, for distribution to reference groups for input.

CARRIED.

The amendment was the deletion of Administrative Procedure 2.1.11.

MOVED:

That, in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw No. 1, the meeting continue for up to another two and a half hours.

CARRIED.

7.4 Revisions to Policy 1330 Use of School Facilities

MOVED:

That revisions to Policy 1330 Use of School Facilities be approved for distribution to reference groups for input.

CARRIED.

8. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

8.1 Blackburn Jr. Secondary School Replacement Project

Mr. Chambers presented his report, which outlined the issues and options related to the possible replacement of Blackburn Jr. Secondary School.

MOVED:

That the Board delay a decision on the Blackburn Jr. Secondary School replacement project until June 2003.

CARRIED.

9. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

9.1 Choice Committee

Ms. Marrelli reported on the challenges faced by the committee in 2002 and the impact school closures and budget issues had on the choice process. She noted that because it was an ad hoc committee appointed and given a mandate for the year 2002 only, the Choice Committee would cease to exist unless it was reappointed by the Board for 2003.

9.1.1 Policy 7172.1 Increasing Choice

After discussion and amendment, the following motion was agreed upon:

MOVED:

That an ad hoc choice committee be reappointed for 2003, with the same mandate as it had in 2002, and that the first priority of the committee for 2003 be a review of Policy 6172.1 Increasing Choice, with a particular emphasis on:

- the development of a process to differentiate school-based, community-based and district-based proposals;
- the composition of the committee;
- the possible limiting of the number of proposals considered in a given school year and/or specific time limits for proposals;
- the development of a clear process to encourage choice initiatives;

and that the committee report back to the Board with recommendations and revisions to the policy by March 25, 2003, in order for the revised policy to be approved by June 27, 2003.
CARRIED.

9.2 Corporate Sponsorship Task Force

Mr. Hall reported that the task force had been invited to a meeting with community members in Valemount to discuss corporate sponsorship and had done so. Similar meetings in other rural communities will be arranged.

9.3 Budget Review Committee

Mr. Hall reported that the committee was continuing to meet with the regional district's rural schools committee and that one of the points that has been made clear at the meetings is that under the current funding formula, rural schools are financially sound. Both groups are looking forward to hearing the recommendations of the Ministry of Education's rural schools task force.

9.4 Final Report of the Special Committee to Review Board Operations

Ms. Wick Thibault presented the report and reviewed the recommendations contained in it.

9.4.1 Revisions to Bylaw No. 1

MOVED:

That the notice period required for the amendment of bylaws be waived, as per the provisions of Bylaw No. 1.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That the proposed revisions to Bylaw No. 1 be approved, with the following amendments:

- Clause 2.6: Replace "committee members and chairpersons as are required by this bylaw" with "one trustee to serve as chairperson and two trustees to serve as members of the Board's standing committees."
- Clause 2.11: Add "or at which an immediate family member is employed."
- Add a Clause 6.6 that reads, "A trustee with a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in teacher or support staff collective bargaining shall not participate or represent the Board in those activities."

CARRIED.

9.4.2 Revisions to Bylaw No. 4

MOVED:

That the notice period required for the amendment of bylaws be waived, as per the provisions of Bylaw No. 1.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That the proposed revisions to Bylaw No. 4 be approved, with the following amendments:

- In Step 3 in the Appendix, delete the words “there are three assistant superintendents.”
- In Step 1 in the Appendix, change the words “other staff” to “staff member.”

CARRIED.

9.4.3 Revisions to Policy 1120 Access to the Board

MOVED:

That the proposed revisions to Policy 1120 Access to the Board be approved, with the following amendments:

- Regulations 2.1 and 2.2: Insert the words “and those defined in Bylaw 1, Section 1.3.” after the words “personnel issues.”
- Administrative Procedure 2.3: Change “employee group” to “education partner group.”

CARRIED.

9.4.4 Revisions to Policy 1110 Communications

MOVED:

That the proposed revisions to Policy 1110 Communications be approved for distribution to reference groups for input.

CARRIED.

Ms. Wick Thibault reviewed the recommendations contained in the report.

MOVED:

That the following recommendations, contained in the final report of the Special Committee to Review Board Operations, be approved:

1. That the district continue to monitor its communication practices and methods to ensure they remain effective.
2. That the Policy and Governance Committee review and update the school board meeting handbook annually.
3. That the communications audit planned in 2001/02 not be undertaken.

4. That the Board review its practices for student appeal meetings and employee hearings.
CARRIED.

MOVED:

That, in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw No. 1, the meeting continue until all items of business on the agenda have been dealt with.

CARRIED.

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

11.1 Trustee Travel to BCSTA Conference December 5-8, 2002

MOVED:

That trustees' travel expenses incurred for all seven trustees to attend BCSTA's Trustee Academy in Vancouver December 5-8, 2002 be reimbursed in the usual manner.

CARRIED.

12. **ATTACHMENTS FOR INFORMATION**

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

- Final enrolment report for September 30, 2002
- A report of minor updates made to policies

13. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 13.1 Letter dated October 28, 2002 from the BC Safe Schools Task Force regarding its schedule of public hearings
- 13.2 Letter dated November 6, 2002 from the Minister of Education re: the 2001/02 technology grant
- 13.3 Letter dated November 6, 2002 from the Prince George District Teachers' Association regarding BC Hydro

- 13.4 Letter dated November 13, 2002 from Johnson Controls Ltd. regarding the Green Buildings BC retrofit program.

MOVED:

That the letter from the PGDTA regarding BC Hydro be referred to the Education Services Committee.

CARRIED.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 a.m.