

Present:

Bill Christie, Chairperson
Lois Boone, Vice-Chairperson
Lyn Hall, Trustee
Naomi Manning, Trustee
Michelle Marrelli, Trustee
Roxanne Ricard, Trustee
Sharel Warrington, Trustee

Brian Pepper, Superintendent of Schools
Bryan Mix, Secretary-Treasurer
Wendy De Marsh, Executive Assistant
(Recorder)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Three items were added to the agenda: Item 6.2 Report on Meeting with Minister of Education, 6.3 School Calendar Committee and 11.4 B.C. Public School Employers' Association.

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Tracy Calogheros, Executive Director of The Exploration Place, distributed copies of the museum's 2006/07 Teacher's Guide, explained some of the ways the museum supports teachers and expressed interest in a partnership with the school district to provide more field trip opportunities for students.

Mr. Christie invited The Exploration Place to submit a proposal to the Board for consideration.

Lorraine Prouse, representing CUPE Local 3742, reported that the implementation of the new BCeSIS student data management program was causing considerable frustration for secretaries, and asked about the School Calendar Committee, noting that the timing and duration of spring break was important to members of CUPE.

Karen MacKay, representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association, reported that the association was very happy to have a contract in place for its members, noted that implementation of Bill 33 seemed to be going very smoothly, and expressed teachers' frustration with problems being experienced with the BCeSIS implementation.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

4.1 Public Meeting

The minutes of the regular public meeting held June 27, 2006 were adopted as circulated.

4.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the regular in camera meeting of June 27, 2006 and the special in camera meetings held on July 4 and September 5, 2006, were approved.

5. **MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

5.1 2005/06 Financial Statements

Stan Mitchell and Ron Epp of KPMG gave an overview of the district's financial statements.

They noted that in the course of their audit, they did not identify any significant weaknesses in the district's internal controls. Accordingly, they advised the Board that they would not be issuing a Management Letter this year, due to the excellent nature of the district's accounting records, and they acknowledged the work done by the Secretary-Treasurer and his staff.

MOVED:

That the financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2006 be received.

CARRIED.

5.2 Committee Report

Mr. Hall reported that in addition to reviewing the financial statements, at its last meeting the committee discussed some property matters and also the issue of trustee remuneration. He reported that at the in camera meeting earlier in the evening, the following motion had been approved:

That the following motion be considered at the October 10, 2006, public meeting:

That the remuneration paid to trustees be increased to the following:

- Chairperson \$17,000
- Vice-Chairperson \$15,500
- Trustees \$14,000

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Federal Child Care Funding

Discussion on the following motion, which had been postponed from the September 26, 2006 meeting, was taken up.

The issue was discussed at length. The following concerns and issues were raised:

- Concern about the availability of licensed child care in the community.
- The importance of quality child care in contributing to children's readiness for starting school
- Concern that this issue was outside of the mandate of school boards.
- Concern that this issue was political rather than educational.
- An opinion that school boards should be concerned about anything that affected children and their development.

MOVED:

That the Board write a letter to the federal government encouraging them to honour their child care agreement with the province.

CARRIED.

6.2 Report on Meeting with the Minister of Education

Ms. Boone reported that trustees had met with the Minister of Education in a conference call and presented the district's rationale for requesting that the Duchess Park Secondary replacement school have a capacity of 900 students, rather than the 600 students proposed by ministry staff. She reported that, based on the minister's comments, trustees and senior administration were reviewing the district's options.

6.3 District Calendar Committee

Mr. Christie announced that Mr. Hall and Ms. Warrington had been appointed as trustee representatives on the School Calendar Committee and that the committee would be asked to elect a chair. Mr. Pepper reported that he had been in contact with partner group representatives and was arranging the first meeting of the committee.

7. **EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

7.1 Committee Report

Ms. Warrington reported that at its last meeting, the committee had heard a presentation on childhood obesity and Type 2 diabetes, which would be presented to the Board at its October 10 meeting. Other items of business included the review of a request to do research in the district, updates on the graduation program and the district's awards program, and a review of the District Plan for Student Success, which would be presented to the Board at its October 24 meeting.

7.2 Revisions to Board Authorized Course: English as a Second Language/ Dialect 12

Ms. Warrington explained that this course framework had been approved by the board on September 27, 2005, and that the Ministry of Education, upon reviewing the course content, had requested that it be expanded to include more detailed course outcomes.

MOVED:

That the proposed revisions to the Board authorized course English as a Second Language / Dialect 12 be approved.

CARRIED.

