

APPROVED  
Minutes  
Regular Public  
Meeting

Board of School Trustees  
School District No. 57 (Prince George)  
2100 Ferry Avenue, Prince George, B.C.

2007.06.26  
7:00 p.m.

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Present:

Lyn Hall, 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:

Lois Boone, Vice-Chairperson  
Michelle Marrelli, Trustee

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as published.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Christie announced that he was moving out of Prince George at the end of the month, but that he would continue to serve as trustee and attend Board and committee meetings until January 2008. He presented the Board with a gift.

Patty Astorino, a Central Fort George Traditional School parent, spoke about the challenges that had been faced by the school in the past, and expressed concern about a new principal being assigned to the school, which she felt put the traditional program at risk.

Tammy Kitchen, chair of Central Fort George Traditional School's parent advisory council, spoke about the commitment made by the Board, during the school closure process, to support the school's traditional program and expressed concern that this commitment was not being met.

Mr. Hall reported that the Board would not comment on personnel matters in public. He noted that he and Mr. Pepper had offered to meet with parents to discuss their concerns and repeated the offer.

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Trustees expressed their support for the traditional program and commented on the support and commitment shown by the parents and staff of the school.

Dale Laluk, representing the District Parent Advisory Council, wished everyone an enjoyable summer.

Karen MacKay, representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association, thanked trustees for attending a recent meeting with the association's executive and commented on the ongoing development of the relationship between the Board and the association.

Mr. Christie, noting that Ms. MacKay's term as president of the association was ending, noted that significant challenges, including school closures, had been faced during that term, and thanked her for her commitment to the district.

Lorraine Prouse, representing CUPE Local 3742, thanked the trustees for their work over the year and wished everyone a wonderful summer.

#### 4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

##### 4.1 Public Meeting

The minutes of the regular public meeting held May 29, 2007 were adopted as circulated.

##### 4.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The reports on the items discussed and decisions made at the in camera meetings of May 28 and June 12, 2007 were approved.

#### 5. **PRESENTATIONS**

##### 5.1 National Science Fair

Anjula Corbin, chair of the Central Interior Science Fair, reported that 180 students, from three school districts, had entered projects this year, and that five students had been chosen to attend the National Science Fair in Truro, Nova Scotia. She introduced students Sarah Beaudry, Amelia Godfrey and Conor Hoekstra, who each spoke about their projects and their trip to Truro.

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5.2 District Student Advisory Council

DSAC Chair Elizabeth MacArthur, accompanied by Timma Blain, Curriculum and Instruction Administrator, gave a presentation on the council's achievements in the current year and goals for next year.

5.3 Primary Project

Director of School Services Bonnie Chappell, Vice-Principal Kathy Dorval and Curriculum and Instruction Administrator Donna Preston gave an overview of this project, which provides additional support and reduced primary class sizes in Carney Hill, Harwin, Ron Brent and Quinson Elementary Schools. They presented data showing the improvement in the reading comprehension of Grade 3 students in these schools.

6. **MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

6.1 Committee Report

Ms. Warrington reported that at its last meeting the committee had dealt with a number of financial and property issues.

6.2 Property Disposition Bylaw No. 1-2007 – Lakewood Elementary

Ms. Warrington explained that passage of this bylaw was the last step in the transfer of the title of Lakewood Elementary School to AIMHI, the Prince George Association for Community Living.

MOVED:

That, in accordance with Section 68 (4) of the *School Act*, all three readings of Property Disposition Bylaw No. 1-2007 be given at tonight's meeting.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Property Disposition Bylaw No. 1-2007 be given first reading.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Property Disposition Bylaw No. 1-2007 be given second reading.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Property Disposition Bylaw No. 1-2007 be given third and final reading.

CARRIED.

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**7. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE****7.1 Committee Report**

Ms. Ricard reported that at its last meeting the committee had received updates on the Action Schools program, student promotion and reporting, and a resource package on financial literacy, which was being made available to schools by the BC Securities Commission.

**7.2 District Literacy Plan**

Ms. Ricard noted that, under Bill 20, the Board was required to begin linking existing community literacy initiatives within a broader, district-wide literacy plan and to complete a formal district literacy plan by July 15, 2008. Ms. Ricard expressed concern about the lack of information about these requirements and the ability of the Board to meet them without additional funding.

