

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 7:44 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved with one correction – Item 7.1, the report from the Education Programs and Planning Committee, was withdrawn.

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

3.1 Regular Meeting

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

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 BC Alternate Education Association: Innovative Programming Award – Concept Ed

Mr. Chambers introduced Robin Dielissen, Principal of Lakewood Jr. Secondary School, Barb Ward-Burkitt, Education Director at the Native Friendship Centre, Caralee Jones, teacher, and David Nuualieia, youth

care worker, and presented them with a trophy and certificate awarded to the Concept Ed program by the BC Alternate Education Association.

4.2 Literacy 57 Reading Project

Donna Preston, Elementary Curriculum and Instruction Administrator, introduced a group of students from Carney Hill and Ron Brent Elementary Schools and their literacy coaches. The students gave a presentation highlighting reading strategies and their thoughts about them.

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 budget issues and the two items being brought forward to the Board.

6.2 District Parent Advisory Council Funding

The Board reviewed a letter from the DPAC requesting that the funding provided by the district for 2003/04 be frozen at \$10,000.

MOVED:

That for 2003/04, the District Parent Advisory Council be provided with \$.17 per student and \$118 per school, based on the number of students and schools in the district in 2002/03, for a total of \$9,290, and that in the future, the allocation to DPAC each year continue to be based on the previous year's number of students and schools, in the same manner.
CARRIED.

It was noted that the district had previously made a commitment to reimburse DPAC for half of the costs of the telephone line for the parent advocacy program.

6.3 Budget Bylaw 2003-2004

Mr. McLeod gave a presentation and provided a handout describing the district's plans to balance the 2003-2004 operating budget.

MOVED:

That Annual Budget Bylaw 2003-2004 be given first and second reading and that the Board implement the actions contained in the Proposed 2003-2004 Budget.

CARRIED.

Mr. McLeod explained that the budget would be presented and the third and final reading of the bylaw would be given at the May 27 Board meeting

7. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

7.1 Committee Report

This item was withdrawn, as the committee had not met since the last Board meeting.

8. EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

8.1 Committee Report

Mr. Hall reported on the topics discussed at the last committee meeting, which included the demolition of Blackburn Jr. Secondary School, mountain pine beetle infestations on district property, potential tenants for closed schools, catchment areas and the Green Buildings Initiative.

8.2 Mackenzie Emergency Reception Centre

Mr. Hall presented a letter from the District of Mackenzie, requesting the use of Mackenzie Secondary School as a reception centre in the event of an emergency in the community. He noted that the District of Mackenzie would indemnify the school district from any liability for such use and pay for any required improvements to the physical plant.

MOVED:

That the Board support the establishment of an emergency reception centre at Mackenzie Secondary School.

CARRIED.

Mr. Hall reported that the district was experiencing its worst year for vandalism in a decade. Trustees noted that any money spent by the district on vandalism was money taken away from classrooms and schools, and asked the community to help by keeping an eye on schools and reporting any suspicious activity to the RCMP.

9. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

9.1 School Calendar 2003-2004

MOVED:

That the Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) adopt the Ministry of Education's Standard School Calendar for 2003-2004; and

That September 19, October 24, November 21, January 30, March 5 (District Day) and June 4 be designated as the non-instructional days for the 2003-2004 school year for all schools in the district except those in the McBride/Valemount zone; and

That September 19, October 24, January 30, March 5 (District Day), April 23 and June 4 be designated as the non-instructional days for the 2003-2004 school year for schools in the McBride/Valemount zone; and

That one of the non-instructional days (or two half days), with the exception of March 5, 2004, be designated by each school as a day to work on the School Plan for Student Success.

CARRIED.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

10.1 BC School Trustees' Association

Mr. McLeod reported on his attendance at the BCSTA annual general meeting.

MOVED:

That the Board support the petition submitted by the Greater Victoria school district, which reads as follows:

Public Education is Our Future

- Every child's success in education matters;
- Public education is the foundation of our democratic society;
- Healthy children and healthy schools mean healthy communities;

We call on the Province of British Columbia to support public education so that:

1. School districts can maintain a quality learning environment for all students.
2. Provincially mandated cost increases, provincially imposed wage contracts and inflation are fully funded.

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3. Ministry of Children and Family Development school-based programs (school meals, community schools programs, child and family counsellor, inner city school programs) are maintained to service the level of need.

CARRIED.

10.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Mr. Rustad reported that he had been unable to attend the last DPAC meeting.

10.3 District Student Advisory Council

Ms. Wick Thibault reported that much of the March 26 meeting was spent preparing DSAC's annual report to the Board, which would be presented at the May 27 meeting. The council also discussed, at the Board's request, the district's policy on smoking. The students expressed concerns about allowing smoking on school property, safety issues and the different levels of support for programs such as Alive in Five that help students to quit smoking.

MOVED:

That the meeting continue up to another 2.5 hours, in accordance with Bylaw No. 1.
CARRIED.

10.4 Corporate Sponsorship Task Force

Mr. Hall gave an overview of the process followed by the task force in reviewing the district's policy on corporate sponsorship. He explained that the task force was recommending some changes to the existing Policy 1323 Parent and Community Donations, and that it would make further recommendations regarding the development of a policy on business practices in the district at a later date.

10.4.1 Revisions to Policy 1323 Parent and Community Donations

MOVED:

That revisions to Policy 1323 Parent and Community Donations be approved for distribution to reference groups for input.
CARRIED.

In response to trustee concerns that the revised policy did not address issues such as equity among schools, donations over \$20,000 and business arrangements, such as the sign at Prince George Secondary School, Mr. Hall explained that these issues would be addressed by the proposed policy on business practices.

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

MOVED:

That the Board of School Trustees of School District No. 57 (Prince George) has non-confidence in the Minister of Education and convey in writing to the Minister of Education that, while it will continue to strive to provide opportunities for continuous improvement in student achievement, graduation levels, student safety and teachers' professional growth, it has serious concerns regarding the impact of continued under-funding, along with increased costs being downloaded onto the Board, such as legislated wage increases for teachers and support staff and increases in Medical Services Plan premiums. The Board requests that the Minister encourage the government to provide adequate funding for all school districts in British Columbia.

DEFEATED.

Trustees indicated that, while they agreed with the need for adequate funding and did not like everything the minister and government were doing in relation to education, they could not support the concept of non-confidence in the minister herself.

MOVED:

That the Board extend a formal invitation to the Minister of Education to meet with us here in Prince George and participate in a town hall meeting about education.

CARRIED.

13. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

13.1 Purchases Over \$10,000 – January-March 2003

Mr. Christie noted that the report had been included in the agenda for the Board's information.

14. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

14.1 Letter dated March 12, 2003 from the Minister of Children and Family Development regarding school-based services funding.

14.2 Undated letter received April 14, 2003 from the Minister of Education regarding the small community supplement.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m.