

Present:

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

Dick Chambers, Superintendent of Schools
Wendy De Marsh, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Absent:

Carlene Keddie, Trustee
Michelle Marrelli, Trustee
Patricia Wick Thibault, Trustee

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

Mr. Christie made the following announcements:

- The Valemount Secondary School replacement project had been approved by the Minister of Education.
- Dr. Fred Egglestone, principal of Prince George Secondary School, had been appointed to the Ministry of Health Services' northern medical school program community action group.

Mr. Christie commented on the recent fire at Meadow Elementary School and thanked the staff of the maintenance department for their work in repairing the damage to the school.

Mr. Chambers read a message from Shari Green, representing the Meadow Elementary School parent advisory council, thanking staff for working so hard on the school.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Item 7.1, Report from the Education Programs and Planning Committee, was withdrawn and Item 8.2, Prince George Secondary School Smoking Variance, was postponed to the meeting of June 24, 2003.

The agenda was approved as amended.

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

3.1 Public Meetings

The minutes of the public consultation meetings held February 18, February 19, February 24, March 4, March 5, March 10, March 12, March 13, March 26, March 27 and March 31 were adopted as circulated.

The minutes of the public consultation meeting held February 20 were approved with one correction, that being the inclusion of comments made by Roxanne Ricard, who had spoken at the meeting. Upon later investigation, it was determined that no correction was required, as Ms. Ricard's comments were included in the minutes under "Other Speakers."

The minutes of the public meeting held April 15 were adopted as circulated.

The minutes of the public meeting held April 29 were adopted with the following correction:

- Under Item 6.2 District Parent Advisory Council Funding, change "reimburse DPAC for the costs of the telephone line" to "reimburse DPAC for one-half of the costs of the telephone line."

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 meetings of April 22, April 29, May 2, May 5, May 7 and May 13 were included in the agenda booklet.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 District Student Advisory Council

DSAC members Freya Enemark (Chairperson) and Jenna Pocock gave a presentation highlighting the topics discussed by the council during the current year and potential topics and issues for next year.

4.2 Community Schools

Bonnie Chappell, Director of School Services, and community school coordinators Liz Champagne, Joel Warnica and Deb Ewen gave a presentation highlighting the importance of community schools to students, families and communities and the role of the community school coordinator.

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 a financial update, an update on the district's dispute of its GST audit and property matters.

6.2 Budget Bylaw 2003-2004

Mr. McLeod reviewed the district's 2003-2004 operating budget, which was provided as a handout. He noted that the difference between the total budgeted revenues of \$116,736,748 and budget expenditures of \$118,183,300 was the one-time grant of \$1,446,552 received by the Board in 2002-2003 and held over to address the shortfall for 2003-2004.

MOVED:

That Annual Budget Bylaw 2003-2004 be given third and final reading.
CARRIED.

7. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

7.1 Committee Report

This item was withdrawn.

8. EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

8.1 Committee Report

Mr. Hall reported on the topics discussed at the last meeting, which included a presentation from the retired teachers' association regarding space requirements for the district's heritage collection and the issue of shuttle buses related to school closures.

Mr. Hall reported that the district was experiencing a great deal of vandalism in the current school year and thanked communities for their assistance and cooperation in keeping an eye on schools. He announced that the district would be distributing a brochure telling residents how they can help the district deal with vandalism.

Mr. Christie thanked the Meadow Elementary School community for their assistance in patrolling the area around the school the previous weekend.

8.2 Prince George Secondary School Smoking Variance

This item was postponed to the meeting scheduled for June 24, 2003.

8.3 Community Meetings at Closing Schools re: Student Safety and Transportation

Mr. Hall reported that meetings were being held to discuss pedestrian safety and transportation issues related to school closures, and that it was hoped the Board could resolve as many of these issues as possible before the end of June.

9. **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

9.1 Committee Report

Mr. Rustad reported on the topics discussed at the last meeting, which included the establishment of a process for reviewing all the district's existing policies and beginning that review.

