

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 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Christie noted that the Board would elect its officers for the coming year at its next meeting, and announced that he would be stepping down as chair of the board and that he would not be running for trustee in the next general election. He commented on his six years as chair and 13 as a trustee and thanked everyone for their support.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

One item was added to the agenda – Item 6.3 Mountain Pine Beetle Update.

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Daphne Laboucan and Robin Thrift, representing the Professional Employees' Association, gave an overview of the professional services provided to the district by the association's members.

Karen MacKay, representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association, commented on the reduction in the number of oversize classes in the district and requested that more information about these classes be provided in the report.

Dale Laluk, representing the District Parent Advisory Council, spoke about the recent provincial parent congress and the B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils conference.

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**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS****4.1 Public Meeting**

The minutes of the regular public meeting held October 24, 2006 were adopted as circulated.

**4.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes**

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the in camera meeting of October 24, 2006 was approved.

**5. PRESENTATIONS****5.1 Springboard to Success Scholarship – Agreement with the University of Northern B.C.**

Mr. Pepper and Dr. Don Cozzetto, president of UNBC, signed the agreement, under which the university would match the district's contribution to this scholarship when a student who wins it goes on to attend UNBC. Tom Berekoff, Executive Director of University Advancement, commented on the development of the agreement and thanked district staff for their work on it.

**5.2 University of Northern B.C.**

Dr. Cozzetto gave a presentation outlining recent developments at the university and his vision for its future.

**6. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE****6.1 Committee Report**

Mr. Hall reported that at its last meeting, in addition to the items being brought forward to the board, the committee had received updates on several property matters.

**6.2 Property Disposition Bylaw No. 2-2006 – Hart Highway Elementary School**

Mr. Hall reported that this property had been sold in 2005 and that adoption of this bylaw was required in order to formalize this action already taken by the Board.

MOVED:

That, in accordance with Section 68 (4) of the *School Act*, all three readings of Property Disposition bylaw No. 2-2006 be given at tonight's meeting.

CARRIED.

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MOVED:  
That Property Disposition Bylaw No. 2-2006 be given first reading.  
CARRIED.

MOVED:  
That Property Disposition Bylaw No. 2-2006 be given second reading.  
CARRIED.

MOVED:  
That Property Disposition Bylaw No. 2-2006 be given third and final reading.  
CARRIED.

6.3 Mountain Pine Beetle Update

Mr. Hall reported that, in accordance with a motion passed by the Board on September 26, a letter had been sent to the B.C. School Trustees' Association, requesting that the money remaining in the fund set aside for addressing the pine beetle problem be allocated to school districts to assist with the grounds restoration process. He reported that a letter, dated November 9, had been received from the BCSTA denying this request and noting that the funds were being set aside to address future costs for tree removal.

After considerable discussion and amendment, the following motion was agreed upon.

MOVED:  
That a letter, signed by the Chairperson, be sent to the BCSTA responding to their November 9 letter, stressing the issue of student safety related to the allocation of the leftover pine beetle funding.  
CARRIED.

7. **EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

7.1 Committee Report

Ms. Warrington reported that, at its last meeting, in addition to the items it had forwarded to the Board, the committee had heard presentations and updates on the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder program, the Centre for Learning Alternatives and the implementation of the BCeSIS program, all of which would be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

7.2 Foundation Skills Assessment Results

Bonnie Chappell, Director of School Services, gave a presentation on the district's latest FSA results.

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**8. EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE****8.1 Committee Report**

Ms. Ricard, who had chaired in Ms. Boone's absence, reported on the items of business at the last meeting, which, in addition to the item being brought forward to the Board, included a letter from a Foothills Elementary School parent regarding playgrounds and updates on booster seats, bear-proof garbage cans being installed at Glenview Elementary School, the College Heights Secondary School renovation project and the School Community Connections project being developed at the closed Highland Elementary School.

