

Present:

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

In attendance:

Sharon Cairns, Assistant Superintendent
John McLay, Assistant Superintendent
Anne Christensen, School Operations Officer

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as published.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Gillian Burnett commented on the revisions that had been made to Policy 5119 (School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers) in response to public input, specifically that siblings were being given priority in registration for the district's choice programs, and questioned why this was not also being extended to students registering in the regular program.

Jacqueline Dockray expressed concerns about the lack of a StrongStart program in the College Heights area since the program previously offered at the closed Gladstone Elementary School had been moved to Quinson Elementary.

Karen Stahl, representing the Prince George Montessori Education Society and the Highglen Montessori Parent Advisory Council, expressed concern about the challenges faced by families with children attending different schools and expressed support for sibling priority at registration.

Don Sabo, representing the District Parent Advisory Council, commented on the improvements in school completion rates in the district and expressed concern about the Board's short timeline for approving revisions to Policy 5119.

Linda Naess, representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association, commented on the importance of professional development for teachers and described some of the workshops and training being offered at the north central zone conference being held in the district on March 4.

Lorraine Prouse, representing CUPE Local 3742, expressed appreciation for the union's positive relationship with trustees, senior administration and human resources staff.

4. **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

There were no news items.

5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

5.1 Public Meeting

The minutes of the inaugural and regular public meetings held on December 7, 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 and special in camera meetings held on December 7, 2010, were approved.

6. **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

6.1 Committee Report

Mr. Crawford reported that the only item of business at the committee's last regular meeting had been the proposed revisions to Policy 5119 and that the committee had also needed two additional meetings to complete its work on the policy.

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

Mr. Crawford reported that a great deal of input had been received from parents regarding the proposed revisions to this policy and that it had been reviewed in detail by the committee. He explained that partner groups had also been invited to attend the committee meeting to provide additional input and discuss the revisions. He reported that as a result of all the input,

the committee was recommending significant changes to the wording of the policy.

Led by Mr. Crawford, the Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the policy section by section, beginning with the definitions.

It was noted that enrolment in provincial resource programs was not limited to students in School District No. 57, and it was agreed that these programs should therefore be removed from the definition of catchment areas and from Regulations 5.2 and 5.4.

Concerns were expressed about the catchment area for choice programs being the entire school district. It was suggested that every choice school should also have a neighbourhood catchment and that priority for registration should be given to students living within that catchment.

MOVED:

That the definition for catchment areas be changed to recognize three types of catchment area as follows:

1. The catchment area for a regular program is a geographic attendance area identified by the Board.
2. The catchment area for a choice program or school is the geographic attendance area identified by the Board for the neighbourhood school.
3. The catchment area for distance education, continuing education and district alternative programs is the entire school district.

DEFEATED.

Those speaking against the motion expressed concern about the logistics of managing such a system and noted that it was contrary to the Board's philosophy on choice programs.

The issue of sibling priority for Kindergarten registration was discussed at some length. Strong support for keeping families together was expressed. Concerns were expressed about discriminating against families with only one child. Those speaking in favour of giving siblings priority noted that if an only child was not successful in getting into a particular school, his or her family would not be as disrupted as would a multi-child family having children attending different schools.

MOVED:

That the third sentence of Regulation 6.1.2 be revised to read as follows: If there are more students than can be accommodated then priority will be given to siblings of catchment area children who, in the previous year, attended the school in question and who will be attending the school in the following year.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That the following sentence be added to Regulation 6.1.2: that if there are more siblings than can be accommodated, priority will be established based on the date and time of registration.

DEFEATED.

MOVED:

That the following sentence be added to Regulation 6.1.2: That if there are more siblings than can be accommodated, priority will be established by the use of a lottery.

DEFEATED.

During this discussion, it was MOVED that a 15-minute recess be called. This motion was DEFEATED.

MOVED:

That the following sentence be added to Regulation 6.1.2: That if there are more siblings than can be accommodated, priority be established based on a lottery system, with administrative procedures established by the Superintendent.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That the following be inserted into Regulation 6.1.4, as a new subsection (b): The neighbourhood school catchment area child.

It was noted that the Board had, earlier in the meeting, defeated a motion to create neighbourhood catchment areas for choice schools and programs and that in order for the Board to consider this new motion, a trustee who had voted against the earlier motion would have to put forward a motion that the Board reconsider its earlier decision. No such motion was forthcoming, so this new motion was agreed to be OUT OF ORDER.

MOVED:

That Subsection (d) of Regulation 6.1.4 be replaced with the following: If there are more students in a priority category than can be accommodated, priority will be established based on a lottery system, with administrative procedures established by the Superintendent.

CARRIED.

Two "typos" were corrected. It was agreed that in Regulation 6.2.4, the reference to Regulation 5.1.2 should be changed to 6.2.3 and in Regulation 7.5, the reference to Regulation 6.4 should be changed to 7.4.

MOVED:

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

CARRIED.

A recess was called at 9:50 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 10:00 p.m.

7. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

7.1 Committee Report

Ms. Boone reported that at its last meeting, in addition to the item being brought forward to the Board, the committee had received a presentation on the history of special education.

7.2 Late French Immersion Proposal

Madeleine Crandell, principal of École Lac des Bois, provided a handout and gave a brief overview of a proposal to introduce a late French Immersion program to the school. She explained that a minimum of 20 students would be required to make the program viable and spoke about plans for consultation with parents and students to determine the level of interest in such a program.

MOVED:

That approval give given to École Lac des Bois to being the process to introduce a late French Immersion program in September 2011.

CARRIED.

8. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

8.1 Committee Report

Ms. Warrington reported that at its last meeting the committee had dealt with a number of funding, property and personnel issues. She reported that the funding recalculation, based on September 30 enrolments, had been received from the Ministry of Education and that an amended budget for the current year would be presented for approval at the next Board meeting.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

9.1 Trustee Committee and Liaison Appointments

Mr. Hall drew attention to the list of appointments, noting that they were being presented for information in accordance with Bylaw No. 1.

10. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

10.1 Superintendent's Report on Achievement

Mr. Pepper presented his report. He drew attention to the improvements in the six-year completion rate and transition rates in the district, and in particular to the rates for Aboriginal student, which had risen significantly over the previous five years.

MOVED:

That the Superintendent's Report on Achievement, dated December 2010, be approved.

CARRIED.

11. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

11.1 District Parent Advisory Council

Ms. Boone reported on some of the items discussed at the last meeting and reported that DPAC had joined the Northern Interior Communities Association, which had as a main focus issues related to gaming.

11.2 District Student Advisory Council

Mr. Crawford reported that the students attending DSAC meetings were very enthusiastic and that the discussions were very valuable, but that low attendance levels were still a concern. He reported that a number of options for addressing this issue were being considered, including a change in the time and date of meetings.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

12.1 Public Board Meeting – February 8

Mr. Hall reported that an additional public meeting was being added to the Board' schedule, which would be held on February 8 at 7:00 p.m.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.