

Approved  
Minutes  
Regular Public  
Meeting

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

2003.06.24  
7:00 p.m.

---

Present:

Bill Christie, Chairperson  
Lyn Hall, Vice-Chairperson  
Carlene Keddie, Trustee (until 9:45 p.m.)  
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  
David DeVore, Director  
Allan Reed, Manager of Finance  
Jane Anderlini, Transportation Administrator

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved with two additions:

- Item 5.5 Announcement
- Item 14.2 Reconsideration of the Closure of Shady Valley Elementary School

3. **OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Christie reported that board meetings would no longer be televised, due to a policy change at Shaw Cable.

---

#### 4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

##### 4.1 Public Meeting

The minutes of the regular public meeting held May 27, 2003 were adopted as circulated

##### 4.2 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 May 27, 2003 were included in the agenda booklet.

##### 4.3 Correction to the Minutes of a Previous Meeting

Mr. Christie noted that the minutes of the public consultation meeting held at King George V Elementary School on February 24, 2003 had reported Trustee Keddie as absent from the meeting, when in fact she had been present.

#### 5. **PRESENTATIONS**

##### 5.1 "La Belle at la Bête (Beauty and the Beast)"

Spruceland Elementary School's Grade 5/6/7 French Immersion class performed several numbers from their recent play, directed by their teacher, M. Marc Lacaille.

##### 5.2 RCMP Youth Academy

Randy Petrovic, teacher at College Heights Secondary School, and Constable Caston of the RCMP gave a presentation on the RCMP Youth Academy, which was held at Gladstone School in early June. A group of students who had attended the academy answered questions from trustees.

##### 5.3 Technology Plan for 2003-2005: Focus on Student Learning

Mr. Firth and District Technology Team members Nevio Rossi, Val Kilbey, Rich Samborsky and Glenda Scott gave a presentation highlighting the team's accomplishments in 2002/03 and the plans for 2003 to 2005.

##### 5.4 Locally Developed Course: Forest Industry Fundamentals 12

Bonnie Chappell, Director of School Services, and Scotty Raitt, District Teacher, Career Programs and Secondary School Apprenticeship, gave an

---

overview of the course, which will be offered at the Youth Containment Centre.

MOVED:

That Forest Industry Fundamentals 12 (XFIF 12) be approved as a locally developed course.

CARRIED.

#### 5.5 Announcement

Mr. Christie announced that a letter had been received from the Minister of Education, giving the district approval to use up to \$2.6 million in capital reserve funds for the purposes of acquiring and improving the Telus building at 2100 Ferry Avenue. He explained that the assessed value of the building was \$3.45 million, that the district had purchased it for \$1.85 million and proposed to spend \$750,000 to upgrade and renovate it in order to accommodate the district's administration offices, maintenance department, Continuing Education and the Central Interior Distance Education School under one roof. The move will reduce the space used by these district functions by 50% and will result in operating savings of \$477,000 annually, which will be redirected to classrooms.

### 6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### 6.1 Prince George Secondary School Smoking Area

MOVED:

That the Board grant, due to specific and unique safety concerns, an exception to Policy 5131.52 No Smoking for Prince George Secondary School. This exception would allow PGSS to designate a smoking area, for Grade 11 and 12 students only, on school property.

After discussion, this motion was POSTPONED until the special Board meeting scheduled for August 19, 2003.

Issues raised in the discussion included the following:

- The existing location of the smoking area was unacceptable, for reasons of student safety
- No suitable site off school property had been found
- The site proposed by the school for a new smoking area would address the issues of student safety and supervision, but was seen to be too accessible and comfortable, which might encourage students' smoking

- 
- Allowing smoking on school property was seen as being contradictory to the district's philosophy, by condoning smoking instead of prohibiting it
  - Locating a smoking area on public property was seen as transferring the district's responsibility for problems to the community

One suggestion put forward was that if a suitable location for a smoking area could be found on the school property, the district should cede that portion of the property to the City of Prince George. Staff were asked to investigate this possibility and bring a report to the August 19 Board meeting.

MOVED:

That, in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw No. 1, the meeting continue for up to another two and a half hours.

CARRIED.

Ms. Keddie left the meeting at this time due to illness.

A recess was called at 9: 45 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:56 p.m.

## 6.2 Town Hall Meetings

The following motion was postponed from the meeting of May 27, 2003:

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.

This motion was withdrawn.

The Board requested that the Policy and Governance Committee review Policy 1120 Access to the Board and bring a recommendation to the Board regarding the possibility of restructuring its public meetings to include informal public input periods, which are currently held immediately prior to each public meeting.

