

Present:

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

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

Absent:

Michelle Marrelli, Trustee

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Hall introduced Dan Haley, the district's new Director of Human Resources, who was in the audience.

Mr. Hall reported that Mr. Christie was one of 45 British Columbians presented with a B.C. Community Achievement Award this year, in recognition of his service to the community.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Two items were added to the agenda: Item 6.4 Lakewood Property, which had been moved from the agenda of the in camera meeting held earlier in the evening, and Item 10.4 Springboard to Success Scholarship Committee.

Item 9.3 School Safety was withdrawn.

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Karen MacKay, representing the Prince George District Teachers Association, spoke about the importance of the services provided by the district's specialist teachers and the difficulties faced by schools in trying to meet the needs of all students.

Lorraine Prouse, representing CUPE Local 3742, noted that it was a difficult time of year for staff because of layoffs and bumping. She also asked that, with the arrival of warmer weather, air conditioning systems in schools be left on until 11:00 p.m. for the benefit of custodians.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Public Meeting

The minutes of the regular public meeting held March 27, 2007 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 meetings held on March 27 and April 17, 2007 were approved.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Secondary Montessori Program Steering Committee Final Report

Glenn Monteith, Principal of Lakewood Jr. Secondary and Tom Paterson, Principal of Highglen Montessori Elementary School, presented the report and answered questions. They noted that, with the Board's approval at its March 27, 2007, meeting, implementation of the grade 7 and 8 Montessori program at Lakewood Jr. for September 2007 had begun. Mr. Monteith reported that the anticipated enrolment for September had increased by one student since the last report, to six grade 7 and eleven grade 8 students.

MOVED:

That the implementation of the Montessori program at Lakewood Jr. Secondary for September 2007, as presented, be approved.

CARRIED.

6. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

6.1 Committee Report

Ms. Warrington reported that the previous meeting's business had included a financial update, discussion about fine arts funding and a number of property matters.

6.2 Annual Budget Bylaw 2007-2008

Ms. Warrington noted that because the Board's next meeting would be held in McBride, the committee was recommending that all three readings of the budget bylaw be read at this meeting.

MOVED:

That, in accordance with Section 68 (4) of the *School Act*, all three readings of Budget Bylaw 2007-2008 be given at this meeting.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Annual Budget Bylaw 2007-2008 be given first reading.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Annual Budget Bylaw 2007-2008 be given second reading.

CARRIED.

Ms. Warrington explained that the budget provided for all existing programs and services to continue for the 2007-2008 school year and that increases in the cost of busing, vehicle fuel, building supplies and utilities, including snow removal, had been recognized; in addition, all salary and benefits expenses had been updated to reflect negotiated increases. She reported that the resulting shortfall of \$3,461,000 would be funded by an appropriation of current and prior year surpluses, including \$2,800,000 of unappropriated surplus from the 2005-2006 school year.

MOVED:

That Annual Budget Bylaw 2007-2008 be given third and final reading.

CARRIED.

6.3 Duchess Park Secondary School Replacement Project

Ms. Warrington reported that the committee had requested that Mr. Mix contact the Ministry of Education for an update on the status of this project.

Mr. Mix reported that Partnership B.C. had completed its review of this project and its recommendation to the provincial government regarding the method of construction to be used was expected to be made public within the week. He explained that "P3," which referred to "public private partnership," was not likely feasible for the building of a public school; however, it was expected that a "design-build" process would be recommended, as this process had been seen to be quite successful in new school construction in School District No. 33 (Chilliwack).

Some concerns were expressed about the delay caused by this process and about the involvement of an outside agency in the Board's business.

6.4 Lakewood Property

Ms. Warrington explained that, following the sale of the school building, the district had no further need for the remaining property that had been the grounds of the elementary school.

MOVED:

That the property constituting the grounds at the former Lakewood Elementary School, a portion of Lot 1, District Lot 2507 – Cariboo District, Plan 32034; Site #1 – Rainbow Drive and Site #2 – Davie Avenue, Prince George, B.C. be advertised for sale.

CARRIED.

Mr. Mix noted that the intent was for the proceeds of the sale of the property to be applied to the Duchess Park Secondary School replacement project.

7. **EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

7.1 Committee Report

Ms. Ricard reported that at its last meeting the committee had received a report on research in the district and a presentation on the Roots of Empathy program.

8. **EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**

8.1 Committee Report

Ms. Boone reported that the committee had not met since the last Board meeting.

8.2 Spruceland Elementary School – Adventure Playground Proposal

Ms. Boone presented the proposal and noted that it complied with the district's policy on playgrounds and had been approved by the maintenance department.

MOVED:

That the proposal for the installation of an adventure playground at Spruceland Elementary School, as proposed by the school and its parent advisory council, be approved.

CARRIED.

9. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

9.1 Superintendent's Report on Class Size

Mr. Pepper reviewed his report dated March 30, 2007.

MOVED:

That the Superintendent's report on the organization of classes in School District No. 57 as of March 30, 2007, as required under Section 76 (3) of the *School Act*, be accepted.

CARRIED.

Mr. Pepper also provided, as a handout, the Ministry of Education report "Overview of Class Size and Composition in British Columbia Public Schools" for School District No. 57 as of September 30, 2005 and 2006.

Mr. Christie excused himself from the meeting at this point to attend to a media interview.

9.2 College Heights Secondary School Renovation Project Update

Mr. Mix reported that a feasibility report on the project had been filed with the Ministry of Education and that a budget was being prepared for ministry approval.

9.3 School Safety

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

10.1 BC School Trustees' Association

Ms. Ricard reported on BCSTA's annual general meeting, held the week before. She noted that Bill 20 had been a major topic of discussion and that one of the passed motions read: "That the BCSTA strongly oppose the continuing erosion of the autonomy of locally elected school boards as outlined in Bill 20 and demand that the Minister withdraw this legislation."

Mr. Hall reported on his and Mr. Pepper's attendance at a meeting with the Minister of Education the previous day, at which the legislation was reviewed and discussed.

10.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Ms. Warrington reported that Jim Yurkowski had been appointed as secretary to the B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils. She noted that DPAC's meeting format would change for 2007/08 – the first half

hour of each meeting would be for parents only, to enable them to speak freely among themselves.

Mr. Christie rejoined the meeting.

10.3 District Student Advisory Council

Mr. Christie reported that at its last meeting, the council heard a presentation on school district policy development, the district's 2007/08 budget was discussed, and work was done on an informational pamphlet. He also reported that the council had voted on the issue of spring break and that 77% were in favour of the two-week spring break.

10.4 Springboard to Success Scholarship Committee

Ms. Ricard reported that the committee would be meeting soon to determine the scholarship winners. She reminded the Board about the second annual fund-raising golf tournament, to be held on May 26.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Letter dated March 30, 2007 to the Minister of Education regarding Bill 20.
- Letter dated April 13, 2007 to Initiatives Prince George regarding a performing arts theatre.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer