

Board of School Trustees  
School District No. 57 (Prince George)

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

**CENTRAL FORT GEORGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**March 12, 2003**

**MINUTES**

Present:

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

Bryan Mix, Secretary-Treasurer  
Norm Monroe, Assistant Superintendent  
Lori MacIver, School Operations Officer (Recorder)

Approximately 200 people in the audience.

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1. Opening Remarks

Mr. Christie called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., reviewed the agenda and the rules of order for the meeting and then gave a brief overview of the district's budget and enrolment situation.

2. Board Presentation

Mr. Monroe gave a presentation comprised of information about:

- the consultation process
  - the decline in the district's enrolment
  - the district's budget shortfall
  - the components of the budget solution
  - the savings to be achieved by closing Central Fort George Traditional Elementary School
  - the reasons for selecting Central Fort George Traditional Elementary School for proposed closure
  - a summary of written submissions received to date
  - when the decision about closing the school would be made
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3. Central Fort George Traditional Elementary School Parent Advisory Council Presentation

Cathy King gave a presentation explaining the format and goals of the school's traditional program.

Glen Sargeant spoke about some of the programs at the school.

Juanita Lundgren presented research results on the traditional school format, noting that student self-esteem and academic achievement were very high at the school.

Ms. King expressed concerns about student safety walking on and crossing 5th Avenue to attend another school and noted that the school had been experiencing a growth in enrolment over the last five years.

A group of students spoke about their love for the school and their concerns about walking on and crossing 5th Avenue.

Ms. King spoke about the recent renovations to the school, the value of smaller schools and the popularity of the school and its traditional program.

4. Speakers' List

Earl Krushelnicki commented on the lack of promotion of the traditional program on the district's website and suggested that the district should support the Montessori and traditional programs equally.

Mary Dennis Morgan expressed her happiness with the school.

Ashley Morgan expressed concerns regarding student safety on 5th Avenue.

Marion Corcoran commented on the staff and community support for the school's traditional program and expressed concern about the district closing a choice school.

Della Lanigan talked about the positive programs at the school and expressed safety concerns regarding 5th Avenue.

Judy Balla commented on the value of smaller schools and urged the board to lobby the government to keep the school open.

Patty Astorino expressed safety concerns regarding 5th Avenue and spoke about the caring attitude at the school.

Kerry Blackwell talked about how good the school has been for her special needs child and commented that the school's dress code made it affordable for parents.

Allan Hardney spoke about the problems he encountered at other schools and his satisfaction with Central Fort George.

Sarah King expressed her happiness at having attended the school.

Kathy Haines spoke about her love of the school.

David Deswiage commented on the memorable experiences his children have had while attending the school and if the school closes he will be forced to home school.

Eileen Deswiage commented on the need for choice programs to accommodate the diverse learning styles of children and the popularity of the traditional program.

Kathy Howard spoke about the success of the school's traditional program and urged the district to promote it more. She expressed her concerns for children's safety if they had to cross the highway to go to Quinson.

Michelle Lui explained that her family had moved to the area specifically because of the school.

Marja Blase explained that her family lived out of the catchment area, but chose the school because of its program, and spoke about how well her son was doing at the school.

Tammy Meise explained that she lived 30 km from the school, but chose it because it works best for her family and her son, and spoke about how good the school had been for her son.

Janice Stratton spoke about the value of smaller schools and her happiness with the school and its traditional program.

Beatrix Josephy spoke about how the school fosters academic and character growth.

Murray Smith commented on the importance of the school to the community, safety issues for students walking to other schools and the value of choice for families.

Laurel Kaiser commented on her negative experiences with the public school system and her happiness at having found this school.

Cindy Major spoke about the positive effect the school has had on her child.

5. Other Speakers

Mr. Christie opened the floor to anyone who wished to speak. There was no one who wished to do so.

6. Closing Remarks

Trustees commented on their support for the traditional program, their concerns about safety issues, the district's declining enrolment and the need to put more resources into classrooms instead of buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.