## 7. **MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### 7.1 Committee Report

Mr. McLeod reported that, in addition to the items being brought forward to the Board, the committee had received a financial update to May 31 and had discussed the issue of recycling, which had been referred to the Education Services Committee.

---

7.2 Blackburn Jr. Secondary School Replacement Project

MOVED:

That the Blackburn Jr. Secondary School replacement project be cancelled.

CARRIED.

It was noted that the replacement project had been approved in the district's 2001/02 capital plan. The school had been closed and the building demolished. The students were being accommodated at Lakewood Jr. Secondary and Prince George Secondary Schools. Given the district's declining enrolment and changes to the Ministry of Education's policies and procedures, the building of a new school was not feasible in the foreseeable future.

7.3 Report to the Minister of Education re: Transportation

Mr. McLeod presented a report that had been presented to the Minister of Education regarding inefficiencies and inequalities in the ministry's funding formula as it related to student transportation.

The Board requested that the report be forwarded to the B.C. School Trustees' Association and the four local MLAs.

8. **EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

8.1 Committee Report

Ms. Wick Thibault reported that the only item of business at the last meeting was the schedule of fees and deposits for 2003/04.

8.2 Schedule of Fees and Deposits

MOVED:

That, in accordance with sections 82 (6) and 168 (2) (j) of the *School Act* and Ministerial Order 125/90, the Schedule of Fees and Deposits for 2003/04 be approved and published.

CARRIED.

9. **EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**

9.1 Committee Report

Mr. Hall reported on the topics discussed at the last meeting, which included courtesy busing, shuttle buses, the drinking water at Dunster Elementary School, the community meetings held in closing schools and the Green Buildings Initiative.

---

9.2 Announcement of Appointment of Architect for Valemount Secondary School Replacement Project

Mr. Hall reported that the firm of Meiklejohn Bevanda Meiklejohn Architects Inc. had been appointed to provide the architectural services required for the Valemount Secondary School replacement project.

10. **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

10.1 Committee Report

Ms. Marrelli reported that representatives from the District Parent Advisory Council had attended the meeting to discuss DPAC's request that partner groups be represented on the committee. This issue will be brought back to the next meeting for further discussion. The other topics discussed by the committee included the procedures related to Bylaw No. 4 and possible amendments to Policy 5119 School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers.

10.2 Revisions to Policy 5131 District Code of Student Conduct

MOVED:

That revisions to Policy 5131 District Code of Student Conduct be approved in principle, for implementation in September 2003, and that the revisions be distributed to reference groups for input.

CARRIED.

Mr. Firth presented the recommended revisions, which had been developed by senior staff in consultation with school administrators. He explained that part of the rationale for the revisions was the need to streamline the procedures related to the Student Conduct Review Committee because of the downsizing of staff at the district level. He noted that expectations regarding student behaviour were not changing, but there was some fine-tuning of procedures related to the reporting and referring incidents.

Ms. Marrelli noted that the revisions were being approved in principle so that the changes could be put in place for September, but that reference groups were still to be asked to provide input on the revisions and that input would be taken into account when the revisions were brought back to the Board for final approval.

10.3 Minor Revisions to Policy 1240 Provision of Volunteer Services

Ms. Marrelli reported that the revisions, which required criminal record checks to be updated at least every three years, had been requested by the District Parent Advisory Council.

MOVED:

That the proposed minor revisions to Policy 1240 Provision of Volunteer Services be approved.

CARRIED.

Ms. Marrelli reported that, in response to another request from DPAC, the committee had asked staff to investigate the possibility of having a database of criminal record check information, to eliminate the need for volunteers to have more than one check done if they wished to volunteer at more than one school, and that it was anticipated that this would be in place for September.

10.4 Minor Revisions to Policy 1222 School Planning Councils

Ms. Chappell explained that the revisions were being recommended as a result of changes to legislation, which allowed student representatives to be appointed to school planning councils in schools enrolling students in Grades 10, 11 or 12.

MOVED:

That the proposed minor revisions to Policy 1222 School Planning Councils be approved.

CARRIED.

11. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

11.1 Amendment to School Calendar – Non-Instructional Day for Harwin Elementary School

Mr. Monroe reported that this request was being made to allow the entire staff at Harwin Elementary to attend a conference on Effective Behaviour Support.

MOVED:

That for Harwin Elementary School only, the non-instructional day scheduled for November 21, 2003 be rescheduled to November 7, 2003.

CARRIED.

11.2 Update on Sign at Prince George Secondary School

At its public meeting of February 25, 2003, the Board requested that staff provide an update at this meeting on any issues that had arisen related to advertising on the automated display sign at Prince George Secondary School.

