

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**

Item 6.2 – Student Leadership Conference was added. The agenda was approved as amended.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Sally Connon, representing the Heather Park Elementary Parent Advisory Council, expressed concerns about the shortage of playground equipment at the school and the lack of resources for outside supervision and activities.

This matter was referred to the Education Services Committee.

Barbara Otter, an Ecole College Heights Elementary parent, expressed concern about the proposed changes to Policy 5119 (School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers) being recommended by the Policy and Governance Committee, specifically those affecting Kindergarten registration, and requested that a “grandfather clause” be included to allow siblings of students already attending a school to be given priority over other students.

Katherine McClain, a student at Heather Park Elementary School, asked the Board to provide more playground equipment for the school.

Denise MacDonald, representing the Giscome Elementary School Parent Advisory Council, asked the Board to undertake a review of its student transportation system to find efficiencies and cost savings and to implement any adjustments to service in September 2011.

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Jacqui Dockray expressed concern about the relocation of the Gladstone StrongStart program to Quinson Elementary School and asked about the process for the public to provide input regarding the proposed revisions to Policy 5119.

Ms. De Marsh reported that information about the proposed policy revisions and the process for providing input would be available on the district's website within a few days.

Linda Naess, representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association, reported that the association's biggest concern was class composition, and asked the Board to examine its model for supporting students with special needs and their teachers.

Lorraine Prouse, representing CUPE Local 3742, thanked the Board for agreeing to absorb the cost of criminal record checks for employees.

Don Sabo, representing the District Parent Advisory Council, spoke about an upcoming workshop for parent advisory councils and commented on the anxiety being felt by parents due to uncertainty about future funding cuts and school closures. He asked the Board to implement a process that would give communities one or two years' notice of school closures.

Josh Hewitt and Rob McDougall, representing the District Student Advisory Council, spoke about actions being taken by the council to recruit representatives from all district schools and requested the Board's support in getting information out to students through school administrators.

#### 4. **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

Ms. Ricard commented on a recent publication from the Ministry of Education on the B.C. Universal Design for Learning Project, which included a feature on the ways that the staff of Harwin Elementary School were engaging their students in learning, including the use of Skype technology to connect with students elsewhere in the world.

Mr. Hall commented the Board's practice of meeting annually with its partner groups and reported that this year the Board was also holding meetings with teachers in individual schools.

Mr. Hall also reported on a recent project undertaken by students in the district, with the support and assistance of teacher Gerry Chediak and Rotary, in which surplus books and blackboards in the district had been sent to schools in Africa.

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

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

- Item 11 to be amended to indicate that the topic of the motion was the BCeSIS student information management system.

The minutes of the regular public meeting of October 12, 2010, were adopted as circulated.

**5.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes**

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the in camera meeting of October 12, 2010, was approved.

**6. PRESENTATIONS****6.1 Staples Donation**

Rick Brideson, general manager of the Prince George Staples store, spoke about the store's "Stock a Locker" campaign to raise funds for local schools, and presented the Board with gift cards for each school in the district.

**6.2 Student Leadership Conference**

Teacher Cindy Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation on a leadership conference held the previous weekend in Prince George, which had been organized, hosted and led by students. Student Taneil Gurrie spoke about her attendance at the conference.

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

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

**7.2 Capital Project Bylaw No. 126212 – Classroom Conversion for Kindergarten Use**

Ms. Warrington reported that in conjunction with the introduction of full-day Kindergarten, the Ministry of Education was providing funding for the conversion of classrooms for Kindergarten use and that the school district

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had received a total of \$120,000. She explained that the funding was being provided through the certificate of approval process, which required the adoption of a capital project bylaw.

MOVED:

That, in accordance with Section 68 (4) of the *School Act*, all three readings of Capital Project Bylaw No. 126212 be given at tonight's meeting.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Capital Project Bylaw No. 126212 be given first reading.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Capital Project Bylaw No. 126212 be given second reading.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Capital Project Bylaw No. 126212 be given third and final reading.

CARRIED.

## 8. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

### 8.1 Committee Report

Ms. Boone reported that at its last meeting the committee had received updates on learning initiatives in the district, the relocation of the Centre for Learning Alternatives to the John McInnis Centre, the district's awards program and changes to the district's teacher mentorship program.

## 9. POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

### 9.1 Committee Report

Mr. Crawford reported that the main item of business at the committee's last meeting had been discussion of the proposed revisions to Policy 5119 (School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers)

### 9.2 Revisions to Policy 5119 (School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers)

Mr. Crawford explained that concerns about this policy had been raised by parents of students enrolled in the French Immersion program and that the policy was believed to be unclear with regard to Kindergarten catchment and registration and choice program catchment areas. He noted that while the proposed changes would not constitute a major revision to the policy, because the issue was of interest to parents, the committee was

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recommending that it be distributed to reference groups for input in accordance with Policy 8310 (Policy and Policy Development).

The issue was discussed at some length and trustees asked a number of questions of Mr. Crawford and Mr. Pepper for clarity.

MOVED:

That the proposed revisions to Policy 5119 (School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers) be approved for distribution to reference groups for input.

CARRIED.

9.3 Minor Revisions to Policy 6172.2 (Choice of Programs and Schools)

Mr. Crawford explained that minor changes were required to bring the wording of this policy into congruence with terminology currently in use in the district and to make the title of the policy more clearly describe its contents.

MOVED:

That the proposed minor revisions to Policy 6172.2 (Choice of Programs and Schools) be approved.

CARRIED.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

10.1 BC School Trustees' Association

Ms. Bella reported on the most recent Provincial Council meeting and a meeting the Ministry of Education had held with board chairs and branch presidents to discuss its 21st Century Learning initiative.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Letter dated October 12, 2010, to the Minister of Education re: BCeSIS

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.