

Present:

Lyn Hall, Chairperson
Lois Boone, Vice-Chairperson
Trish Bella, Trustee
Valentine Crawford, Trustee
Roxanne Ricard, Trustee
Sharel Warrington, Trustee
Rhonda White, 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**

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Item 9.3 – Springboard to Success Scholarship Committee
- Item 9.4 – Presentation to the Select Standing Committee on Finance
- Item 9.5 – District Student Advisory Council

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Gillian Burnett commented on the legal opinion related to school bus drop-offs, which had been included in the agenda package, asking the Board to approve her request for courtesy busing under current district procedures, noting that doing so would incur no additional cost to the district.

Matt Pearce, representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association, commented on the Superintendent's report on class size and requested that additional information related to class composition be included in the report.

Josh Hewitt and Robby McDougall, representing the District Student Advisory Council, spoke about the council's efforts to improve communication with students and expand its membership.

4. SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

There were no news items.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**5.1 Public Meeting**

The minutes of the regular public meeting of September 28, 2010, were adopted with the following corrections:

- In item 4, the insertion of the word “former” before the word “student” and the correction of the word “name” to “named.”

5.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the in camera meeting of September 28, 2010, was approved.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**6.1 BCeSIS**

The ongoing issues being experienced with this student data management program were discussed. It was noted that this was a provincial issue, affecting all districts. It was noted that the matter was on the agenda of the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting scheduled for October 22 and 23.

7. EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**7.1 Committee Report**

Ms. Ricard reported that at its last meeting the committee had reviewed the request from Gillian Burnett for courtesy busing, as well as reports on courtesy ridership in the district and rural busing issues.

7.2 Elementary Out-of-Catchment Courtesy Busing

Ms. Ricard drew attention to a legal opinion received from BCSTA's legal counsel regarding school bus drop-offs, specifically related to courtesy busing. She explained that the committee had reviewed Ms. Burnett's request that her child be provided with courtesy bus service in order to attend a school other than the one in her catchment area. She reported that the committee had reached no conclusion and had no recommendation for the Board on the matter.

Mr. Mix noted that Policy 3542 (Student Transportation, Home and School) governed staff decisions regarding the provision of bus service to students and that the service Ms. Burnett was requesting contravened Regulation 5.2 of that policy. He noted also that the legal opinion received from BCSTA's legal counsel described the liability that would be incurred by the Board in approving the request.

The matter was discussed at length. Speaking against approval of the request, trustees expressed concerns about making exceptions to the Board's policy for individual students, about setting a precedent that would raise expectations of other parents and about the liability that would be incurred by the Board. Speaking in favour of the request, trustees asserted that Ms. Burnett had satisfied the requirements for courtesy busing if the request was considered under the child care provisions of the policy.

MOVED:

That the request from the Burnetts for courtesy ridership be supported temporarily until such time as a comprehensive review is made of the district's courtesy rider policy by the Policy and Governance Committee.

MOVED:

That the motion be amended by changing "temporarily" to "six months."
DEFEATED.

Mr. Pepper requested that Ms. Burnett be asked to comply more specifically with the child care provisions of Policy 3541. He suggested that if Ms. Burnett were to place her child in the care of another adult before and after school, rather than designating that person's home as a safe haven, it would enable the request to be approved within the policy and reduce the Board's liability.

After further discussion, the original motion was voted upon and the motion was CARRIED.

8. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

8.1 Superintendent's Report on Class Size

Mr. Pepper presented his report and answered questions from trustees. He noted that the number of classes that were above provincial enrolment limits was the lowest that he had reported to the Board since the legislation had been put in place.

MOVED:

That the Superintendent's report on the organization of classes in School District No. 57, as of September 24, 2010, as required under Section 76 (3) of the *School Act*, be accepted.
CARRIED.

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS**9.1 BC School Trustees' Association**

Ms. Bella reported on the motions that were being taken to the next Provincial Council meeting, including one related to the problems districts were experiencing with BCeSIS and one from School District No. 57 requesting that the Ministry of Education provide funding for the maintenance of closed schools, as ministry rules prevented districts from selling the buildings.

9.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Ms. Boone reported on some of the topics discussed at the last meeting, including concerns raised about parent advisory councils being required to take over accounting responsibilities for PAC funds.

9.3 Springboard to Success Scholarship Committee

Ms. Ricard reported that the \$2,500 Prince of Wales Scholarship had been awarded to Amy von der Gonna of McBride Secondary, the \$1,000 Don Thorlakson Memorial Award had been awarded to Meetul Patel (Valemount), the four \$1,000 Springboard to Success scholarships had been awarded to Patrick Kilcullen (College Heights), Jennifer Migabo (College Heights), Paislee Hickerty (McBride) and Bonny Chow (PGSS), the Gairrett Maclver Memorial Bursary had been awarded to Brittany Watson (Centre for Learning Alternatives) and the A.L. Ford Memorial Scholarship had been awarded to Marc Burns (Duchess Park).

She also reported that contributions to the endowed fund totalled over \$27,000 and that the fund balance was estimated to be \$275,000 as of August 31, 2010.

9.4 Presentation to the Select Standing Committee on Finance

Ms. Warrington summarized, and provided copies of, the report she had presented to this provincial government committee.

Staff were asked to ensure that copies of the report were sent to the Minister of Education, the two local MLAS and the opposition party's education critic.

9.5 District Student Advisory Council

Mr. Crawford reported on the topics discussed at the last meeting and commented on the council's efforts to increase its membership and particularly to encourage representation from the district's outlying schools.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.