Mr. Monroe reported that, to date, the school had not been able to secure any contracts for advertising on the sign.

---

11.3 Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Issues Related to School Closures

The Board reviewed the report and recommendations put forward by Administrative Council following community meetings in the seven closing schools.

MOVED:

That the Board provide busing for the students from Wildwood Elementary School's catchment area to Glenview and Springwood Elementary Schools.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That a crossing guard not be provided to assist students across Highway 97 at Estavilla; that road safety education be provided for students in case they miss the bus or ride their bikes to school.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That the Board provide busing for the students from South Fort George Elementary School's catchment area to Van Bien Elementary School.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That busing not be provided for students living in the Carney Hill Elementary School catchment area to Van Bien Elementary School.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That busing not be provided for students living on McLean Drive, Gordon Crescent and McQueen Avenue to Quinson Elementary School.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That busing not be provided for students living in the Stirling Estates area to Heritage Elementary School.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That, in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw No. 1, the meeting continue for up to another two and a half hours.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That the Board provide a crossing guard to assist students across Ospika Boulevard at 1st Avenue.

CARRIED.

MOVED:  
That a crossing guard not be provided to assist students across Tabor Boulevard at 1st Avenue.  
CARRIED.

MOVED:  
That a crossing guard not be provided to assist students crossing 1st Avenue at Anderson Street.  
CARRIED.

MOVED:  
That a crossing guard not be provided to protect students choosing to walk through Moore's Meadow.  
CARRIED.

MOVED:  
That a crossing guard be provided to assist students crossing Tabor Boulevard at Eaglenest Crescent/Davie Avenue.  
CARRIED.

MOVED:  
That a crossing guard not be provided to assist students crossing Ospika Boulevard at Rainbow Drive.  
CARRIED.

MOVED:  
That the French Immersion courtesy shuttle service from Kelly Road and College Heights Secondary Schools to Duchess Park Secondary School be discontinued.  
CARRIED.

MOVED:  
That the Education Services Committee be directed to review the district's policies regarding courtesy busing.  
CARRIED.

## 12. TRUSTEE REPORTS

### 12.1 BC School Trustees' Association

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

### 12.2 District Parent Advisory Council

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

---

12.3 District Safe Schools Committee

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

12.4 Choice Committee

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

12.5 Meetings with Regional District of Fraser-Fort George regarding Small Rural Schools

Mr. Hall provided copies of a press release issued jointly by the school district and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George announcing that the two organizations had reached an understanding regarding rural school closures. The school district has committed not to close any rural schools for financial reasons as long as the current provincial funding formula stays in place. The regional district will work with the school district to determine if there are opportunities to improve operational efficiencies for rural schools and other community facilities and to address the issue of long-term school facility upgrading. A protocol will now be developed for evaluating the specific issues covered by this understanding.

13. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business

14. **NEW BUSINESS**

14.1 Ministry of Education February Student Count and Clawback of Funding

MOVED:

That the Board send a letter to the Minister of Educating, with copies to our education partner groups, local MLAs and the B.C. School Trustees' Association, asking the minister to provide clarity regarding the ministry's February recount of student enrolments and to reconsider any concept of clawing back funding in the middle of the school year.

CARRIED.

14.2 Reconsideration of the Closure of Shady Valley Elementary School

Mr. Christie explained that the Ministry of Education had offered the district a one-time grant of \$100,000 for 2003-2004 that could be used to keep Shady Valley Elementary School open.

MOVED:

That the Board investigate the possibility of re-opening Shady Valley Elementary School.

CARRIED.

---

Staff was directed to investigate this issue as follows:

- Survey parents to determine how many students might return to the school if it re-opened
- Develop a potential organization for the school, including class sizes and support services that might be provided
- Share the organizational information with parents, to re-confirm their interest in having their children attend the school
- Determine the impact the re-opening would have on neighbouring schools and the district
- Determine what issues, such as busing, would have to be addressed should the school be re-opened

It was agreed that the Board would schedule a meeting to review this information and make a decision regarding the re-opening of the school by July 15.

**15. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Letter dated April 22, 2003 from the Prince George District Teachers' Association to the Minister of Education regarding Shady Valley Elementary School and the small community supplement
- Letter dated June 3, 2003 from the Minister of Education to the Prince George District Teachers' Association regarding Shady Valley Elementary School and the small community supplement

**16. CLOSING COMMENTS**

Trustees congratulated Mr. DeVore on his upcoming retirement and commented on his years of service to the district.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 a.m.

---

Chairperson

---

Secretary-Treasurer