

Approved  
Minutes  
Regular  
Meeting

Board of School Trustees  
School District No. 57 (Prince George)  
1894 Ninth Avenue, Prince George, B.C.

2003.04.15  
7:00 p.m.

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The meeting took place in Vanier Hall.

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)

In attendance:

Kerry Firth, Assistant Superintendent  
Norm Monroe, Assistant Superintendent  
Bonnie Chappell, Director of School Services  
David DeVore, Director  
Georgina Johnson, Director of Human Resources  
Lori MacIver, School Operations Officer

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m.

2. **OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Christie spoke briefly about the district's budget situation, declining enrolment, and the public consultation meetings that had been held in the schools proposed for closure.

3. **OVERVIEW**

Mr. Chambers gave a brief presentation comprised of information about the district's enrolment history, its budget shortfall, the components of the budget solution and the public consultation process.

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4. **SCHOOL CLOSURES – KELLY ROAD ZONE AND EAST BOWL**

Mr. Christie explained that the legislation governing school closures had recently been changed, and the adoption of bylaws was now required.

4.1 Motion re: First, Second and Third Reading of Bylaws

MOVED:

That, in accordance with Section 68 (4) of the *School Act*, the Board agree to give all three readings of School Closure Bylaws 1 to 12 tonight.

CARRIED.

4.2 First Reading of Bylaws

4.2.1 King George V Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that King George V Elementary School, Facility No. 57003, located at 747 Winnipeg Street, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

4.2.2 South Fort George Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that South Fort George Elementary School, Facility No. 57001, located at 1200 Lasalle Avenue, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

4.2.3 Shady Valley Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Shady Valley Elementary School, Facility No. 57018, located at 6144 Old Summit Lake Road, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

4.2.4 Wildwood Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Wildwood Elementary School, Facility No. 57067, located at 8400 Hart Highway, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

4.2.5 Central Fort George Traditional Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Central Fort George Traditional Elementary School, Facility No. 57002, located at 2955 Third Avenue, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.  
CARRIED.

4.3 Second Reading of Bylaws

4.3.1 King George V Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that King George V Elementary School, Facility No. 57003, located at 747 Winnipeg Street, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.  
CARRIED.

Trustees noted that it was becoming difficult, with declining resources, to provide adequate services to small city schools.

Concerns were raised about safe walk routes to Harwin Elementary; it was noted that these issues would be addressed after the school closure decisions had been made.

4.3.2 South Fort George Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that South Fort George Elementary School, Facility No. 57001, located at 1200 Lasalle Avenue, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.  
CARRIED.

Trustees noted the small size of the school and the inadequacy of the service levels that could be provided to its students.

Safety issues for students walking to neighbouring schools were noted; trustees indicated that these concerns would be addressed after the school closure decisions had been made.

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4.3.3 Shady Valley Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Shady Valley Elementary School, Facility No. 57018, located at 6144 Old Summit Lake Road, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

Trustees noted the rural nature of this school, and the lobby to have it recognized by the Ministry of Education for the small community grant. Without the grant, the school faced the same difficulty as other in-town schools in providing adequate services to its students. Mr. Christie read out portions of a letter from the Minister of Education, in which she noted that 2006/07 would be the earliest possible date at which any new approach to rural school funding could be implemented,

4.3.4 Wildwood Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Wildwood Elementary School, Facility No. 57067, located at 8400 Hart Highway, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

Trustees noted that serious problems with this building's foundation had been identified, and indicated that repairing it was not feasible, given that the students could be accommodated in neighbouring schools.

Trustees expressed concern about students having to cross Highway 97 to attend a neighbouring school.

4.3.5 Central Fort George Traditional Elementary School

Ms. Wick Thibault declared herself to be in conflict of interest, as her children attended Central For George Elementary, and excused herself from the room during the debate and vote related to the school.

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Central Fort George Traditional Elementary School, Facility No. 57002, located at 2955 Third Avenue, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

DEFEATED.

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Trustees noted the age of the building housing the school, and the relatively low enrolment, which could affect the level of service that could be provided to its students. However, trustees expressed a greater concern for the safety of students if they had to cross either 5th Avenue or Highway 97 to attend neighbouring schools.

