

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

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

**HIGHLAND TRADITIONAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**March 10, 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

Dick Chambers, Superintendent of Schools  
Allan Reed, Manager of Finance  
Wendy De Marsh, Executive Assistant (Recorder)  
Lori MacIver, School Operations Officer

Approximately 120 people in the audience.

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1. Opening Remarks

Mr. Christie called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. Chambers 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 Highland Traditional Elementary School
- the reasons for selecting Highland 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. Highland Traditional Elementary School Parent Advisory Council Presentation

Jim Yurkowski spoke about the uniqueness of Highland's building – large classrooms, full gym, science lab and kitchen.

Nadine Kapphahn spoke about the focus and values of the traditional program.

Mr. Yurkowski spoke about the parents' commitment to the school and the high level of parental involvement in the school.

4. Speakers' List

Rhonda McMillan spoke on behalf of the community association about the many programs offered at the school.

Dave King spoke about the school's value as a facility. He commented on the many programs that can be offered because of the quality and size of the gym.

Robert Hodgkinson commented on the DCC report and noted that the options that provide the most savings for the school include Highland as a receiving school.

Dayna Long commented on the success of the traditional program in regards to academics and the reduction of behaviour problems.

Josh Maclver talked about being a student at the school and the many activities available.

Cindy Gibson explained she chose the school because of the traditional program.

Cindy Finke expressed her happiness with the school and its teaching staff.

Joyce Hanik spoke about the history of the school, the quality of its design and its value as a facility.

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 the district's declining enrolment, the difficulty of making decisions to close schools and the need to put more resources into classrooms instead of buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.