

Present:

Lyn Hall, Chairperson  
Lois Boone, Vice-Chairperson  
Bill Christie, 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 7:06 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

One item was added to the agenda – Item 9.3 Bear Lake Elementary School Update. The agenda was approved as amended.

Mr. Hall reported that the Board and senior administration had developed guiding principles to provide a foundation for decision-making. He drew attention to the document in the agenda booklet, and noted that it would be included in all future public meeting agendas.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Karen MacKay, representing the Prince George District Teachers Association, spoke about the benefits that elementary school counsellors could provide to students, parents and schools and reported that, while the Board had done a good job of keeping class sizes down, the association continued to have concerns about class composition issues.

Lisa Martinson, representing the District Parent Advisory Council, reported on meetings held with parent advisory councils in the Robson Valley and provided the Board with a report on an in camera meeting DPAC had held in January to discuss issues related to school planning councils.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

4.1 Public Meeting

The minutes of the regular public meeting held January 30, 2007 were adopted with the following corrections:

- In item 9.2 the word “Boar” was corrected to “Board”.
- Item 12.4 was corrected to read, “...had increased from two \$500 awards in the first year...”

4.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the in camera meetings of January 30 and February 1, 2007 were approved.

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

5.1 Royal Bank Cup

D.P. Todd Secondary School students Kelsey Fotsch, Julianna Ireland, Tanis Bennell, Benjamin Cheung, Carmen Ricard, Khuen Yi Hong, Carli Kerr and Kendall Butchart, accompanied by teacher Don Homan, gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining their leadership class’s proposal to encourage all elementary schools in the district to participate in the RBC Royal Bank Cup’s school program.

Mr. Pepper was asked to assist the students in getting their information out to elementary school principals.

5.2 Career Education / Secondary School Apprenticeship / Career Technical Centre

Tim Powers, CTC Coordinator, and Rory Summers, District Coordinator, Career Programs/SSA, gave an overview of the programs offered through the Career Technical Centre and the work experience and career education opportunities available to students in the district.

The growing need for tradespeople and the importance of informing parents about these opportunities were noted.

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**6. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**6.1 Committee Report**

Ms. Warrington reported that at its last meeting the committee had received a preliminary budget update as well as updates on a number of property matters.

**6.2 Duchess Park Secondary School Replacement Project**

Ms. Boone drew attention to a letter from Mr. Keith Miller, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, dated February 9, 2007, which provided assurance that, should the district be unable to realize the anticipated proceeds from the sale of surplus property, the Ministry of Education would provide the additional funding necessary for the completion of this project.

MOVED:

That administration be directed to proceed with the replacement of a 900-student Duchess Park Secondary School, based on the terms outlined in the letter from the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education dated February 2, 2007.

CARRIED.

**7. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**7.1 Committee Report**

Ms. Ricard reported on the agenda items from the committee's last meeting, which included, in addition to the items being brought forward to the Board, updates on the district's teacher mentorship program, the district meals program and changes to the provincial graduation program.

**7.2 Board Authorized Course: Football 11**

Teachers Matt Pearce and Grant Erickson gave an overview of the course framework and answered questions from trustees.

MOVED:

That Football 11 be approved as a Board authorized course.

CARRIED.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8.1 Performing Arts Centre**

Mr. Christie reported that a community meeting had been held the previous week to discuss the possibility of a performing arts centre being built in the city.

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MOVED:

That the Board write a letter to Initiatives Prince George in support of the establishment of a performing arts centre in the city.

CARRIED.

## 9. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

### 9.1 Superintendent's Report on Class Size

Mr. Pepper reviewed his report dated January 31, 2007.

MOVED:

That the Superintendent's report on the organization of classes in School District No. 57, as of January 31, 2007, as required under Section 76 (3) of the *School Act*, be accepted.

CARRIED.

Mr. Pepper then reviewed his report dated February 16, 2007, the first report for the second semester of the school year.

MOVED:

That the Superintendent's report on the organization of classes in School District No. 57, as of February 16, 2007, as required under Section 76 (3) of the *School Act*, be accepted.

CARRIED.

Mr. Pepper was asked if he could provide the Board with information about the composition of classes in the district, in regards to classes that included special education students. Mr. Pepper indicated that he would bring information on the subject to the next meeting of trustees and senior administration.

### 9.2 Proposed 2007/08 District Calendar

Mr. Pepper reviewed the proposed calendar for the 2007/08 school year. He explained that it complied with the recommendations made by the School Calendar Committee. The calendar included a two-week spring break, which coincided with the provincial spring break. Mr. Pepper noted that, because spring break overlapped Easter in 2008, only three days instructional days were affected; one of these was made up by scheduling one non-instructional day before Labour Day and the other two by the addition of three minutes to each instructional day in the year. He explained that the dates for the non-instructional days for the year had been determined in consultation with the Prince George District Teachers Association.

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Mr. Pepper explained that the *School Act* required the Board to give one month's notice if it intended to adopt a school calendar other than the Ministry of Education's standard school calendar, and to approve and publish a calendar for the 2007/08 school year by May 31.

MOVED:

That the proposed 2007/08 local school calendar be considered at the March 27, 2007 public Board meeting.

CARRIED.

9.3 Bear Lake Elementary School Update

Mr. Mix reported that on February 16, the roof of the gymnasium of this closed school had collapsed due to heavy snow load. He explained that a contractor had been hired to secure the site and that district staff were consulting with the Schools Protection Program and the Ministry of Education to determine what further actions would be taken.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

10.1 BC School Trustees' Association

Ms. Ricard reported on her attendance at the last Provincial Council meeting.

Concerns were expressed about recent announcements from the provincial government regarding changes to the roles and responsibilities of school boards.

MOVED:

That we set up a meeting with our local MLAs.

CARRIED.

Mr. Hall indicated that he would work with Mr. Pepper and Mr. Mix to make arrangements for a meeting.

10.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Ms. Warrington reported on the meeting held on February 5, at which DPAC received reports and updates on a number of topics, including assessment and the district calendar.

10.3 BCPSEA Update

Ms. Warrington reported on her attendance at the annual general meeting.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.