4.4 Motions re: Catchment Areas and Conditions of Closure

4.4.1 King George V Elementary School

MOVED:

That if King George Elementary School closes, the students from that school and its catchment area attend Harwin Elementary School.

CARRIED.

4.4.2 South Fort George Elementary School

Ms. Marrelli declared herself to be in conflict of interest, as her children attended Van Bien Elementary, and excused herself from the room during the debate and vote related to closing South Fort George Elementary School.

MOVED:

That if South Fort George Elementary School closes, the students from that school and its catchment area attend Carney Hill and Van Bien Elementary Schools and that busing be provided to Van Bien.

CARRIED.

4.4.3 Shady Valley Elementary School

MOVED:

That if Shady Valley Elementary School closes, the students from that school and its catchment area attend Hart Highlands and Glenview Elementary Schools.

CARRIED.

4.4.4 Wildwood Elementary School

MOVED:

That if Wildwood Elementary School closes, the students from that school and its catchment area attend Springwood and Austin Road Elementary Schools if Shady Valley Elementary School also closes, or Springwood and Glenview Elementary Schools if Shady Valley Elementary remains open; and that transportation be provided to either Springwood or Austin Road Elementary School.

CARRIED.

4.4.5 Central Fort George Traditional Elementary School

There was no motion, as this bylaw was defeated at second reading.

4.5 Third Reading of Bylaws

4.5.1 King George V Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that King George V Elementary School, Facility No. 57003, located at 747 Winnipeg Street, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

4.5.2 South Fort George Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that South Fort George Elementary School, Facility No. 57001, located at 1200 Lasalle Avenue, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

4.5.3 Shady Valley Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Shady Valley Elementary School, Facility No. 57018, located at 6144 Old Summit Lake Road, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

4.5.4 Wildwood Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Wildwood Elementary School, Facility No. 57067, located at 8400 Hart Highway, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

4.5.5 Central Fort George Traditional Elementary School

Third reading of this bylaw was not given, as it had been defeated at second reading.

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5. **RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

6. **SCHOOL CLOSURES – WEST BOWL**

6.1 Discussion

Trustees noted that it had been necessary to consider the schools in the West Bowl area all together rather than individually, because all seven schools in the area were being considered for closure and each potential closure affected the other schools in the area. They expressed a desire to close the maximum number of schools possible, in order to avoid having to consider closures again in the coming years.

6.2 First Reading of Bylaws

6.2.1 Meadow Elementary School

Ms. Keddie indicated that she would abstain from voting on first reading of this bylaw due to a conflict of interest, as her children attended Meadow Elementary School.

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Meadow Elementary School, Facility No. 57107, located at 687 Dornbierer Crescent, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

6.2.2 Highland Traditional Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Highland Traditional Elementary School, Facility No. 57062, located at 155 McDermid Avenue, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

6.2.3 Heritage Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Heritage Elementary School, Facility No. 57098, located at 257 Anderson Street, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

6.2.4 Highglen Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Highglen Elementary School, Facility No. 57076, located at 290 Voyageur Drive, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

6.2.5 Quinson Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Quinson Elementary School, Facility No. 57051, located at 251 South Ogilvie Street, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

6.2.6 Foothills Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Foothills Elementary School, Facility No. 57088, located at 4375 Eaglenest Crescent, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

6.2.7 Lakewood Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Lakewood Elementary School, Facility No. 57086, located at 950 Kerry Street, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

6.3 Second Reading of Bylaws

6.3.1 Meadow Elementary School

Ms. Keddie declared herself to be in conflict of interest, as her children attended Meadow Elementary, and excused herself from the room during the debate and vote related to the school.



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MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Meadow Elementary School, Facility No. 57107, located at 687 Dornbierer Crescent, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

6.3.2 Highland Traditional Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Highland Traditional Elementary School, Facility No. 57062, located at 155 McDermid Avenue, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

Trustees explained that their reasons for supporting the closure of both Meadow and Highland Elementary Schools were to maximize the budget savings from the closure of schools and to close the maximum number of schools possible in order to avoid having to consider school closures again in the near future.

6.3.3 Heritage Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Heritage Elementary School, Facility No. 57098, located at 257 Anderson Street, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

DEFEATED.

Trustees noted that the size and location of Heritage Elementary School made it an illogical choice for closure.

6.3.4 Highglen Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Highglen Elementary School, Facility No. 57076, located at 290 Voyageur Drive, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

DEFEATED.

