

Present:

Lyn Hall, Chairperson	Brian Pepper, Superintendent of Schools
Trish Bella, Vice-Chairperson	Allan Reed, Director of Finance
Lois Boone, 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 7:45 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

One item was added, under Trustee Reports – District Parent Advisory Council Update. The agenda was approved as amended.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Donald MacKinnon, an École College Heights Elementary parent, spoke about the revisions made by the Board to Policy 5119 (School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers), which had not been posted on the district's website. He noted that in that revision, priority was given to siblings at registration, and asked why the Board was proposing to change that now.

Kirsten Miller, an École College Heights Elementary parent, expressed concern about the proposed revisions to Policy 5119 and asked the Board to treat all children equally, regardless of the program in which they were enrolled.

Trish Mahmoud, an École College Heights Elementary parent, reported that parents had been told when they registered their children at the school that younger siblings would be given priority in registering. She asked the Board to rewrite the policy to protect families.

Dylan Vaillancourt, an École College Heights Elementary parent, expressed concern that his children might have to attend different schools. He asked that the policy be revised to protect families regardless of which program their children attend.

Brenda Herbert, an École College Heights Elementary parent, explained that she had made the decision to place her first child in the French Immersion program on the understanding that his younger brother would be given preference at registration. She asked the Board to put in place a policy that protected siblings.

Barb Falkner, an École College Heights Elementary parent, explained that when she enrolled her first daughter in the program she had been told that her younger sibling would also be able to attend. She asked the Board to revise Policy 5119 to include priority for siblings.

Belinda Larisch, an École College Heights Elementary parent, spoke about the policy revision that had not been posted on the district's website. She expressed the opinion that giving siblings priority would not be inequitable to families with only one child, as that child would have the same chance to get in a program as the oldest child in a multiple-child family.

Joey Helle, a student at École College Heights Elementary, said that little brothers learn from their big brothers and it would be bad for them if they couldn't go to the same school.

Elena Thomas, an École Lac des Bois parent, indicated that the school was full and not accepting any more students, so was no longer an option for families wishing to have their children all attend the same school. She asked the Board to revise the policy to give preference to siblings at registration.

Mr. Pepper was asked to provide the Board with an update regarding the enrolment situation at École Lac des Bois.

Matt Pearce, representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association, expressed concerns about Foundation Skills Assessment testing and asked the Board to allow parents to opt out of having their children take this test.

Don Sabo, representing the District Parent Advisory Council, expressed support for the parents who were raising concerns about Policy 5119, noting that this would become a bigger issue for parents as schools were filled to capacity.

Lorraine Prouse, representing CUPE Local 3742, spoke about the volunteer work done by CUPE members in the community and the union's support of local charities.

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 November 23, 2010, were adopted with one correction – it was noted that Ms. Warrington left the meeting between items 7.2 and 8.

5.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the in camera meeting of November 23, 2010, was approved.

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 District Student Advisory Council

Chair Josh Hewitt and Vice-chair Rob McDougall gave a Powerpoint presentation that the council was giving to leadership classes at district secondary schools in order to raise awareness about the council. They reported that feedback received from schools to date had been very positive.

6.2 Special Education

Truman Spring, District Principal, Special Education, gave a demonstration of web-based video-conference technology that was being used by professional and support staff in providing services to special needs students. He explained that the software allowed staff to check in with students on a more frequent basis and also enabled them to keep a video record of a student's progress.

7. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

7.1 Property Disposition Bylaw No. 3-2010 – Duchess Park Lands (Lot 4)

Ms. Warrington explained that adoption of this bylaw, in conjunction with Bylaw No. 2-2010, adopted by the Board on November 23, 2010, would transfer to the City of Prince George title of the property on which the old Duchess Park Secondary School was located and that this transfer would enhance the opportunities for the city to complete its Duchess community park project.

MOVED:

That, in accordance with Section 68 (4) of the *School Act*, all three readings of Property Disposition Bylaw No. 3-2010 be given at tonight's meeting.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Property Disposition Bylaw No. 3-2010 be given first reading.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Property Disposition Bylaw No. 3-2010 be given second reading.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Property Disposition Bylaw No. 3-2010 be given third and final reading.

CARRIED.

8. **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

8.1 Proposed Revisions to Policy 5119 (School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers)

Mr. Crawford acknowledged that an error had been made in 2008, in that the policy had not been updated on the website when it had been revised by the Board that year. He thanked the École College Heights Elementary parents for their input regarding the proposed revisions to this policy and explained that the Policy and Governance Committee would review all the input received prior to making a recommendation to the Board regarding the revisions.

9. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

9.1 Superintendent's Report on Class Size

Mr. Pepper presented his report and answered questions.

MOVED:

That the Superintendent's report on the organization of classes in School District No. 57, as of November 18, 2010, as required under Section 76 (3) of the *School Act*, be accepted.

CARRIED.

10. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

10.1 District Parent Advisory Council

Ms. Boone reported on some of the items discussed at the last meeting, which included a recent workshop for parent advisory councils, the fall BCCPAC conference and the proposed revisions to Policy 5119.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer