

Present:

Lyn Hall, Chairperson	Brian Pepper, Superintendent of Schools
Lois Boone, Vice-Chairperson	Bryan Mix, Secretary-Treasurer
Trish Bella, Trustee	Wendy De Marsh, Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Valentine Crawford, Trustee	
Roxanne Ricard, Trustee	
Sharel Warrington, Trustee	
Rhonda White, Trustee	

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Three items were added to the agenda:

- 7.3 Sale of Dunster Fine Arts School
- 10.3 BCPSEA Update
- 10.4 Literacy Now Update

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Denise MacDonald expressed concern about the district's transportation costs and suggested that a review of processes and practices was required.

Sharmon Thompson expressed frustration at the length of time it was taking the Board to respond to her request that busing to Nukko Lake be provided to students from the Springwood catchment area.

Matt Pearce, representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association, spoke about difficulties that were being encountered with the BCeSIS student information management system.

Lorraine Prouse, representing CUPE Local 3742, expressed the hope that school closures would not have to be considered again for some time and spoke about the difficulties secretaries were having with the BCeSIS program.

Don Sabo, representing the District Parent Advisory Council, thanked the accounting department for offering training to parent advisory councils with regard to managing their funds and expressed concern about decisions about schools being made based on economies of scale.

Linda Naess, representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association, thanked senior administration and school administrators for the district's smooth processes and meaningful consultation and dialogue related to Bill 33 consultations and commented on how smoothly the changes to schools had gone.

4. **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

Ms. Ricard reported that former student Liz Bennett had been named an outstanding Peer Recruiter by Canadian Blood Services and, as such, had been invited to attend an event held in Ottawa that honoured outstanding volunteers and donors.

5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

5.1 Public Meeting

The minutes of the regular public meeting of June 22, 2010, were adopted as circulated.

5.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the regular in camera meeting of June 21, 2010, was approved.

The reports on the items discussed and decisions made at the special in camera meetings held June 15, July 4, 15 and 19 and September 8 and 14 were approved.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

6.1 Motion re: Travel Outside B.C.

The motion, which had been postponed from the previous meeting, was put back on the table:

That all district travel outside the province be approved by either the Superintendent of Schools or an Assistant Superintendent.

This motion was then WITHDRAWN, as it was noted that senior administration had already put the requested processes in place.

7. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**7.1 Committee Report**

Ms. Warrington reported that in addition to the items being brought forward to the Board, at its last meeting the committee had discussed a number of property matters and the trustees' travel budget for the current year.

7.2 2009/10 Financial Statements

Allan Reed, Director of Finance, and Ron Epp, Partner, and Darleen Patterson, Senior Manager, from KPMG, gave a brief presentation on the district's financial statements and answered questions from trustees.

7.3 Sale of Dunster Fine Arts School

Ms. Warrington explained that this item had been moved to this meeting from the in camera meeting held earlier in the evening. A handout was provided that included a copy of Property Disposition Bylaw No. 1-2010 – Dunster Fine Arts School.

Ms. Warrington noted that the school had been closed by the Board on June 30, 2010, the building was surplus to the districts needs and the Minister of Education had approved in principle the sale of the school.

MOVED:

That the sale of Dunster Fine Arts School to the Dunster Fine Arts School Society be approved.

CARRIED.

Mr. Mix was commended for working with the society to find a way to ensure that the district received fair value for the asset, recognizing that the society did not have a lot of resources at its disposal. The solution being proposed was that the Board carry the mortgage for the society.

MOVED:

That, in accordance with Section 68 (4) of the *School Act*, all three readings of Property Disposition Bylaw No. 1-2010 be given at tonight's meeting.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Property Disposition Bylaw No. 1-2010 be given first reading.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Property Disposition Bylaw No. 1-2010 be given second reading.

CARRIED.

MOVED:
That Property Disposition Bylaw No. 1-2010 be given third and final reading.
CARRIED.

Mr. Hall called a recess at 8:05 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

8. EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

8.1 Committee Report

Ms. Ricard reported that at its last meeting the committee had received updates on summer projects undertaken by maintenance staff, playground installations, the Duchess Park project, the implementation of a new maintenance scheduling and management program and a transportation issue.

9. POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

9.1 Committee Report

Mr. Crawford reported that in addition to the item being brought forward to the Board, at its last meeting the committee had discussed proposed revisions to Policy 5119 (School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers) and direction that had been given by the Ministry of Education regarding policies covering child abuse.

9.2 Minor Revisions to Policy 5126 (District Awards Program)

Mr. Crawford reported that the parents of Cpl. Darren Fitzpatrick had requested that donations be made to a new award to be established in their son's memory and that it be awarded to graduating students who apply to enter the Canadian Forces. He explained that the current wording of the policy only provided for the administration of awards to students planning to attend post-secondary educational institutions and that the committee was recommending minor changes to rectify this.

MOVED:
That the proposed minor revisions to Policy 5126 (District Awards Program) be approved.
CARRIED.

Mr. and Mrs. Fitzpatrick spoke briefly and thanked the Board for its decision and the community for its generosity.

10. TRUSTEE REPORTS**10.1 District Parent Advisory Council**

Ms. Boone reported on some of the topics discussed at the last meeting, which included the council's use of the Elluminate program to reach out to rural communities, issues related to busing and issues related to communication with parent advisory councils.

10.2 District Student Advisory Council

Mr. Crawford reported that at its last meeting the council had decided on a new process for recruiting student representatives

10.3 BCPSEA Update

Ms. Warrington reminded trustees of a regional meeting being held in the district on October 4.

10.4 Literacy Now Update

Ms. Warrington reported on literacy tutor training being offered in the community and the upcoming Raise-a-Reader fundraising campaign.

11. NEW BUSINESS

MOVED:

That a letter be written to the Minister of Education expressing the Board's concerns about the operational problems incurred with the BCeSIS student information management program in past years and new problems arising this year with the expansion of the program to all districts.

CARRIED.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Letter dated June 21, 2010, to Cedars Christian School re: Policy 5126 (District Awards Program)
- Letter dated March 5, 2010, from the Deputy Minister of Education re: disposal of property
- Letter dated July 19, 2010, from the Minister of Education re: funding for rural and remote schools

- Letter dated July 27, 2010, from the North Central Local Government Association re: disposal of school district buildings and property

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.