8. **EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**

8.1 Committee Report

Ms. Boone reported that the items on the agenda of the last meeting included updates on busing, playground removal and the demolition of King George V Elementary, the old central administration office and the old Valemount Secondary School.

Ms. Boone reported that the removal of trees and stumps related to the pine beetle infestation was expected to be completed in October. She reported that the B.C. School Trustees' Association, which was

distributing the funds provided by the Ministry of Education to address this problem, had approved the district's claim for \$508,000. She noted that this was less than the amount the district had spent dealing with the problem, but that costs to reclaim the cleared areas were not being covered by the fund.

It was noted that the B.C.S.T.A. had not distributed all of the funds provided for this purpose, but would be holding the remaining funds for a second round of claims that may be forthcoming.

MOVED:

That the district submit a letter to the B.C.S.T.A. requesting reimbursement for an additional \$200,000 for grounds restoration related to beetle kill in the district.

CARRIED.

8.2 Westwood Elementary School Playground

Ms. Boone explained that one of Westwood's playgrounds had been scheduled for removal this summer, while a second playground was scheduled to be removed in the third year of the project, and it was believed that the wrong playground had been removed. Since the remaining playground required removal, the school would now be without an adventure playground until the parent advisory council was able to raise the necessary funds to purchase one.

Mr. Mix reported that there was considerable confusion between the school and central office staff regarding which was the appropriate playground to remove first. He expressed the opinion that because the school and its parent advisory council believed that the wrong playground had been removed, and because communication on the part of central office staff had caused this situation, the district should assist with its solution.

Ms. Boone explained that the committee was recommending that the district lend the parent advisory council the funds to buy a new playground, with the money to be paid back over three years. She noted that the amount of \$13,000, as included in the recommendation in the board agenda, was incorrect; the amount required by the school was \$7,000. A revised copy of the recommendation was provided as a handout.

MOVED:

That the Westwood Elementary School Parent Advisory Council be advanced \$7,000, "without precedent", to replace their one remaining playground and that the amount be repaid over the next three school years.

This issue was discussed at length. It was noted that parent advisory councils were not legally able to incur debt. Other methods for making the money available were discussed.

The motion was then AMENDED to the following:

That Westwood Elementary School be advanced \$7,000, "without precedent," to replace their one remaining playground.
CARRIED.

9. **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

9.1 Committee Report

Ms. Manning reported that items discussed at the last committee meeting included policies potentially requiring updates and a policy being developed to address issues related to freedom of information and protection of privacy.

9.2 Proposed Amendments to Bylaw No. 1

Ms. Manning noted that concerns about the configuration of Board committees had been discussed by the Management and Finance Committee and at a trustee/senior administration meeting and the Policy and Governance Committee had been asked to make recommendations for revisions to Bylaw No. 1 to make all of the standing committees equal in composition. Under Bylaw No. 1, written notice of proposed revisions to bylaws is given when possible.

MOVED:

That the proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 1 be considered at the October 10, 2006 public Board meeting.
CARRIED.

10. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

10.1 Staffing Update

On behalf of Georgina Johnson, Director of Human Resources, who was unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Pepper provided an update on teacher staffing for the current school year. He reported that 74 teachers had been hired into continuing contracts in August and early September and that 35 of these contracts were for full-time assignments. There were no teachers on layoff in the district.

Mr. Pepper indicated that an update regarding support staff would be provided at a later date.

11. TRUSTEE REPORTS

11.1 BC School Trustees' Association

Ms. Ricard reported that the Northern Interior Branch would be meeting in Prince George on September 29 and 30, that Provincial Council would be meeting on October 20 and 21, and Trustee Academy was scheduled for December 7-9.

11.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Mr. Hall reported that DPAC's first meeting of the year would be held on October 2. He noted that a new executive had been elected by the council in June and that Lisa Martinson was the new chair.

11.3 National Aboriginal Day Celebrations in Mackenzie

Ms. Ricard and Ben Berland, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, presented video footage of the events held in Mackenzie on June 21.

11.4 B.C. Public School Employers' Association

Ms. Warrington reported on a meeting held the previous week, attended by representatives from a number of districts, at which issues related to the recently settled collective agreements were discussed.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- A letter dated May 8, 2006 to the Premier of British Columbia, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education regarding escalating fuel costs.
- A letter dated June 22, 2006 from the Minister of Finance responding to May 8, 2006 letter regarding escalating fuel costs.
- A letter dated June 27, 2006 from the Minister of Education responding to May 8, 2006 letter regarding escalating fuel costs.

- A letter dated June 29, 2006 from the President of the B.C. School District Secretary-Treasurers' Association regarding the Board's support for and the Manager of Finance's contribution to the work of the association.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.