9.2 Revisions to Policy 5123 Student Promotion and Reporting

Mr. Rustad reported that some input regarding the revisions had been received by the committee, and that these had been forwarded to the Board, but that no changes had been made to the policy as a result of that input, as the committee had determined that the issues raised were adequately addressed in the policy as written.

MOVED:

That the proposed revisions to Policy 5123 Student Promotion and Reporting be approved.

CARRIED.

9.3 Minor Revisions to Policy 4144.1 Damage to Employees' Vehicles

Mr. Rustad reported that this policy required revision to reflect an increase in the minimum deductible allowable for comprehensive insurance.

MOVED:

That the proposed minor revision to Policy 4144.1 Damage to Employees' Vehicles be approved.

CARRIED.

9.4 Rescind Obsolete and Redundant Policies

Mr. Rustad reported that the committee had reviewed about 20 of the district's oldest policies and found a number of them to be redundant and/or obsolete.

MOVED:

That the following policies be rescinded:

- 1170.0 District Expectations
- 1315 Parent/Teacher Liaison
- 5131.7 School Codes of Student Conduct
- 6112.2 School Hours
- 6141.32 Modification of Approved Courses
- 6141.33 Selection of Ministry Authorized Electives
- 6151 Class Size

CARRIED.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

10.1 BC School Trustees' Association

Mr. McLeod reported that he would be attending the BCSTA's education committee on May 28 and 29 and would bring a report back to the next Board meeting.

10.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Mr. Rustad reported on the topics discussed at the last DPAC meeting, which included school closures, catchment areas and the district's Policy 1240 Volunteer Services. DPAC is concerned that only one criminal record check is done on each volunteer, and suggests that they be done every three or four years.

The Board requested that the Policy and Governance Committee review Policy 1240 with regard to DPAC's concern.

10.3 Meeting with Regional District of Fraser-Fort George regarding Small Schools

Mr. Hall reported that the Budget Review Committee had met with the regional district's Education Committee on May 23 to discuss issues related to small rural schools. Common interests were identified and the groundwork laid for future discussions. Further meetings will be held in the fall.

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

12. NEW BUSINESS**12.1 School Closure Bylaw 13-2003 – McLeod Lake Elementary School**

MOVED:

That School Closure Bylaw 13-2003 – McLeod Lake Elementary School be given first reading.

CARRIED.

Mr. McLeod reported that only six students were expected to be enrolled at McLeod Lake for September and that the educational appropriateness of a school that small was in question.

Mr. Chambers reported that earlier in the spring, when it appeared that the enrolment would be down to 12 or 13 students, he had expressed concern to the McLeod Lake Indian Band's education coordinator and it was agreed that the situation would be monitored into the fall. At the end of April, the band was informed in writing of the district's concern. He noted that, with the enrolment projection now down to six, the educational viability of the school was in jeopardy.

Trustees noted that this issue was not being raised for financial reasons, and expressed the Board's commitment to keep rural schools open as long as the small community grant was provided for them by the Ministry of Education.

It was noted that the reading of this bylaw would begin a 60-day community consultation process, and that a meeting would be held in McLeod Lake before the end of the school year.

MOVED:

That the Board hold a maximum of two town hall meetings each year for the purpose of discussing educational issues in School District No. 57. An attempt should be made to hold a proportionate number of these meetings in Mackenzie and the Robson Valley.

Concern was expressed about debating this motion with three trustees absent from the meeting. The motion was POSTPONED to the meeting of June 24, 2003.

13. ATTACHMENTS FOR INFORMATION

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

- Minor Update to Policy 5131.1 Bus Conduct
- Harwin Elementary School Improvement Grant

14. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Letter dated May 1, 2003 to the Minister of Education inviting her to visit Prince George
- Letter dated May 6, 2003 from the B.C. Association for Community Living re: student Nimmi Takkar's participation in youth leadership event
- Letters dated May 6, 2003 from the BCSTA re: assistance provided at annual general meeting

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer