

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	

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as published.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Denise MacDonald, representing the Giscome Steering Committee and the Giscome Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee, spoke about the benefits of modular construction and expressed the hope that this would be an affordable way for the community to get a new school.

Ms. Bella noted that the Northern Interior Branch of the B.C. School Trustees' Association had put forward a motion recommending that the Ministry of Education's specifications related to capital projects be changed to allow this sort of flexibility as an option for rural schools.

Janet Bleich, representing From Here to There Shuttle Service, explained that the company had contracts to pick up and drop off students at seven elementary schools in Prince George and had been doing so for four years. She explained that she was not being allowed into the parking lot at Heather Park Elementary, which meant she was unable to drop off or pick up the students safely.

Mr. Hall asked Ms. Bleich to leave contact information with Ms. De Marsh so that someone from the central administration office could get back to her on the matter.

Heidi Evensen expressed concern about the recent revisions to Policy 5119 (School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers), which required that students transferring into School District No. 57 from private schools use the district's transfer process, even if they wished to attend the school serving the catchment area in which they lived.

Mr. Hall explained that the Board had only just become aware of this concern and had not yet had an opportunity to discuss it. He asked Ms. Evensen to leave contact information with Ms. De Marsh so that she could be informed if any change was to be made to the policy.

4. **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

Mr. Hall spoke about the Young Entrepreneurs Show held that day at Buckhorn Elementary School.

Ms. Warrington spoke about two recent newspaper articles related to the school district – the work being done by the local retired teachers' association to preserve local education heritage and the district's partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society.

5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

5.1 Public Meeting

The minutes of the regular public meeting of January 25, 2011, were adopted with the following corrections:

- Item 6.1 to be revised to indicate that all trustees had been present at the last meeting.
- In the first motion of item 6.2, the word "priority" to be inserted before the word "catchment."
- In item 7.2, the word "be" to replace the word "give" and "begin" to replace "being."

5.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the in camera meeting of January 25, 2011, was approved.

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Yellowhead Rotary Club

Ron Davis, representing the club, spoke about some of its fundraising activities on behalf of various organizations in the city and presented Mr. Hall with a donation of \$6,394 for the district's meal program.

6.2 Prince George Secondary School Attendance Support Program

Principal Sherry Thibault and vice-principals Kirk Czechmeister, Jill Jackson and Kap Manhas gave an update on the success of this program, which had been implemented in 2007 to improve student attendance and achievement.

It was noted that this program had been approved as a pilot, as it did not comply with the district's policy on truancy. It was suggested that the policy should be updated to include the program and to make it available to other schools.

MOVED:

That Policy 5131.4 (Student Attendance, Secondary Schools) be referred to the Policy and Governance Committee for review and revision to accommodate the PGSS attendance support program.
CARRIED.

6.3 Centre for Learning Alternatives Update

Principal Chris Molcak and vice-principal Kevin Baldrige gave an update on the relocation of the centre, the special education department and area support teams, the District Resource Centre and several community alternative programs, to the closed John McInnis Jr. Secondary School building.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 New School Name

MOVED:

That the former John McInnis Jr. Secondary School building be renamed the John McInnis Centre.
CARRIED.

8. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

8.1 Committee Report

Ms. Warrington reported that the committee had held a special meeting the previous evening to review the amended annual budget, which was being brought forward to the Board for approval.

8.2 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw 2010-2011

MOVED:

That, in accordance with Section 68 (4) of the *School Act*, all three readings of Amended Annual Budget Bylaw 2010-2011 be given at this meeting.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Amended Annual Budget Bylaw 2010-2011 be given first reading.

CARRIED.

MOVED:

That Amended Annual Budget Bylaw 2010-2011 be given second Reading.

CARRIED.

Ms. Warrington explained that these amendments to the annual budget adopted by the Board in June reflected an updated estimate of operations based on the district's actual student enrolment as of September 30. She reviewed the document and she and Allan Reed, Director of Finance, who stepped forward from the gallery, answered a number of questions.

MOVED:

That amended Annual Budget Bylaw 2010-2011 be given third and final reading.

CARRIED.

9. EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

9.1 Committee Report

Ms. Ricard reported that a special meeting of the committee had been called to review changes to catchment area boundaries that had been made necessary by the recent revisions to Policy 5119 (School Catchment Areas and Student Transfers).

Ms. Ricard reported that at its regular meeting, held the previous evening, the committee had been presented with the City of Prince George's official community plan, which would be presented to the Board at its February 22 public meeting.

She reported that the committee had devoted the rest of the meeting to a discussion of issues related to student transportation. She explained that the committee had referred two questions to the Board for further discussion, which would also be presented at the February 22 Board meeting. The two questions were: Does the Board wish to increase or decrease transportation service levels in the district and is there an interest in charging a fee to parents for transportation?

Trustees asked a number of questions of Ms. Ricard and the subject was discussed at some length. Concerns were expressed about the issue being presented without a recommendation for the Board to consider. It was also noted that extensive public consultation would be required before a decision could be made regarding the charging of fees for transportation.

It was agreed that the Board should meet as a committee of the whole to discuss the matter further and that the committee should "rise and report" at the Board's February 22, 2011 public meeting.

In response to questions, Ms. Ricard reported that the playground situation at Heather Park Elementary and concerns about access to Edgewood Elementary would both be on the agenda of the committee's next meeting.

10. TRUSTEE REPORTS

10.1 BC School Trustees' Association

This item was withdrawn.

10.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Ms. Boone reported on topics that had been discussed at the last meeting, which included the Foundation Skills Assessment and educating children about gangs. She reported that the recent accounting seminar that had been offered to parent advisory councils was now available on DPAC's website.

10.3 District Student Advisory Council

This item was withdrawn.

10.4 Springboard to Success Scholarship Committee

Ms. Ricard reported that the current balance of the endowment fund was \$290,000 and that this year six awards would be provided, up from the previous four. She also reported that the Prince of Wales Scholarship had been increased by \$500 to \$3,000. Ms. Ricard reminded trustees that there were three other \$1000 awards funded by the endowment, for a total of \$12,000 in awards for 2011. She also announced that the annual golf tournament fundraiser would be held on May 28 at Alder Hills Golf Course.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Letter dated January 19, 2011, from the Minister of Education re: the BCeSIS student data management system.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.