

Present:

Bill Christie, Chairperson
Lyn Hall, Vice-Chairperson
Carlene Keddie, Trustee
Michelle Marrelli, Trustee
Fred McLeod, Trustee
John Rustad, Trustee
Patricia Wick Thibault, Trustee

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as circulated.

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

3.1 Regular Meeting

The minutes of the regular meeting held January 28, 2003 were approved as circulated.

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 January 28, 2003 were included in the agenda booklet.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 Natural Resource Management Program

Chris Lear, Education Manager of the Council of Forest Industries, gave a presentation outlining programs offered in the school district by the council.

MOVED:

That a letter be written to the Council of Forest Industries in support of its education programs and requesting that the funding for the programs be maintained.

CARRIED.

4.2 Advocacy

Bev Hosker, chair of the District Parent Advisory Council, gave a presentation on the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils parent advocacy program and its implementation in School District No. 57.

Ms. Hosker requested that the Board review the procedures contained in its Bylaw No. 4, the bylaw pertaining to parent appeals. The Board asked that DPAC forward its recommendations regarding the bylaw to the Policy and Governance Committee.

4.3 Accreditation Certificates

Mr. Chambers presented Mary Ann Lyall, principal of Vanway Elementary School, and Robin Dielissen, principal of Lakewood Jr. Secondary School, with the schools' accreditation certificates.

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. **MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

6.1 Committee Report

Mr. McLeod reported on the topics discussed at the last committee meeting, which included upcoming budget meetings, a financial update on the current year and a GST audit of the district being conducted by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

6.2 Final Budget Bylaw 2002-2003

MOVED:

That Final Budget Bylaw 2002-2003 be given first and second reading.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Final Budget Bylaw 2002-2003 be given third and final reading.

CARRIED.

It was noted that the one-time grant of \$1.4 million recently received from the Ministry of Education was being carried forward to address the budget shortfall for 2003-2004.

6.3 Enrolment Reserve Grant

MOVED:

That the enrolment reserve grant for 2002-2003 be allocated to schools as part of the Education Renewal Fund, at the same rates per school and per student as in the school year 2001-2002, and that the remaining funds be put toward the special school accounts reserve to reduce the unfunded liability noted in the district's 2001-2002 financial statements.

CARRIED.

7. **EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

7.1 Committee Report

Ms. Wick Thibault reported on the topics discussed at the last committee meeting, which included the district awards report, a presentation on research currently being conducted in the district, a review of the process for allowing such research to occur and the possibilities for video conferencing in the district.

8. **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

8.1 Committee Report

Ms. Marrelli reported that all of the items discussed at the last committee meeting were being brought forward to the Board that evening. She noted that the committee would not meet again until May 14 unless emergent issues arose in the meantime.

8.2 Revisions to Policy 1221 District Parent Advisory Council

MOVED:

That the proposed revisions to Policy 1221 District Parent Advisory Council be approved.

CARRIED.

8.3 Revisions to Policy 1223 School Parent Advisory Councils

MOVED:

That the proposed revisions to Policy 1223 School Parent Advisory Councils be approved, as amended.

CARRIED.

The amendments were as follows:

- Policy statement 4 revised to read, "Work with the parent advisory council when general issues and concerns affecting students, parents and the school are brought forward. PAC meetings are not forums for discussion of personnel matters or personal and confidential information about students, parents, teachers or other employees or members of the school community."
- In regulation 3, "may" changed to "will".

8.4 Revisions to Policy 1330 Use of School Facilities

MOVED:

That the proposed revisions to Policy 1330 Use of School Facilities be approved, as amended.

CARRIED.

The amendment was the splitting of regulation 6 into two regulations, as follows:

6. The use of alcohol, controlled substances or intoxicants will not be permitted on the premises or grounds of any school district property.
7. The use of tobacco products will not be permitted on the premises or rounds of any school district property.

8.5 Draft Policy 5119 School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers

MOVED:

That draft Policy 5119 School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers be approved.

CARRIED.

Ms. Marrelli noted that changes were expected to the legislation governing student transfers and that if this occurred, the policy would have to be revised to bring it in line with the changes. She explained that given timelines, this might require a special Board meeting and approval in principal of the changes before input could be received from reference groups.