MOVED:

That the educational program at Highglen Elementary School be a single-track Montessori program, beginning in September 2004, and that, at that time, the non-Montessori students from the school and its catchment area attend Heritage and Quinson Elementary Schools, if only one of Highland Traditional and Meadow

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Elementary Schools remains open, and Quinson and Heritage Elementary Schools if both Highland Traditional and Meadow Elementary Schools close.

CARRIED.

Trustees noted that the low enrolment in the regular program at Highlen Elementary School made the school a candidate for closure, but that if the school were to remain dual-track for an additional year, it would reduce the need for portables at neighbouring schools. With enrolment continuing to decline, the need for portables in this area was seen to be short-term.

6.3.5 Quinson Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Quinson Elementary School, Facility No. 57051, located at 251 South Ogilvie Street, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

DEFEATED.

6.3.6 Foothills Elementary School

Mr. Christie indicated that he would abstain from voting on this bylaw due to a conflict of interest, because he lived in the Foothills catchment area, although he did not have children attending the school.

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Foothills Elementary School, Facility No. 57088, located at 4375 Eaglenest Crescent, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

DEFEATED.

6.3.7 Lakewood Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Lakewood Elementary School, Facility No. 57086, located at 950 Kerry Street, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

Trustees noted that while Lakewood's enrolment made it viable as a school, its students could be accommodated in neighbouring schools and its closure would make additional funding available for all students in the district.

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6.4 Motions re: Catchment Areas and Conditions of Closure

6.4.1 Meadow Elementary School

MOVED:

That if Meadow Elementary School closes, the students from that school and its catchment area attend Heritage Elementary School if Highland Traditional Elementary also closes, and Heritage and Highland Traditional Elementary Schools if Highland Traditional Elementary stays open.

CARRIED.

6.4.2 Highland Traditional Elementary School

MOVED:

That if Highland Traditional Elementary School closes, the students from that school and its catchment area attend Meadow, Quinson and Heritage Elementary Schools if Meadow Elementary stays open, and Quinson and Heritage Elementary Schools if Meadow Elementary closes.

CARRIED.

6.4.3 Heritage Elementary School

There was no motion, as this bylaw was defeated at second reading.

6.4.4 Highglen Elementary School

There was no motion, as this bylaw was defeated at second reading.

6.4.5 Quinson Elementary School

There was no motion, as this bylaw was defeated at second reading.

6.4.6 Foothills Elementary School

There was no motion, as this bylaw was defeated at second reading.

6.4.7 Lakewood Elementary School

MOVED:

That if Lakewood Elementary School closes, the students from that school and its catchment area attend Foothills and Spruceland Elementary Schools.

CARRIED.

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Trustees expressed concern about the safety of students crossing Ospika and Tabor Boulevards and noted that these concerns would be raised with the City of Prince George.

6.5 Third Reading of Bylaws

6.5.1 Meadow Elementary School

Ms. Keddie declared herself to be in conflict of interest, as her children attended Meadow Elementary, and excused herself from the room during the debate and vote related to the school.

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Meadow Elementary School, Facility No. 57107, located at 687 Dornbierer Crescent, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

6.5.2 Highland Traditional Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Highland Traditional Elementary School, Facility No. 57062, located at 155 McDermid Avenue, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

6.5.3 Heritage Elementary School

Third reading of this bylaw was not given, as it had been defeated at second reading.

6.5.4 Highglen Elementary School

Third reading of this bylaw was not given, as it had been defeated at second reading.

6.5.5 Quinson Elementary School

Third reading of this bylaw was not given, as it had been defeated at second reading.

6.5.6 Foothills Elementary School

Third reading of this bylaw was not given, as it had been defeated at second reading.

6.5.7 Lakewood Elementary School

MOVED:

The Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) hereby directs that Lakewood Elementary School, Facility No. 57086, located at 950 Kerry Street, Prince George, be closed effective August 31, 2003.

CARRIED.

7. **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Trustees commented on the difficulty of making decisions to close schools. However, they noted that the dollars saved by closing schools would increase the resources available to all students in the district. They thanked parents for all of the positive presentations that had been made at the public consultation meetings and expressed hope that the school communities would work together to ease the transition for students whose schools were closing.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.