MOVED:

That a letter be sent to the Minister of Education requesting that she clarify the details and expectations regarding district literacy plans and outline funding allocations to support the development and implementation of these plans.

CARRIED.

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

Mr. Christie, on behalf of Ms. Boone reported that, in addition to the playground proposals being brought to the Board, at its last meeting the committee had dealt with a request from the retired teachers association for permission to erect a sign at Gladstone Elementary School and had reviewed the district's qualification process for painting contractors.

**8.2 Playground Proposals**

Mr. Christie reported that all of the proposals being presented met the requirements of Policy 7223 (Playgrounds).

MOVED:

That the proposals for the installation of adventure playgrounds at the following schools, as proposed by the schools and their parent advisory councils, be approved: Austin Road Elementary, Blackburn Elementary, Buckhorn Elementary, Foothills Elementary, Hart Highlands Elementary, Highglen Montessori Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, Quinson Elementary and Vanway Elementary.

CARRIED.

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

Ms. Manning, on behalf of Ms. Marrelli, reported that both items dealt with by the committee at its last meeting were being brought forward to the Board.

**9.2 Draft Policy 6179 (Acceptable Use of Networks)**

Ms. Manning noted that on January 30, 2007 the Board approved Draft Policy 6179 for distribution to reference groups for a 60-day input period. The draft was a complete re-write of the existing policy. As a result of input received, on March 27, on the recommendation of the Policy and Governance Committee and the district's privacy and security committee, the Board approved revisions to the draft policy and directed that the revised draft be distributed to reference groups for a new 60-day input period, which had expired on June 1. She explained that the input received has been forwarded to all trustees and noted that partner groups had been invited to meet with the Policy and Governance Committee to discuss the proposed revisions.

Ms. Manning reported that no further revisions to the draft policy were being recommended as a result of the input received.

MOVED:

That Draft Policy 6179 (Acceptable Use of Networks) be approved.

CARRIED.

**9.3 Minor Revisions to Policy 5119 (School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers)**

Ms. Manning reported that revisions to this policy were being proposed in order to make it more clear. She explained that the regulations had been rearranged and wording had been changed throughout the policy, but because the intent of the policy was not being changed, under Policy 8310 (Policy and Policy Development) this was considered a minor change and it was not necessary to distribute it to reference groups for input.

Mr. Pepper was asked for clarification about the changes to administrative procedure 7, and he explained that these changes would not reduce students' choices or opportunities to transfer, but would assist schools with managing those transfers.

MOVED:

That the proposed minor revisions to Policy 5119 (School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers) be approved.

CARRIED.

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**10. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS****10.1 Superintendent's Report on Class Size**

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

MOVED:

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

CARRIED.

Mr. Pepper reviewed his report dated June 18, 2007.

MOVED:

That the Superintendent's report on the organization of classes in School District No. 57, as of June 18, 2007, as required under Section 76 (3) of the *School Act*, be accepted.

CARRIED.

**11. TRUSTEE REPORTS****11.1 BC School Trustees' Association**

Ms. Ricard noted that the Ministry of Education had changed some timelines for the implementation of Bill 20, in response to concerns raised by school boards, which would allow for more consultation regarding the development of the related policies and procedures.

She reported that three trustees would be traveling to Calgary in July to attend the Canadian School Boards Association conference.

**11.2 District Parent Advisory Council**

Ms. Warrington reported on the topics discussed at the last meeting, which included playground replacements and the process for applying for funds being made available by the Ministry of Education for this purpose. She reported that DPAC had held its elections and that Lisa Martinson had been re-elected as chair.

**11.3 Springboard to Success Scholarship Committee**

Ms. Ricard announced that \$1,000 Springboard to Success scholarships had been awarded to Hannah Gable (PGSS), Karly McLeod (PGSS), Katherine Sui (PGSS), Shannon Hoekstra (D.P. Todd) and Carmen Steblin (Duchess Park), that the \$1,000 Don Thorlakson scholarship had been

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awarded to Mandeep Ghag (PGSS) and that Katherine Santos (Kelly Road) had been awarded the \$2,500 Prince of Wales scholarship.

11.4 School Planning Councils

Mr. Christie expressed concerns about the make-up of school planning councils, noting that legislation required them to include three parents but only one teacher.

MOVED:

That the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education to express our concerns about the composition of school planning councils, in particular teacher representation, with a view to increasing the number of teacher representatives to as many as three.

CARRIED.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.