

Present:

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

Bryan Mix, Secretary-Treasurer
Wendy De Marsh, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Absent:

Carlene Keddie, Trustee
Michelle Marrelli, Trustee
Dick Chambers, Superintendent of Schools

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- Item 5.1 – Duchess Park Smoking Area
- Item 6.2 – School Bus Tender Award

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

3.1 Regular Meeting

The minutes of the regular meeting held February 25, 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 February 25, 2003 were included in the agenda booklet.

4. PRESENTATIONS**4.1 Prince George District Teacher-Librarians' Association**

Teacher-librarians Tiiu Noukas, Gerry Green and Debbie Hartley gave a presentation highlighting recent activities undertaken by the PGDTLA.

4.2 International Education

Teresa Saunders, Director of International Education, gave an update on upcoming programs and international student enrolment. Two programs have been confirmed for summer 2003 – a four-week program for 40 students from Osaka and a three-week program for 35 students from Tokyo.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**5.1 Duchess Park Smoking Area**

Mr. McLeod reported that a meeting had been held at Duchess Park to address concerns raised in the community related to student smoking. A new smoking area has been designated, which appears to have rectified the problem. The situation will continue to be monitored by school and district staff.

6. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**6.1 Committee Report**

Mr. McLeod reported on the topics discussed at the last committee meeting, which included a financial update, the enrolment decline reserve and a properties updated. He noted that the remaining committee meetings for the year had been rescheduled, to accommodate the financial reporting cycle. The new meeting dates are April 22, May 26 and June 23.

6.2 School Bus Tender Award

Mr. McLeod reviewed the process that had been followed in awarding the bus contract, which included the pre-qualification of companies wishing to submit tenders.

MOVED:

That the school bus contract for the period of September 1, 2003 through June 30, 2008 be awarded to Diversified Transportation Ltd.

CARRIED.

7. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**7.1 Committee Report**

Ms. Wick Thibault reported on the topics discussed at the last meeting, which included proposed amendments to Policy 6141.32 Modification of Approved Courses, the procedures related to student teachers in classrooms and a proposal for a vision awareness campaign.

8. EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**8.1 Committee Report**

Mr. Hall reported on the topics discussed at the last meeting, which included a report on mountain pine beetle infestations on school grounds, the proposed relocation of Duchess Park's smoking area, playground equipment at closed schools, the Valemount Secondary School replacement project and a review of a decision made regarding a request for a new bus stop.

Trustees requested that a letter be written to the Minister of Education, requesting an update on the status of the Valemount project.

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS**9.1 BC School Trustees' Association**

Mr. McLeod and Mr. Christie reported on their attendance at BCSTA's Action Academy.

9.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Mr. Rustad reported that he had been unable to attend the last DPAC meeting, but that the agenda topics had included a presentation on the numeracy task force and changes to procedures around gaming funding.

10. OLD BUSINESS**10.1 Mackenzie French Immersion Choice Application**

MOVED:
That the proposal for a K-7 French Immersion choice program in Mackenzie be denied.
CARRIED.

According to the results of a survey conducted by district staff at the request of the Board, the level of interest on the part of parents and school staff in a French Immersion program was not sufficient to make such a program viable in Mackenzie for 2003/04.

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 12.1 Letter dated January 27, 2003 from the Minister of Education regarding School District No. 57's accountability contract.
- 12.2 Letter dated February 20, 2003 from the Minister of Education and the Minister of Finance regarding implementation of generally accepted accounting principles.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.