**8.2 Playgrounds Proposal**

Trish Bella, a parent at Austin Road Elementary School, outlined a proposal to create a district playground committee, comprised of representatives from each school that wished to participate, to assist with, and streamline, the process for schools wishing to replace playground equipment being removed by the district for safety reasons.

MOVED:

That the Board provide support for the "group approach" process for the acquisition of replacement playground equipment, as proposed by Trish Bella, parent at Austin Road Elementary School, as follows:

- Financial administration
- Purchasing administration
- Maintenance administration

CARRIED.

There was agreement that no financial support could be provided by the district; examples of the support to be provided were the provision of income tax receipts, assistance with accounting and tendering processes and advice from maintenance staff.

**9. POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****9.1 Committee Report**

Ms. Manning reported that the only items dealt with at the last meeting were those being brought forward to the Board and that all the other items on the agenda had been postponed to the next meeting.

**9.2 Amendments to Bylaw No. 1**

Ms. Manning noted that the Board had reviewed the committee's proposed revisions to Bylaw No. 1 at the October 10 meeting and had expressed no concerns. However, it had been agreed that the bylaw should be further

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amended to reflect the Board's practice of electing a BCSTA provincial councillor and a representative to the B.C. Public School Employers' Association, and the committee had been asked to make those changes.

MOVED:

That written notice of the proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 1 be waived.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That amendments to Bylaw No. 1, as proposed by the Policy and Governance Committee, be approved.

CARRIED.

9.3 Revisions to Policy 6145 (Student Transportation and Travel)

Ms. Manning explained that the committee had reviewed a legal opinion regarding the use of booster seats and was recommending that this policy be revised to require these seats to be used.

MOVED:

That the proposed minor revisions to Policy 6145 (Student Transportation and Travel) be approved.

CARRIED.

One "typo" in the policy was noted. In the definitions, the first sentence should read, "Approved booster seat is a CSA-approved safety seat."

9.4 Draft Policy 5127.1 (B.C. School Completion Certificate)

Ms. Manning explained that this policy had been developed by staff in accordance with a recent ministerial order requiring school boards to have such a policy in place. She noted that because this was a new policy, a 60-day input period was required before final approval, in accordance with Policy 8310 (Policy and Policy Development).

MOVED:

That draft Policy 5127.1 (British Columbia School Completion Certificate) be approved for distribution to reference groups for input.

CARRIED.

10. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

10.1 Superintendent's Report on Class Size

Mr. Pepper noted that Section 76.3 of the *School Act*, as amended by Bill 33, required him to review and prepare a report on the organization of

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classes in the school district on or before October 15, and then whenever there was a change during the year. He presented a report as of October 31 and reviewed the changes that had occurred since October 15.

MOVED:

That the Superintendent's report on the organization of classes in School District No. 57, as required by Section 76 (3) of the *School Act*, be accepted.

CARRIED.

Mr. Pepper was asked if more detailed information could be provided in future reports and he agreed to investigate the feasibility of doing so.

## 11. TRUSTEE REPORTS

### 11.1 BC School Trustees' Association

Ms. Ricard noted that BCSTA's "Trustee Academy" would be held December 7-9 in Vancouver and the Northern Interior Branch would meet in Prince George January 19-21.

### 11.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Mr. Hall reported that items of business at the last meeting included Trish Bella's playground proposal and the District Plan for Student Success and that there had been considerable discussion about the district's calendar committee.

### 11.3 District Student Advisory Council

Mr. Christie, who attended on Ms. Manning's behalf, reported that business at the last meeting had included reports from students who sit on the Board's standing committees and extensive discussion about the district calendar.

### 11.4 District Calendar Committee

Ms. Warrington reported that the committee had met twice to date and was still at the information-gathering stage. The next meeting was scheduled for December 6, at which work would begin on recommendations, and that the committee intended to have its report to the Board by the end of February.

### 11.5 Other Updates

Ms. Warrington reported on her attendance at a press conference at which a new secondary school CPR program was announced and at a Canfor community dinner.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.