8.6 Draft Policy 5123 Student Promotion and Reporting

MOVED:

That revisions to Policy 5123 Student Promotion and Reporting be approved for distribution to reference groups for input.

CARRIED.

9. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

9.1 BC School Trustees' Association

Mr. McLeod reported on his attendance at the BCSTA's education committee meeting.

9.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Mr. Rustad reported on some of the topics discussed at the last DPAC meeting, which included the district chess tournament, advocacy and a resolution to lobby the Ministry of Education regarding the exclusion of CUPE employees from school planning councils. He noted that a principal and PAC chair from McBride participated in the meeting via an Internet link.

9.3 Budget Review Committee

Mr. Hall presented the committee's final report and the list of topics the committee recommended be further investigated by the Board.

MOVED:

That the Board refrain from further consideration of year-round school and a four-day work week.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That the Board refer the following topics to administration for further review, with recommendations to be brought to the trustee/senior administration meeting scheduled for March 11:

- Professional development day scheduling
- Early retirement incentives
- Primary (K-3) schools
- Electronic messaging
- Economic use of photocopy services
- Implementation of user fees
- Decentralization of services
- Special needs delivery model

CARRIED.

A motion to continue the meeting, as per the requirements of Bylaw No. 1, was approved.

After discussion, it was agreed that the committee should remain in place, with the mandate to continue its liaison work with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George's rural schools committee.

9.4 District Safe Schools Committee

Ms. Marrelli reported on the activities of the committee, which included the alignment of its goals with the district plan for student success and the formation of seven sub-committees to review those objectives. She reported that drug-free zones were expected to be in place at two schools, Ron Brent Elementary and Heather Park Middle School, for next year.

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

10.1 Reconsideration of Advertising on Prince George Secondary School Sign

MOVED:

That corporate advertising, limited to that which is appropriate for association with public education facilities, be permitted on the automated display sign at Prince George Secondary School for a trial period ending August 31, 2003, and that a report on any issues that have arisen related to the advertising be brought to the Board at its meeting of June 24, 2003.
CARRIED.

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

11.1 Travel to BCSTA Trustee Academy

MOVED:

That the expenses required for two trustees to attend BCSTA's Trustee Academy be reimbursed in the usual manner.
CARRIED.

MOVED:

That the expenses required for up to five trustees to attend BCSTA's annual general meeting be reimbursed in the usual manner.
CARRIED.

12. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

12.1 Purchases Over \$10,000 – September-November 2002

Mr. Christie noted that the report, from the Education Services Committee, had been included in the agenda booklet.

13. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 13.1 Letter dated October 16, 2002 from the Duchess Park Secondary School Parent Advisory Council re: Policy 5131.62 No Smoking
- 13.2 Letter dated October 24, 2002 from the Prince George Secondary School Parent Advisory Council re: Policy 5131.62 No Smoking
- 13.3 Letter dated January 30, 2003 to the Minister of Education re: District Funding

MOVED:

That the letters received by the Board related to Policy 5131.62 No Smoking be referred to the Education Services Committee.

CARRIED.

Mr. McLeod noted that he was scheduled to meet with the principal of Duchess Park Secondary on February 28; it was agreed that an assistant superintendent, the parent advisory council chair and a representative of the community should be invited to attend the meeting, to explore potential solutions to the problems being experienced at the school related to students' smoking.

Ms. Wick Thibault agreed to take the issue to the next District Student Advisory Council meeting for discussion.

MOVED:

That a letter be sent to the Minister of Education, as well as to our MLAs, to thank the government for the one-time \$50 million grant to the education budget to help offset cost pressures, to identify the fact that we are still facing a significant budget shortfall and request the ministry consider moving forward any funds that can be made available to help with our situation, and to send an additional invitation to the minister to come and visit our district to discuss our situation.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That a letter be sent to the Minister of Children and Family Development, copied to our MLAs, thanking him for maintaining a level of social equity funding, expressing how strongly we feel about these programs and encouraging him to not only continue to fund but to increase funding if possible.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That a letter be sent to the BC Public School Employers' Association, asking them to consider reducing the association's 2003-2004 budget by 3%, and that the letter

be copied to the BC School Trustees' Association, our local MLAs, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Finance and the Premier.
CARRIED.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.